



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



the good news is...

together, the impossible
is possible

We welcome you to Worship

March 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

The People of Covenant are called to:

Gather, Grow and Go Serve

...With God's Love!

Welcome Thank you for joining us for Worship today!

WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, March 8, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin.*

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Land Acknowledgment

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

Welcome

Call to Worship

If you need good news,
settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,
there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck!
We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

Greeting

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

Kyrie

pg. 184

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of the book of Exodus, beginning with the first verse.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people

thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:20-21

A reading from the third chapter of Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus, beginning with the twentieth verse.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 189

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This

is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need [*See Prayer List on Inside Cover*]. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.

Announcements

Bell Choir

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
African American Spiritual
arr. Childers
Teddy Chose on Viola

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

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.

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

pg. 191

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

ELW 623

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!
(Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.)



Announcements:

- ✝ **Covenant Book Club** will use *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt as the basis for discussion Thursday, March 12, at 1:00 pm at the Carlson home, 632 Kings Lynn Road. All are welcome whether or not you've read the book.
- ✝ **Holding Space** will be meeting at 2:30 PM on Tuesdays in the Gateway Room in March.
- ✝ **'Hospitality Bags'** and **'Sew at Home Bags'** by main doors- Take what you can help with
- ✝ **Wednesday Lenten Worship** 6:30pm. Use the **Fellowship Hall** entrance.
- ✝ **Endowment Foundation Scholarship applications** for the 2026-2027 school year are due April 1. Apply online at: <http://tinyurl.com/Foundation-Scholarship>. Contact Beth Kennedy, 608-279-1656, or secretary.covenantfoundation@gmail.com with any questions.

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen* **Acolyte:** *Gavin Schumacher*
Assistant Minister: *Deb Oakland* **Lector:** *Gracie Speth*
Greeters: *Bill Cook & Karen Hanson Cook*
Communion Worship Assistants: *Deb Oakland, Millie Proper, and Lola Anderson*
Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*
Ushers: *Norm & Verjean Sime, Tom Christian, and Carol Pritchard*
Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*
Altar Guild: *Cynthia Liddle*
Communion Prep: *Philayne Chose & Cindy Pietruszynski*
Fellowship Hosts: *Donut Sunday*

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