

Calvary Lutheran Church

8:30 am Sunday Worship for February 25, 2024

950 Bradley Street Concord, NC 28025 www.clconcord.org celca@clconcord.org 704-782-6923



Growing in compassionate relationships, faith, service, and generosity through Christ

Welcome to Calvary! All are welcome in this community through the grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that you will find joy and peace as you worship with us. Check out our welcome center in the narthex for more information about our congregation. A children's resource center in the narthex offers resources to support children in our worship services. A nursery is also available for infants and children at 11 am. Please honor God and others in worship by putting away your phone and enjoying this time of worship.



Second Sunday in Lent

For the Healing of the World: Invitation to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus
Jesus invites his followers to follow him into a way of life marked by the cross. What does this really mean? Are we up for it, or like Peter, would we rather not go there?

GATHERING**WELCOME TO WORSHIP****Open the Eyes of my Heart****AS WE GATHER****Firm Foundation****AWG 38****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****CONFESS AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Amen.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through **+** Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SONG TO OPEN OUR HEARTS:**Texas Kyrie****AWG 107****PRAYER OF THE DAY** *We invite God to be with us in this worship service and to focus us on His Word.*

C O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS *We wait for God to speak to us in and through His word.*

L Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

P The Gospel According to Mark 8:31-38

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Silence for reflection

After each petition-

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

We are fed in our life of faith at the Lord's table.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *We have heard that God has loved us again and again through faith in Christ. This message brings us peace and gives us peace to share. We turn to those around us and offer them peace.*

OFFERING

The offering is an act of worship where we respond to God's goodness in our lives by returning to God a portion of what he has first entrusted to us. Thank you for your worship of God through sharing your time, talents, and finances. If you would like to share a financial offering by credit card, you may do so by scanning the QR code.



OFFERING SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart

AWG 132

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A Jesus,

C you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know of your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We invite those worshipping online to join us in Holy Communion as we share in the one body of Christ this morning. For those worshipping in person, you may receive communion by coming to the altar or by standing at your seat to notify the worship leaders that you wish to receive communion there. When communing, you may choose either the prepackaged bread and juice from the communion assistant or the wafer and wine in individual cups from the pastor and those assisting in communion.

COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent into the world to share the love and welcome of God.

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and  give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

Take My Life That I May Be

AWG 96

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share your bread.
C Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Volunteer	February 25th	March 3rd
Worship Assistant	Ann Bolick	Rosie Schieber
Lector	Pattie McGinnis	Pattie McGinnis
Usher(s)	The Bliss Family	Tim and Ann Bolick
Altar Guild	Cassie Dixon	Mario Mandujano
CPOM	Cecilia Maxwell	Ginger Mandujano
Tellers	Gary Norris Glen Rediehs Nancy Haney	Kathy Schiele Cathy Cruse Nancy Haney



THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God.

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for Sunday worship, please see the bulletin board outside the choir room for an order form or call our office administrator.

Use this QR code to access this week's e-news.



Prayer List for February 25th

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moses Stirewalt (healing)• Levi Hipolito (in NICU at Atrium Main) - newborn son of Michelle Hipolito (recovery)• Quay Lee Hissong (hospitalized)• Becka Davidson (healing following surgery)• Janelle Correll (healing following surgery)• Ed Ferguson (healing following heart surgery) - Friend of Terry Ramseur• Anne Hough (healing)• Dean Glace (healing following heart surgery) - brother of Ken Glace• Carolyn Mauney (eye surgery)• Irene Ramsey (from Ukraine; both brothers drafted into fight in the war) - friend of Erin Kelly• Roger Smith (healing)• Teresa Daddario (healing)• Lauren McDowell (healing) - sister of Steve DuPont• Don Wagstaff (healing)• Carolyn Lowder (healing) and Robert Lowder• Doris Hatley (healing)• Martha Hatley (healing)• Mary Milikin (healing)• Ronny Moretz (cancer treatment) – cousin of Phyllis Remkus• Brent London (healing) – son of Cathy Cruse• Linda Spencer (healing following surgery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teresa Williams Spangler (healing) – friend of Deb Fritz• Clyde Graeber (healing)• Miriam Cranford (healing) – sister of Mary Milikin• Traci Hinkein (healing) – friend of Beth Myers• Shirley Gehl (healing)• Ray Harper (brain cancer) - friend of Donna Gray• Debbie Stopko-Korhut (cancer) – friend of Kathi Hissong• Phillip Gray (ongoing cancer treatments)• Eric Barnhardt (healing)• Katie Smith (ongoing cancer treatments)- daughter-in-law of Todd and Sheila Smith• Beverly Miller (brain cancer) – daughter-in-law of Tom and Cathy Miller• Larry and Linda Stancil (healing)• Larry and Judie Jones (strength)
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EASTER GERANIUMS 2024

Help us decorate Calvary's sanctuary for the Resurrection of Our Lord , Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. *We hope to have a geranium flower tree and will need approximately 90 geraniums to fill it.* Geraniums are available in choice of pink or white; cost is **\$9.50 each**. Please complete this form and remit payment to Calvary either in the weekly offering, by mail, or by using online giving. Remember to indicate "Easter Flowers" in the memo. Orders without payment will not be placed. This form can also be accessed in Calvary E-news.

