

## WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad you could be with us today, especially if you are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. You can greet our pastor as you leave the sanctuary after services. Please stop by our Guest Welcome Center near the Fellowship Hall for more information. We pray that you will consider becoming a part of our Holy Cross family. **Both members & visitors please complete the connection card in the pew pockets** (or scan the QR code below to complete online). Place the card in the offering plate on your way out. NOTE: You can give online at our website or place in offering plates at back of sanctuary (we don't pass plates).

### A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Saturday and Sunday (except on FRIEND DAYS), and all festival services. Lutherans believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present "in, with and under" the bread and wine in the Supper and is given to us for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. All communicants should have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and have faith in these words of Jesus: "This IS my Body given for you...This IS my Blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Instruction on this and the Lutheran Church takes place through First Communion, Confirmation, and membership classes or meeting with the pastor. To inquire, contact the church office at your convenience. If you will not be receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, you may remain in your pew or come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as a sign that you will not be receiving. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cups tray. **Gluten-free wafers are packaged and placed in wafer bowl, indicate to server.**



### SURVEY QUESTION

No survey questions during the Lenten season.

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP** You may light a candle and enter the sanctuary in reverence, find a seat and take a moment to pray and be still. Please keep all social dialogue in the Narthex.

**FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** We are equipped with a personal hearing assistance system. If you would like a receiver for the service, please see an usher.

**WE CAN PRAY WITH YOU** If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, the pastor, deacons or one of the Elders will join you at the Chancel rail following the worship service.

## Third Sunday in Lent

### Oculi

March 3, 2024

### Lutheran Service Book, Divine 4, page 203

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**Oculi:** This is the 4th Sunday before Easter. It is from Psalm 25:15-16. The origin is from Church Worship in the Middle Ages. The Introit for the Day is: My eyes are forever toward the Lord...

#### Prelude

#### Welcome, Connection Card and Announcements

Please stand if you are able.

#### Opening Hymn

“Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”

LSB 908

- 1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through Your Word to me draw near;  
Let me Your Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me Your child and heir remain.
- 2 Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin;  
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.
- 3 To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel if you are able.

Take a moment to confess in your heart what is on your mind.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20

D My eyes are ever toward the Lord,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

C **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

D To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

**C O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.**

D The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.

**C Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.**

D Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Kyrie**

(from Mark 10:47)

LSB page 204



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

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

D The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.** (from 2 Timothy 4:22)

D Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

Please be seated.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup>It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup>You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup>and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup>then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’”

<sup>7</sup>The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. <sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** "God's Own Child I'll Gladly Say It"

Holy Cross Choir

**Epistle**

Ephesians 5:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

**Holy Gospel**

Luke 11:14-28

**D** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then

the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

<sup>24</sup>“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

<sup>27</sup>As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” <sup>28</sup>But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

**D** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## **Nicene Creed**

LSB page 206

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

**Hymn of the Day**      “O Christ, You Walked the Road”

LSB 424

- 1      O Christ, You walked the road  
        Our wand’ring feet must go.  
        You faced with us temptation’s pow’r  
        And fought our ancient foe.
  
- 2      No bread of earth alone  
        Can fill our hung’ring hearts.  
        Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
        The food Your grace imparts.
  
- 3      No blinding sign we ask,  
        No wonder from above.  
        Lord, help us place our trust alone  
        In Your unswerving love.
  
- 4      When lures of easy gain  
        With promise brightly shine,  
        Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
        Our wills with Yours align.
  
- 5      O Christ, You walked the road  
        Our wand’ring feet must go.  
        Stay with us through temptation’s hour  
        To fight our ancient foe.

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**Sermon**



## Offertory

(from Psalm 51:10-12)

LSB page 192

**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Please stand if you are able.

## Prayer of the Church

**D** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful God, You do not change and are always ready to hear our prayer. May our eyes be ever fixed on You, that we would always be ready to receive Your forgiveness and help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**D** Heavenly Father, You seek not the death but the life of all. Hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You or who have wandered from Your truth. Free them from all error and, for the glory of Your name, mercifully bring them into the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

D Holy Father, You have given us Your own Spirit in our Baptism into Christ. Defend us from all spiritual attacks. Guard us in body and soul. Help those afflicted by any adversity, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] and lead them to renewed strength and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,  
C **hear our prayer.**

D O Lord, grant unity to Your Church in her doctrine and life. Bless our communion this day, that from Christ's true body and blood our faith may be strengthened and our love for one another increased. Accept our sacrifice of thanksgiving and the tithes and offerings we bring in response to Your goodness: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

LSB page 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.** (from 2 Timothy 4:22)

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.** (from Colossians 3:1)

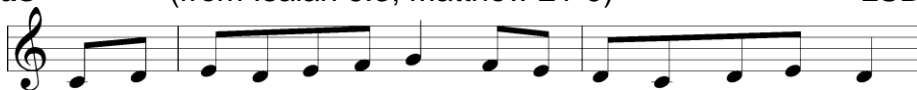
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** (from Psalm 136)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**Sanctus** (from Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21-9) LSB page 208



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!

