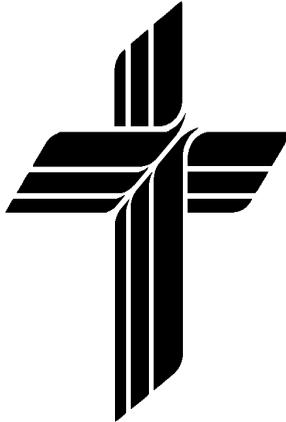


# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

La Crosse, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Third Sunday After the Epiphany  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021



***Our purpose:*** Faith Lutheran Church exists to share with all, God's love through Christ and His promise of salvation!

***As We Gather...*** "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" Hebrews 1:1–2. Back in the time of Moses, the Lord promised a prophet from among the people who would be like Moses. We see this in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ fulfills this prophecy from Deuteronomy 18. Indeed, Jesus teaches with authority, not as the scribes. His word is powerful as He teaches us the truth even today in our midst. May we gather to hear His voice speak to us to correct, to encourage, and to free us.

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## 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{I}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Exhortation

LSB 151

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7; antiphon: v. 10*

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- C** **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**
- P** Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- C** **I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- C** **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

## Kyrie

LSB 152

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Deuteronomy 18:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 8:1–13*

<sup>1</sup>Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all

things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup>And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Luther's Small Catechism

**P** Confession

**P** What do you believe according to these words (of forgiveness)?

**C** I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

### 583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets

### 583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;  
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,  
3 God is speak - ing by His Spir - it, Speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.  
Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;  
In the age - less Word de - clar - ing His own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:  
Spo - ken by the Word In - car - nate, God of God, be - fore time was;  
Through the rise and fall of na - tions One sure faith yet stand - ing fast;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.  
Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, He re - veals our God to us.  
God a - bides, His Word un - chang - ing; God the first, and God the last.

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Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Text: Deut 18:15–20*

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

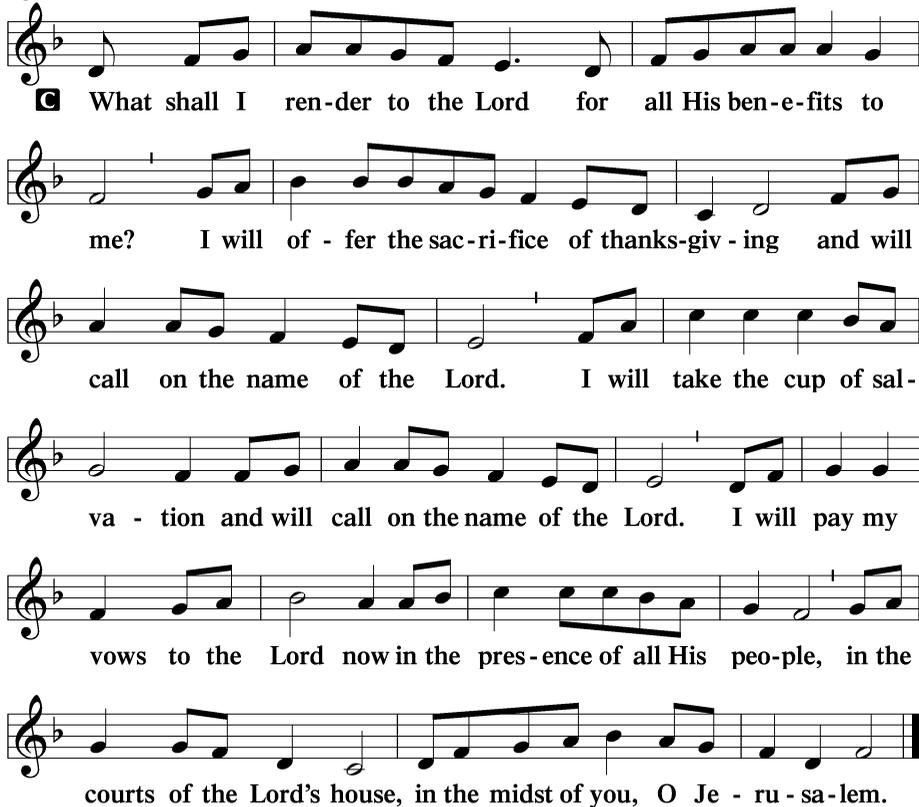
*[Various petitions are offered, when the Pastor says, "Lord in your mercy" The congregation replies "Hear our Prayer."]*

**P** ... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Offertory

LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

### Communion at Faith

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that in Communion we receive not only the bread and wine, but Christ's very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites all those who trust His words, repent of sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. Any who are not yet instructed (confirmed), in doubt, or who holds a confession differing from this congregation and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor.

For those who prefer not to drink wine, there is one cup of white grape juice (which contains one drop of wine) in the inner ring of the cup tray.

## Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface (Full)

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and

strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



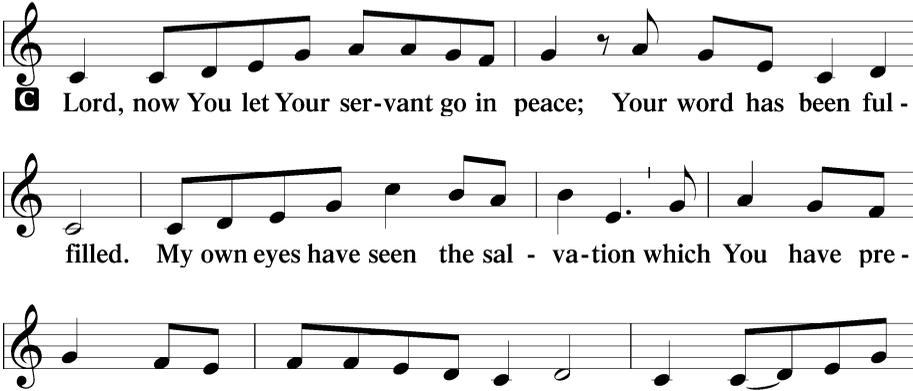
**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.
- C** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre-  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

**Post-Communion Collect**

- A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**Benediction** 

*LSB 166*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## 810 O God of God, O Light of Light



1 O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and  
2 For deep in proph-ets' sa - cred page, And grand in po - ets'  
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in  
4 Then raise to Christ a might - y song, And shout His name, His



King of kings: To You in heav-en's glo - ry bright The song of  
wing-ed word, Slow - ly in type, from age to age The na - tions  
hate and scorn— These all are past, and now a - bove He reigns, our  
mer - cies tell! Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise pro-long, And all on



praise for - ev - er rings. To Him who sits up - on the throne,  
saw their com - ing Lord; Till through the deep Ju - de - an night  
King once crowned with thorn. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates!  
earth, your an - them swell! All hail, O Lamb for sin - ners slain!



The Lamb once slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry  
Rang out the song, "Good - will to men!" Sung once by first - born  
So sang that host be - yond our ken. Lift up your heads, your  
For - ev - er let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb, en -



He has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, a - men.  
sons of light, It ech - oes now, "Good - will!" A - men.  
King a - waits. We lift them up. A - men, a - men.  
throned to reign, All glo - ry, pow'r! A - men, a - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Verse to Ponder

*Genesis 22:8*

<sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."  
So they went both of them together.

### Acknowledgments

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# LCMS Servant Events planned for 2021 *By Stacey Egger*

After a summer interrupted by COVID-19 cancellations, LCMS Servant Event hosts are optimistically planning their events again for Summer 2021.

LCMS Servant Events bring Lutheran youth from across the country to serve their neighbor in a variety of ways and places — from light construction and renovation on homes to working with youth with special needs at a Lutheran summer camp.

Congregations and other LCMS organizations have been hosting Servant Events for Lutheran youth for over 30 years. Although COVID-19 impacted many of the events planned for this past summer, over 20 hosts are ready and preparing for opportunities for service in 2021.

“We’re moving forward with excitement, yet we know things could quickly change,” said DCE Jim Lohman, director of LCMS Servant Events.

