

# A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

---

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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

*God, We Gather As Your People  
You are the Seed*

ACS #1038  
WOV #753

Welcome

\*Gathering Hymn

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

ELW #873

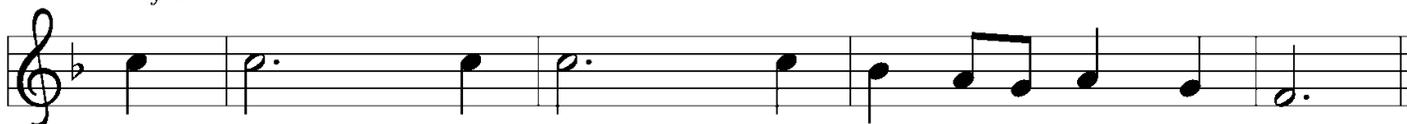


- 1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
- 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
- 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
- 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.  
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

*Refrain*



Re - joice!            Re - joice!            Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

## \*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: you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Message

Hymn

*This Little Light of Mine*

ELW #677

### First Reading – Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from first Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness 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, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of

God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human 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, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

\*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**Pastor Molly Kuekes**

### Prayer List

*please contact our administrative assistant, Danielle ([announcementforamf@gmail.com](mailto: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), & Kimberly LaMore (daughter of Barbara and Jim McGee's close friend), 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)

Gsus G D/F#

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it;  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . .  
 3 Blest are they . . . . . who show mer - cy;  
 4 Blest are they . . . . . who seek peace; . .  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . .

C Dsus Gsus G

theirs is the king - dom of God.  
 they shall in - her - it the earth.  
 mer - cy shall . . . be theirs.  
 they are the chil - dren of God.  
 all . . . be - cause . . . of me. Re -

Gsus G D/F#

Blest are they, full of sor - row;  
 Blest are they, who hun - ger and thirst; . . . . .  
 Blest are they, the pure . . . of heart; . . . . .  
 Blest are they, who suf - fer in faith; the  
 joyce, be glad, yours is the king - dom; . .

C Dsus D C/G G

they shall be con - soled.  
 they shall have their fill.  
 they . . . . . shall see God.  
 glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D/F# Em G/D C

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are

G/B Am A7 D C D7 Em

you, ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C/G G Gsus G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

## \*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.

\*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.*  
ev - er. *mf*

\*Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Come and taste the joy of God!

