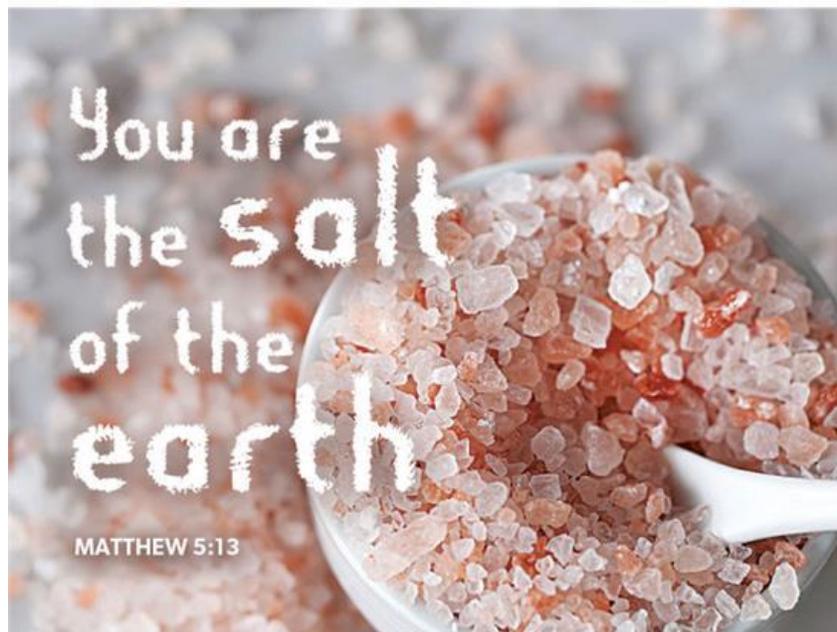


A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5th, 2023



The time after Epiphany is the church's time to invite us to come and see who this one born in a manger will be, and to discover what this one born to a young woman might mean for us and for the world. Come and see who Jesus is! Welcome to worship!

To the parents of young children:
God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates please stand as you are able*

Prelude

*Great Is the Lord
You Are Near*

W&P #53
Dan Schutte

Welcome

*Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW #532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Holy God, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

All: For local bodies of water, for the Catawba River and Mountain Island Lake, for Lake Norman and Lake Wylie, we praise you.

Pastor: Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

*Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. Holy God,

All: we are emboldened by Harriet Tubman's convictions of justice, equality, faith, and concern for others. Grant us a similar boldness to live our faith and serve our neighbors who suffer injustice, poverty, oppression, and hunger. We stand together to glorify God as partners in the gospel, doing God's work in the world together. Amen.

Children's Message

Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

ELW #677

First Reading – Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

A reading from second Corinthians.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.]

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW #172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
es en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

*Apostles' Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

After each prayer petition:

Leader: Merciful God, **All: receive our prayer.**

*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Musical Meditation

Bring Forth the Kingdom

W&P #22

*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Liberating God,

All: you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful
power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we
magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

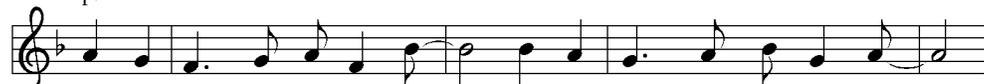
By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy Holy Holy

ELW #525

1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

*Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*The Lord's Prayer

David Haas

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

mp

Our Fa - ther in heav - en,
hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, For - gi - ve us our
sins as we for - give those who sin a-
gainst us. Save us from the
time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil, for the
broaden
king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for
ritard. *mf*
ev - er.

*Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Come and taste the joy of God!

All: Amen.

