



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

4th Sunday after Epiphany *Service of the Word/Annual Meeting*

January 29, 2023

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and *' means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MOMENT

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN *"Praise and Thanksgiving"* page #5

* CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Our God knows what we need before we ask,

ALL: And gives us our daily bread.

P: We come before God with thanksgiving,

ALL: For all that God has done for us.¹

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

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray, Gracious God, **You invite us to come to you in prayer, and offer us a promise of your never-ending care. Give us the humility to ask only for what we need and to be grateful when we receive it. Amen.¹**

GROWING

Please join me in reading the first 19th-20th verses of Philippians chapter 4.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Good News, according to the Gospel of Matthew the 5th chapter, **All: Glory to you O Lord**

⁷When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise be to God.**

PASTOR’S MESSAGE *What do we treasure? What does this say about us?* Pastor Mary Eide
#771 HYMN OF THE DAY “Great is Thy Faithfulness” **page 6**

GIVING

* OFFERTORY PRAYER You have given us an abundance of earthy treasures, O God. **Make us generous to return them to your service, that we might put our hearts not in material things, but in selfless love for you and our neighbors. Accept these, our gifts, and use them to bring light and life to your world. Amen.** ¹

MORTGAGE BURNING LITANY

On August 4th, 2002 this congregation voted to build this sanctuary space. The completion of this space was celebrated on October 19th, 2003. Today we are celebrating the paying off the mortgage debt related to this addition 20 years ago. A mortgage burning ceremony is a celebration of freedom from debt. But for a congregation it goes much deeper. It symbolizes God’s guidance and blessing for this church. It is a tribute to the faith and persistence of God’s people. And it inspires us toward new visions, dreams, and the further fulfillment of mission God gives us.

Pastor: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, who has made heaven and earth. And we believe that God has called Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church to be a light to the people of Elk Mound and to the world. **Congregation: We are Committed to the Journey.**

P: God’s hand is on us. God has prospered us to free us from debt so we can put more resources toward deepening the spiritual lives of followers of Jesus, deepening our connection to God, one another, and with our neighbors. **Congregation: We are Committed to the Journey.**

Pastor: We therefore meet joyfully today to transform indebtedness into humble gratitude. We are prepared to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance into how we can know and fulfil God’s will for this congregation and the individual members’ lives. **Congregation: Thank you, Lord!**

Pastor: And now, Holy Father, trusting in Your love and goodness, confident in Your power, and dedicating ourselves anew to the support of your beloved Church, and through that support to the growth and expansion of Your Kingdom, we praise Your name (music) and we burn this mortgage, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (MORTGAGE BURNED)

Pastor: Let us pray: Almighty God, **our Heavenly Father, we give thanks to you today for the memory of all, who faithfully prayed, gave, and worked, so that the life in Jesus Christ might continue here from one generation to another. We are committed to furthering the work of God here in Elk Mound, for our children, for our church, and for our community. Praise be to God!**

* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Merciful God, **All: You hear our prayer.**)¹

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/ BLESSING God who longs for us to speak in prayer, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✚ bless your going out and coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

* Blue #673 SENDING HYMN "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" **page 4**

* SENDING LITANY¹/ DISMISSAL

What is it that we truly need? **Sometimes we can't tell.**

We are driven by fear of scarcity. **And work to store up possessions.**

Because we do not trust God to care for us. **We do not believe there is enough.**

May God have mercy on us, **And remind us of what we truly need:**

Our faith and our commitment to God's work in the world, **So that all might have enough.**

Go in peace, believe Jesus Christ IS with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *(We will take a VERY brief break set up for the meeting)* Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

Today: **8:45am** – **Sunday School**
 10:00 am – **Worship/Annual Meeting**
 11:00 am - **Delicious Luncheon – ALL INVITED**
 1:30pm - **Grief Share at Trinity United Methodist Church**

MONDAY 7pm - AA Meeting

TUESDAY 4-6pm - Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY 3:20pm - 7th-8th gr. Confirmation class

FRIDAY: 10am-Noon - Food Pantry

SATURDAY: 9:00am - Luther Park Bible Annual Meeting

SUNDAY: 8:45am - Sunday School Classes
 10:00am - Communion Worship with Council Installation
 1:30pm - Grief Share at Trinity United Methodist Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to get your SUPERBOWL SUB ORDERS IN no later than Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Complete this form and place in the envelope provided at church. Payment is due upon pick up before or after church on February 12th. **ALL SUBS COST \$9.00**

Please contact Kris Jenson 715-563-1402 if you have any questions *or* need an alternate pick-up time. *Delivery in EM area if needed, contact Steven Sweeney 715-874-5199 *Profits help support the youth attending National Youth Gatherings and other LL activities throughout the year!* ~
THANK YOU for your support!

YOUTH 5th though 12th Grade are asked to help make the subs by showing up 8am on Sunday February 12th.

WE NEED YOU! Check out sign-up sheets for *WORSHIP ROLES* for upcoming months AND *HOST FELLOWSHIP* after worship on 2nd or 4th Sunday. You can also call or email the church or Pastor Mary if you'd like to sign up.

GRIEF SHARE Began January 11...**but you can still join!!** This is a thirteen-week grief support group meeting on Sunday afternoons 1:30-3:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church.

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¹ Narrative Lectionary *Programs 1 22-23* Worship resources Copyright © 2022 Clergy Stuff.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

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Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's
 4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work
 guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-
 fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.
 with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.
 joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.
 hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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 Thanksgiving"*
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Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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*A sign in sheet is being passed around, only voting members may sign in
(Active confirmed/affirmed members who have communed and given at least one time in 2022)*

LITANY FOR OPENING OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

L: Today our congregation gathers in hope as we begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year where we witnessed or experienced the struggles of inflation, wars and violence, illness, and death of loved ones. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We lament the brokenness in our lives and our world, as well as any part we may have in it. We are grateful for having witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways in our individual and communal lives. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. We begin this year with no church debt, something that was only possible by the faithful giving of so many, who heeded God's call to be generous stewards of what God has given them. With the lightness of being debt free, we face the year with hearts and lives wide open to God's leading, we remember. **God has called us for such a time as this.**

L. Let us pray. O God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. .**

FOLLOW MEETING AGENDA in printed Congregational Annual Report

The proposed change is to Chapter 18, Part IV, Line 4

Current: At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of fifteen (15) members.

Proposed change: At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of up to fifteen (15) members.

We close our meeting with THE LORD'S PRAYER

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- * How would it feel for your family to no longer have a mortgage or pay?
- * How would this freedom lead you to share some of your income with others?
- * What is one way you think our congregation could use our resources for additional outreach and/or to strengthen our ministries?
- * What does the Church mean to you?
- * What has being part of God's Church meant to you in your lifetime?
- * How important is it to be part of a church family?