

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**8618 Church Hill Drive, Lohman, Missouri 65053**  
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Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 23, 2025**

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**NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.  
Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.**


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Prelude

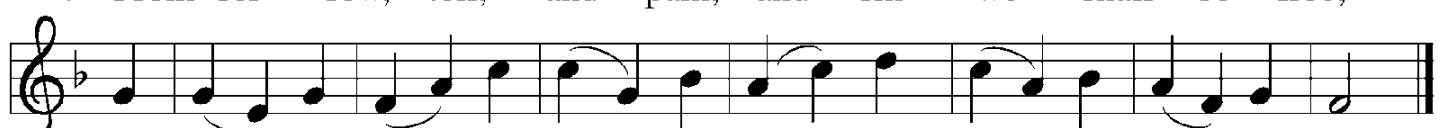
Welcome & Announcements

**\*Gathering Song:**

**Blest Be the Tie That Binds** **656**



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

*Remembering that Jesus the Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and was raised on the third day giving us eternal life. We continue with confession and forgiveness.*

## **\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,  
you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

**Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**C: Amen.**

## **\* SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

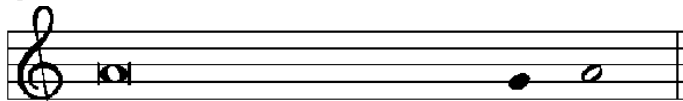
**C: And also with you.**

## **GREETING (Please be seated)**

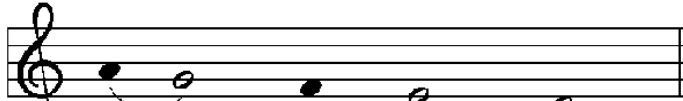
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

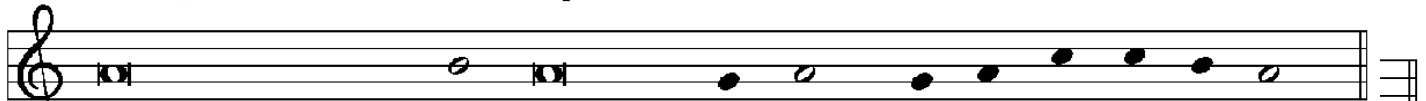
**Kyrie:**



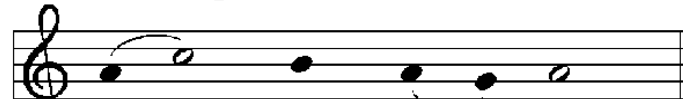
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



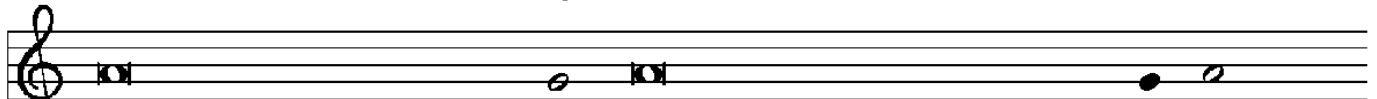
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



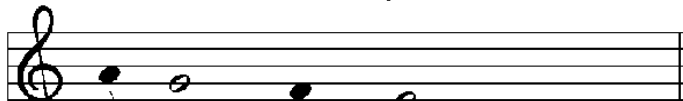
Lord, have mer - cy.



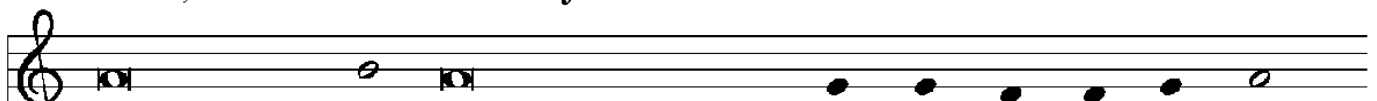
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# Hymn of Praise:

*Refrain*    Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Prayer of the Day:**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Choir: Be Still, My Soul**

## **Children's Sermon**

### **WORD**

#### **The 1st lesson is a reading from Genesis, the 45<sup>th</sup> chapter.**

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 37.** (Read Responsively)

Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

**Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,  
and see what God will do.

**The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

**In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

**The 2nd lesson is a reading from I Corinthians, the 15th chapter.**

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel Acclamation:**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter**

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

Jesus said: “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.” “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** “Are You Okay? The Power of Love”

Pastor David Viles

Hymn of the Day:

# Lead Me, Guide Me

768

*Refrain*



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.



be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.



I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.



I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.



Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995

Music: Doris Akers

Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.



**\*Apostle's Creed – Please stand.**

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.

**\* The Prayers of Intercession:** The congregation's response to "God of grace," is "hear our Prayer."

### MEAL

**Offering:** We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts. Through this small sacrifice, God's love is shown through us, to those who are in need.

