

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

309 Second Street North, PO Box 21, Pine River, MN 56474

Church Office: 587-2316

www.1stluth.org

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Welcome and Announcements (*Guests please sign the visitor's book in the narthex*)

Opening Song: "What Wondrous Love is This?" (ELW 666)

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen,
1914-1997, alt.
Arr. © 1955 Anoshuro Publishing House

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***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Amen.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Psalm: Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall
asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and
your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore. .**

Psalm 121

I LIFT UP
TO THE MOUNTAINS
HELP COME FROM? MY
LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. HE WILL NOT
LET YOUR FOOT SLIP -HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU WILL
NOT SLUMBER. INDEED, HE WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL
WILL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP. THE LORD WATCHES
OVER YOU -THE LORD IS YOUR SHADE AT YOUR RIGHT
HAND, THE SUN WILL NOT HARM YOU BY DAY, NOR
THE MOON BY NIGHT. THE LORD WILL KEEP YOU
FROM ALL HARM -HE WILL WATCH OVER YOUR
LIFE, THE LORD WILL WATCH OVER
YOUR COMING AND GOING
BOTH NOW AND
FOREVERMORE.



Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: John 3:1-17**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that 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.”

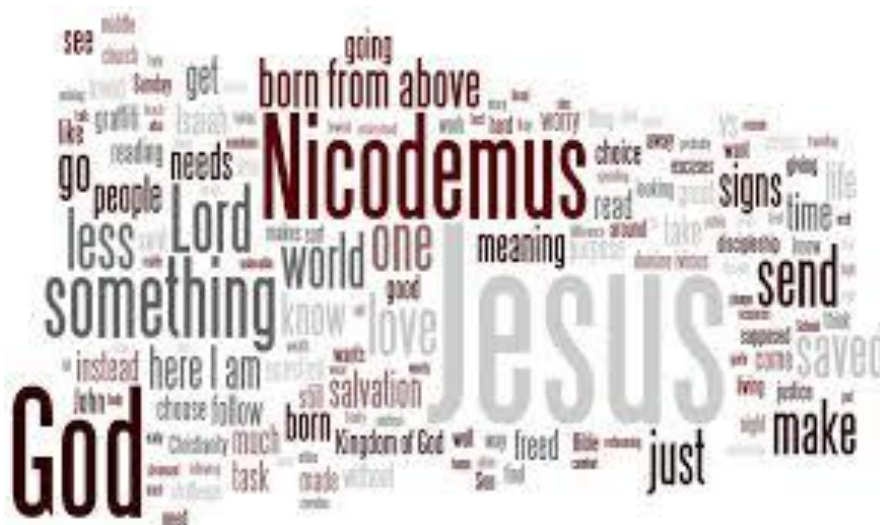
The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon-“You Never Forget!”

Pastor Hans Anderson



***Statement of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the People:**

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness.

Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day: “WOW students will be singing (*Offering will be taken at this time*)

***Offertory Prayer**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

***Words of Institution**

***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;
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.

† Communion †

*All who believe in the death and resurrection as given in this bread and wine are welcome to the table today.
Please follow usher's guidance to come forward to receive communion and then return to your seat.
Gluten free wafers, and apple juice are available from the communion server upon request.
You are welcome to this Table of our Lord.*

