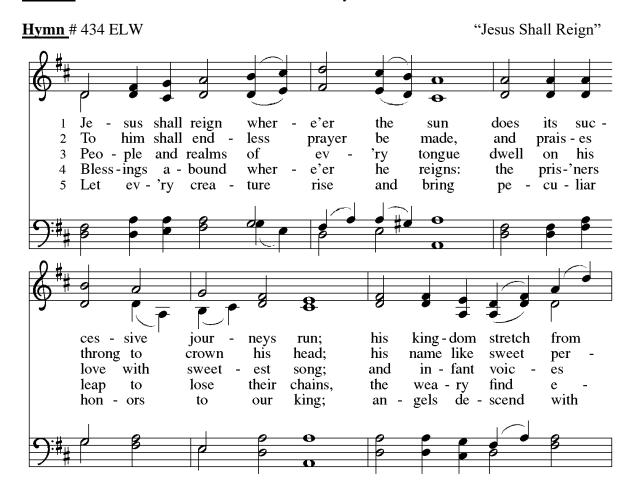
Introduction

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Quiet Meditation: Prayerful Preparation

Welcome/Announcements

"Gather Us In "- arr. David Lasky **Prelude**





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

(2 *Corinthians* 13:13)

Opening Dialogue

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life.

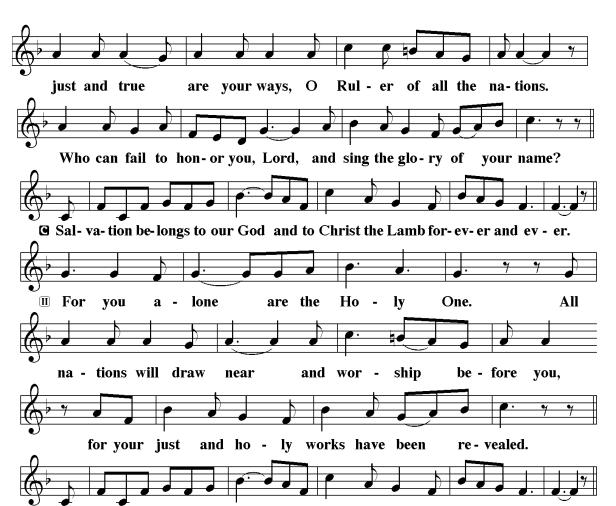
and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

(John 1)



Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



② Sal- va- tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
 - ⁴ It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

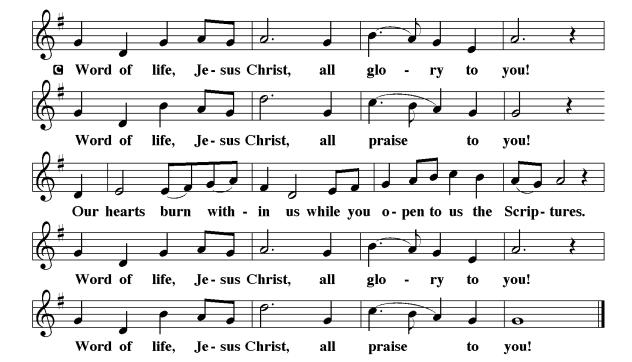
Second Reading 1st Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now ,for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

LOVE ABOVE ALL

Dan Mawer

As we celebrate our Almighty and Ever-ling God, we are called to love. Jesus commands us to love God, to love one another, to love our neighbors, and also teaches us we are to love even our enemies. It's reported that in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, the sacred scriptures we use most often in worship, the word "love" is used 740 times. Isn't that powerful?! Psalm 136 opens with these words: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." We are reminded that "God's steadfast love endures forever" because that phrase is repeated in all 26 verses of this psalm. Today, as we hear these scripture passages and sing the hymns based on God's love, may we always remember our priority as Christians is to love God and to place the love of God above all!

