

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY**

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**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Christ Crucified

March 3, 2024



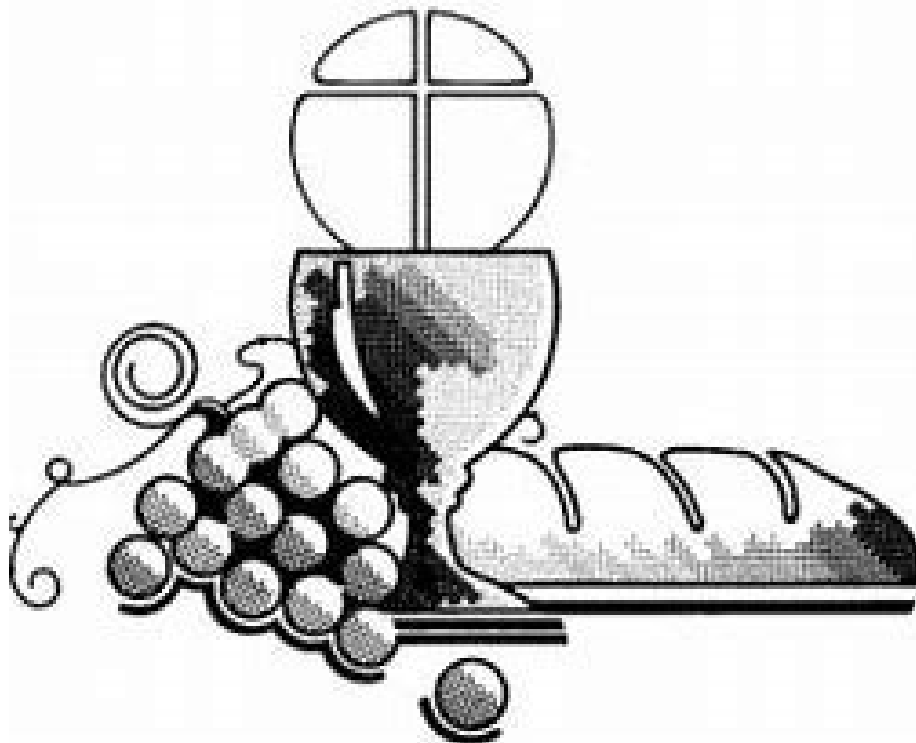
**AS WE GATHER**

We focus our attention on Christ crucified. The apostle Paul tells us that this is a stumbling block and foolishness to some people. Yet Paul also reminds us that for us who are being saved, Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. We may face people in our lives who view us as foolish. God in His wisdom sent Jesus to die for you.

## WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship service today. In 1 Corinthians Chapter Ten, Paul writes about the Lord's Supper saying, "The bread that we break, isn't it a participation in the body of Christ? The cup that we bless, isn't it a participation in the blood of Christ?" That's why we believe, teach, and confess that Christ is truly present as we receive the bread and the wine. In this Supper we are participating in the true body and blood of Jesus in a real yet mysterious way and by faith we receive Him in the bread and wine. Therefore, we ask all who commune, including our own members, to examine themselves before reception:

- + I am a baptized believer in Jesus Christ.
- + I believe that, because of my sin, I am not adequate to make myself acceptable to God.
- + I believe that God forgives and accepts me by His grace through Jesus Christ who died for my sins.
- + I believe that in this Sacrament of the Lord's Supper the risen Christ comes to me in, with and under the bread and wine, assuring me of the forgiveness of my sins.
- + I want to receive this Sacrament today to renew my baptismal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to rededicate my life in Christian faith, hope and love.



## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Hymnal page 427

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming  
Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
Adds more luster to the day.

2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the Cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all time abide.

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** God invites us to gather in His name.

**People:** **We are gathered to worship and praise.**

**Pastor:** Our heavenly Father's house is a house of prayer for all the nations.

**People:** **He gathers people from every corner of the earth to sing His praises.**

**Pastor:** We listen to God's Word.

**People:** **We hear the message proclaimed of Christ crucified.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though this is a house of prayer, we do not always honor God's house as we should. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us ever into His house to ask for forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have sinned against You and against our neighbors. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Disrupt our sinfulness. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into our world, not only to disrupt our sinfulness but also to forgive us by His death and resurrection. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven because of Christ crucified.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT**      *Psalm 69:14–16; antiphon: v. 9*

**People: For zeal for Your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

Pastor: Deliver me from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.  
Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.