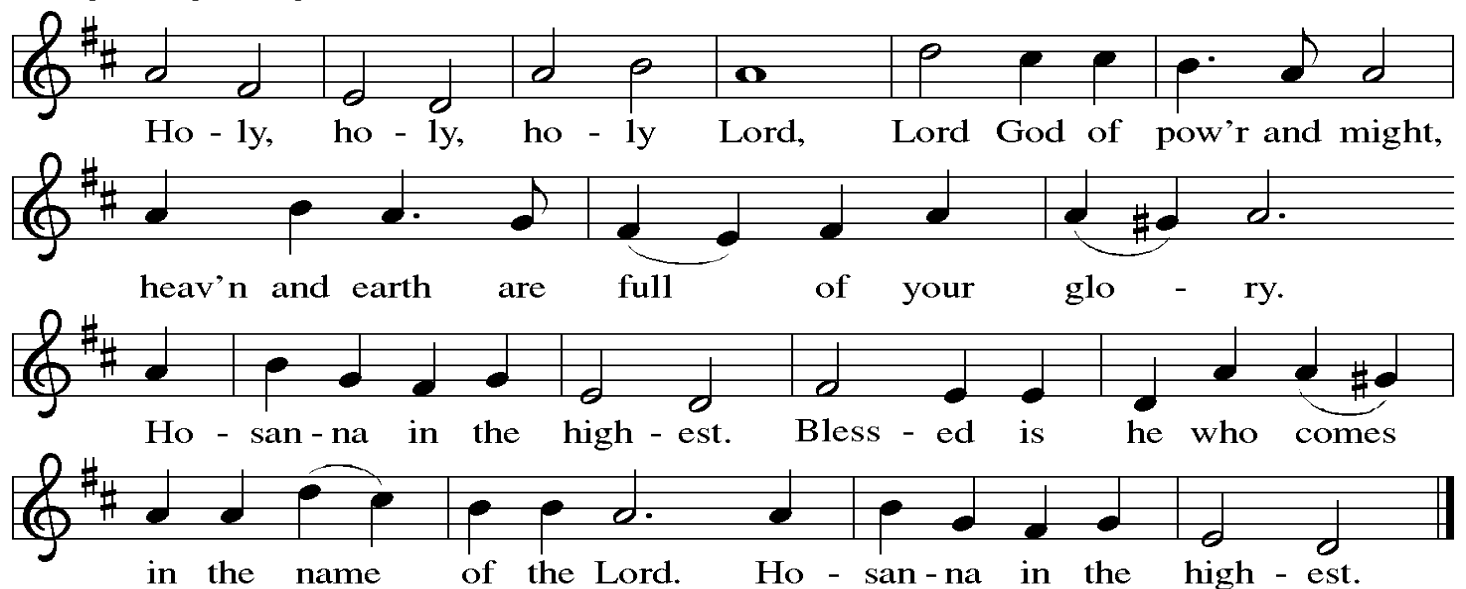
**\*(Please Stand) Offertory: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Offertory Prayer:** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\* Words of Institution – Eucharist Prayer**

**\*The Lord’s Prayer:**

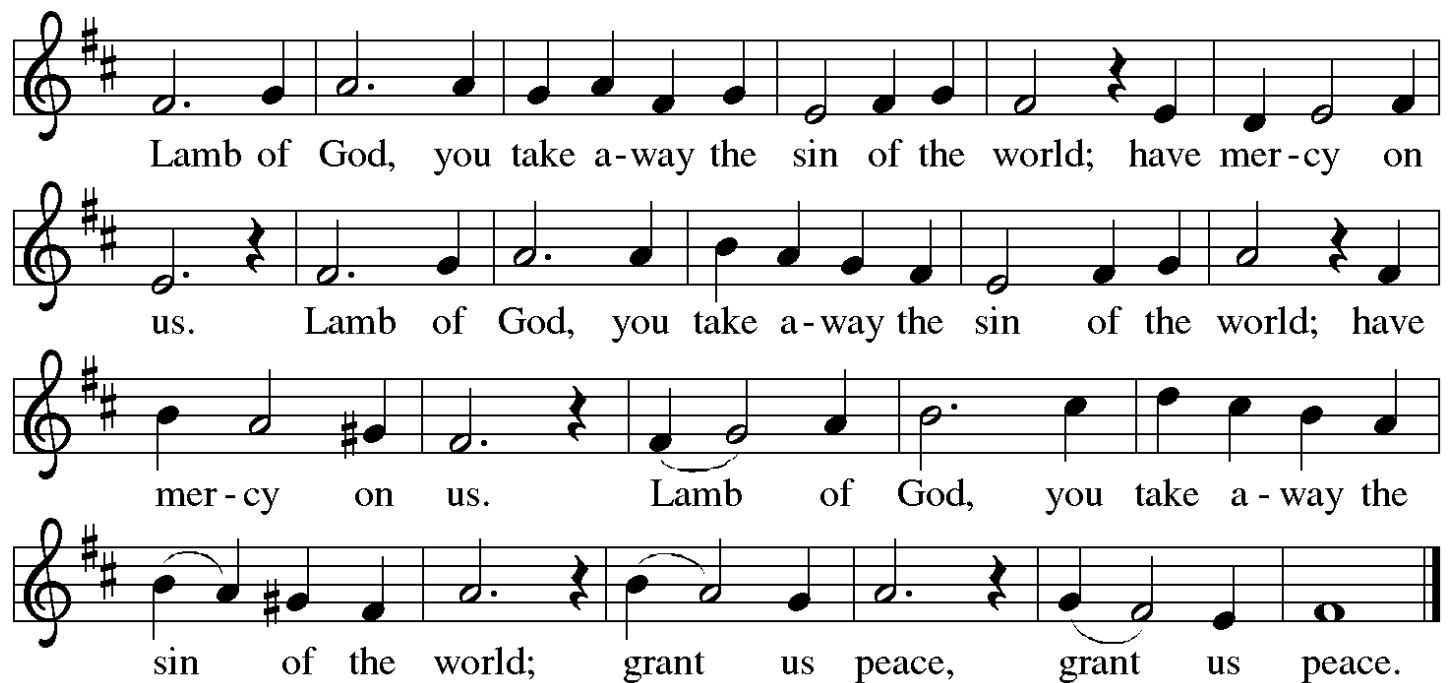
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

