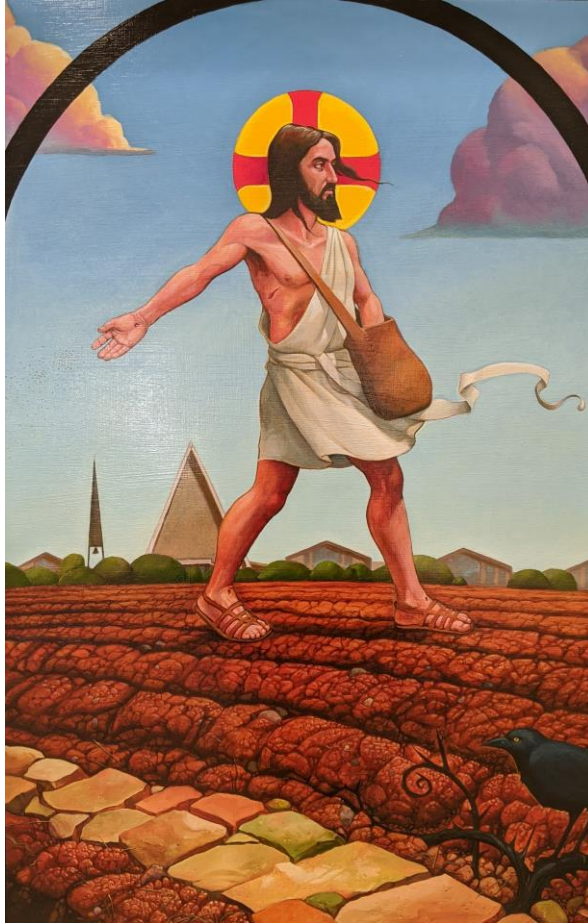


# Sexagesima

The Sunday of the Sower  
February 8, 2026



*My word that goes out from My mouth shall not return to Me empty,  
But it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
And shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

### **Theme of Today's Liturgy**

Our prayer in today's Collect provides a summary of the themes of today's Divine Service: God is "the strength of all who put their trust in" Him. We have confidence that He will not cast us off forever nor forget us in our affliction (*Introit*). By His Word preached and publicly read, our Lord plants the seed of His saving Word in our hearts, and so by faith we receive Christ (*Gospel*).

### **Guests**

Welcome to the Divine Service! We are delighted to have you with us. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Please note your attendance with us on the card in your pew and pass it towards the center aisle during the offering, and we hope you will worship with us again! You are welcome to join us in the social hall for coffee and refreshments after the service.

### **Our Belief and Practice Concerning the Lord's Supper**

The daily troubles brought upon us by the world, Satan, and our sinful nature drive the Christian to frequently receive the Lord's Supper. In the gift of the Savior's true body and blood, we find rest and refreshment for our souls. Because we care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table, guests desiring to commune today are asked to speak with Pastor Gerike before the service.

### **A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children**

You and your children are welcome here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so don't feel embarrassed by it. Feel free to sit toward the front where your children can see easily. Encourage them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! And with thy spirit! Lord, have mercy! Our Father!* Sing, say, and pray your parts as best you can; your children learn by your example. If you and your child must leave for a moment, there is a children's area downstairs underneath the narthex. Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us rejoice in our Lord's words, "Let the little children come to Me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Lk 18:16). You and your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to smile, encourage, and help you.

**Bulletin Cover Art:** *Sower of the Seminary* (2012), Edward Riojas, Library of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

# The Divine Service

†-- congregation stands

“This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Gen 28:17)

## The Preparation

### Prelude

*Please STAND for the Processional Hymn when the chime rings three times*

† Processional Hymn      582      *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

† Confession and Absolution      *p. 184–85*      *LEFT-HAND COLUMN*

*Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?*

## The Service of the Word

### † Introit

*Psalm 44; antiphon: Psalm 44*



**R**ISE up, O Lord! Why are You | sleeping? \*  
Awake, and be not absent from us for- | ever.  
**For our soul is brought low, even un- | to the dust; \***  
**Arise, O Lord, and | help us.**

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have | told us \*  
what You have done in their | time of old:

**How You have driven out the heathen with Your hand,**  
**and planted our | fathers in; \***

how you destroyed the nations,  
and made Your people to | flourish.

