



# GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

## MARCH 2026



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving  
Jesus with you."*

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## The Divine Service: The Kyrie

After singing the Introit, the first of the *ordinary* of the mass is the *Kyrie*. The *ordinary* are what would become the unchanging songs of the *mass* every Sunday by the Middle Ages. While in the United States "mass" is used almost exclusively by Roman Catholics, Lutherans historically have used it and do in other places in the world. We use it whenever we say "Christmas." It is simply another term for the communion service, or, as we call it, "the Divine Service."

The *ordinary of the mass* are: Kyrie [Lord], Gloria [Glory], Credo [I believe], Sanctus [Holy], Agnus Dei [Lamb of God]. In school I remembered it by the mnemonic device, "King George Can't Sing Alto!" These are the Latin first words for each movement. They have been set to music thousands of times by many composers throughout the ages. Nearly every great composer had written a mass.

The *Kyrie* is the first Greek/Latin word for: "Lord have mercy," or sometimes the threefold "Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy." We have record of the *Kyrie* being used in the Eastern Church in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. There it was used after several petitions being offered for the church and the world and those gathered in the congregation, much like we have it in Divine Service Settings 1 and 2 (LSB pp. 152 and 168). By the 5<sup>th</sup> Century the Western Church was using the *Kyrie* in the beginning of the service where we have it today. Martin Luther often used it in his hymns as a close to each stanza's petition (see LSB 581, 617, 768).

In seventeen places in the Psalms in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, you have "eleison me kyrie," that is "Have mercy on me Lord" (eg. Psalm 6:2, translated from the Hebrew "be gracious to me"). To have *mercy* is to give undeserved help to someone in trouble. In the New Testament, "have mercy" is what the beggars: the blind, the lame, the lepers, and so forth cried out to Jesus (eg. Matthew 20:30). And Jesus answered their cries.

Having been absolved of our sins, we stand confidently in God's grace, yet we approach God's throne humbly, knowing it is only by His Fatherly divine goodness and mercy that He blesses us and our congregation and world. And how generous is our God! His Son declares to us His promises through His Word and shares His very body and blood in the blessed Sacrament. And His Gospel of peace goes out into all the world.

"Lord have mercy" should never be used in vain or in anger or as a joke, but can and should be used when you are in distress. Use the *Kyrie* in your daily prayers and whenever you are in need, knowing that the same Christ who answered the beggars' cries and saved them is your Savior who loves you.

*Pastor*



**JOIN US FOR  
MIDWEEK  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
DURING  
THE LENTEN SEASON.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 11:00 AM  
EVENINGS 6:30 PM**

**Come early for supper at 5:30**



**Quarterly Voters' Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**All members of the congregation  
are encouraged to attend.**



**EASTER CARD MAKING**

Join Lori on March 22 to make Easter cards for our shut-ins, Simeon Square residents, and those in our prison ministry. We will meet in Fellowship Hall shortly after the Worship Service.

No experience needed! It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with others in the church.

**LCMS Family Ministry**



Visit [lcms.org/family](http://lcms.org/family) to find free family devotional and prayer resources to help make devotions and prayer a family habit.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Many Christians give something up during Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up everything when He came down to earth to die and rise for us. Lent is a time where we remember our sin, repent and focus on Christ's suffering for us. In this time of reflection and repentance, instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, it can also be helpful to add something into our lives. These verses from 1 Thessalonians tell us to "pray without ceasing" and to "give thanks in all circumstances." One habit that could be helpful to focus on is prayer. As a family, you can start developing this habit by finding times to pray together such as before meals, before bed, or whenever works best in your family's routine.

**Rescheduled from February:**

**YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!**



**American  
Red Cross**

**The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.**

**BLOOD DRIVE - Thursday, March 19  
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall  
1237 E. Coolspring Ave. – Michigan City

The American Red Cross is struggling to keep hospital blood bank shelves full. Hospitals are being forced to make difficult decisions every day about who should receive a transfusion. Every unit collected is critical!

**Please register online at  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to make an  
appointment.**



As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism, and a hymnal.