Here are just a few of the events scheduled for this summer:

- Trail building and other maintenance work at a Lutheran retreat center in Woodland Park, Colo.
- Light construction and maintenance work and wheelchair ramp construction to help families keep their homes in and around Chillicothe, Ohio.
- Construction and repair work at a Lutheran summer camp, as well as visiting local senior citizens, in New Haven, Mo.

Registration for these events and more is open now at [servantevents.lcms.org](http://servantevents.lcms.org), and more events will be added as details are finalized.

## **Strengthening Youth, Congregations and Communities**

“Giving young people an opportunity to serve and lead is crucial in the church,” said Lohman, referring to LCMS Youth Ministry’s “7 Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry.” “You serve in the name of Christ with LCMS Servant Events, and there’s something different about this — coming together with a leader from your

church, meeting with other youth, gathering around God's Word — that makes a strong impact on young Christians."

In addition to service work, LCMS Servant Events include elements of fellowship, such as daily devotions and Bible studies.

Randy Ronning, who has led the event "Riches in Richmond" — based out of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Richmond, Va. — since 2002, has seen this impact on youth in his congregation for almost two decades.

"It helps these youth realize, 'I was put into the world for something and I actually can do it. My skills make a difference in the kingdom of God,'" said Ronning. "It all comes together in an inspiring week of relationships with one another, relationship to God and self-discovery."

In addition to the impact on the youth participants, Servant Events also have a huge impact on the congregations that host them, and on the community members they serve, said Ronning. Of Trinity's 300 worshipers, around 200 have ended up involved with the Servant Event each year, whether through large leadership roles or something as simple as bringing over a snack for the participants. "To be able to work together on something like that has been incredible for our congregation," he said.

And for those that the youth serve in the Richmond community, the experience can be "life-changing." "These are people who have difficult circumstances," said Ronning, "And to see the hope that comes from young people who are willing to take their summers off and volunteer their precious vacations to help somebody out — it's just so encouraging to them that somebody cares. We hear it again and again — 'I was hopeless before you guys came, and I found that hope in your being there and the love that you showed.'"

## Resources For Serving at Home

Over the past summer, when most of the scheduled Servant Events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lohman encouraged local congregations and youth groups to find ways to serve locally instead. To this end, he compiled a list of service resources that offer guidance and suggestions for youth groups that were interested in doing local service work, as well as the Bible studies and devotions designed for the summer's Servant Events. All of these resources can be found at [youthsource.com/service](https://youthsource.com/service). In the coming months, Lohman is continuing to encourage local service for congregations and youth groups that are not able to attend or host LCMS Servant Events — and even for those that are. This summer's Servant Event resources (Bible studies, devotions, etc.) — under the theme "Are You Ready?" — will be available on the site soon.

To view the list of Servant Events and to register, visit [servantevents.lcms.org](https://servantevents.lcms.org).

To learn more about hosting a Servant Event at your LCMS congregation or organization, contact Jim Lohman at [james.lohman@lcms.org](mailto:james.lohman@lcms.org).

To view youth service resources and other Servant Event resources from this year and past years, visit [youthsource.com/service](https://youthsource.com/service).



Stacey Egger

Stacey Egger is a staff editor and writer for LCMS Communications.

**Title: Something Greater than Moses**  
**Text: Deuteronomy 18:15–20**

IN ORDER TO SAVE US BY HIS CERTAIN WORD, THE LORD SENDS FROM AMONG US A PROPHET GREATER THAN \_\_\_\_\_.

I. The Lord sends a prophet greater than \_\_\_\_\_.

Broadly speaking, there were three kinds of prophets: \_\_\_\_\_, speakers, and writers.

The writer prophets were the \_\_\_\_\_, they're the ones who have books of the same names.

II. The Lord sends a prophet from among us.

God in His undimmed majesty would melt sinful humanity like a bonfire in a \_\_\_\_\_ museum.

III. The Lord sends a prophet with a \_\_\_\_\_ word.

This week, as you go about your daily tasks, as you ingest the latest news story that makes you see red, I encourage you to spend some time in those \_\_\_\_\_ letters of the Bible.