It is You that saves us from our | enemies \*

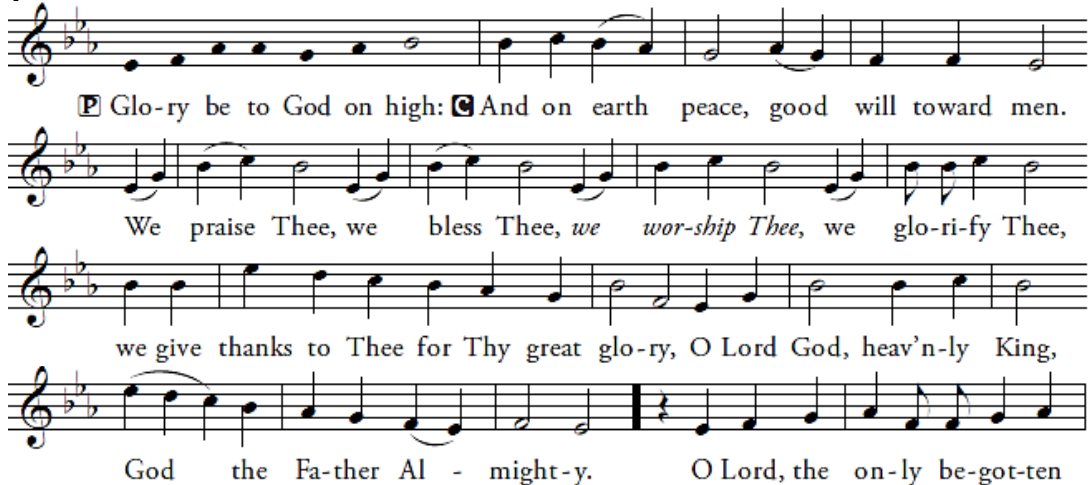
and puts them to confusion that | hate us.  
**We make our boast in God | all day long \***  
 and will praise Your Name for | ever.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \***  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning, \*  
 is now and will be forever. | **Amen.**  
 Rise up, O Lord! Why are You | sleeping? \*  
 Awake, and be not absent from us for- | ever.  
**For our soul is brought low, even un- | to the dust; \***  
 Arise, O Lord, and | help us.

# † Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

# † The Gloria in Excelsis



☐ Glo-ry be to God on high: ☐ And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
 We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we glo-ri-fy Thee,  
 we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo-ry, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,  
 God the Fa-ther Al - might-y. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten

Son, Je-sus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther,  
 that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, *re-ceive our prayer*. Thou that  
 sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 For Thou on-ly art ho-ly, Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most  
 high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

# † Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A-men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:6–13*

*Thus says the Lord God:* “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalms 83*



**OUR** enemies shall know that You, whose Name | is the LORD, \*  
are alone the Most High over | all the earth.

**O my God, make them like unto the | whirling dust \*  
and as the stubble be- | fore the wind.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 4:9–13*

*Brethren:* there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must

give account.

This is the Word of the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

### † Tract

*Psalm 60*



**GOD**, You have cast us out and scattered | us abroad; \*

You have also been displeased; O turn unto | us again.

**You have made the land to quake and di- | vided it; \***

**heal the sores thereof, | for it shakes.**

That Your beloved may be de- | livered, \*

help me with Your right hand and | hear me.

### † Holy Gospel

*St. Luke 8:4–15*

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

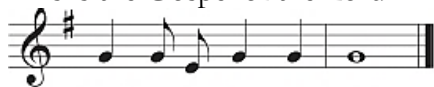


Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!

