

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Mark Gullerud: Vacancy Pastor

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**School Website:** [ssls.org](http://ssls.org)

**April 13, 2025 † Palm Sunday Service**



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**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 31 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.**

**To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**

## Opening Hymn 441 Ride On, Ride On, In Majesty

(LSB 441)



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! All the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The an - gel  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Thy last and  
5 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry. O Sav - ior meek, pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, Thy tri - umphs  
ar - mies of the sky Look down with sad and  
fierc - est strife is nigh. The Fa - ther on His  
pomp ride on to die. Bow Thy meek head to



sue Thy road, With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.  
now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
won - d'ring eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
sap - phire throne A - waits His own a - noint - ed Son.  
mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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

**C** Amen.

## Responsive Psalmody

(Selected verses from Psalm 118 NKJV)

- P** The LORD is my strength and song,  
**C** **And He has become my salvation.**
- P** The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;  
**C** **The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**
- P** The right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
**C** **The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**
- P** I will praise You, for You have answered me,  
**C** **And have become my salvation.**
- P** The stone which the builders rejected  
**C** **Has become the chief cornerstone.**
- P** This is the day the LORD has made;  
**C** **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** Save now, I pray, O LORD;  
**C** **O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.  
**C** **We have blessed You from the house of the LORD.**
- P** You are my God, and I will praise You;  
**C** **You are my God, I will exalt You.**
- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
**C** **For His mercy endures forever.**

### **Palm Sunday Prayer**

- P** We pray:  
We praise You, O God, for the great acts of love by which You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. As He was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palms in His path, so may we always hail Him as our King and follow Him with complete confidence; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Confession of Sins

**C** Holy and most merciful Father, I confess that I am sinful by nature and have miserably failed in thought, word, and deed to obey Your commandments to love You and my neighbor. For this I deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in Jesus my Savior, I pray: LORD, have mercy on me, a sinner.

## Absolution of Sins

**P** God, our heavenly Father has been merciful to us and has offered up His only Son on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for all our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of God and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Sanctus *LSB 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **Epistle Reading (NKJV)**

**Philippians 2:5-11** <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Gospel Reading (NKJV)**

**Luke 19:28-40** <sup>28</sup> When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> And it came to pass, when He came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' " <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. <sup>33</sup> But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of him." <sup>35</sup> Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. <sup>36</sup> And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. <sup>37</sup> Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

<sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." <sup>40</sup> But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed** *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**☩ I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;**

**from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,**

**not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,**

**and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

**This is most certainly true!**

# Hymn 444 No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet

(LSB 444)



1 No tramp of sol - diers' march - ing feet  
 2 And yet He comes. The chil - dren cheer;  
 3 What fad - ing flow'rs His road a - dorn;  
 4 Now He who bore for mor - tals' sake



With ban - ners and with drums, No sound of mu - sic's  
 With palms His path is strown. With ev - 'ry step the  
 The palms, how soon laid down! No bloom or leaf but  
 The cross and all its pains And chose a ser - vant's



mar - tial beat: "The King of glo - ry comes!"  
 cross draws near: The King of glo - ry's throne.  
 on - ly thorn The King of glo - ry's crown.  
 form to take, The King of glo - ry reigns.



To greet what pomp of king - ly pride  
 A - stride a colt He pass - es by  
 The sol - diers mock, the rab - ble cries,  
 Ho - san - na to the Sav - ior's name



No bells in tri - umph ring, No cit - y gates swing  
 As loud ho - san - nas ring, Or else the ver - y  
 The streets with tu - mult ring, As Pi - late to the  
 Till heav - en's raf - ters ring, And all the ran - somed



o - pen wide: "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"  
 stones would cry "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"  
 mob re - plies, "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"  
 host pro - claim "Be - hold, be - hold your King!"

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958, alt.



**Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:8-12** <sup>8</sup> I will camp around My house Because of the army, Because of him who passes by and him who returns. No more shall an oppressor pass through them, For now I have seen with My eyes. <sup>9</sup> " Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.' <sup>11</sup> " As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you. (NKJV)

**Sermon Theme: Rejoice in the Coming of Your Savior King**

1. He sets prisoners free from the gloomy pit of captivity.
2. He establishes a kingdom of peace.
3. He protects His kingdom from all its enemies.



## Offertory

LSB 956



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

## Hymn 442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(LSB 442)



*Refrain*  
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To You, Re - deem - er, King,  
To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

- 1 You are the King of Is - rael And Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels Is prais - ing You on high,
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims With palms be - fore You went;
- 4 To You be - fore Your pas - sion They sang their hymns of praise;
- 5 As You re - ceived their prais - es, Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



Now in the Lord's name com - ing, Our King and Bless - ed One.  
And we with all cre - a - tion In cho - rus make re - ply.  
Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore You we pre - sent.  
To You, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.  
O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Our good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulf of Orléans, c. 762–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

**Prayer of the Church** *We bring our prayers to God.*

**Lord's Prayer**

LSB 209

**☩ 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.**

### **Closing Prayer**

*(Spoken Responsively)*

**P** Behold, we go up to Jerusalem.

**C** **As once You led Your chosen people, Lord, from slavery to freedom by  
Your grace, now lead us on our sacred pilgrimage.**

**P** All that was written of Your beloved Son by the prophets concerning His  
redemptive work has been accomplished.

**C** **Grant us the grace, O Lord, to ever hear and believe in the words and  
teachings of our Savior Jesus who gives us life and salvation.**

**P** He was delivered to the Gentiles and was mocked and shamefully treated.

They scourged Him and put Him to death.

