

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Everything in between lost & found

Fourth Sunday in Lent | March 30, 2025 | 9:00am | Parable of the Lost Sheep

Prelude

Laurie Thorstad

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship & Invocation

Leader: Our God is a shepherding God.

Congregation: Our God knows us by name.

L: Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

C: then know that God is seeking you.

L: If you feel found,

C: then know that God will never leave.

L: This is the promise of scripture.

C: This is the promise of God's love.

L: Let us worship our with-us God, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: **Lamb of God**

ELW 336

Prayer of Confession

L: Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used “lost” and “found” as labels to describe people “out there” verses people “in here.” Many have used “lost” and “found” language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd.

Join me as we go to God in prayer.

Merciful God,

C: We confess that we are like lost sheep.

L: We wander from your path, following our own desires instead of Your voice.

C: We stray in thought, word, and deed,

L: sometimes without even realizing how far we've gone. Forgive us, Lord.

C: We confess, too, that we are slow to seek those who are lost.

L: We turn inward, caring for ourselves while ignoring the hurting and the forgotten.

C: Our hearts grow cold to the very ones You call us to love. Forgive us, Lord.

L: Open our eyes to see the lost. Open our hearts to care for them. And when we ourselves are lost, remind us that you never stop searching until You find us.

C: Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

L: Family of faith, hear the good news: Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who seeks and saves the lost. When you wander, He does not abandon you. When you are far off, He carries you home with joy.

C: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He restores my soul.

L: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sin is forgiven. Your soul is restored. You are found, you are loved, and you are held forever in His grace.

C: Amen.

Special Music: Reckless Love

Anneliese Johnson

Children's Chat/Teen Talk

Prayer for Illumination

L: Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen.

C: Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-7

New Testament page 67

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Deutsch

Hymn of the Day: **Lost & Found**

page 7 of bulletin

Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

L: ...God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Offering

Offering Prayer

L: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: **Shepherd Me, O God**

Hymn 780

Leader portion sung by Anneliese Johnson

Prayer after Communion

L: May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

L: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

ELW 773

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: We go reflecting God's generosity by serving and caring. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org & Augsburg Fortress | Liturgy License SB 137809

Join us for worship and prayer during this holy season of lent.

Fridays at 9am: Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

Join us on Friday mornings during lent for a 25-minute contemplative prayer service—a peaceful time of reflection, Scripture, and quiet prayer. In the midst of a busy season, set aside this moment to draw near to God, center your heart, and journey toward the cross with Christ. All are welcome to this time of stillness and renewal.

Sundays at 9am: Worship with Holy Communion

Our theme, “Everything In Between,” invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed as we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross.

Wednesdays at 6:30pm: Mid-week Worship

Each Wednesday evenings we will sing Holden Evening Prayer and dive deeper into our “in between” themes first introduced on Sunday mornings. Worship is preceded by a meal that begins at 5:30pm in the Community Room and is followed by choir rehearsal and confirmation.

Prayer Requests

Matt Anderson	Becky Baer	Mark Buesing	Jan Galema
Henry Hansen	Chris Hughes	Barb Liptrap	Diane Geving
Linda Kiecker	Lisa Kiecker	Chris Price	Tracy Enz
Barb Youell	Eli Mauthe		

- All serving in the military, especially Garrison & Megan Pfeffer (US Air Force)
- Our church family living with cancer: Sue Nasinec, Gloria Ideker, and others.

Praises

- Worship team for providing and serving the Wednesday evening meal.
- Anneliese Johnson for sharing her gift of music with us this morning.
- Those who planned, provided meals for, donated items, and participated in the Scraftin’ event. Thank you for making us such a success!
- Those who served the Connections meal on Friday evening.

Income & Expenses at a Glance

	2/28/25	YTD 2025
Income	\$15,142	\$26,522
Expenses	-\$14,820	-\$27,780
Net gain/loss	\$322	-\$1,258

<p>Our current mortgage balance is \$69,500.00</p>
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Sunday Morning Volunteer Schedule