✠ *At that time* when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to [Jesus] from every city, He spoke by a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom

of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

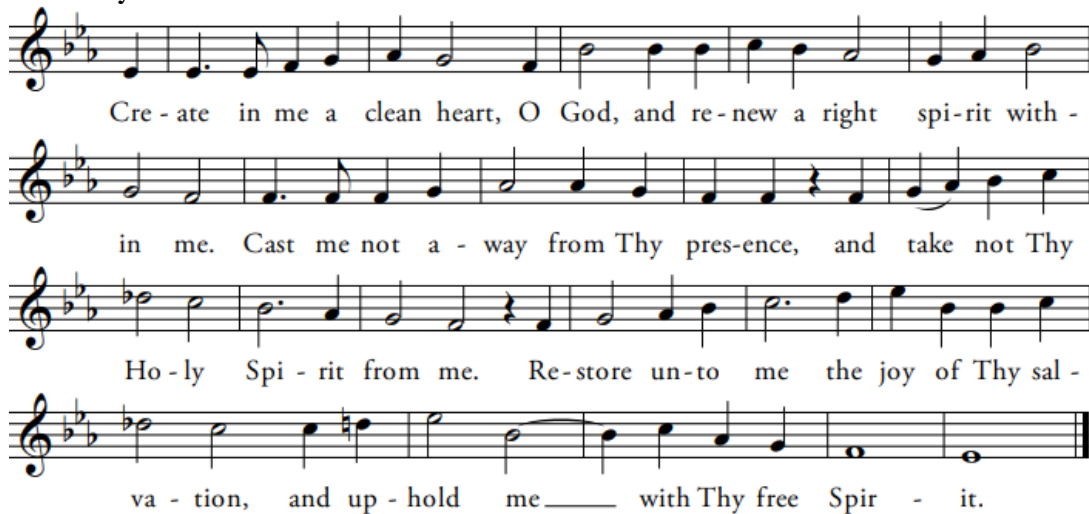
† Nicene Creed *inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn of the Day 823 *May God Bestow on Us His Grace*

Sermon

Offering *Please note your attendance on the card in your pew and pass to the center aisle*

Offertory





## † Announcements & Prayer of the Church

*After each petition:* Lord, in Your mercy,  
hear our prayer.

*At the conclusion:* ...one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

## The Service of the Sacrament of the Altar

### † Preface and Sanctus

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up un-to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:



Ho - ly, — ho - ly, — ho - ly, — Lord God of



Sab - a-oth; heav - en and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is — He that com - eth in the



### † The Lord's Prayer

### † The Words of Christ's Testament

### † Pax Domini & Agnus Dei

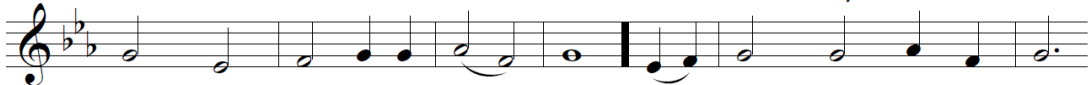
The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.



A - men.



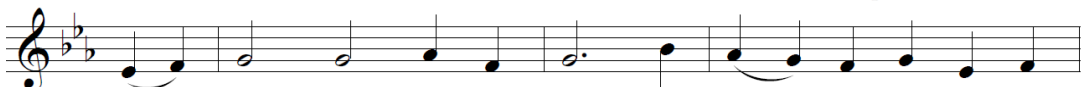
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God



that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the



sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

***Guests:** if you have not previously received Holy Communion at Mount Calvary, please speak with Pastor Gerike before approaching the altar for the first time.*

***Communicants:** you may receive the Body of Christ either in the hand or directly in the mouth. If you receive the Blood of Christ from the chalice, please take the bottom of the chalice with a hand to help guide it to your mouth.*

*Communicants are invited to pray the following before receiving the Sacrament:*

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof;  
but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.

### Distribution

585    *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide*  
645    *Built on the Rock the Church Shall Stand*  
586    *Preach You the Word*  
892    *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*  
589    *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

### † Dismissal

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul unto life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**Amen.**

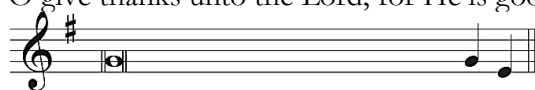
### † Nunc Dimittis



| Lord, now | lettest Thou Thy servant depart / in peace,  
ac- / ording- to Thy Word;  
| for mine | eyes have seen Thy / salvation:  
which Thou hast prepared before the face / of all- people,  
| a- | light to lighten / the Gentiles,  
and the glory of Thy / people- Israel.  
| 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 for- / ever-. Amen.

## † The Post-Communion Collect

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good:



And His mercy endureth for-ev-er.

Let us pray. . . . one God, now and forever.



A-men.

## † Conclusion

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

Bless we the Lord.



Thanks be to God. \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

## † Hymn

655 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

## Postlude

“Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!”

*Psalms 84:4*

# TODAY'S NOTICES

The Centennial Committee is hosting a **Trivia Night** on Friday, February 27th at 6:00 PM, hosted by Pastor and Shayla Gerike. The theme will be **100** and consist of 10 rounds of 10 questions. Register your team of 4 for \$100 by filing out a form found on the narthex bulletin board and submitting it and the registration fee to a member of the committee or the church office. We have also invited our friends at Zion and St. Paul so feel free to reach out when forming your teams! Participants can bring snacks to share and a beverage of their own for the night. The winning team will receive four \$25 Amazon gift cards!

There will be a **painting day** for the PreK-1 Sunday School classroom (main level of the Education/Admin wing) on Saturday, February 21 beginning at 9:00 am. A pizza lunch will be provided. This opportunity for service is appropriate for both adults and children. Contact Renee McArthur with any questions.

If you have **medical training** (First Aid/CPR, Paramedic, Nursing or Advanced Life Support) and are willing to be called upon in the event of a critical incident on our campus, please contact church office 402-551-0244 or any Trustee.

Our Church Secretary, Melissia, will be out of the office for 90 days after surgery in mid April. **Volunteer(s) needed** for helping produce the **Newsletters** for May, June, and July. This requires some knowledge of Microsoft Publisher. The majority of the newsletter will be already completed, you would be adding Pastor's articles and any other articles submitted by Boards or congregational members. Let Pastor Gerike or Melissa know if you can help!

**Surprise Thrift Shop** is a pro-life thrift store run by Nebraskans Embracing Life located at 143 S 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha. They are open 10:00 am–4:00 pm Thursday through Saturday. Donations and shoppers are always needed! They accept *nearly new donations* of baby clothes, adult clothes, shoes, purses, belts, jackets, etc. Also housewares, pictures, frames, luggage, sleeping bags, linens, dishes, jewelry, religious goods, books, CDs, DVDs, small tables and chairs, small furnishings, small appliances, trinkets, household goods, tools, and miscellaneous items. They ask that all items be in very good condition or better for best sales. Surprise Thrift Shop is grateful for any support. **All proceeds** go to pregnancy help centers. For any questions, please call (402) 341-0625.

**Prayer Requests:** *Sister Churches in:* Liberia, Korea, England, & Canada; *Missions:* Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad, David & Valerie Federwitz, Lutherans For Life, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society & Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, South Asia Lutheran

Mission; *Peace in the world*: Gaza, Israel, South Sudan, Ukraine, & Venezuela; *Homebound*: Norma Kelly, Marilyn Pacas, Jean Schwalm; *Expectant mothers*: Jessica Whirrett, Shayla Gerike; *All others in need*: Dick Chappell, Theodore Feavel, Paul Luedeman, Amanda Jansky, Larry Ashe, Jean Young, Jean Babel, Hayes Gonzalez, Genelle Rohe, Nancy Goesch, Ezra Venteicher, Art Huntley, Pat Helmke, Ryan Schamber, David Christian, Char Emmanuel

## This Week's Calendar

Today (2/8) SEXAGESIMA

Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 am  
 Divine Service 10:00 am  
 Men's *Memento* informational meeting after church  
 Board of Christian Education meeting after church  
*No Children's choir*

