SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ.

THEME: JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 260)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A REMINDER: Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

- 1. Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2. God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish. From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3. Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever; Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4. Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING VERSICLES

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Р	This is the day which the Lord has made;	Psalm 118:24
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- C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting, *Psalm 113:3*
- C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; Psalm 84:10
- C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord. Psalm 25:4
- C Teach me Your paths.
- P Sanctify us in Your truth. John 17:17
- C Your Word is truth.
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting, *Psalm 113:3*
- C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C 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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarizes it well.
- Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- P Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
 - (Silence for personal confession of sins)
- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. Daily our sins of thought, word, and deed cause us grief. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.
- P Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CATECHISM REVIEW

- P The Service of Prayer and Preaching found on page 260 of our hymnals encourages the recitation of one or more parts of the Small Catechism.
- P What is the second commandment?
- C You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- P What does this mean?
- We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
- P For what purpose did God reveal His name to us?
- God gave us His name so that we might know who created and redeemed us; call upon Him personally as children do a father; and proclaim His name among all peoples.
 - **Isaiah 12:4** And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted."
- P How do we fear and love God in keeping the Second Commandment?
- C First, we fear and love God by not using His name to swear thoughtlessly or meaninglessly (in vain) or as a "curse" word;
 Exodus 20:7 For the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- P to try to manipulate God for our purposes in sorcery, as a magic charm, or to curse others;
- C to lie to others or deceive them by speaking or teaching falsely about God.
 - Jeremiah 23:31–32 Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, "declares the LORD." Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead My people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.
- P Second, we fear and love God by using His name to
- c seek from Him all good things for ourselves and others; call upon Him in times of trouble; acknowledge in thanks and praise that all good things have come from Him alone;
 - **Psalm 150:2** Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

- P What "names" does God have in the Bible?
- The Bible refers to God by various titles such as God, the Almighty, the Lord, Father, Immanuel, the Most High, Son of God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. The New Testament also reveals that God is rightly named as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are calling upon the God who made all things.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 45:3–15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt.

Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my

mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC [10:30 AM] "The Church's One Foundation" Joyful Ringers

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

EPISTLE

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM [10:30 AM] "In Adam We Have All Been One" Vocal Choir

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27–38

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

- P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the T Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

SERMON HYMN

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706

- Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done.
- 2. Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility, Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.
- 3. Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend; Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end.

AND owthese
THREE remain:
BAITH, HOPE & LOVE.
But the greatest of
these is LOVE.

I CORINTHIANS 13:13, NIV

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

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SERMON Rev. David Barber

OFFERING

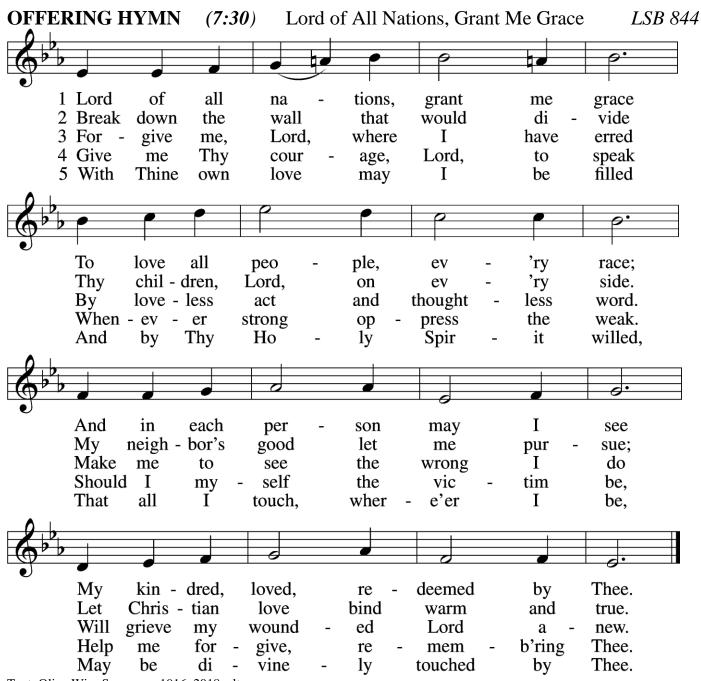


For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to



https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6

<u>For those worshiping in-person</u>, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.



Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916–2018, alt.

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PRAYER LSB 265

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For . . . [Sandy (sister of Rene & Sue Richard), Dennis Bialak (friend of Joy Hougan), Gayle Kasch, Howard Meissner, Michael Woodruff (son of Phil & Mary Woodruff)]. . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

BENEDICAMUS LSB 267

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- 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 T give you peace.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

- 1. Jesus Christ, my sure defense
 And my Savior, now is living!
 Knowing this, my confidence
 Rests upon the hope here given,
 Though the night of death be fraught
 Still with many_an anxious thought.
- 2. Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
 Likewise I to life shall waken.
 He will bring me where He is;
 Shall my courage then be shaken?
 Shall I fear, or could the Head
 Rise and leave His members dead?
- 6. Then take comfort and rejoice,
 For His members Christ will cherish.
 Fear not, they will hear His voice;
 Dying, they will never perish;
 For the very grave is stirred
 When the trumpet's blast is heard.

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–79; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



You have been a blessing to us! Please use this time to "check-in" with your Christian brothers and sisters around you. Coffee and donuts are being served for fellowship at 9:00am in the Fellowship & Ministry Center along with our Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School. Please stop in to the FMC and enjoy.

