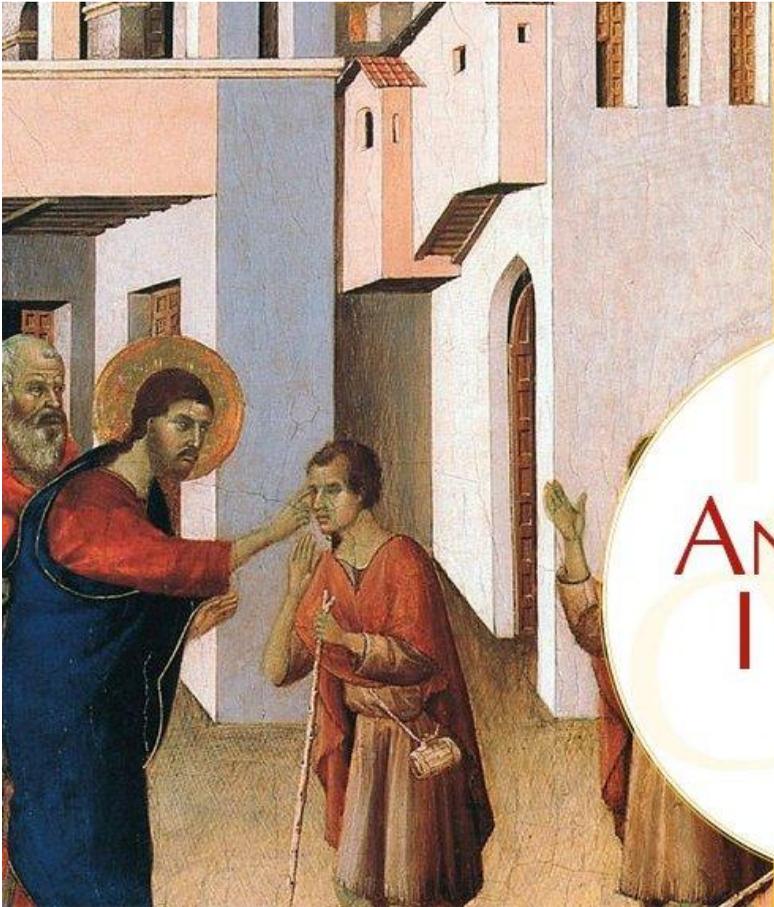


St. Luke Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
8:15AM & 10:45AM



AND NOW
I CAN SEE

SERMON

Rev. Arthur Gillespie
“So, Lighten Up” —John 9:1-41

Welcome to
St. Luke Lutheran Church
20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398
Church: 631-499-8656 - Fax: 631-462-6496
Preschool: 631-462-5216

Our Website: www.stlukedixhills.org
Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.

As We Gather: We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper, and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)

Sundays at 10:45 AM

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via **Hotline: (631) 600-0271***
Or email careteam@stlukedixhills.org Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty

Mission Statement

To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.

PRELUDE

"Psalm Prelude" - Herbert Howells
"Yea, the darkness is no darkness with Thee
but the night is as clear as the day;
the darkness and light to Thee are both alike."

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL FOR PRAYERS

INTROIT: HANDBELL CHOIR (8:15)

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" - Dorsey arr. Daniel Light

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS -

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✙ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN (8:15)
“Word of God, Come Down on Earth” WOV 716

SUNDAY SCHOOL SONGS (10:45)
Jackie Flynn

Sit

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (10:45)
Deacon Tom Lamendola

Stand

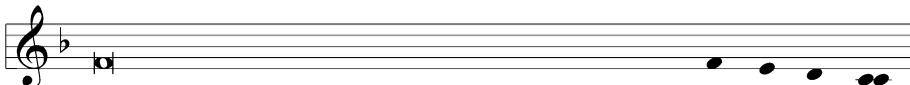
SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL (10:45)
“Word of God, Come Down to Earth” WOV 716, V.1

GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE - LSB p.204



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.

Cont'd →



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I

will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: Adult Choir (10:45)
"O Lord I Pray" (Abide with Me) by Brett Michaels

Hear my words, O lord I pray, For my strength has gone away.
Give me patience now to see, that Your goodness covers me.
I must know that You still care; that in times of deep despair,
I can reach my hand to You, and You'll be there.
Guide my steps when I can't see; help me learn to trust in Thee.
Be my shelter on the way, as I struggle toward that day.
For the strength of Your good hand, will direct me toward the land;
And the promise You made will lead me home.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Guide my steps when I can't see; help me learn to trust in Thee.
Be my shelter on the way, as I struggle toward that day.
For the strength of Your good hand, will direct me toward the land;
And the promise You made will lead me home.
And the promise You made will lead me home.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,
⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out
what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather,
expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but
everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is
light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL VERSE– LSB 205

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

A - men A - men A - men

THE GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY
"Amazing Grace" – LBW 448

Sit

SERMON
Rev. Arthur Gillespie
"So, Lighten Up" —John 9:1-41

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED – LBW p.85

**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 CHURCH

Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God"
The response is "**Your mercy is great.**"

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
People: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Sit

OFFERING



OFFERTORY

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” - Dale Wood

Stand

OFFERING PRESENTATION & OFFERING HYMN “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805

△ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all
creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly
host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

People: **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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING – LSB 208

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

SANCTUS – LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION – LSB p.209

LORD'S PRAYER – LSB p.209

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
People: **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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **And also with you**

Sit

AGNUS DEI – LSB 210



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION MUSIC

“Take My Life, and Let It Be” LBW 406

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LBW 456

“Shine, Jesus, Shine” WOV 651

Stand

COMMUNION DISMISSAL - LSB p.210

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

People: **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimitis - LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray. 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.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION - LSB p.212

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Sit

MINISTRY NEWS

Stand

CLOSING HYMN

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You” LBW 453

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“If Thou But Suffer God” - Paul Manz

**** Church Attendance and Offerings ****

Attendance week ending 3/8/2026

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:15 AM:48 10:45 AM:93

Offerings Received in January 2026

*(total monthly offerings **includes** online giving)*

January 2026 Offerings Received:

Regular Weekly Offerings: \$11,196.94

Loose Plate: \$378.00

Celebrations (Christmas/Advent) \$247.00

TOTAL January 2026: \$11,821.64

Budgeted \$22,608.33

Year to Date Received (July through January) 2025-2026: \$124,834.16

St. Luke Church Council 2026

Ken Wenz	President	kpwenz@gmail.com
Jackie Guidone	Vice-President	Jackies7fromhvn@aol.com
Anna Schwen	Secretary	Aschwen1123@gmail.com
Brenda Lentsch	Treasurer	Treasurer@stlukedixhills.org
Denise Norman	Christian Education	Denisenorman231@gmail.com
Tony Fisher	Property	Afisher1855@gmail.com
Michele Castro	Finance	Michelel25@yahoo.com
Theresa Clark	Evangelism	Teesamarie33@gmail.com
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