



PIONEER LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

WELCOME!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace. Let us pray:

C: Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

L: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life. As God's forgiven receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

C: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

OPENING HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead #614

GREETING

L: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray together,

C: 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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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.” ²Samuel 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.’” ³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But 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.”
⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”
¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.” ¹²He 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.”
¹³Then 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Read responsively by verse, the READER begins with the light text and the CONGREGATION responds with the dark text. All read the refrain.)

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

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

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You 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.**

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

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

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

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live 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, but instead 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.”

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus says, I am the light ¹ of the world;* whoever follows me will have the ¹ light of life. (*John 8:12*)

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming

when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him,

“What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Council

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace # 779

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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,
he 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The worship leader leads the prayer petitions indicated with the "L" while worshippers are invited to pray the petitions marked with the "A."

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

A brief silence.

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence. We especially pray for the families who are separated due to war and those who grieve the deaths of soldiers and civilians. Raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day *especially* Sandy, Jason, Brian, Prissy, Jean, Rita, Mary, Jan, Tom, and Samantha. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share & receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: Share a greeting of peace with those around you.

OFFERING



OFFERTORY HYM *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* #733
Please stand for the final verse

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following the way of the cross we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Be thou my Vision #793*

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS: today is the last Sunday to order Easter Flowers

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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Welcome to Pioneer Lake Lutheran Church!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
3697 Pioneer Church Rd, Conover, WI 54519
Church Office—715-479-4966
www.pioneerlakelc.org
Rev. Kari Vadis
715.437.0770 or kvadis@cometotrinity.com

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Music Kay Hickson

Lector: Council

Communion Assistants: Members of the congregation

Altar Guild: Worship and Music

Ushers & Greeters: Harold Johnson and Friends

Acolyte: Worship and Music

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD’S TABLE: We are glad you’re here. You do not need to be a Lutheran, nor a member of PLLC to receive Holy Communion. All who are baptized are welcome to share in the gift of grace that we receive in the bread and the wine. Children who have not yet received their First Communion are welcome to receive a blessing.

PASTORAL VISIT & PRAYER REQUESTS: Please take a few moments to fill out the white card in your pew rack. If you would like a visit from Pastor or have other needs or prayer requests, please indicate this on the card.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Sandy, Jason, Brian, Prissy, Jean, Rita, Mary, Jan, Tom D., & Samantha.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

Sunday, March 8, 2026 -**WORSHIP PARTICIPATION: 17 worshippers**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026-Lent 3-17 **worshippers**

THIS WEEK AT PIONEER

Sunday 9:00 Worship & 10:15 Fellowship

Wednesday 5:30 pm- Soup & Lenten Program

Saturday 9:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Next Sunday 9:00 Worship & 10:15 Fellowship

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 29, Palm Sunday Worship & Brunch: 9:00am

April 2, Maundy Thursday: 6:00pm at PLLC

April 3 Good Friday Options:

Prince of Peace, Eagle River- 5:30pm or

Faith Lutheran, Three Lakes-7:00pm

April 4, Holy Saturday: Prince of Peace at 5:30pm

April 5, Easter Worship: PLLC at 9:00 am

April 12-Ministry Moment: Remembering Joyce Blaser

Council Installation

Here are addresses to send cards to Jean, Jan, and Sandy.

Jean Wolff-2981 Nine Mile Road-Eagle River, WI 54521

Jan Britt-3615 Shangri Rd.- Eagle River, WI 54521

Sandy Martin-4055 Briggs Lane-Phelps, WI 54554

February-2026

Revenue..... \$14,744.00

Expenses..... \$16,089.00

Balance..... (-\$1345.00)