

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH BARTLETT, TX

Order of Worship - Wednesday, March 5, 2025

ELW Ash Wednesday

Announcements

Gathering Song - Be Thou My Vision - ELW Hymn #793

Greeting (ELW p. 251)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day (ELW p. 251)

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-17

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.**

³ For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your judgment.**

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

⁵ Indeed, I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur-^ler than snow.

⁸**Let me hear^l joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken^l may rejoice.**

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

⁹Hide your face^l from my sins,
and blot out^l all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean^l heart, O God,
and renew a right spir-^lit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away^l from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir-^lit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of^l your salvation
and sustain me with your boun-^ltiful Spirit.**

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

¹³Let me teach your ways^l to offenders,
and sinners shall be re-^lstored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of^l my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing^l of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o-^lpen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro-^lclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or^l I would give it.
You are not pleased^l with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a^l troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will^l not despise.

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 252)

Return to the Lord, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:]¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and

where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon (ELW p. 151) - Pastor Jeremy Ullrich
Hymn of the Day - Beneath the Cross of Jesus - ELW Hymn #338

Invitation to Lent (ELW p. 252)

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.
...Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin (ELW p. 252)

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes (ELW p. 254)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of our journeys, ...

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer...

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Offering Song - Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed - ELW Hymn #337

Offering

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 the 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.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 153)

Holy, holy, holy 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.

Words of Institution (ELW p. 153)

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 112)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion (ELW p. 112)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion (ELW p. 112)

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.

Communion Hymn - - ELW Hymn #**Prayer (ELW p. 254)**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing (ELW p. 255)

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal (ELW p. 255)

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Song - Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - ELW Hymn #335

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OFFICIATING & SERVING -March 5, 2025—Ash Wednesday

Pastor: Jeremy Ullrich **Organist:** Debra Caldwell
Pastor Asst. Wayne Zieschang
Communion Asst. Glen Janke
Lector: Michael Kurtz
Usher Captain: Duane Kurtin
Ushers: Sharon Kurtin, Scott Janke, Collin Randig
Greeters: Weldon and Cedalia Kurtz
Altar Care: Dorothy Marwitz
Teller Captain: Sharon Koonsen
Teller: Darrell and April Marek

OFFICIATING & SERVING - March 9, 2025

Pastor: Jeremy Ullrich **Organist:** Debra Caldwell
Lector: Shirley Fischer
Usher Captain: Duane Kurtin
Greeters: John & Barbara Voight
Altar Care: Dorothy Marwitz
Teller Captain: Judy Gersbach
Teller: April & Darrell Marek

OFFICIATING & SERVING - March 12, 2025

Pastor: Jeremy Ullrich **Organist:** Debra Caldwell
Usher Captain: Michael Kurtz
Ushers: Melinda Kurtz

OFFICIATING & SERVING -March 16, 2025

Pastor: Jeremy Ullrich **Organist:** Debra Caldwell
Pastor Asst. Amanda Harper
Communion Asst. Alan Shepherd
Lector: Coley Bruggman
Usher Captain: Michael Kurtz
Greeters: Judy Gersbach & Donna Campbell
Altar Care: Amanda Harper & April Marek
Teller Captain: Dorothy Marwitz
Teller: Deborah Martin & Charles Gersbach

OFFERING & ATTENDANCE

	Worship Attendance	Offering	YTD
Feb 9	61	\$3,831.00	\$ 17,301.32
Feb 16	58	\$2,248.50	\$ 19,549.82
Feb 23	56	\$2,072.00	\$ 21,621.82
Mar 2	58	\$4,511.00	\$ 26,234.32

IN OUR PRAYERS

Garland Wentreck	Stanley Glaser	Clark Lindemann	Walt Saverse
Pansy Lange	Janell Janke	Risa Steglich	Ruth Janke
Gayle Bielss	Margie Lovellette	Harry Gersbach	Janie Barron Lange
Mr. Hardy (Erin Steglich's Friend's Dad)			Marwitz Family
Victor Marek(Darrell, April Marek & family)		Tammy Rodriguez (sister of Joey Saverse)	
	Jimmy Dubose (grandfather of Kendal & Jr Gersbach and Great-grandfather to Cayson & Barrett)		
	Joe Bruntz (Son-in-law of Joann Zieschang)		
	Fred Wende (Family friend of Carol Wilson)		
	Shirley Fischer	Janice Atchison	Matthew Gamrod
Tori Gartman(friend of Pam Fleming)		John Chaffin (Linda Chaffin's Husband)	
	Marian Patillo mother of Jill Marwitz's co-worker, Jennifer Richards		

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

Monday:	Monday in TRC @ 1:00 pm–Pickleball and 2PM Dominoes
Tuesday:	Pickleball 6:00 pm in the TRC Gym (we are trying another evening)
Wednesday:	Men's Bible Study each Wednesday in the TRC @ 7:30 am
Thursday:	PieceMakers meet each Thursday in the TRC @ 1:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Service Helpers

If you are not able to do the job you are assigned, it is your responsibility to get someone to do the job for you. Also, please let the church office know of the change if there is adequate time.