Holy Communion Distribution - at the rail

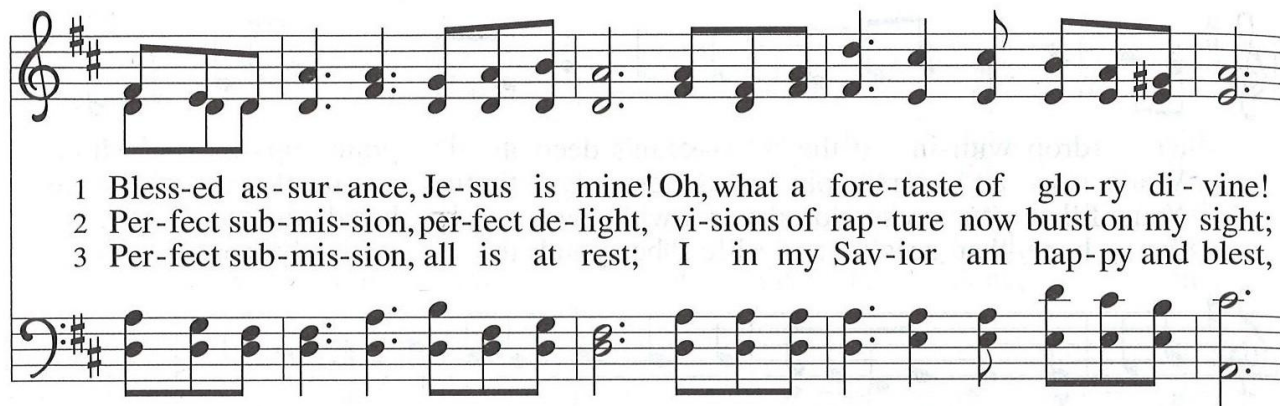
***Post Communion Prayer**

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

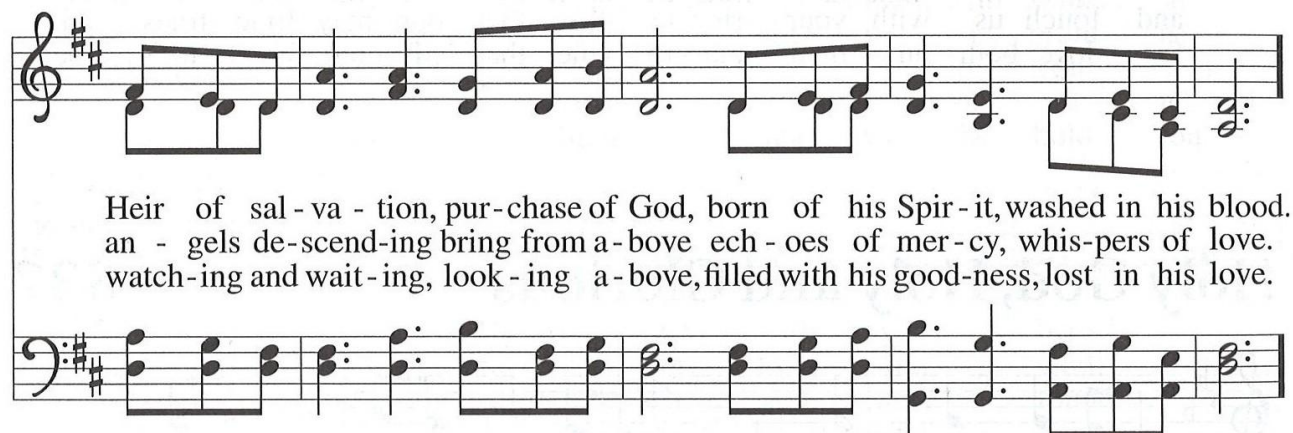
***Blessing:**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

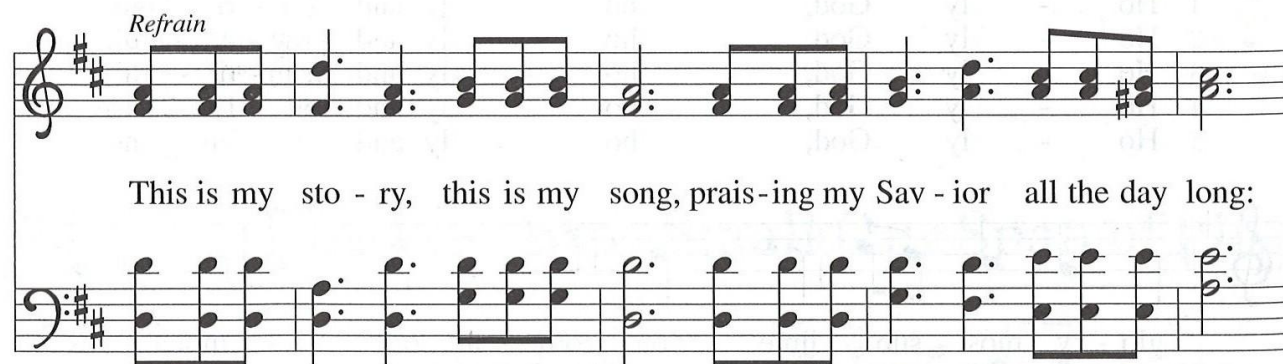
Sending Song- "Blessed Assurance" (ELW 638)