Psalm 100 Dan Mawer



¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

²Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

³Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast **love** endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

Ruth Sanders 1st John 4.7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

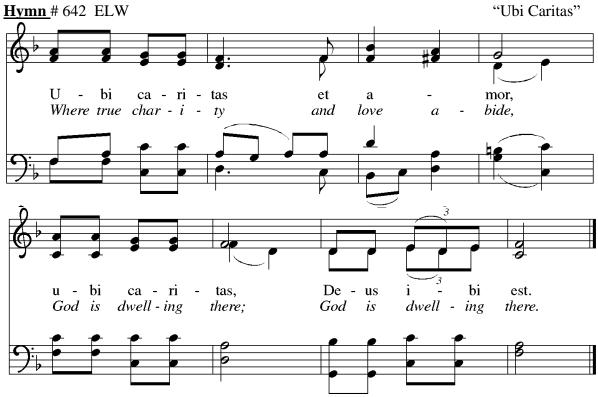




Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

John 3.11-17 John Clover

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so **loved** the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. With One Voice Music: TAIZÉ UBI CARITAS, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

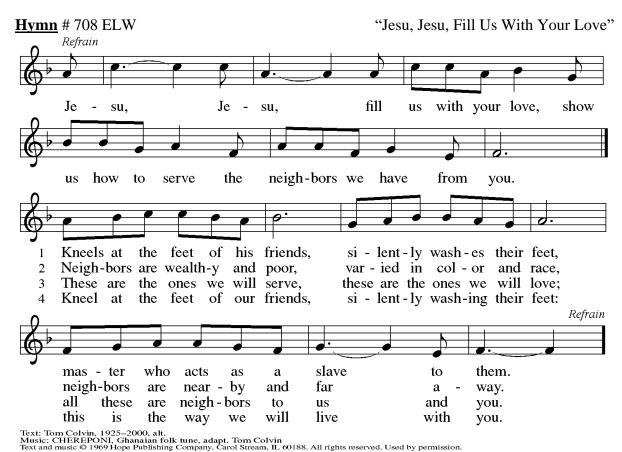
Text and music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

English text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Karen Powell Matthew 22.35-40

³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him: ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



Micah 6.6-8 Julie Froude 6"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with

thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?





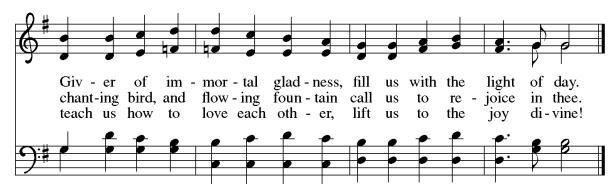
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932
Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1st Corinthians 12.27-13.8

⁸Love never ends.

Jeff Wanko ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹³If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.





Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Response to the Word

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)

(Jude 20)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God.

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. **Amen.**

Peace

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

We now share the Lord's Peace with one another.

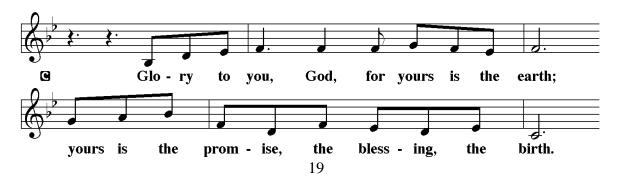
Offering

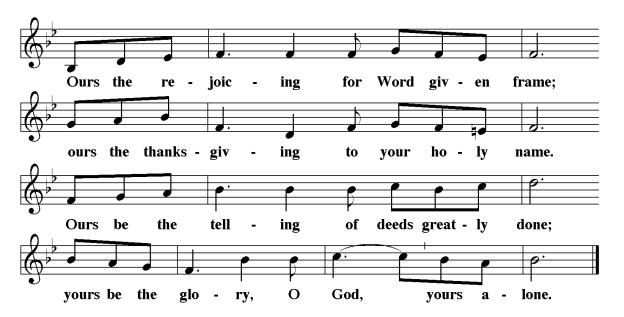
Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to <u>tithe.ly</u> where we can receive gifts. Please note: a <u>tithe.ly</u> account is required to give in this way but is quick to create! Are you aware this app has an option to allow you to cover transactions fees?



