# Faith Lutheran Church in Valders

# *Sharing God’s Word; Showing God’s Love; Serving God’s World.*

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

## **Gathering**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift

 of grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings.** **Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;** **we**

 **take for ourselves instead of giving to others;** **we spoil rather than steward your creation;** **we cause**

 **hurt though you call us to heal;** **we choose fear over compassion.** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

 **as we seek to follow in your way of life.** **Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This

 promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you

 in the Spirit’s power.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn “Make Me a Servant”**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie** Pages 138-139

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray

 to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord,**

 **have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your**

 **children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the**

 **world 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.**

**Scripture Readings**

### First Reading: Genesis 2:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” 4aSo Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

L:  The word of the Lord. **C:  Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

### What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. 13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.L:  The word of the Lord. C:  Thanks be to God.

### Gospel: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message ~ Pastor Dan Lyman**

**Hymn of Response “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

**Baptism of Xander Ray Erskine**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the**

 **forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

P: O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary

 and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for

 the work of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers,

 scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

 **receive our prayer.**

P: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations

 that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root

 causes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and

 accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Merciful

 God, **receive our prayer.**

P: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and

 curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful

 God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are celebrating their birthday this week: James Sousek, Gerald Petska, Angie Ulness,

 Gregg Valleskey, Roger Larson, Stephen Kalies, Katherine Bubolz, Gretchen Spindler, Jeremy Peterson,

 Jake Kaderabek, Linda Gilbertson. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are in need of healing: Delton Duchow, Cheryl Domrath, Sharon Naidl, Judy

 Jorgenson, Marlene Thomsen, Jim and Jan Reinertson,Harry Kwasny, Donald Tienor, Don and Delores

 Johnson, Ginger Linsmeier, Bob Klessig, Neil Meissner, Eliza Dekker, Matt Kerkhoff, Jim Loritz, Merle

 “Butch” Graf, Wayne Allen Huske. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P:Confident that you not only hear our prayers, but listen to them, you not only listen, but care. You not only

 care, but act with Almighty Love. Confident in your Almighty Love, we name now before you those in need

 of your presence and care \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Help them to know that our prayers are with them and you are

 with them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

### Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Words of Institution**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**Distribution Hymn “Christ Be Our Light”**

### Prayer after Communion

P: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your

 promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C: Amen.**

**The Blessing**

P: God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this

 Lenten journey.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn “Lead Me, Lord”**

P: Go in the Spirit of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Sharing God’s Word, Showing God’s Love, and Serving God’s World.**

**Serving Us Today**

Organist: Whitney Zutz Head Usher: Scott Reinertson

Greeters: Earl and Barb Griffin Acolyte: Liam Cline

Ushers: Brian and Tammy Brill Communion Aide & Lector: Jen Zutz

Sound Operator: Hunter Spindler Projection: Gage Spindler

Video/Live Stream: Mike Lenzner

**Serving Us Next Week**

Organist: Sue Riesterer Head Usher: Scott Reinertson

Greeter: Marcus Galien Acolyte: Whitney Ulness

Lector: Bob Wigen Ushers: Steve and Ginny Schwoerer

Sound Operator: Garrett Ulness Video/Live Stream: Travis Schisel

Projection: DJ Schisel

**Last Week** – Sunday: 105 Wednesday: 82 Offerings to the Lord’s work: $5,655.00

**Faith’s Opportunities March 5-12**

**Sunday** 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour, Sunday school

 Mixed Choir will resume March 12 at 10:15 A.M.

**Monday** 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

 6:00 P.M. Board of Lay Ministry

**Tuesday** 6:00 P.M. Board of Evangelism

**Wednesday** 9:00 A.M. Jazzercise

 5:00 P.M. Board of Stewardship

 5:00 P.M. Soup and Sandwich Supper in Gathering Space

 6:15 P.M. Worship

**Thursday**  8:00 A.M. Quilting

 5:30 P.M. Jazzercise

**Saturday** 9:00 A.M. 2nd Saturday Bible Study

 9:15 A.M. 9th grade confirmation class church visit

**Sunday** 8:00 A.M. Bell Choir

 9:00 A.M. Worship

 10:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour, Sunday school

 10:15 A.M. Mixed Choir and 9th grade confirmation

This morning, we welcome Xander Ray Erskine into God’s kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism. Xander was born to Alyssa Meidl and Shane Erskine on November 3, 2022 and his baptismal sponsors are Cooper and Dawn Widener. Grandparents are Todd and Alene Meidl, Debra Schmidt and Randall Erskine. We rejoice at Xander’s rebirth through water and the Word!

**We welcome Bridget Valleskey, our new Youth Coordinator to Faith’s Staff. Bridget’s office hours are Wednesday and Friday from 4:30-6:30 pm and on Sunday mornings. If you would like to contact her, you can email her at valleskeyb@gmail.com or see her in her office next to Pastor Dan’s.**

**Faith’s Scholarship Applications are available on the Information Desk in the Gathering Space.**

Please sign the thinking of you cards for our homebound members in the Gathering Space. They enjoy hearing from their Faith family.