These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.  
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one

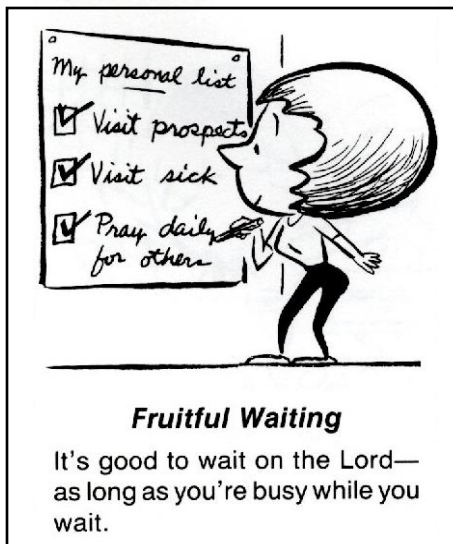
generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving, and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.  
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

**- LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article  
March 2026**



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

Salvation comes only through faith in Christ, who was "lifted up" on the cross as the payment for the world's sins (John 3:14-15). Not even Abraham our forefather was saved by his works or inner worth (Romans 4:2-3). In choosing to redeem us by His own grace apart from our works, God shows us that our value is not found in a person's own qualities. Instead, every person is precious to God and worthy of dignity because "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16).



## Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School  
Newsletter  
March 2026



MAY YOUR FAMILY HAVE A BLESSED  
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER!

*Lynette Johnston-Martin,*  
Superintendent

**Our students will be singing** in the Palm Sunday service after they process in with their palm branches. Please make sure your children are here that day.

**HOSANNA!**



Also, on Palm Sunday classes will join together for a symbolic meal. Each food stands for an aspect of the final day when Christ suffered and died. Each type of food is on a different plate. When it's time for a certain food, we will pass around the plate and everyone takes an item. As the plate goes around, we read the corresponding Scripture. After the final food, we will take a moment of silence and reflection after announcing the death of Jesus.

### We are continuing to learn the Books of the Bible to song.

We've almost got the Old Testament mastered. When we master the New Testament books, we'll show off our skills during a church service. Students are also learning some new songs that go along with our lessons. Sounds like we are a Singing Sunday School!!! We think that it's sometimes easier to remember a Bible verse or story if you know a song to go along with it!!



**As a group, we buried the Alleluia banner** in the tomb until we bring it out again on Easter morning. This banner has all the children's names on it. The banner was originally made in 2008.

**A Lenten calendar was sent to each family** for the children to follow day by day the events of the last weeks of the life of Jesus. Encourage your children to read each daily Bible verse and meditate on them.



*There will not be Sunday School on Easter!*



### For the 2026 Operation Christmas Child

each month, we will focus on collecting different types of items for these boxes. In March we will collect Craft & Activity items.

- Binoculars
- Puzzles
- Compass
- Fishing kits
- Jump Ropes
- Drawing Pads
- Dry watercolor sets
- Chalkboard w/chalk
- Craft kits
- Activity books

Item size must fit inside a shoebox.



### Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8.

So, mark the date and remember to change your clocks on the right day. You won't want to miss out on a minute of the worship services, Sunday School, and Bible classes.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for submitting items for the April Gazette is **Monday, March 2.**





## Guarding Our First Charge: Men's Gathering 2026

Join other men in Christian fellowship **April 9-12** at Lakeview Villages near Seymour, IN as we explore biblical perspectives on life issues. Dr. Donna Harrison (board-certified OB/GYN) and Rev. Dr. D. Richard Stuckwisch (Indiana District President, LCMS) will help us explore the topics of abortion, contraception, IVF, adoption, and defending life in every circumstance. Get away and enjoy God's creation, feast at our hog roast, compete in feats of skill and wit, and grow in your vocations as father, husband, son, and brother.

Visit [www.mensgathering.us](http://www.mensgathering.us) for info and registration. See Luke Vandercar with any questions, 219-221-1543.

### GOD'S LOVE DISPLAYED

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
- ROMANS 5:8 NIV



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 JUNE 29-JULY 3 8:30-11:30 AM

Join us for a Tropical Trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face.

At Tropical Trek VBS, five Bible stories will show kids that God is always there for them, finding them when they're having troubles, feeling lonely, lost, hopeless, or not good enough. In fact, God the Father loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. Because Jesus died and rose to life, we have hope and new life in Him! *Mark your calendars and plan to join us this summer!*