**People: Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;  
according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**For zeal for Your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.**

## KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**



## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 20:1–17*

(God offers ten words for the people He delivered from Egypt.)

**20** <sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 19; antiphon: v. 8*

**19**<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.  
<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them He has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.  
<sup>7</sup> The Law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is Your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## EPISTLE      *1 Corinthians 1:18–31*

(We preach Christ crucified.)

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the LORD.”

Reader:      This is the Word of the Lord.

People:      **Thanks be to God.**





## **HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 2:13–25*

(Jesus cleanses the temple.)

**Pastor:**     The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

**People:**     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup> And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> And He told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make My Father’s house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume Me.” <sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to Him, “What sign do You show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But He was speaking about the temple of His body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. <sup>23</sup> Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs that He was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

**Pastor:**     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**     “The Law of God Is Good and Wise”

Hymnal page 579, verses 1 and 6

**1.** The Law of God is good and wise  
And sets His will before our eyes,  
Shows us the way of righteousness,  
And dooms to death when we transgress.

**6.** To Jesus we for refuge flee,  
Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne,  
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

## **SERMON**

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

**People:** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both  
the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, lead Your church on earth to be a house of prayer for all the nations. Disrupt our petty preferences and cultural bias so that we might welcome people from every nation, language, and background.

On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as You delivered the people out of slavery in Egypt and taught them how to live as Your people, so teach us to live according to Your righteous instructions so that we may live peacefully with You and our neighbors. On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are well acquainted with grief and death. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope that in Your Father's house are many rooms and that You have gone to prepare a place for us. On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for all those struggling with relationship issues, whether in friendships, family dynamics, marital struggles, or relationships within the church. We pray that You would bring repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation in the midst of such struggle. On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, send Your strength to all missionaries. Embolden them to preach the power of Your cross. Encourage them in their service by the same message they proclaim that You have died and are risen for us and our salvation. On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your good and gracious will. On our hearts imprint Your image,

**People: blessed Jesus, King of grace.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY**      “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”      Hymnal page 805

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE**      *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor:      The Lord be with you.

**People:      And also with you.**

Pastor:      Lift up your hearts.

**People:      We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor:      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:      It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor:      It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

Hymnal page 178

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

*1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Matthew 6:9–13)*

**People:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## **AGNUS DEI**

Hymnal page 180

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor:      The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:      Amen.**

## **HYMN**      “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

Hymnal page 707, verses 1 and 4

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1.</b> Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways<br>To keep His statutes still!<br>Oh, that my God would grant me grace<br>To know and do His will! | <b>4.</b> Make me to walk in Thy commands—<br>'Tis a delightful road—<br>Nor let my head or heart or hands<br>Offend against my God. |
|--|--|

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.  
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Pastoral Care:

Please contact –

Pastor Scott Ganas at:      (951) 795-8162, or  
Judy Gunther at:      (626) 833-5613

## **BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY**

Pastor:      Pastor Scott Ganas  
Greeter:      Connie Kean  
Reader:      Richard Swanson  
Musician:      Christine Geltz  
Ushers:      Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

## **PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY**

Debbie Morrow: This former student from First Lutheran School (who is the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean) shall be receiving heavy duty chemo treatments for her cancer approximately every three weeks. Please pray for her cancer struggles to be healed.

Anna Rosteck: Pray for our Missionary as she continues to deal with her various cancer issues. (She is Pat Grabowski's and Connie Kean's niece.) In addition, you may send Get Well greeting cards to her at:

**709 42<sup>nd</sup>A Street North, Great Falls MT (Montana) 59405**

## News from our Missionary – Anna Rostek

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Sunday, Anna will be giving an update about her work in Africa during the Adult Bible Study hour. Come and find out about the latest with her missionary work. She shall have more photos and current news to share with us then.



### Sunday Worship at Home

If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in

Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.

You may, also, access Pastor Scott's sermon online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

#### **TODAY – MARCH 3**

Fellowship time

Bible Study and Sunday School

#### **WEDNESDAY**

12:00 noon

Sandwich

#### **MARCH 6**

First Wednesday Soup and

#### **NEXT SUNDAY**

#### **MARCH 10**

Daylight Saving time begins



The Senior Group, previously called the Major Leaguers is cancelled until further notice.

**Saturday Prayer Group, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via the telephone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.**