



A CHAMPION

First Sunday in Lent

February 22/23, 2026

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERIES: *EXACTLY WHAT I NEED*

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

I recognize my inability to defend myself against spiritual enemies. The world is against me, but I look for ways to imitate it. I try to master my own sinful flesh, but I recognize desires in myself that war against my soul. And when it comes to the devil, I fall into temptation again and again. My impending death proves that I have sinned. I realize that what I really need is *a champion*. God the Father realized it too. He sent his Son to be my Savior. Through the obedience of the Son of God, I have victory over my enemies.

WELCOME, FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (FVL)!

We welcome Mr. Dan Vogel and the *a capella* choir from our FVL. Thank you, Rev. Dave Wenzel, for preaching for us on Feb. 22. Rev. Tom Mielke, we appreciate you giving us an update on the blessings and opportunities we have in connection with our high school.

WELCOME

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

FVL CHOIR

Yonder Come Day

*Oh day, yonder come day.
Day done broke inna my soul, yonder come day.
Good mornin' day, yonder come day.
A brand new day, yonder come day.
Oh come on child,*

*Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.
Oh my Lord, oh my Lord what shall I do?*

*Oh day, yonder come day.
I was on my knees, yonder come day.
When I heard him say, yonder come day.
Oh come on child,*

*Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away, I ain't got long to stay here.
Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home.*

*My soul finds rest in God alone, my rock and my salvation;
A fortress strong against my foes, and I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and lies like arrows pierce me,
I'll fix my heart on righteousness, I'll look to him who hears me.*

Refrain:

*O praise him, hallelujah, my delight and my reward;
Everlasting, never failing, my Redeemer, my God.*

*Find rest, my soul, in God alone amid the world's temptations;
When evil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come and riches go, don't set your heart upon them;
The fields of hope in which I sow are harvested in heaven. (Refrain)*

*I'll set my gaze on God alone and trust in him completely;
With ev'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath, a sigh too brief to measure,
My King has crushed the curse of death and I am his forever. (Refrain)*

HOLY BAPTISM

REMAIN SEATED

CONFSSION

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The baptismal family is invited to the font.

The minister invites young children from the congregation to view the sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Landon Joseph Schweiner (8:00)

Pearlie Lynn Howie (10:45)

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Landon Joseph Schweiner / Pearlie Lynn Howie, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray. We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Landon / Pearlie as your own child and made *him / her* a member of Christ’s body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *him / her* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:1–15

God promised to send a champion to do what I could not, defeating my greatest enemy.

¹Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, ³but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. ⁵In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

⁷The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. ⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and

the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

¹¹God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,
and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1–11 (NIV)

Jesus, our Champion, fends off our enemy, the devil, and his temptations.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”¹

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”²

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”³

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

¹ Deuteronomy 8:3

² Psalm 91:11-12

³ Deuteronomy 6:16

FVL CHOIR

His Robes For Mine

*His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in his righteousness, I'm justified
In Christ I live, for in my place he died.*

Refrain:

*I cling to Christ and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise—my all—shall be for Christ alone.*

*His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God's daunting law Christ mastered in my stead.
Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,
Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.*

*His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried "'Tis done!"
Sin's wage is paid, propitiation won. (Refrain)*

*His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's belov'd, condemned as though his foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though he, embraced and welcomed home! (Refrain)*

FVL CHOIR

*Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.
Stay with us; it soon is evening.
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,
It soon is evening and night is falling.*

Stay With Us

*The darkness deepens; with us abide.
In life and death, O Lord, with us
abide.*

*Know Your Game Plan!***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

O Lord, our refuge and strength, the Son of Man came into this world to destroy the devil's work. Restrainevil in our world. Let your gospel spread to people who do not know the way of peace, that they may turn to you and be saved.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Satan, the ancient serpent, seeks to lead the whole world astray. Govern and guide the leaders of the nations. Guard them against selfish ambition. Lead them to work for the good of all, that your Word may have a free course, and your kingdom expand through the preaching of your Word.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

The devil constantly taunts us with temptations to sin and despair. Look with mercy on those who are suffering and keep the devil far from them. Give healing and hope to those who are hurting, [*especially...*]. Assure them of your love, grace and forgiveness, and that in your time, you will deliver us all from evil.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Lord God, heavenly Father, through your Holy Spirit, give us repentant hearts, that we may serve you in all soberness and vigilance; through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

HYMN

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God sts. 1-3

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.

STAND

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN**352 Joy Has Dawned st. 4**

4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.

FVL UPDATE

Pastor Tom Mielke

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus. Preacher: Pastor Dave Wenzel (Mon: Pastor Tim Wagner, Riverview)
Usher: Bill Neubauer (8:00), Matt Clark (10:45), Chuck Hildebrandt (Monday)
Lector: Dan Wallander (8:00), Tim Kruse (10:45)
Accompanist: Ben Rusch

Yonder Come Day

Traditional Georgia Sea Islands Text and Melody. arr. Paul John Rudo © 2016 Galaxy Music Corporation, Inc.

My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Psalm 62)

Words and music by Aaron Keyes and Stuart Townend. Arranged by Lynn L. Petersen. Text © 2008 by Thankyou Music (PRS). All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717338.

His Robes For Mine

Words by Chris Anderson. Music by Greg Habegger. Arranged by Dan Forrest. Text © 2008 by Church Works Media. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717338.

Stay With Us

Luke 24:29-32. Quoting “Abide With Me” by Henry Francis Lyte. Jon Hermanson; ed., Dan Forrest

Prayer of the Church

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863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God sts. 1-3

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352 Joy Has Dawned st. 4

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Beautiful Savior (all my days)

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Holy Bible

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Based on Setting One from Christian Worship.

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