In order to ensure delivery and arrangement the deadline for ordering is Monday, March 4th.

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please write the number of white geraniums that you would like_____

Please write the number of pink geraniums that you would like_____

Total Quantity _____ **x \$9.50** **Total \$** _____

How would you like your flowers dedicated? (In memory, in honor, in celebration)

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

2024 Theme for Lent:

For the Healing of the World

The cross is such a present symbol in our lives as Christians that it often gets overlooked. Throughout Lent, we will take some time to consider the varied understandings and invitations that come to us in and through the cross of Christ. Most of all, we will dwell on the truth that all of this is for our and the world's healing.

Dates to put on your calendar now.

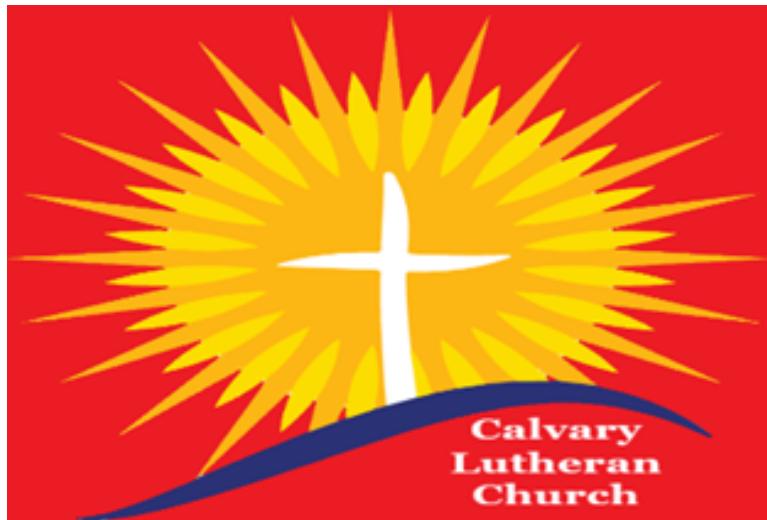
Adult Sunday School during Lent will be a video series and small group discussion called "Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross" by Magrey deVega. The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection. These images help us achieve a richer understanding of our Christian faith. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus every day.

Calvary Lenten retreats on February 24th and March 23rd from 10am to Noon. Join your Calvary friends and family as we enjoy some time together and learn about incorporating healing actions into our lives. Our retreats are for all ages. There will be food, fellowship, large group learning, small group exploration stations, and a send off worship. Childcare will be available for those 4 years and under. Use this QR code to sign up for our Lenten retreats or sign up on the bulletin board by the choir room.

Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00pm on March 28th. This year, our eyes will be on Jesus' healing action of washing his disciples' feet on the night before his crucifixion. Join your Calvary family and friends as we go deep into the power of the cross for our lives and world.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil- Noon to 5pm on March 29th. Jesus had a very few people who kept watch with him at his crucifixion. On this Good Friday, let's gather our prayers for the healing of our lives and world before God as we wait and watch with Jesus on his day of crucifixion. The vigil takes place in the sanctuary. Come by for quiet prayer from noon to five or use one of the devotionals provided to pray through a period in the sanctuary. If you can't make it to our building, pray where you are on Good Friday.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:45pm We gather to hear again of the last moments of our Lord's life. In the light and darkness of this service, we experience what Jesus went through to bring healing, wholeness, and salvation to all of creation. Join us for this very powerful service.



We, the people of Calvary Lutheran Church, believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Within this communion of faith, we hold these guiding principles:

Everyone is invited, welcomed, and included.

Everyone is supported in times of personal need.

Everyone is spiritually fed and grows in discipleship.

Everyone is given opportunities to generously offer their God-given gifts (time, talent, and treasure) in worship and ministry. Everyone is given opportunities to generously serve others, both within the community of faith and in the community at large.

Church Office:

Office Administrator's Hours

9am—1pm Monday-Thursday

Deadline for bulletin and e-news information : Wednesday by 9 am.

Susan Norris, Office Administrator email: officeadmin@clconcord.org

Finance Administrator's Hours

8:30-1:30pm Monday and Wednesday

Members submitting receipts should complete and attach the Request for Payment form available in the office work room.

Gaylene Butch, Finance Administrator email: financeadmin@clconcord.org