**C** As once You heard the cries of those oppressed by bondage, hear now, we pray, the cries of all who call to You in every need, and let them know the saving power of Your Son Jesus who by His death has gained for us the victory over sin and death.

**P** And on the third day He rose back to life.

**C** Lord God, by the victory of Jesus Christ, now lead us onward to the promised land of heaven. Amen.

**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** *♩* Amen, Amen, Amen.

### Closing Hymn 443 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (LSB 443)



1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, The lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed Mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing;



Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang.  
The vic - tor palm branch wav - ing And chant - ing clear and loud.  
For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heav'n our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, Close fold - ed to His breast,  
The Lord of earth and heav - en Rode on in low - ly state  
Oh, may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice



It is always a humbling experience to be reminded that, though I myself am unworthy, the Lord has called me not only into the kingdom of His beloved Son with all His elect but continues to call me to be a public servant of the Word and Sacrament in the kingdom, to minister to His flock as one who must give account.

As I deliberate between the call which I am currently serving and the call which you have issued to me, I request your earnest and continual prayers on my behalf, chiefly that my deliberations be free from selfish ambition and only to the glory of God and to the edification of His Church, of which Christ is the Head and Savior of the body.

I assure you that I take this matter with the seriousness and prayerful deliberation that such a call merits, as this is neither your ministry, nor mine, but the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all honor and glory and power and dominion, forever and ever.

Peace be to you in His name.

Pastor Frank Gantt

**Holy Week** begins today with the observance of Palm Sunday, the blessed day that Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the promised King who came to establish an everlasting kingdom. On Friday, we observe **Good Friday** with a worship service at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. On Sunday, we celebrate **Easter** with a special worship service at 10 a.m. As Christians Easter means to us the victorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. At 11 a.m. we will have an Easter Brunch.

**Easter Brunch Sign-up Sheet** can be found on the stand at the entryway of the church where those planning to attend and bring food for it can list their names and the food that will be brought for the meal. Thank you.

**CLC CALL NEWS** Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA. <> Missionary Peter Evensen of Togo, West Africa, has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Mrs. Vanessa Wales and Mrs. Danielle Sippert have **accepted** their calls from Grace Lutheran School, Sleepy Eye, MN, to teach language arts and other courses for the 2025-2026 school year. <> Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has announced his **retirement** as of August, 2025. <> Teacher Amy Mielke of Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac WI.

**Report on Attacks of CLCI members in India** Missionary Peter Evensen writes: On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the leader of CLCI and a pastor in the CLCI, were returning to his church when they were stopped and dragged from his motorcycle by 6 masked men and beaten. The pastor saved the life of the CLCI leader; he was able to slip into the ditch and only suffered a few scratches and broken teeth. The pastor, however, was beaten severely with wooden sticks. They stole his motorcycle while telling them to stop evangelizing. Both CLCI men went to the hospital where the pastor had to have surgery on his nose and for his three front broken teeth. The CLCI leader had to have root canals. They filed a police report, but since the men were masked and there were no witness the police are unable to do much. They have yet to recover the motorcycle.

A pastor not in our fellowship was recently killed 50 miles from this area, probably by the same group that attacked our men.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> a CLCI preaching station was attacked by a group of Hindu extremists who stopped the service and demanded to see a worship permit. The pastor and members went to the police who told the pastor to stop leading the

church and ordered him to meet with the police superintendent. Missionary Evensen has often been to this area and it was in this town that both Todd and he were (separately) investigated by the police. It is most likely that their visas were cancelled because of their visits to this area.

Recently 50 people stopped another CLCI Sunday worship service in a different area and ordered the pastor and believers to stop the service or move to another village.

Please pray for our CLCI brothers and sisters as they are facing more and more persecution in a supposedly secular and free country. While these attacks are illegal, it is difficult to get justice from a predominantly Hindu police force. (Note: The names of the CLCI men who were attacked are not mentioned in order to protect them from enemies in India.)

### **CLC Financial Report - March 2025**

<b>Operating Funds</b>	<b>Balance 7/1/2024</b>	<b>YTD Revenue</b>	<b>YTD Disbursed</b>	<b>Budget 9 Months</b>	<b>Balance 3/31/2025</b>
General Fund	0	860,397	924,554	984,735	(64,157)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,384,054	1,257,527	1,293,075	126,527
<b>Auxiliary Funds</b>					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	40,467	61,244		90,202
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	351,749	1,842		1,910,189
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	201,043	165,398		156,429
Kinship	169,884	150,483	135,400		184,967
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	408,697	252,565		2,840,340
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	71,495	176,862		11,950
EduK8 Fund	47,692	21,629	3,500		65,821
Reserve Fund	79,964	79,862	0		159,826
<b>Auxiliary Funds Totals</b>	<b>\$4,891,110</b>	<b>\$1,325,425</b>	<b>\$796,811</b>		<b>\$5,419,724</b>

**General Fund and ILC Operations** – The combined balance of these two operating funds is down about \$62,000 compared to the same time one year ago. Contributions to and disbursements from the General Fund are well below budget for the first nine months of our fiscal year. For ILC Operations, the revenue is ahead of budget with disbursements less than the pro-rated budget.

**ILC Building Projects** – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$240,000. The remaining year-to-date revenue of around \$112,000 is from increases in the market value of the investments in this fund.

**Church Extension Fund** – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of about \$222,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, just over \$186,000 of increases in the market value of the investments and just over \$1,000 of contributions to the fund.

**EduK8 Fund** – The fund had its first disbursement (\$3,500) to assist one of our Christian Day Schools.

**Other Auxiliary Funds** – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

*Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer*

*Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees*