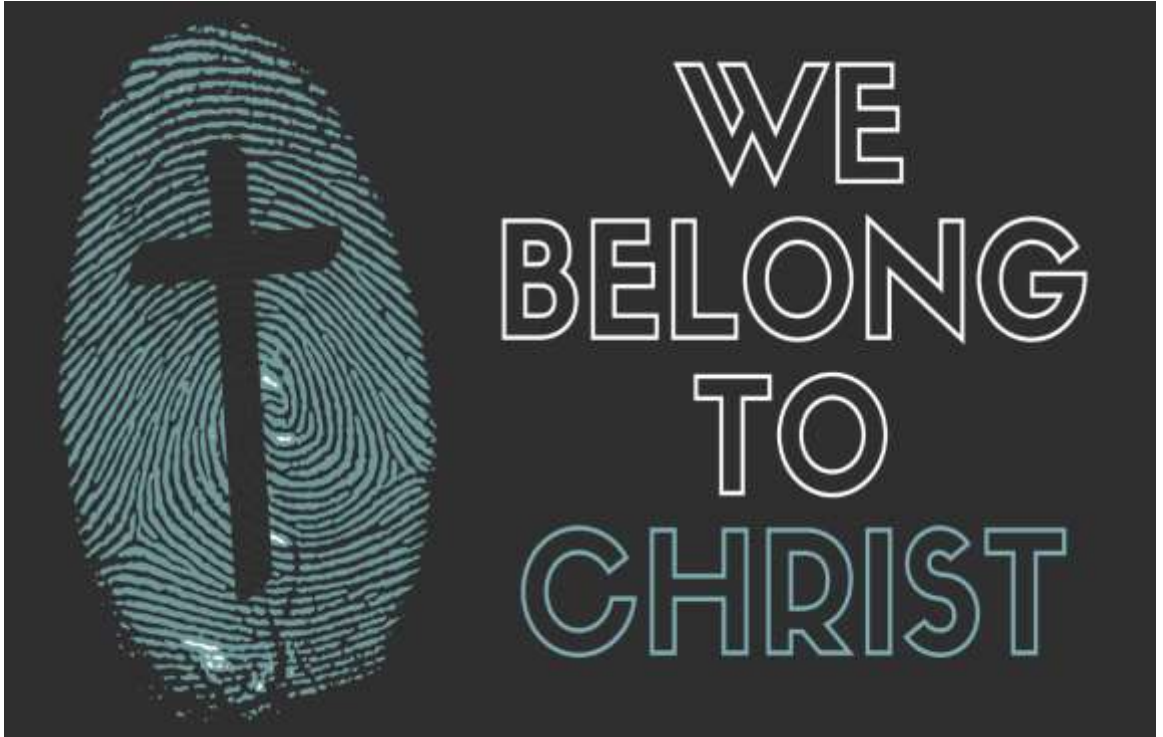


Triune Lutheran Church

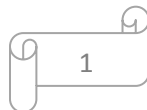


Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen!

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in
confession, trusting the love of Christ.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence
is kept for reflection.*

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen!**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but, instead, the Holy Spirit
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive this promise of baptism:
You are God's child; † your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad,
for yours is the glory of life everlasting!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW 631

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

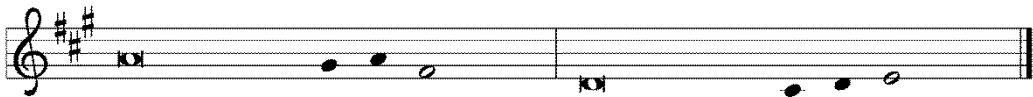
[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to

other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 119 1-8



- ¹Happy are they whose | way is blameless,
who follow the teaching | of the LORD!
- ²**Happy are they who observe | your decrees
and seek you with | all their hearts,**
- ³who never do | any wrong,
but always walk | in your ways.
- ⁴**You laid down | your commandments,
that we should | fully keep them.**
- ⁵Oh, that my ways were made | so direct
that I might | keep your statutes!
- ⁶**Then I should not be | put to shame,
when I regard all | your commandments.**

⁷I will thank you with | a true heart,
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.

⁸**I will | keep your statutes;
do not utter- | ly forsake me.**

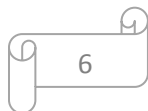
SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with

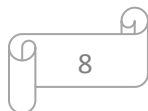
your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

**This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Church’s One Foundation”

ELW 654

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, you protect and guide us with your word. Continue to lead your whole church in the close relationship we share with you, that we might better know your desires, and live in your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the cosmos, heaven and earth bear witness to the splendor of all you have created. Bless the ground, trees, waterways, and skies with abundant life. Restore synergy between humankind and the natural world, that we may live in harmony with the world you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, you show solidarity with all who suffer. Bring an end to violence, war, discrimination, and all other forms of deadly hate, that we may experience your love through the power of restorative justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, you provide bountifully for all people. Use our lives to alleviate global injustice and eliminate poverty, that all benefit from the abundant gifts you pour out for your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of growth, you nurture this family of Triune, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Matthew Loede, Marlin Loede, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Cultivate in all of us the spirit of service to one another, and bless us in the ministry we share together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah and Rachel, we give you thanks for our forebears in the faith who now rest in your eternal grace and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you.

