

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
March 2, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
Pastor Christian Magnell

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN *“Lift High the Cross”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lord God, we praise you for a new day,

**And we celebrate your presence in our lives.**

You have given us both Word and Sacrament to work on our hearts and draw us to you.

**Give us openness to what Your Word has to say to us.**

As we wrestle with the Word, we see that we fall short. Let’s take time to consider the ways we’ve strayed. *(time for reflection)*

Let’s pray together:

**Against the clarity of Your Word is the fuzziness of our response. Sometimes we listen.**

**Other times our hearts are hard and we turn from you. We confess our sins, our failings, and the many ways we’ve ignored you and others. Forgive us for the sins we know as well as the sins we don’t know.**

Brothers and Sisters: Jesus died that we might have life. He forgives, renews, and restores us.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON “A Daily Dose!”

BAPTISM – 10:30am

HYMN *“Chain Breaker”*

READING: Psalm 119:1-8

*None of us perfectly keeps God’s Word. Yet God’s Word lays out ways which are blessings to those who read, and follow, the Word.*

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! <sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, <sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! <sup>4</sup> You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. <sup>5</sup> Oh that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes! <sup>6</sup> Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. <sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. <sup>8</sup> I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:14-18

*Here is a fascinating passage in which Peter refers to the writings of Paul calling them Scripture. There are those who think, mistakenly, these writings weren't considered Scripture for hundreds of years. Yet Paul is writing, by the Holy Spirit, to teach us the truth and draw us close to God.*

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the

ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL READING: John 20:29-31 and 21:24-25

*John is very clear in his Gospel: these things were written down to spark faith. He is speaking to us who didn't witness these events.*

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not

written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup> Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      All the time.      **God is good!**

HYMN      *"Way Maker"*

SERMON – "Written That You May Believe – and Live"

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

**Amen!**

CLOSING SONG

*“Goodness of God”*

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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**Spiritual GPS – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the Lord! - Psalm 119:1*

There is this funny thing which has happened since the advent of GPS: we don't really benefit from someone telling us how to get somewhere. Yes, there are times we might need to specify, especially if a house or business is off the road (e.g., GPS with the parsonage address takes one to the turn into church not to the house itself).

But more or less, GPS tells us how to go. As helpful as it may seem, sometimes adding instruction is much more complicated than simply giving an address for Apple maps or some other map software.

The Word of God is something which can stand alone to give us guidance. It's not that we don't need help studying it from Bible Study groups, pastors, Sunday School teachers and those sorts of people. Rather, it stands alone because it's not the Bible plus something else. It's the Word Alone, which teaches and guides us.

My question is this: How much time each week are you taking to immerse yourself in this perfect guide? Are you allowing it to transform you? If not, maybe it's time to re-look at Scripture and how you can make it part of your daily life.

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