



Reach out to all

Embrace His Gifts

Announce His coming

Commit to Christian Living

Honor His Word

8

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Pastor Ron Moritz, Deacon Ed Smallcombe

Opening Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sins to God the Father.

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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.

*Then shall your light
and your righteousness
go before you*

Isaiah 58:8



6th Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 58:3-9 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness^[a] will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

Epistle- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 - And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. ⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20: ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven

Nicene Creed

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 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 on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe one holy and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

“On Eagles’ Wings”

Sermon: “Three Strikes and You’re Out” Matthew 4:1-11



Pray for our country, for our military, for our healthcare workers & first responders, for those that are sick, for those in need, for those who have lost loved ones, for our home-bound, for wisdom for our leaders, and for all of your concerns. Prayers of Strength and Comfort for the Ukrainian People and wisdom for all NATO Members. Pray for all your concerns.

The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn: “Jesus, Lead thou On”

SERMON REVIEW FOR FEBRUARY 22, 2026

“Three Strikes and You’re Out” Matthew 4:1-11

Introduction: Six key words in an umpire’s vocabulary
The devil took three swings at Jesus and S_____ Out!
But, as always, he promises to T_____ A_____.

I. Jesus’ perspective on His temptation

- A. D_____ ordained confrontation
(After His baptism & Before His public ministry)
- B. Jesus is aware of His P_____
- C. A battle develops:
 - 1. Jesus serves His Father’s W_____
 - 2. Jesus depends on His Father’s W_____
- D. His temptation is the first difficult step to the C_____.

II. The devil’s perspective (a lesson in our own temptation)

- A. Believed he could convince God to sin. (the self-delusion of evil)
- B. Depends on the W_____ of others (Not his own power)
 - 1. Jesus resisted because He was P_____ of H_____
 - 2. We call because of our Evil D_____ . James 1:13-15
- C. The devil is P_____ (“until an opportune time”)

III. Applying Jesus’ experience to our own

- A. Realize, temptations W_____ C_____!
1 Corinthians 10:12-13
- B. Know our W_____ (chinks in our armor)
- C. Know our W_____ (God’s W_____ & W_____)
- D. Know that by the Cross, the devil is already D_____!



ADULT BIBLE CLASS & Sunday School meets today after church.

LWML/Ladies Aid will meet

Tuesday, March 10th, at 10:00 am.



February - Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services



Mission - To teach and share Christ's love while providing supports and services for people with developmental disabilities.



The Ground level door will be open Sunday Mornings for those who wish to avoid climbing the hill. Also shortly after the service begins, both doors will be locked.



Severe Weather Cancellation



On Sunday where there is severe weather, Church may be cancelled. Notice of a cancellation will be on WWMT-V Channel emails for.

If you are interested in getting the 2025 Financial Secretary and Treasurer [End of the Year Report](#) please see Terri for a copy.



Lent & Holy Week Worship Times

Lent Services-Feb 25, Mar 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at noon

Holy Week-Maundy Thursday Service will be April 2nd noon

Good Friday Service will be April 3rd at noon

Easter Service will be April 5th at 9:15am.

(Breakfast will be served at 8:00am in Zimmerman Hall)

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

“Places of the Passion”

Feb 25th Mark 14:12-14 “The Upper Room: Place of the Last Supper”

Mar 4th Luke 13:33-35 “Jerusalem: Where the Prophets Must Die”

Mar 11th Mark 14:26-32 “Mt of Olives and Gethsemane”

Mar 18th Luke 22:54-55 “The House of the High Priest: Denial & Trial”

Mar 25th Mark 15:1, 16-20 “Pilate’s Judgement Hall (Antonia Fortress)”

Apr.2nd M.T. Luke 23:26-28 “City Streets: Frightened Men and Weeping Women:

Apr 3rd G.F. Luke 23:23 “Golgotha: The Place of The Skull