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** LSB page 209

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**Lord's Prayer** (from Matthew 6:9-13)

**C** 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.

**The Words of Our Lord**

(From Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

**P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini** (from John 20:19)

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God John 1:29**

LSB page 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.

Please be seated.

**Anthem** "Non Nobis, Domine" (Not Unto Us, Lord)

Holy Cross Choir

Please stand if you are able.

# Nunc Dimittis

(from Luke 2:29-32)

LSB page 211



1 O Lord, now let 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 Collect

LSB page 212

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# Benedicamus

(from Psalm 103:1)

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** (from Numbers 6:24-26)

P 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 His peace.

C **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

LSB 851

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the\_unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.

- 3      Wondrous honor You have given  
          To our humblest charity  
In Your own mysterious sentence,  
          “You have done it all to Me.”  
Can it be, O gracious Master,  
          That You deign for alms to sue,  
Saying by Your poor and needy,  
          “Give as I have giv’n to you”?
- 4      Lord of glory, You have bought us  
          With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
          That tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
          Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
          With Your love our love renew.

#### **Acknowledgments**

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# ***THE SUNDAY HERALD***

***March 4, – March 10, 2024***

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<b>MONDAY</b>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>			<b>SATURDAY</b>
Ladies Guild Meeting	1:00pm	Men's Bible Study &	
Elders Meeting	7:00pm	Breakfast	8:00am
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		Women's Bible Study	9:30am
Film & Discussion	7:00pm	Vision Workshop	9:30am
<b>THURSDAY</b>		Praise Band rehearsal	4:30pm
Prayer Group	3:00pm	Bible Class	4:30pm
Bells	6:30pm	Communion Worship	5:30pm
Choir	7:30pm	<b>SUNDAY</b>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Bible Classes for all ages	9:00am
Bulletin Assembly	10:00am	Communion Worship	10:00am
		Jr. Confirmation	11:30am

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## **BIBLE READINGS FOR LAETARE (4TH SUNDAY IN LENT)**

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16:2-21

Second Reading: Acts 2:41-47

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15

## **LENTEN JOURNEY**

Our Lenten midweek services will be on Wednesdays through March 20. This year during the Lenten midweek services we will be watching the film, "The Gospel of John" with famous actor Henry Ian Cusick. We'll split up the 3-hour film into 5 Wednesdays with prayer, discussion, popcorn and drinks in Haggerty Hall, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor, bring your kids. See you there.

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

Maundy Thursday we will be stripping the Altar at the end of service. If you would like to help, please see Sharron Haggerty or Kathy Green. There will be a short rehearsal on Wednesday 3-27 at 7:00pm. Hope to see you then.

## **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Easter breakfast is back with some changes. This year everyone is invited to help, cook, serve, set up and clean up. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Breakfast will be served from 9:45-11:00 am.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday Weekend**, Worship with Holy Communion, Saturday, March 23, 5:30 pm and Sunday, March 24, 10:00 am. **Maundy Thursday**, Worship with Holy Communion, March 28, 7:00 pm. **Good Friday**, Worship Service, March 29, 11:00 am & 7:30 pm. **Resurrection of Our Lord**, Worship with Holy Communion, Saturday, March 30, 5:30 pm, and Sunday, March 31, 8:45 & 11:00 am, with Easter breakfast between services.

### **TELLERS NEEDED**

We need additional tellers to count offerings on Sundays. The commitment is about 32 – 40 hours for the year. No teller experience needed. If you would like to be part of the Sunday fun, please reach out to Denise Vandenberghe. Thank you.

### **NEW DIRECTORY**

Please find your church mailbox a copy of the current church directory. If you did not receive one or need an extra one, please contact the church office.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Beth Shutko State Farm. **Saturday March 30th at 10:00am**. Join us for an Easter message followed by our egg hunt. Sunday School is collecting plastic eggs and wrapped candy now through, March 24th. We will also need help on the day of the event with registration and the prize table. If you are interested in helping contact Laurel Clemons.

### **THANK YOU!**

Teryl and I would like to thank our Holy Cross family for all of your prayers, texts, emails, visits, and get-well cards. You have no idea how much your prayers and words of caring and concern warmed and encouraged our hearts over the last few months! There is no greater support system in all of the world than that of brothers and sisters in Christ encouraging and supporting one another. Your “presence” was gratefully felt! God’s richest blessings to all of you!  
Pastor & Teryl Eisinger

### **COVENANT TRAVEL 2024**

**Day Trip** to *Turkeyville*, Cornwell’s Dinner Theater in Marshall, MI to see the musical “Oklahoma” on **Tuesday, May 7 at 8:30 am**. The cost is \$95 per person which includes: motor coach transportation, a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings, the show and all tips. Contact Alison Werner (a member Of Trinity Lutheran in Utica) (586) 599-8066 for full information. Reservation from is on the communion bulletin board. **Deadline to register is April 2.**

*for at one time you were darkness,  
but now you are light in the Lord.  
Walk as children of light.  
Ephesians 5:8*