	April 6th	April 13th	April 27th
Greeter	Jolene Damman & Howard Gibbons	Deb & Brian Fingerson	Larry & Bernita Geving
Reader	Katie Sieberg	Amy Ely, Deb Lee, Carol Regnier	Coleen Hall
Communion Servers	Terry Johnson Beth Rossow	Payton Hillesheim Alexis Davis	Lindy Arndt Donna Nielsen
Ushers	Duane Anderson Jane Carter	Laurie & Kathy Gerdes	Amy Ely Winnis Buesing
Acolyte	Eli	Harvey	Grace
Open/Close	Bernita Geving & Ashtyn Sorenson	Laurie Gerdes Dave Kerr	Sue Edstrom Marlyn Mosher
Counters	Lisa Nagel Sarah Weber	Dave Kerr Tom Wellner	Tracy Enz Dave Overholser
Altar Guild	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Becky Overholser Colleen Hall	Donny Nielsen Amy Ely
Fellowship	Dave & Judy Kerr Dale & Colleen Hall Winnis Buesing	Palm Sunday Potluck	Carol Krueger Duane Anderson & Jane Carter

Announcements

- Envelopes are available in the pews for those interested in donating funds for Easter flowers. Please place completed envelopes, with donation, in the offering plate. Donations are to be turned in by Sunday, April 13.
- Volunteers are needed to read, serve communion, and usher during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. Please sign up on the Happenings Board if you are able to help in these roles!
- Join us for a Palm Sunday Potluck, hosted by the fellowship committee after worship on Sunday, April 13. All are invited to stay for brunch after the service and bring a dish if you can. We'll share a meal together and celebrate the start of Holy Week.
- Adult Study and Faith Formation take place today at 10:15am.
 - Adult Study will be taking up portions of Luther's Easter book.
 - Faith Formation students will learn more about the stories preached on during worship.
- Quilting and Sewing Group meets on Wednesdays at 9:00am. Come and be a bag lady!
- Adult confirmation is on week 2 of a 4 week session on the Lord's Prayer tomorrow night at 6:30pm.
- Choir rehearsal is Wednesday evening, following the mid-week Lenten service.

- This spring, Epiphany will be selling several varieties of garden plants. Purchase your locally started plants from us and support the ministry of Epiphany! More information will be available in the April Newsletter.
- In March, our noisy offering is dedicated to Epiphany's Little Pantry. Children are invited to come forward and use a bucket to help collect the noisy offerings.
- In March, we are collecting cleaning supplies for the REACH outreach center in Mankato. This organization supports youth who are at risk, experiencing homelessness, or have run away. Please consider donating the following items: 13 gallon trash bags, Paper towels, Disinfecting wipes, Liquid dish soap, Liquid dish washer detergent, Landry detergent pods
- The Mankato Parenting Conference is on April 5. If parenting feels like a constant struggle, find hope and encouragement at the Mankato Parenting Conference on April 5, 2025, at The Venue in Mankato. Brook Mosser and Phil Comer, the internationally recognized hosts of the Intentional Parents Podcast, will share inspiring teachings and biblical wisdom to help you navigate the challenges of raising children. Join a supportive community of parents and leave feeling refreshed and equipped. Cost is \$50 per person. Lunch is provided. Find more information or register at canvasmankato.com.
- A Note from Crossroads Campus Ministry: Spring break flew by faster than one can say, "Praise God!," and now we're over half-way through Spring Term! We are always thrilled to welcome students to Crossroads, and we feel tremendously blessed to have Epiphany Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed them through our **Lunch For-a-Buck** program. On Tuesday, March 18th, faithful servants Colleen Hall and Laurie & Kathy Gerdes served a *finger lickin' good* meal of fried chicken, mac-n-cheese, Hawaiian dinner rolls, coleslaw, salad, oranges, cookies, and bars to **44** hungry lunch-goers. They also collected \$65.09 in donations that will be used to purchase the salad supplies, beverages, dinnerware, and other items for lunches during the school year. God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads. We look forward to seeing you again on April 29th. We couldn't do this without you!

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Lost and Found

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by B.F. White, 1844



In the flock I am sur-roun - ded by my sib - lings
The ho - ri - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly
As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar



and my friends Safe at home and feel - ing groun - ded with my
slip a - way I can feel my spi - rit ligh - ten with each
voice cries out It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less



shep - herd to de - fend But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing
cau - tious step I take Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing
love has tracked me down Though I left my place of re - fuge,



as the stars shine late at night Draws me in, my dreams
as ex - cite - ment blends with fear All cre - a - tion now
he has fol - lowed all a - long But I had to lose



re - veal - ing and I know I'm not quite right
en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear
my - self to find my - self where I be - long

