



ST. GEORGE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116

Website: www.stgeorgelutheran.org

March 30, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Phone 810-229-6670

stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Welcome! We are glad you're here!

A warm welcome is extended to all!

Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.

Welcome and Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's promises.

Silence for reflection

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Entrance Hymn:

Softly and Tenderly

#608

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and
watching, watching for you and for me.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is
pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies, mercies for you and for me?

"Come home, (Come home,
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Oh, for the wonderful love he has
promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy
and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Text & Music: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Apostolic Greeting

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

Kyrie

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.**

Prayer of the Day: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Youth Message

First Lesson: Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is

alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Amazing Grace

#779

Amazing grace!--how sweet the sound--
that saved a wretch like me! I once was
lost, but now am found; was blind, but
now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved; how
precious did that grace appear the hour I
first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come; 'tis grace has
brought me safe thus far, and grace will
lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his
word my hope secures; he will my shield
and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand
years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Apostle's 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, and 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. *catholic here meaning "universal"

Prayers of Intercession: A Lord, in your mercy.... C Hear our Prayer

Sharing of the Peace

Offertory Hymn: *We Give Thee But Thine Own* #686

We give thee but thine own, to thee our firstfruits give.

whate'er the gift may be;

all that we have is thine alone,

a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus

as stewards true receive,

and gladly, as thou blessest us,

And we believe thy word,

though dim our faith may be:

whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,

we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Offering Prayer:

God of the wilderness,

We give our offerings in gratitude,

rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give our offerings in faith,

trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give our offerings in hope,

knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with our offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

(Adapted from prayer by Joanna Harader)

Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you

And also 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.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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 Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high,
lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.
Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity.
Love that found me -- wondrous thought
--
found me when I sought him not.
Only Jesus can impart
balm to heal the wounded heart,
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

#609

joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
faith and hope to walk with God
in the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
all my wants to him are known,
all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life
safe with him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford
by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
keep me in the narrow way;
grace in time of need supply
while I live and when I die.

Now We Join in Celebration

#462

Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with His very life to feed us.

of Your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of Your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till You come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeedn, 1918-1990, Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of Your loving deed on Calv'ry,

Post Communion Blessing:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Benediction

God sends us forth,

to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.

Jesus sends us to welcome everyone,

to embrace the prodigals with joy, and make a feast for all of God's people.

The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing,

and to bring hope to all we meet. Amen.

Sending Hymn:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#807

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore Thee;
may I still Thy goodness prove.

wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, J. Wyeth

Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,

Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord, C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Midweek Lenten Soup Supper: Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:15 PM

Midweek Lenten Service: Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM

Fellowship Meeting: Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 AM

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 AM

March and April Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 27th at 10:00 AM

Special Note About Easter Egg Hunt:

We are collecting donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Please place donations in the box under the youth table by April 6th.

Sunday 3/30	9 AM Traditional Worship, 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Contemporary Worship
Monday 3/31	
Tuesday 4/1	7:30 PM AA
Wednesday 4/1	Men's Group 8 AM / Musikgarten 10AM / Gymnastics 10:45 AM / Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM 6:15 PM Soup Supper / 7:00 PM Lenten Service
Thursday 4/3	
Friday 4/4	Office Hours 8 AM – 1 PM
Saturday 4/5	

	March 30
	9:00 AM
Asst. Min	Bob Steeh
Lay Reader	Bob Steeh
Greeter	
Usher	
Media	Prieskorn
Fellowship	
Altar Care	Joann

Prayers of Grace and Support

For Our Church Members, especially:

Isla Girard, recovering from neck injury.

Joanne Bellmard, recovering from a broken hip.

The family of Emily Olbrich, following her passing.

Cindy, John, and Jon Brach, with health concerns.

Barb Gienapp with health concerns.

Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.

Carolyn Salvatore, following cancer diagnosis and beginning treatment.

For Friends and Family of our Church Members:

Karen, Teacher friend of Gail Boyd, with brain cancer.

Judy, Adult student of Gail Boyd recovering from hip surgery.

Lyla, 6 year old student of Gail Boyd who broke her arm.

Lydia, Gail's adult piano student, recovering from brain surgery.

Davian, Gail's student, for ankle surgery.

John, Gail's friend, recovering from a heart attack.

Jackie, Gail's piano student, diagnosed with throat cancer.

Kayden, Gail's student, recovering from brain surgery.

Kevin J, good friend of Keith Boyes, with lung cancer.

Matt, Amber, and Emma, family of the Pitzer's, welcoming the birth of a new baby.

Adam Tonge, Michele H.'s friend's son, for continued recovery from health concerns.

Jerry, Friend of the Gottfried's, having hip surgery.

Ross Wilson, grandson of Diane and Bob Steeh.

Carrie Weiland's sister's family in West North Carolina & all affected by the hurricane.

Brian Barry, friend of Cindy Brach, for cardiac health concerns.