OFFERING

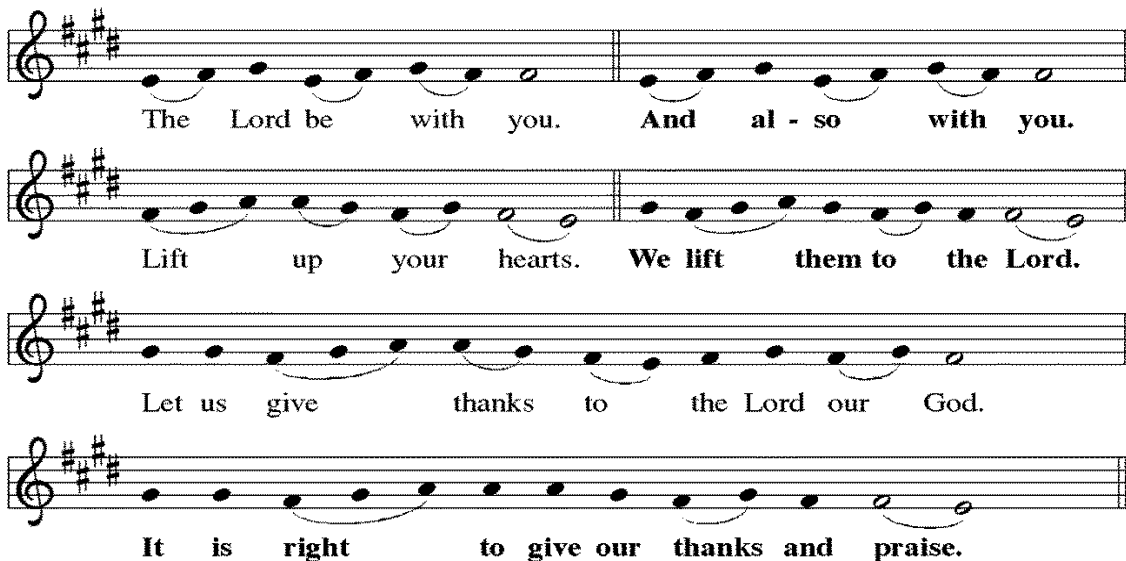
***OFFERING HYMN**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” VERSE 1 ELW 674

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of wonder,
you shaped us in our mother's womb,
and from the earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
We long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of everlasting life.
Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved
Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your
glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

Bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

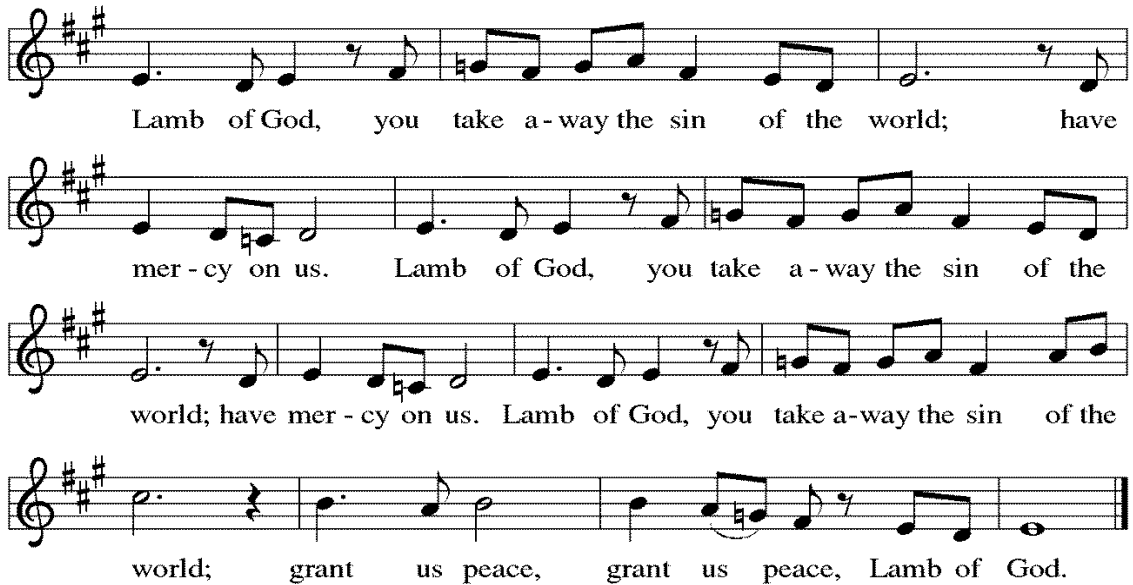
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy for us all!
Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,
you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

***BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever!

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

ELW 534

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let your light shine!

Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: **All People**
Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Worship Leader: **Dale Kirk**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Choose Life, Reject Death

I'm an adjunct professor at a Lutheran seminary where I teach, among other things, "Hebrew Bible" and "Introduction to Judaism." Particularly in my Hebrew Bible classes, students are frequently surprised at the overwhelmingly positive description of God's law in the Scriptures. As Lutheran Christians, we are heirs of a particular hermeneutic that seeks to differentiate between law and gospel. Martin Luther said, "Whoever knows well this art of distinguishing between Law and Gospel, him place at the head and call him a doctor of Holy Scripture."

But to distinguish law from gospel does not have to mean devaluing law. There is a place for law in the life of the Christian—Lutheran or otherwise. But just to make Dr. Luther happy, let me say clearly that this article is about law, albeit with some gospel at the end.

When I've taught students Hebrew in the past, I took them first to their own Bible and Psalm 119. It's a long acrostic, with the first words of each verse within a stanza beginning with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This clever extended poem is a meditation on how wonderful God's law is, and how a life spent contemplating God's commands and statutes is a worthy goal. In the first stanza, the psalmist proclaims: "I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances" (Psalm 119:6-7). The psalmist knows that those who attempt to follow God's law will face derision. Nonetheless, the writer is grateful for the opportunity to study and meditate on God's preferred way of life.

The theme of following God's commands as expressing God's preferred way of life is hammered home in this week's reading from Deuteronomy. God, through Moses, presents a stark choice to the Israelites: choose to follow law that leads to life and prosperity, or neglect God's law and embrace death and adversity (30:15, 19). A few verses earlier, God reassures the people that following God's law isn't too hard for them or out of their reach (11, cf. Matthew 11:30). God desires that the Israelites will live according to the law, not simply because God enjoys rules, but because doing so is loving the Lord, obeying God and holding tightly to our heavenly parent (20).

I've never learned so much, so quickly, about God as I have since having two little ones. I can see my 3-year-old struggle to obey the rules that my wife and I put into place for his safety and thriving. The swelling of love and pride I feel when he chooses to obey me by being kind to his little brother or helping out as we try to get ready to leave the house in

the winter is pure joy. I imagine God feels similarly when God's children choose to love each other and build up the holy family that we have been grafted into.

Jesus carries forward God's perpetual insistence that following law is a way to love God and bless our fellow humans. As I've argued the last couple weeks, far too often we think that we can love God but neglect, or even actively harm, our neighbor. Jesus reminds us that the goal of the law was to set up a holy community. Accordingly, the commandment not to kill needed to be refined and intensified to prohibit anger and public insult (Matthew 5:22). The commandment not to commit adultery needed to be refined and intensified to prohibit lustful gazing (28). The commandment that specified that men could not just cast off and neglect their wives, but instead must give them a full, legal certificate of divorce so they could remarry, needed to be refined and intensified to prevent the easy divorcing of vulnerable women on a whim (32). The commandment that protected God's honor by prohibiting invocation of holy things in false vows needed to be refined and intensified to prohibit all duplicitous speech (34). In his teaching, Jesus shows us how following God's law can be a gift for us, for our communities and for our God.

At the risk of losing some of my Lutheran credibility, viewed in light of its ability to help us love God and love our neighbor, God's provision of law *is* gospel. It is a gracious gift from God that we do not deserve, we cannot earn, and we cannot hope to follow with all the diligence and seriousness that it deserves and requires.

The even better news is that, as our Methodist siblings recite most weeks in their liturgies, "we have been freed for joyful obedience." We are slaves to neither the law, nor the sin that comes from failing to uphold the law. Instead, we are God's beloved, adopted children who have daily opportunities to respond to God's free gift of grace and forgiveness by loving God and loving our neighbor, which is, after all, the most important of God's laws.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

We begin our journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 26 at 5pm. We will receive an imposition of ashes before receiving the, still, reassuring forgiveness, grace and mercy that will sustain us throughout Lent and for all our life in holy Communion. Join us as we take on this spiritual journey together!

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Congregational

MEETING



please join us!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 1, for our next congregational meeting. Like last time, we will gather at 5pm, starting with a pot-luck meal before continuing with the meeting. As always, we will provide the dinnerware, but just let us know if you plan on attending, and, if so, if you plan on bringing something to share (don't forget to bring your own beverage as well). This is a great way to re-connect with each other and to go over anything needed to discuss for our church family!