Choir Anthem

"Sing a Joyful Song" By Stan Pethel





Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Merciful God,

in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Prayers

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit and love. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage the people who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. We pray for all who are dealing with the devastation of wildfires. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. We pray for genuine justice and the dignity of all persons of each and every single individual – all gifts of God and blessed by God's love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are people in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to all who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. We pray for all members of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, especially Mary Muckler, Marc Dovenmuehle, Bob Baer, Carol Shrider, Deborah Lease, Pauly Zody, Sarah Driver, Jordan Seubert, Patrick Hellman, Mary Bausano, Kim, John, Sue, and Liam. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love, especially to all who are lonely, grieving, and mourning. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. Empower our new Church Council and give them courage to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

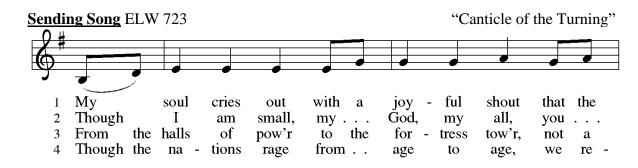
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15)

Amen.





God of my heart is great, work great. things in me, stone will be left on stone. mem - ber who holds us fast:

and my spir - it sings of the and your mer - cy will last from the Let the king be - ware for your God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones wait. depths of the past to the end of the age be. to ty - rant . . . from jus - tice ev - 'ry his throne. tears liv er from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight ser - vant's plight, and my on your puts the Your ver name proud shame, and to - y to The shall . . hun - gry weep for the poor no more, This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



blest. Could the world a - bout turn? be name flight, for the world strong a - bout to turn. to the world be fed. for is a - bout mouth to turn. turn - ing the world crushed by who God, is round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" - arr. David Lasky

Announcements

Welcome! We are so glad that you are with us in worship this morning. Please fill out a card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during worship.

Gratitude Thanks to Mason Santalucia for leading worship this morning while Pastor Logan is taking vacation. Special thanks to Mary Alice Mawer, for taking the lead on today's special worship service by reviewing and editing the bulletin, recruiting musicians and readers, and by playing extra hymns to enhance our offerings to God. Pastor will return to church duties on Tuesday, February 18th.

Campus Ministry Lindsay Stevenson (sevenl7@miamioh.edu) and Mason Santalucia (santalmd@miamioh.edu) are our student interns who will be leading our Campus Ministry for this semester. Introduce yourselves. Exchange contact info. Plan to be a part of our events.

2025 Church Council Our first organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, at 6:00 pm. We meet in the Korte Lounge.

Thank You! If you helped with Faith's Table in any way, we thank you for sharing God's love by serving our neighbors through this ministry.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Join us at 8:30 am in the Korte Lounge as we continue to compare the life and teachings of Jesus in the gospels.

Zoom Bible Study Please join our next Zoom Bible Study. Our meetings for this study are on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are studying the Minor Prophets. Join us!

<u>Lutheran Disaster Response</u> is coordinating with the <u>Southwest California Synod ELCA</u> and <u>Pacifica Synod ELCA</u> to assess the most urgent needs for the communities that are being devastated by wildfires.

To donate, you may:

- 1. Click here (https://tinyurl.com/3hbrerd7) to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
- 2. Send donations to the Southern Ohio Synod, designated for U.S. Wildfires and we will forward them to Lutheran Disaster Response on your behalf.

100% of donations designated as "U.S. Wildfires" will go directly to serve these communities. We continue to pray for the communities impacted.

Church Office This week, our church office is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12 noon. Email our office admin at <u>FaithLutheran Oxford@gmail.com</u> or phone 513.523.3808 for any concerns. Please let our admin Kim know whenever you come into the building.

25