Distribution of the Elements

**Lamb of God**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\*Blessing after the Meal**

Pastor David Viles

**\*(544 verse 1) Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing; glory be to God on high! Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this Eucharist declaring yours the final victory.**

**\*Prayer after Communion:**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

\*Blessing: (Please Stand)

Pastor David

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

\*Sending Song:

### Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

608

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for  
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,  
*Refrain*  
watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.  
You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Presiding Minister	Pastor David Viles
Organist / Keyboard	Zola Finch
Song Leader	Kathy Meller
Acolyte	Morgan Schroeder
Audio / Video Technician	Dan Tschirgi
Reader	Bill Gerth
Council	Misty Schroeder
Greeters	Richard & Rosemary Heidbreder
Communion Assistant	Jason Plochberger
Communion Ware	Laurie & Jerry Koestner
Altar Flowers	Audrey Bunch

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCA – Another quilt making day** is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 26. We will begin about 8:30 or whenever you arrive. The good news is that lunch will be provided, thanks to Donita. Quite a few quilt tops have been constructed, but have more to do. All our welcome.

**Jr. Lutherans** – will meet at the Jefferson City Ice Skating Rink today from 1-3 PM. Bring a friend.

**Freundschaft Gruppe** – Will meet Monday, **March 3** at 5:30 PM instead of March 10.

**Church Directory Update:** Our scheduling process has begun. Appointments can be scheduled for **March 18 or 19 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM**. You will be able to schedule on line or we will have volunteers before and after church service in the narthex to help you with the scheduling process. This is a terrific opportunity for a professional portrait in the comfort of our own church. Each family will receive a commentary 8 X 10 portrait mailed to their home.

**Pancake Breakfast** – Coyote Hill Jefferson City is having a breakfast on Saturday, March 8 from 7:30 to 11:00 AM at Memorial Baptist Church at 1120 Madison Street. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

**Hymn History** – Our Hymn of the Day “Lead me, Guide Me” is from the “Trust, Guidance” Section of our Hymnal. This gospel hymn was written by Doris M. Akers, who was born in Brookfield, MO in 1922 and lived her early life in Kirksville, MO. Her family attended the Bethel AME Church in Kirksville, where she learned to play piano by ear at age six. She wrote her first song at age 10. In the 1930s she formed a singing gospel group with siblings, Edward, Marian, and Donald, who went by the name “Dot and the Swingsters”. In 1938 she moved to Los Angeles, CA and became known for her work with the “Sky Pilot Choir,” an integrated group that made recordings and appeared on Radio and TV across the country. Her fresh, modern arrangements of traditional negro spirituals drew large crowds. She was affectionately known as “Miss Gospel Music”, respected and admired by everyone in the gospel music business. Ms. Akers received many awards over the years, including “Gospel Music Composer of the Year” twice. In 1992 she was honored by the Smithsonian Institution as “The Foremost Gospel Writer in the US”. In 2001 she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. In 2011 she was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Doris Akers died at age 72 in Edina, MN. The hymn is an earnest plea for an intimate walk with God, who is the only one that can lead us on the narrow path through all the complexities and challenges of earthly life.

### **Schedule for Online Services:**

Services are at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on FaceBook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsChurchOnTheHill>

All services can be viewed at any time on our St. Paul’s website:

<http://www.stpaulslutheranlohman.org> just scroll down to the middle section and click on the service of your choice under “In Case You Missed It.” Below that is another section for current and past bulletins.

Pastor David Viles