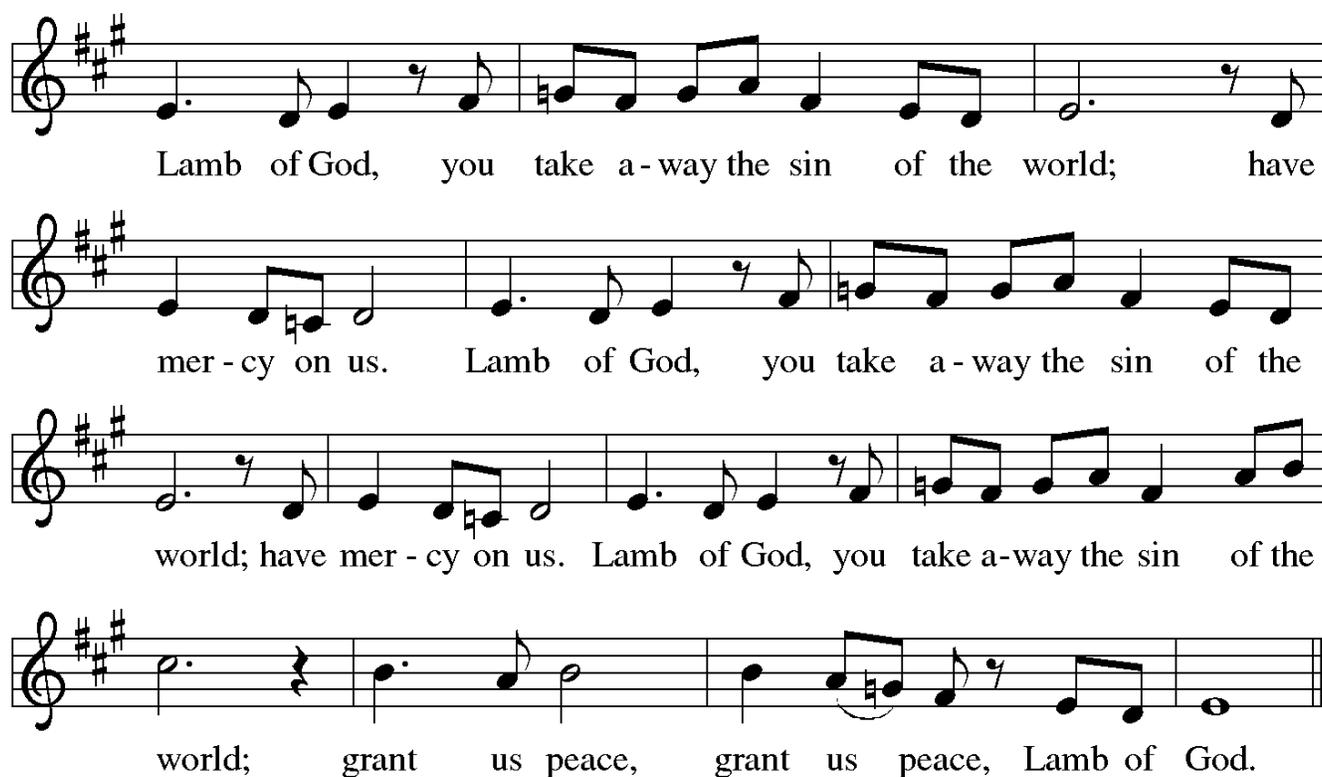
Distribution of Holy Communion and Offering

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail. If you are giving an offering, you may leave it in the offering plate near the front on your way to the altar.

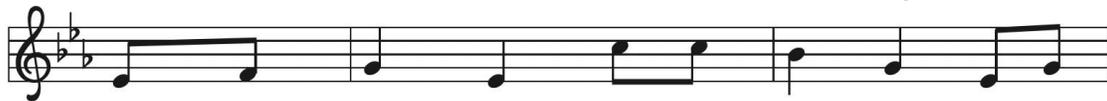
The Pastor will distribute the bread, let her know if you need a gluten-free wafer. The worship assistant will distribute the wine. Let them know if you prefer juice.

Lamb of God

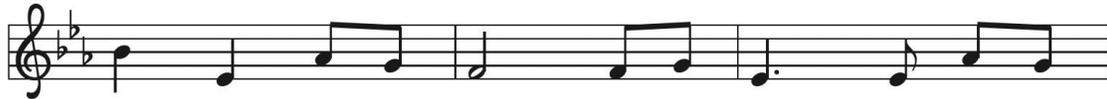
Setting 8



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

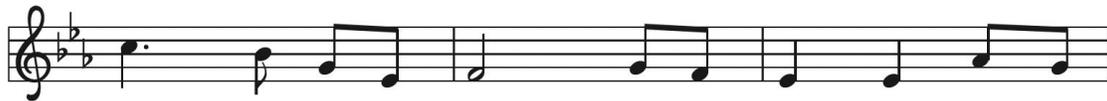


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

*Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. Holy One,

All: we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

*Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

All: Amen.

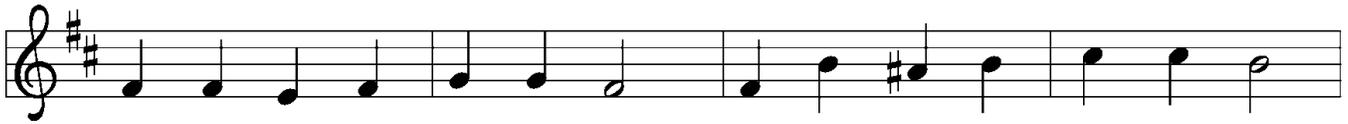
*Sending Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW #553



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

*Sending

Leader: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesus, Name Above All Names

W&P #77

The Youth Group will be meeting TODAY after worship! Please join us for fun and fellowship.

The Lutheran Men in Mission has started working on a project for the youth in our church and more importantly the community. We will be replacing the existing basketball goal that is still often used and broken down with a professional grade basketball goal that will actually be professionally installed. This will be enjoyed and used for kids of all ages for many years to come. We have set a \$5,000.00 goal to achieve. Already we have raised \$1,050.00 with the support of the LMM and the congregation. You can support this project by giving cash or check. Make checks payable to A Mighty Fortress Lutheran and put LMM - Youth Project in the memo. You can give your donation to either of the following: Dwayne Graham, Chris Dukes, Terry Saunders. Thank you in advance for your support to the youth. Please note: if someone wants to make a cash donation & receive tax credit, put that in an envelope with their AMF envelope # and LMM-YOUTH on the envelope.