**All: Amen.**

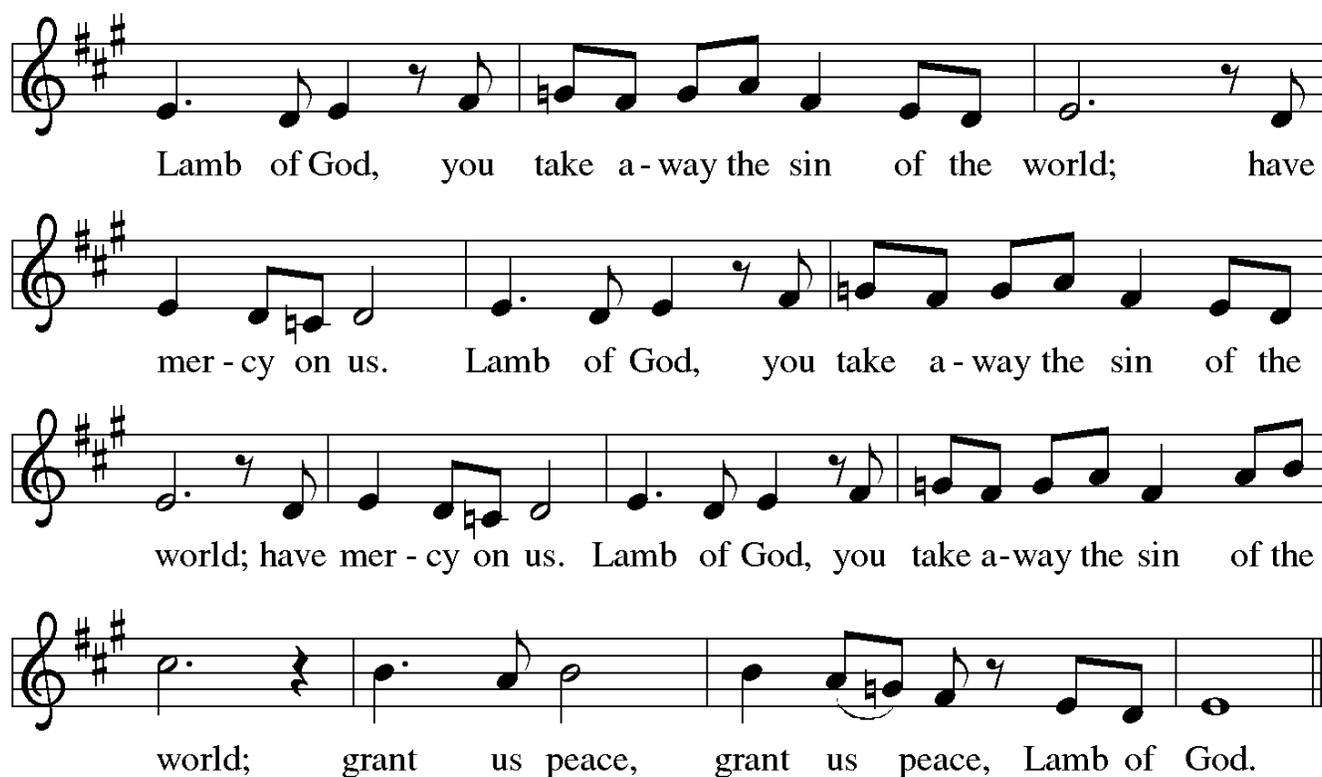
## Distribution of Holy Communion and Offering

*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.

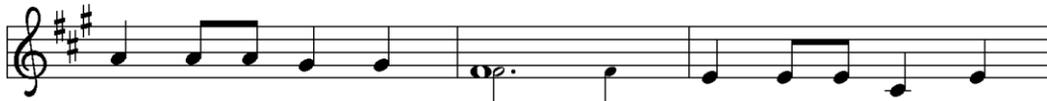
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . . and . . .  
 I . . . . am the life. . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . are the Christ, . . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his  
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . the . . . . world. . . .

Refrain

All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."



\*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.**

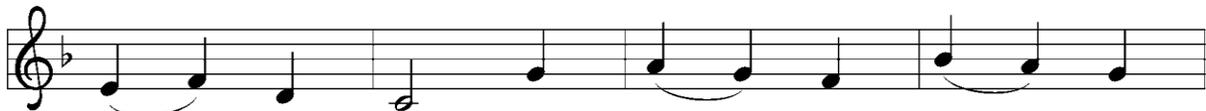
\*Sending Hymn

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW #551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

\*Sending

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*

W&P #7

The Youth Group will be meeting next Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Annual Sweetheart Dinner will be taking place on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

## Hearts to Hands Mission on Saturday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

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](http://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.

### *Worship Leadership*

**Pastor** – Rev. Molly Kuekes, [pastormolly@amflc.org](mailto:pastormolly@amflc.org)

**Organist/Music Director** – Penny Damron

**Pianist/Choir Director** – Patti Skinner

**Guitarists** – Charles Burton, Paul Lover, & Timothy Gentsch

**Worship Assistant** – Amy Johnson

**Livestream Operator** – Danny Merlin

**Ushers** – Leslie & Joe Brigman

**Sound Board Operator** – Junior Bryant

**Acolyte** – Libby Merlin

**Crucifer** – Jason Strong

---

### **Come worship in-person:**

8200 McClure Circle, Charlotte, NC 28216

### **Or find us online:**

[www.amflc.org](http://www.amflc.org)



[A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church](#)

[A Mighty Fortress Charlotte, NC](#)