Acknowledgments

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Wed. March 5 10:30am ~ 7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Services "God Has a Word for That"
Wed. March 12 10:30am ~ 7:00pm	Lenten Worship Services "He Only Has Eyes for You"
Wed. March 19 10:30am ~ 7:00pm	Lenten Worship Services "Marked"
Wed. March 26 10:30am ~ 7:00pm	Lenten Worship Services "Breaking Down the Gates"

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk

Guest Pastor: Rev. David Barber

Organist: Stephen Kopp III ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering

Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

February 23, 2025

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by Bea Butler in memory of daughter, Razona Ledford.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by Robert Trapp in remembrance of Richard & Anne Trapp.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers Cheryl Domingo, Wayn Nelson

Elders on Duty Mark Keck, Chris Trapp

Greeters/Ushers Dorothy Christman, Gary Fleming

Altar Servers Donna Leach, Lori Nelson Safety Team David Aiken, Mark Keck

Streaming Team Wayn Nelson, Marita Noe, Luke Stolarczyk



OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm (941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator Jennifer Strefling: 941-627-6060

Head Elder Jim McCabe: 847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach <u>Pastor Stolarczyk: Cell: 941-979-7490</u>

<u>Pastor Menk:</u> <u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Bob Bartelson, Fran Boatwright, George & Dee Buono, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Betty Golembieski, Hedi Heinrich, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Val Korman, Dale Kuhn, Millie Tyczka, Ken & Mary Werring

Strength, Healing, Guidance: *

Jackie & family Friend of LCC; strength & comfort

Sandy Strength & healing

Dennis Bialak Friend of LCC; healing & recovery

Nancy Bird Strength & healing Helen Christensen Healing & recovery

Virderie Kaminska Continued recovery & healing

Gayle Kasch Recovery & healing Howard Meissner Strength & healing

A'lani Propst Great Granddaughter of David & Reine Obermier;

healing & strength

Chris Sabin Healing & recovery

Grant Senkbeil Nephew Steve & Lori Nelson; recovery & healing

Jim & Pat Willis Friends of LCC; strength & healing

*Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.

Battling Cancer:

Adriana Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma

April Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Ivana Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer

Jeanette Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer
Mike Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer

Dave DeBraccio Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength

Lisa DePalma Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Lisa Anne Denofrio

Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care
Bill Docherty

Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor

Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Randy Hornby

Friend of Dorothy Christman; battling cancer

Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia

Todd Klietz Battling cancer

Audrey Kowalski Friend of Dorothy Christman; terminal cancer Patricia Ruiz Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer

Lisa Sayers Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Tracy Shattuck Brother Meredith Kecken; battling cancer, healing

Carmen Torres
Lori Truelove
Connie Warner
Michael Woodruff

Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma Son of Phil & Mary Woodruff; battling cancer

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling USAF TSGT David Cope Jr. US Army CSM Matt Hopkins

USAF Sr. Airman

Shawn Golembieski

US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski

US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski

USCG SCPO Robert Kecken USAF A1C Riley Latarski Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz

Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell

US Army PFC Parker Woodruff

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

We commend to our gracious God the body and soul of Sondra Milner, beloved member of the LCC family.

Family Prayer: We remember all our families during times of personal and family trial and tribulation.

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.

LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025

Week Of: 02/16/2025				
On-Site		V	Veekly	
Attendance		Con	tributi	
51 / 144		Income:	\$	

Weekly Contributions		
Income:	\$ 6,632	
Expense:	\$ 11,170	



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

OFH = *Old Fellowship Hall*

Thurs-Feb 27	9:00am	Altar Guild Communion Set Up – Sacristy/Altar
	2:00pm	Charlotte County Tennis Assoc Meeting – FMC
Fri-Feb 28	9:30am	Annual Sanctuary / Altar / Organ Cleaning (Altar Guild)
Sun-Mar 2	11:45am	Committal Dee Maris – Memorial Garden
Tues-Mar 4	1:00pm	Sarasota Circuit Meeting @ Lakeside Lutheran, Venice
Wed-Mar 5		Ash Wednesday Worship (see times on page 12)
Thurs-Mar 6	1:00pm	LWML Ladies Parish Guild Meeting – FMC
Sat-Mar 8	9:00am	Stephen Minister Supervision Meeting – OFH



Support the local Pregnancy Solutions Walk for Life event which is coming up on March 1st and March 8th! Below is a video link for more info on the Walk for Life event as well as a link to sign up for the Walk for Life (*if you have not signed up already*).

We encourage you to share this with your friends and neighbors.

Please reach out to Christine Carey at 941-408-7100 or email her at: <u>Christine@pregnancysolutions.org</u> if you have any questions.

Walk for Life Video Link:

https://youtu.be/bjk8O2dQFhg

Walk for Life Sign-

up: https://pregnancysolutions.org/events/

"Sabbath Work"

A Two-Day Workshop with Dr. Joel Biermann March 21-22, 2025 There is still time to sign up to attend the 2-day workshop being led by Dr. Joel Biermann! Sign up in the narthex or by scanning this

OR Code:

Workshop Details:

- Time: Friday 21st 9 AM 4:00 PM [Registration begins 8:30AM] & Saturday 22nd 8 AM Noon
- Location: Here at LCC in the FMC
- \$20/person Includes: All sessions, materials, and on-site lunch both days