Wednesday (2/11)

Matins 10:00 am  
 Vespers 6:30 pm  
 Youth Catechesis 7:00 pm

Thursday (2/12)

Choir practice 6:30 pm

Saturday (2/14)

First Communion class 9:00 am  
Board of Finance and Stewardship meeting 9:30 am

Next Sunday (2/15)

QUINQUAGESIMA

Sunday School & Bible Class 8:45 am  
 Divine Service 10:00 am  
 Board of Social Ministries meeting after church  
 Board of Trustees meeting after church  
 Children's choir after church

## Ash Wednesday

February 18

No Matins service

Divine Service  
 with the Imposition of Ashes  
 6:30 pm



## The “Gesima” Season

The Church Year and liturgy prepare us for Easter in three distinct periods. The first is *Gesimatide* or Pre-Lent. The Latin names for these three Sundays are numeric, serving as a countdown to Easter. These three Sundays prepare us for the spiritual journey of Lent by focusing our attention on the grace of God:

**Septuagesima** (“70 days”): Grace is undeserved. The undeserved goodness of God is seen in the parable of the workers (Matthew 20:1–16). All the laborers receive the reward not because of their own labor or merit, but because of the goodness of the landowner. Christ has borne the heat and burden of the day for us so that we might have His grace for free.

**Sexagesima** (“60 days”): Grace is received through the Word of God. The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4–15) shows how God’s Word is received. It transforms bad soil into good and noble hearts. We pray that this would happen to and for us.

**Quinquagesima** (meaning “about 50 days”): Grace is only understood by faith. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we hear Jesus predict His passion, death, and resurrection. We also hear that the disciples did not understand this. We pray that God would be gracious and patient with us and grant faith and understanding to us despite our many sins.

The liturgy of the three Sundays in *Gesimatide* eases us into the more somber season of Lent. The “Alleluias” are dropped, but we continue to sing the *Gloria in Excelsis*. The color is no longer the joyful white, nor is it yet the penitential violet, but is rather green. We also retain the festive custom of singing the liturgy.

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## Lenten Midweek Vespers

*Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 pm*

February 25: Luke 23:1 – 12 . . . . . Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

March 4: John 18:33 – 38a. . . . . Jesus’ First Discourse with Pilate

March 11: John 19:1–12a. . . . . Jesus’ Second Discourse with Pilate

March 18: Matthew 27:15 – 31 . . . Jesus Sentenced to Death

March 25: Divine Service for The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord

# Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

402-551-0244

[www.mountcalvary-lcms.org](http://www.mountcalvary-lcms.org)

The Reverend Andrew Gerike, Pastor  
[pastor@mountcalvary-lcms.org](mailto:pastor@mountcalvary-lcms.org)  
Study Hours: Tues–Fri 8:30a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
afternoons by appointment

Church Office  
Ms. Melissa Kern, Secretary  
[office@mountcalvary-lcms.org](mailto:office@mountcalvary-lcms.org)  
Mon thru Fri 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

## **Our Service Schedule:**

The Divine Service with Holy Communion is offered every Sunday and on holy days as announced. Vespers is prayed in Advent & Lent on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

**Receiving Communion at Mt. Calvary:** We care about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord's Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to Pastor Gerike before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or of a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

**Adult Christian Education** is taught every Sunday morning at 8:45 in the Social Hall.

**Sunday School** for children ages 3-12 is year-round. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

**Pastoral Consultation** based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the pastor by appointment

**The Sick and Homebound** are visited regularly by the pastor. Please contact the Church Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

## **Serving Today**

**Organist** – Timothy Schreiber

**Altar Care** – Rachel Bohnert & Nancy Reynolds

**Counters** – Bonnie Luedeman & Wanda Wollberg

**Ushers** – Joseph Buckley, Scott Andersh, Dan Bartels, Matt Meyer

**Elder** – Nathaniel Kemper

**Trustee** – Renee McArthur