The Lutheran Men in Mission February meeting is taking place on February 11th at 9:00 a.m. Please join us for doughnuts, coffee, and fellowship. All are welcome!

Don't miss the next WELCA meeting! It will be Tuesday, February 14, at 4:00 in the Fellowship Building. ZOOM access will also be available. We will be working on the Women's Service and planning the Spring Conference Gathering. All Women of AMF are welcome and your participation is important.

NCLMM 100th Anniversary / Annual Gathering at Grace Lutheran Church

- Located @ 3020 Grace Church Rd
Salisbury, NC 28147
- March 11th
- Registration is 9am - 10am
- Guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Tim Smith Bishop, NC Lutheran Synod

Pooch Party / Checkers Game

- Bring the whole family including your dog.
- LMM will pay for all kids 16 and under
- March 26th at 1pm
- Please see Dwayne Graham to reserve your seat. Tickets will go fast.

The Annual Sweetheart Dinner will be taking place on Feb. 11th at 4:00 p.m. at Nellies in Belmont. The cost is \$46 per person. Pay by cash (preferably) or by check. Please make checks payable to Lutheran Men in Mission.

What does this include?

- Nonalcoholic drinks
- Choice of grilled chicken or meatloaf
 - Garden salad
- Mashed potatoes and gravy / green beans
 - 15% gratuity

*kids can order off the kid's menu

Desserts will be provided by AMF.

Hearts to Hands Mission on Saturday, Feb 11th

If you would like to partner with H2H and serve those in need, the next opportunity is Feb 11th. Volunteers will be cooking and serving pancake breakfasts to about 100 people in need. It starts at 10:45 AM and ends by about 1:15 PM. If interested, please see their excellent website: HeartstoHandsCLT.org, and then come to First Ward Park by 10:45 on Feb 11th. If that date does not work for you, the next opportunity to serve is April 15th.

TIME TO PREPARE MORE ZOOM BAGS. If you would like to help make up more ZOOM Bags for distribution to the homeless, please contact **Jim McGee** (704-641-1759). The next opportunity will be **Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 AM** in the Narthex.

Black History Month, or African American History Month, is an annual celebration of African Americans and their contribution to American history. Because Women of the ELCA will celebrate Bold Women's Day on February 26, we are honoring four bold African American women in our history the Sundays in February.

Harriet Tubman, "Moses": slave, abolitionist, humanitarian, armed scout, spy

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery, Araminta "Minty" Ross (c. 1815-March 10, 1913). At 22, she escaped. By 1860, she made between 13 and 19 missions to rescue approximately 340 enslaved people, family, and friends. She used the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad.



Tubman's religious faith was an essential resource as she repeatedly ventured into Maryland. She spoke of "consulting with God," and she trusted that God would keep her safe. Abolitionist Thomas Garrett (1789-1871) said of her, "I never met with any person of any color who had more confidence in the voice of God, as spoken directly to her soul."

"I always told Him, 'I trust to you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect You to lead me,' an' He always did." — Harriet Tubman

Prayer List

please contact our administrative assistant, Danielle (announcementforamf@gmail.com), if you want to add a name to the prayer list

Members: Elaine Beal, Greg Damron, Robin Hussey, Pastor John Merck and Nancy Merck, Barbara McGee, Betty Mick, Robin Moore, Betty Sigmon, April and Dustin Woolford, Patti Skinner, Willie Graham, and Richard Lautensleger

Loved Ones: Rondal Bass (uncle of David Bass), Aiden Chirico (Edna Chirico's grandson), Sherry Harrell (former member), Linda Holden (friend of Edna Chirico), Cadie (Jan Huskey's granddaughter), Elmer Sundlie (Karen Sundlie's father), Ronnie Thomas (father-in-law of Alyssa McGee Thomas), Juniper (Paul Lover's granddaughter), Henry Coffey (Whitney Cartier's friend), Jarrett Duvall (friend of Edna Chirico), Xuan (Thih's wife), Students and Staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Navariz Family (Jan Huskey's family), Audrey Fair (Diana Graham's mother), Becky Perkins (former member) & Jace Waller (Navy) & Andrew Pierce (Navy) (nephews of Robin Moore)



Worship Leadership

Pastor – Rev. Molly Kuekes, pastormolly@amflc.org

Organist/Music Director – Penny Damron

Pianist/Choir Director – Patti Skinner

Guitarists – Charles Burton, Paul Lover, & Timothy Gentsch

Worship Assistant – Kathy Dukes

Livestream Operator – Ron Cartier

Ushers – Amanda & Dwayne Graham

Sound Board Operator – Terry Saunders

Acolyte – Noah Woolford

Crucifer – Amelia Graham

Come worship in-person:

8200 McClure Circle, Charlotte, NC 28216

Or find us online:

www.amflc.org



[A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church](http://www.amflc.org)

[A Mighty Fortress Charlotte, NC](http://www.amflc.org)