Jamie and her family, Cindy and John's daughter, for health and life issues.

Raquel, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.

Monica, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.

Shiela, friend of Cindy and John Brach, dealing with major life and family issues.

Mary, friend of Martha Boyd, while she recovers from a stroke.

Keegan, 18-year-old with recurring cancer.

Juanita Fox, George's mom, for healing.

Hudson Bennett, George Fox's nephew, for healing.

Dian Kolis, friend of Linda Fox, with Parkinson's and scheduled for brain surgery.

Nick Hodgin, Jim Hartman's friend's 12-year-old son, following brain cancer surgery.

Matt B., Linda Walton's son's best friend, diagnosed with stage 4 liver disease.

Alicia Gardner, Linda Walton's niece, awaiting a liver transplant.

Ethan and his mom, Marianne, friends of Linda Walton, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles.

Carol Pacheco, in hospice.

Trey Martin, cousin of Bryan Rush, in Europe in the military. Pray for his safety.

John D, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.

Melissa Aloffalter, Angela Martin’s friend, battling an unknown medical issue.

Micah, Alia’s nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.

Theresa Knight, spouse of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.

Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden’s brother-in-law, with auto-immune disease.

Sherry Dixon and family, Colleen Hedden’s daughter, who’s son passed unexpectedly.

Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.

For Our Community and Beyond:

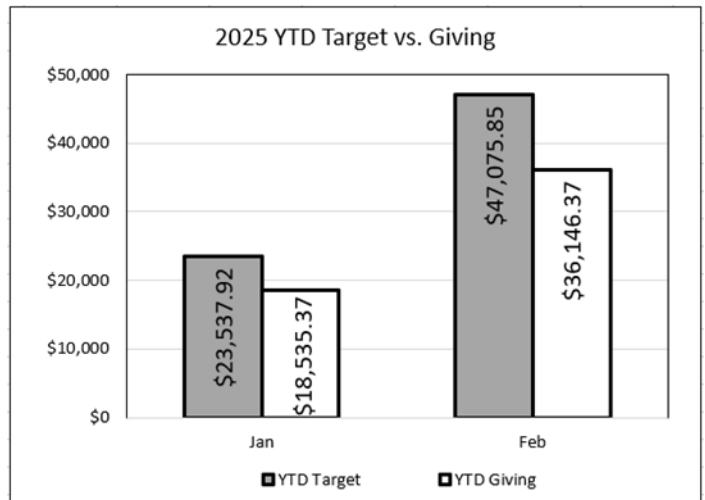
Help for disaster relief in the Southeast US and Florida

Prayers for peace in Ukraine

Prayers for peace in the Middle East

February 2025 Donation Summary

February Deposits:	\$17,611.00
February Target:	\$23,537.92
Y-T-D Deposits:	\$36,146.37
Y-T-D Target:	\$47,075.85
Y-T-D Ahead/Behind Target:	(\$10,929.48)



To donate through PayPal, please send money to stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com, scan the QR code, or visit stgeorgelutheran.org/donate and click the “Make a donation” button.



Calling All Cooks... and all who like to eat!

The St. George cookbooks are here, and they are beautiful. Beside containing 180 recipes from past and present St. George friends, the books include bonus, blank pages for additional recipes. We will be selling them between services. They are \$10.00 each.

We hope these books will become keepsakes for many family members, friends and neighbors.

Support our Love INC Ministry and St. George Free Food Pantry!

Love INC: This month, we are collecting donations of **baking soda** for our Love INC Ministry. Donations can be placed in the box under the Youth Table in the Narthex!

Free Food Pantry: This month, we are focusing on collecting **canned soup** and **baby formula** for our Free Food Pantry. Donations can be placed directly in the pantry, located in our rear vestibule.



PESTWAY

Thanks to Pestway for their work on our bat remediation!
If you need pest assistance, consider contacting them at
833-PESTWAY.

Community Story Slam

Busted! Caught in the Act, Close Calls, and Cracking the Case

A collaboration of Brighton-area churches will be hosting a Community Story Slam on Monday, March 31, doors open 5:30 PM, Story Slam starts at 6:30 PM at upper level of Brewery Becker, 500 W Main St., Brighton, MI 48116.

Join us for an evening of storytelling from Brighton-area pastors and leaders. The slam these will be “Busted! Caught in the Act, Close Calls, and Cracking the Case.” Amir Bagdadchi from the Moth Radio Hour will be the host. Beverages will be available for purchase. Local churches will provide free pizza.

For more information:

Rev. Scott Phillips 810-227-7411

scott@brightonpresbyterian.org



St. George is a warm, friendly, spirit-filled congregation that has been blessed throughout many years. Most Christian denominations develop a distinct emphasis of the Christian faith and practice, and this is also true for Lutherans.

The Lutheran emphasis, in a word, is God’s grace.

We emphasize the grace of God which forgives us, makes us God’s children, and empowers us to serve others. **We welcome, include, and value all people.**