Worship Committee Request

We are in need to fill the vacancies on the worship duty roster. Pastor Assistant, Teller Captain, and Usher duties are needed. All volunteers are welcomed, please contact the church office.

Pastoral Visits

We are encouraging those hospitalized, nursing home residents (or, their family members), and the homebound members and friends who wish to schedule an in-person pastoral visit or phone call to contact Pastor Jeremy Ullrich @ 979-421-3303 or the church office @ 254-527-3341.

NOTE: Pastor Ullrich will need to be listed as a "visitor of choice" in hospitals or nursing homes. This will need to be established by a family member.

Adult Sunday School

We will gather Sundays in the TRC at 9:15am for coffee / fellowship. Class will begin at 9:30am.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study TBA.

Martha's Circle Bible Study

Martha's Circle Bible Study is on hold until further notice.

Sisters in Christ Bible Study

The Sisters in Christ Bible Study every third Saturday @10am with a new bible study "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado. This study reminds us that we are headed to a far better place than where we started.

Will-O-Bell Nursing Home Worship

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting the residents of our local nursing home! Through communion and a 30-minute hymn sing-along, please show these residents they are not forgotten by joining us on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in Granger and on the third Thursday of each month at 10AM in Bartlett. Please come and make a resident smile.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will take a break until TBA.

Flag Donations

3x5 U.S. Flags with grommets are appreciated for our church. In memory of loved ones, you may donate flags, or make cash donations, at the church office. For further information contact Walt Saverse @ 254-770-8381, or contact the church office @ 254-527-3341.

Prayer Requests

When you make a prayer request for a non-member, please provide the church office with contact information so that we can send them a card. Thank you.

Dominoes

Every Monday @ 2PM in the TRC– Domino games (42 and Straight and Moon)

Anyone want to PLAY pickleball?

Monday afternoons in the TRC Gym at 1pm and/or Tuesday night at 6pm. Please come join us. If anyone is interested in another day or time we are open to suggestions. All you need is a good and comfortable pair of sneakers. We have extra paddles and balls. Come and enjoy the fun, exercise and being with people.

Youth/Children Events

Sunday School–Every Sunday at 9:30am

Articles for the Newsletter

Please submit your articles for the monthly newsletter before the 19th of each month, as they are mailed out the following week. Thank you!

Piecemakers

The PieceMakers have bundles of fabric that are waiting to be cut into squares (10 ½ X 10 ½ inches) to be sewn into an 80 X 60 LWR Quilt. Please ask any Piecemaker member or go into the basement and the Kits are on the first cedar chest tied up with fabric.

Cleaning Services

For many years, Walt Saverse and his wife Rita have been providing cleaning services for the church and TRC. They will be giving it up in June, so we are looking for someone who is interested in the job, which is on a contract basis. We would like to have someone who is part of or connected to the St. John Family. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact President Ronnie Persky, Pastor Jeremy Ullrich or Church Secretary Retha Shepherd.

Rose Garden Dedication

Please let the church secretary, Retha Shepherd, know if any of your loved ones are turning 90 this year 2025.

Casserole Ministry

We have casseroles available in the large freezer for distribution to shut-ins, family members, friends, and neighbors in need of a meal. Please feel free to take them as needed to help support our community.

Worship Committee

As your newly elected worship committee council member, I want to thank everyone for your commitment to the St. John Lutheran Church community - you're the reason we **are** a church. A special thank you is extended to those volunteers whose willingness to serve our congregational community in various positions helps us all in so many ways. Many of you are long-time members while a few, like me, are fairly new to this congregation. We are looking forward to growing our church as we approach the 150th anniversary of the founding. To continue our growth, and to meet our goal of 150 new ideas by the time of our sesquicentennial, I am hoping we can get additional volunteers to serve in a variety of positions. All volunteers will be welcomed and given guidance and assistance as needed. Additionally, any ideas and suggestions to help our worship services be more accommodating to your needs will be appreciated. Please feel free to contact me by phone/text at 254-231-7166 or by email at sue-mcclintick@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in volunteering and/or have any questions about what positions are available. You can also provide your information and input to the church office. Thank you, Sue McClintick