

* Offering (*usher presents offering to altar*) p.86

(congregation sings)

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* Prayers of the Church (*please RISE*) (*respond: "hear our prayer"*)

* The Great Thanksgiving (*please remain standing*)

p. 88-89

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

* Words of Institution p. 90 (*recounted by pastor*)

* The Lord's Prayer

Lamb of God (sung) & Distribution of Communion
p. 92

C: 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. (please RISE)

* P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

P: 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. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Closing Song: Go Now in Peace (*found in back of green hymnal*)

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

Stratford Evangelical Lutheran Church

FB: Stratford Evangelical Lutheran & YouTube:
Stratford Evangelical

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Pastor: Alex Zenk **Musician:** Brad Westrum **Reader:**
Mavis Kargel

Usher : Dirk & Lori Westrum **Video:** Dave E

Prelude & Silent Prayer

Ringling of the Bell % Welcome & Announcements

please stand when indicated by * (page #'s refer to LBW)

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (*Sola Publishing*)

P: Truly, I say to you, all who commit sin are slaves to sin. The slave does not continue in the house forever; the son continues forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:34-36)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Because of your great mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, we pray that you would free us

from ourselves, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. He has loosed our bonds of sin and death, and has made us his children — heirs of eternal life. For freedom Christ has set us free, let us not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (from Galatians 5:1)

C: Amen.

Opening Song # 296 “ Just As I am”

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Greeting & Kyrie Led by Mavis Kragel p. 78-79
(KL-Kyrie Leader) (congregation sings response)

KL: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

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

C: Lord have mercy.

KL: 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.

C: Lord have mercy.

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

C: Lord have mercy.

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

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise p. 81-82 (congregation sings)



KL: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of Day: Holy One, through the sacrament of baptism you bring us into your kingdom and grant us eternal life for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Keep us faithful, trusting in your promises of salvation for your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

& [Reading: Genesis 12:1-9](#)

& [Responsive Reading: Psalm 121](#)

(Please rise)

P: The Holy Gospel according to [the Apostle John the 3rd chapter](#)

Congregation Speaks response. P.83

C: Glory to You, O' Lord

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O' Christ

~Children's Sermon

Sermon "Greatest Gift" Pastor Alex Zenk

Hymn of the Day: #170 " Crown Him With Many Crowns"

[Nicene Creed](#) (please RISE) p. 84

(congregation)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

~Congregational Announcements~

«Sunday school starts at 9am

«confirmation class will not be in session as we will have soup suppers and devotion in the coming weeks.

«Bible Study resumes at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning! Topic: History of Israel

«Lutheran church Woman will meet March 17th at 2:00 pm! All are welcome to join!

« Please sign up for the Lenten Soup Suppers, starting Feb 25 at 6:00. Soup and desserts are needed each Wednesday through March 25.

« March outreach: Lutheran Family Services

« Please pick up a March/April Newsletter! Located on the table in the back

« Pastor Zenk Contact Info: Cell 217-440-3970; Email address: alexzenk86@gmail.com | Podcast: Undying Light

***ATTENTION: Stay up to date on our new app. and online giving, Subsplash. <https://subsplash.com/u/>



Remember in Prayer

For healing: The family of Tom Tilley, Christa Carlson, Tim Bergman, Larry Runyan, Joan Petterson, Pat Cahill, Nancy Neese, Lon Neese, Kyle Leeds, Lila Berglund, Geri Harris, Kim Leeds, Rodney Patterson, Louise Bergman, Dan Turner, Beth Ashman, Brian Bergman, Jeremy Dodson, Deb Flowers, Angie Goings, Chris Bauer

Attendance: 2/22-53

Offering dated 2/22/2026

General Undesignated	\$ 1197.40
Building.	00.00
Memorial.	00.00
Online.	350.22
Youth fund	277.00
Total.	\$ 1824.62

&Responsive Reading Psalm 121

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth

L: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

L: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

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