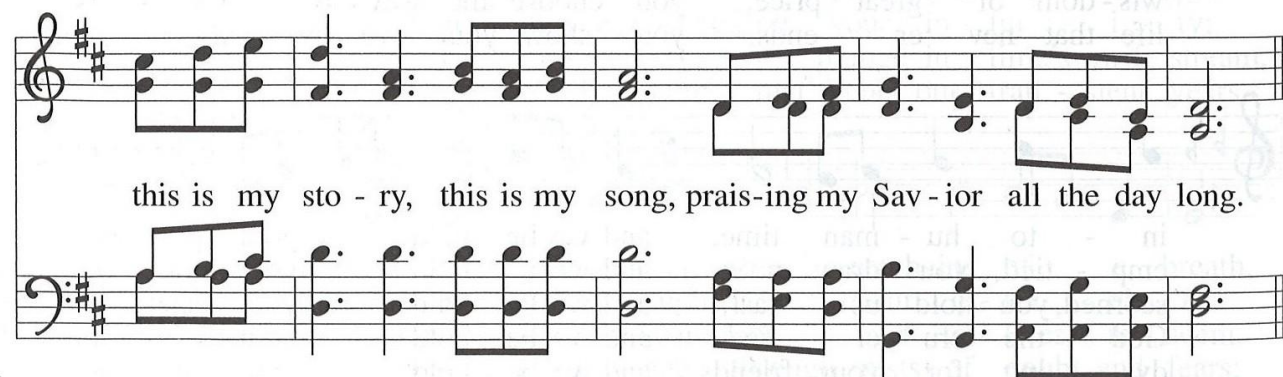
1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



Refrain
This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Public Domain

***Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.



Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Zoom:

Cora Hohnstadt

Sound:

Sandy Gilbertson

Ushers:

Paul Pearson & Vince and Jace Norman

Altar Guild:

Jodi Perry & Val Johnson

Counter:

Brenda Anderson

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

WOW

3:30 PM

Soup Supper

5:00 PM

Holden Evening Prayer

6:00 PM

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Dorcas Circle

9:00 AM

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Worship Service

9:00 AM

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:00 AM



Announcements

Sunday Services at First Lutheran continue to be in-person and via Zoom. To join us via Zoom, go to www.zoom.us and select the blue “Join a Meeting” link at the top center of your screen. (You won’t need to create an account.) Type in the appropriate Meeting ID number and click the blue “Join” button.

Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting ID is 823 8014 4799 Passcode is 661245.

Bulletins can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

Last week’s **Noisy Offering** is giving \$110.32 to Heifer International. Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer International distributes animals, along with agricultural and value-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency.

“**Quiet Activity Bags**” are available for children’s use during worship. They are at the back of the sanctuary on the right-hand side.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for providing soup, dessert, set up and clean up for our **Soup Suppers** starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday during Lent. Please help if you are able. Soup Supper is at 5:00 PM and the Service is at 6:00 PM each week.

A Lenten Stewardship Project: First Lutheran Church Women are collecting donations of bars or pump bottles of soap. The collection box is in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The soap collected will be given to the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.

New Member Classes are coming in April!

April 12, 2026, New Member Class after worship

April 19, 2026, New Member Class after worship

April 26, 2026, New Members received with potluck following worship.



Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Those with medical concerns...

Madeleine Primmer

Ryan Kelley

Juliet Perry Stevens, Jodi Perry's daughter, recovering from surgery

Leonard Nelson

Those in the service...

Senior Master Sergeant Bradford, son of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Major A.J. Depman, nephew of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Sgt Christopher Krecklau, son of Mary & Randy Krecklau
E-6 Nathaniel & Chief Amanda Mitchell, nephew of Mary & Randy Krecklau

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026 Attendance: 83

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 Attendance: 67

Offering Feb. 18, 2026 \$ 551.00 Weekly Budget: \$3,803.77

Feb. 22, 2026 \$1,031.00

Direct Deposit: \$ 275.00

Monthly Transfer: \$2,599.00

Vanco: \$ 39.84

Total Offerings: \$4,495.84

Year-to-Date (Fiscal year starts September 1)

2025-2026 Giving: \$81,096.01 Expenses: \$80,960.05

Income less Expenses for January:

\$12,869.36 - \$15,962.13 = (\$3,092.77)

If you would like a visit from pastor or have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Hans Anderson at 218-820-9166 or email him at pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com

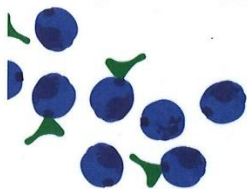


Vanco provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online.

SUPPORT

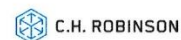


FOOD SHELVES



March 1 - April 6, 2026

**Find your local food shelf or donate at
gmcc.org/march-campaign.**



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2026 Lenten Wednesday Schedule

03/04/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/11/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/18/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM

03/25/2026 Lent Soup 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM