

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church

5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130

(414) 425-1169

Pastor Michael Fazio

Summer Worship Services:

Sun. 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:30

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-1pm

Email: assistant@wplchurch.org

Website: www.wplchurch.org

March, 2026



Midweek services 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

Worship at Noon and 6:30 pm

Brown bag lunch to follow

****Soup will be provided.***

Soup suppers at 5:30

prior to evening service.

A WORD FROM PASTOR FAZIO . . .

The True Meaning of Lent: A Journey Back to the Cross...

Each year, the season of Lent invites the Church into a time that is often misunderstood. For some, Lent can feel like a gloomy stretch of self-denial, a religious endurance test marked by giving up chocolate or scrolling a little less. But in the Lutheran tradition, Lent is not about proving our devotion or earning God's favor. At its heart, Lent is a gift—a season that gently, honestly calls us back to Christ and his cross.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with words that set the tone for the weeks ahead: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* These words are not meant to shame us, but to tell the truth about us. We are fragile, finite, and in need of mercy. The ashes trace the sign of the cross on our foreheads, marking us not with despair, but with hope—because the cross we bear is Christ's, and Christ has already borne it for us.

In Lutheran theology, repentance stands at the center of Lent. Repentance is not a one-time event or a spiritual performance; it is a daily turning. Martin Luther begins the Small Catechism by reminding us that the Christian life is one of ongoing repentance and trust in God's promise. Lent simply gives this daily rhythm a sharper focus. We are invited to name our sin honestly, without excuse or fear, because we know where confession leads: to forgiveness freely given for the sake of Jesus.

Lent is also deeply connected to our baptism. As we remember our mortality, we also remember that we have been buried and raised with Christ. In baptism, God claimed us—not because we were worthy, but because God is gracious. Lent calls us back to that identity. We do not walk this season trying to become God's children; we walk it *as* God's children, learning again what it means to live in the freedom of the gospel.

Spiritual disciplines like fasting, prayer, and acts of mercy often take on greater prominence during Lent. From a Lutheran perspective, these practices are not ways to impress God, but ways to quiet the noise of our lives so we can hear God's Word more clearly. When something is "given up," it is meant to create space—for prayer, for Scripture, for attention to our neighbors, and for honest self-examination in the light of God's love.

Above all, Lent is Christ-centered. Week by week, Scripture leads us steadily toward Jerusalem, toward betrayal, suffering, and the cross. We do not rush past the pain to get to Easter. We linger, because here we see most clearly who God is: the One who enters our brokenness, takes our sin seriously, and loves us all the way to death—and beyond it.

Lent does not end in ashes. It ends at an empty tomb. The purpose of the journey is not sorrow for its own sake, but deeper joy—joy rooted in grace, not achievement. As we walk through Lent together, may we do so with humility, honesty, and trust, confident that the God who calls us to repentance is the same God who promises resurrection.

God bless you and keep you in His Grace!

Pr. Michael



Dear WPLC Families,

Welcome to March! As we transition from the quiet reflection of late winter into the vibrant promise of spring, our Sunday School is buzzing with the spirit of the **Lenten season**. This month is a journey toward the joy of the Resurrection, and we have many wonderful milestones to celebrate together.

Here is our curriculum for the month:

February 22, 2026-1st Sunday of Lent -Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11,

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, **Second Reading:** Romans 5:12-19

Key Verse: Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only [God].'" – Matthew 4:10

The Point: We can rely on God.

March 1, 2026 -A Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Key Verse: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." – John 3:17

The Point: The Holy Spirit brings us into God's kingdom.

March 8, 2026 Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Key Verse: "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." – John 4:14

The Point: Jesus gives us life through the Holy Spirit.

March 15, 2026 Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

First reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 **Key Verse:** "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." – John 9:5

The Point: Jesus brings light into the world.

March 22, 2026 Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Key Verse: Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." – John 11:25-26

The Point: Jesus gives us life.

March 29, 2026 Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11; 26:14–27:66

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Key Verse: The crowds that went ahead of [Jesus] and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

– Matthew 21:9

The Point: Jesus' last week starts with joy and ends with sadness.

Blessings,

Kathy Fazio, DCE



Whitnall Park Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026

ATTENDEES: Pastor Fazio, Adam Fiedler, Lisa Douglas, Connor McMahon, Rachel Vick, Pam Kobin

1. Opening Prayer - Pr. Fazio

- Pastor opened meeting in prayer at 6:33 PM

2. Treasurers/Finance Report - Lisa

- 2026 Budget Reviewed
- Full report available upon request

3. Pastor's Report - Pastor

- Written report submitted - available upon request

4. Christian Education Report - Kathy

- Refer to Monthly Leaf for updates and happenings

5. Committee Reports

a. Endowment - Pam/Pastor

- No updates

b. Worship and Music - Pastor

- Entering Lent Worship and music season.

c. Property - Connor

- Sanitary Backup Issue: The team is working to submit notice of claim to the village and is sending letters to immediate neighbors to gather more information and form a coalition to pursue a solution. We had our sewer laterals televised and recorded. The results proved that the issue is not within our private sewer lines. Some repairs were recommended to prevent future issues, estimated at \$3800.

d. Social Ministry - Adam

- \$289 raised from the Souper Bowl fundraiser

6. New Business

- Annual Meeting coming up on Sunday, March 1

7. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 24

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM with the Lord's Prayer



March 1st Annual Meeting

will be held following One Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. with light refreshments before the meeting at approx. 10:20 a.m.

****There will be not be Sunday School this day. Hope you can all attend! God Bless!***

Property Report – March, 2026

At our February property meeting we discussed our action items for continuing to coordinate a claim with the Village regarding the sewer backups we've experienced over the past 15-20 years.

- o We hired Sewer Ninjas to video inspect our three laterals on Feb 16th to document their current condition. The results show our laterals are in good shape with one small piece of original clay tile needing repair. This does not impede flow but should be repaired to prevent potential collapse. Cost is \$3,800. The technician noted that in his opinion, our laterals are not the cause of the backups we've had.
- o We've met with Emanuel Church who have had similar flooding issues. They are joining our effort to get resolutions to his ongoing problem. We're reaching out to our neighboring residents and businesses too.
- o We are following up with the Village for more information on the causes of their recent sewer blockages and what they propose to resolve the reoccurring issue.

Other News

- o Pat Suderland has started cleaning the wood church pews to remove the cloudy film residue you may have noticed on them. It's a two-step process and there are a lot of pews to do so she would appreciate any volunteers willing to help. Please talk to Pat.
- o John Just installed a new 3-bulb LED light on the roof of the church entrance to provide more light towards the parking lot. We're looking at other options to improve the lighting as needed.
- o Our flat roofs were inspected on Feb 18th by Schranz Roofing. We are waiting for their written findings and recommendations. In general, the inspector felt the roof membranes were in good condition, but I expect we'll at least need to replace the section above the front stairwell where we've had leaks.
- o Our fire extinguishers and emergency lights were inspected and serviced on Feb 19th.

Our next property meeting will be March 10th at 7 pm.

Thank you, *Larry Pfeil*

We're having a mid-winter activity of Bingo on Sat., March 7th from 2-4 pm.

It will be held in the lower level of church.

Please join us for fun and fellowship!

Bring a snack to share and beverages will be provided.

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for.

Thank you!

Hope to see you all there!!!



SOCIAL MINISTRY

The March 1st coffee break (prior to the Annual Meeting) and the March 29th coffee hour will benefit **Camp Hometown Heroes** and its free week-long overnight summer camp for children of fallen U.S. service members.

Outreach For Hope Lenten Devotions “Ashes to Alleluias: Stories and Songs of Hope”

To access the devotions, please view the OFH website address:

<https://www.outreachforhope.org/lent26>

Unity Lutheran Church is a warming center every night (7pm – 7am) through March to provide shelter for adults. Seasonal clothing and food donations are in need.

Clothing ministry: hooded sweatshirts, men's gloves, new men's gym socks, backpacks, men's belts, men's jeans (waist size 34 inches and lower), quilts, blankets, new underwear, shoes, shirts, sweaters, coats, boots, hygiene items (baby wipes, deodorant, foot powder, lotion, body wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes).

Food pantry: chicken soup, white rice, canned pasta / chicken / tuna, triscuits, canned fruit (apple sauce, peaches, pears), Knorr side dishes (rice / noodle), canned potatoes / pasta / mushrooms, olives (ripe / stuffed), condiments (ketchup / mustard / mayo).

Food and clothing donations will be delivered on **Tuesday, March 17th**.

CommUNITY meals are on the first and third Wednesday's of each month. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. Volunteers are needed to serve and / or clean-up on the first Wednesday's.

Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian coffee

Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee is available for purchase. There is the Christmas Traditions Blend (\$18 for 12 oz. bag), which combines 100% Mt. Meru premium Arabica coffee beans with the rich flavors of cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, and other spices. It's the perfect seasonal blend for drinking coffee with friends and family. There are also 4-pack (\$15) and 6-pack (\$20) samplers. Bags of flavored and unflavored regular and decaf coffee are available for \$12. The Mt. Meru Coffee Project celebrates the 25th anniversary of a ministry partnership with the coffee farmers. Their commitment to fair trade has driven significant growth for the nearly 1,000 farmers and their communities.

Spotlight on Camp Hometown Heroes

Offers free week-long overnight summer camp for children aged 7-17 years old of fallen U.S. service members. They have made the ultimate sacrifice of losing a loved one who served for our country for the freedoms we cherish each day. The camp provides them a healing process doing summer activities that brings them joy.

Annual Easter Brunch



You are all invited, Sunday, April 5th, 2026 from 9:30-10:30 am lower hall. We will be serving scrambled eggs, ham sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, pancakes, salads and desserts, along with coffee and juice. Donation of desserts are welcome. 12 yrs and older are \$6.00 per person, Children 11 yrs and under are free.



Sponsored by the Altar Guild

Scott Johnson, 03-02

Ron Hause, 03-02

Janel Oberheu, 03-03

Joanne Ciche, 03-03

Travis Brugger, 03-04

Trudy Lund, 03-05

Carolyn Mijokovic, 03-07

John Schwabe, 03-09

Donald Ross, 03-11

Lucas Rakow, 03-13

Kelly Brown, 03-14

Julia Sutton, 03-14

Ray Remington, 03-16

Mark Winiarski, 03-17



Nancy Sullivan, 03-17

Irene Bonnert, 03-18

Louise Roe, 03-21

Kurtis Kaempfer, 03-22

Debbie Schulte, 03-25

Justine Kaempfer, 03-27

Keith Jankowski, 03-27

Sarah Knier, 03-28

Ryan Sparacino, 03-28

Denise Jankowski, 03-29

Michelle Dietzler, 03-29

Noah Leon, 03-29

Kristin Hause, 03-30

Lucas Dietzler, 03-30

Marlys Boyer, 03-30

Jerrel Kruschke, 03-31

Dean and Melanie Strom, 03-16

Don and Bonnie Hareng, 03-16



Louise and John Roe, 03-19

Troy and Lisa Vande Yacht, 03-22

Christopher and Carrie Berg, 03-22

President: Adam Fiedler

Vice Pres: Connor McMahon

Treasurer & Finance:

Lisa Douglas

Secretary: Rachel Vick

Endowment: Matt Grubis



Email: council@wplchurch.org

Fellowship: Rev. Michael Fazio

Property: Connor McMahon

Director of Christian Education

Kathy Fazio

Worship & Music: Rev. Michael Fazio

2026 EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM — ORDER BY: Sunday, March 15th

QTY:	FLOWER CHOICE:	\$\$\$ AMOUNT:
_____	Easter Lily - 6.5" pot - \$12 ea.	_____
_____	Mums for the Easter cross—6.5 " pot - \$17 ea.	_____
_____	Tulips - varied colors - 6.5" pot - \$12 ea.	_____
_____	Azaleas - 6.5" pot - \$26 ea.	_____
_____	Reiger Begonias—\$20	_____
_____	Hydrangeas—\$30	_____

Make checks payable to: WPLC TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Flowers placed by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

(If no designation is filled in above, the bulletin insert will read as: "To The Glory of God")

For Office Use Only:
 Rec'd payment Y / N Rec'd by (initials) _____
 Check # _____ or Cash (amount) _____
 Received on (date) _____

EASTER CROSS OF FLOWERS 2026

ORDER BY SUN., MARCH 15th

All are welcome to take part in creating our beautiful **Easter Cross of Flowers** by ordering a plant to beautify the church sanctuary. Your flowers may be placed in honor of, or in memory of, someone...or they can be placed as a special blessing, or simply to add to the beauty of the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Please see the **Easter Flower Order Form** on bulletin board for plant choices. Submit your order forms to the church office or in the offering plate. Questions? Sharon Hause - 262-679-2161



Book Club

Monday, March 9th , 2026 3:00 pm at WPLC

Book discussion: The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman



In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes: together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. The friends might be septuagenarians, but they are cleverer than most. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?



Worship Services

Services are live streamed on YouTube. Recorded services are also available on YouTube. Worship bulletins for the most current services can be found on our website: www.wplchurch.org ~ under the publications tab.

<p>Sunday, March 1st *9:00 am* Assisting Minister ~ Doug Winter Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland Ushers ~ Jeff Dietz Acolyte ~ Camille Sutton</p>	<p>**One service only Followed by brief refreshments and Annual Meeting approx. 10:20 am</p>	<p>Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17</p>
<p>Sunday, March 8th * 8:30 am Assisting Minister~ Matthew Hembrook Altar Guild ~ Janel Oberheu Ushers ~ Dave Palmersheim Acolyte ~ Lauren Gollash</p>	<p>*10:30 am Assisting Minister~ Matt Hampel Altar Guild ~ Carol Becwar Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil Acolyte ~ Adelyn LeHouillier</p>	<p>Readings Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42</p>
<p>Sunday, March 15th *8:30 am Assisting Minister~ Laurie Sorvick Altar Guild ~ Linda Shea Ushers ~ Connor McMahon Acolyte ~ Zia Roe</p>	<p>*10:30 am Assisting Minister ~ Kris Laposki Altar Guild ~ Sandy Abraham Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil Acolyte ~ Ethan LeHouillier</p>	<p>Readings 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p>
<p>Sunday, March 22nd *8:30 am Assisting Minister~ Meg Sutton Altar Guild ~ Janel Oberheu Ushers ~ Adam Fiedler Acolyte ~ Natalie Sutton</p>	<p>*10:30 am Assisting Minister ~ Jennine Sonntag Altar Guild ~ Barb Meyrose Ushers ~ Jerry Rakow Acolyte ~ Levi Kratz</p>	<p>Readings Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45</p>
<p>Sunday, March 29th *8:30 am Assisting Minister~ Linda Shea Altar Guild ~Janel Oberheu Ushers ~ Noah Leon Acolyte ~ Soren Fiedler</p>	<p>*Palm Sunday* *10:30 am Assisting Minister~Matt Grubis Altar Guild ~ Elaine Johnson Ushers ~ Jeff Girard Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>Readings Matthew 21:1-11 Isaih 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Phillipians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14--27:66</p>





SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

9:00 am Worship Service
**No Sunday School today*
****Annual Meeting**
*approx 10:20 am***

**Following Worship & brief time for refreshments*

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND

TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD

9:00 am Dorcas

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH

Noon & 6:30 Midweek Worship

**Brown bag lunch following*

5:30 pm Soup Supper

7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

2 - 4 pm Bingo (lower level)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

3:00 pm Book Club

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

9:00 am Dorcas

7:00 pm Property Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH

Noon & 6:30pm Midwk Worship

**Brown bag Lunch following*

5:30 pm Soup Supper

7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 16TH

TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH

9:00 am Dorcas

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH

Noon & 6:30 pm Midweek Worship

**Brown bag lunch to follow*

5:30 pm Soup Supper

7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

9:00 am Dorcas

6:30 pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH

**Final Midweek Worship & Soup*

Noon & 6:30 pm Lenten Worship

**Brown bag lunch to follow*

5:30 pm Soup Supper

7:10 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 30TH

TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST

9:00 am Dorcas



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Wed. Soup Suppers will continue until March 25th, in the lead up to Palm Sunday. The meal starts at 5:30 pm and menu includes: soup, salad, relishes, dessert, milk and coffee.

Volunteer soup makers needed each week. Donations of dessert and salad are also appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. All are welcome to come enjoy the meal and fellowship. A free-will offering is requested of \$5 per person to help cover the cost of supplies. The remaining balance will be donated to Social Ministry. We hope you are able to join us during this Lenten season!

Church

Rummage

SALE AND BAKE SALE

May 1 & 2, 2026

WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners

Forest Home Ave at 105th (entrance to Whitnall Park)

**BOOKS • OUTDOOR
• HOUSEHOLD •
MEDIA • TOOLS
10,000s of ITEMS!!**

**Friday 8:00–5:00
Saturday 8:00–2:00**

ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

MAY 1-2, 2026

Time to gather up **your "STUFF"** for this year's SALE! We're looking forward to another successful sale...but please, remember—we need your help both setting up and selling. **Watch for signs to see how you can help.**

Flyers will be available at church for members to take and distribute throughout the communities. Think of places where the flyers could be posted...GREAT way to help.

Rummage donations may be brought in **starting Tuesday, April 6th** (check for church office hours prior to dropping off)...take your items downstairs near the elevator.

Bakery donations are always in BIG demand! Packaging & pricing will be done on Thursday, April 30th; if you need to bring bakery in earlier, check for Thursday evening "open" hours. Prepackaging is not necessary but certainly appreciated. Watch for sign-up sheets in Hornburg Hall to bake and help package, price, and sell.

Workers are needed—many helping hands make happy workers! Bring a neighbor; bring a friend. Watch for sign-up sheets for:

- ☞ Rummage organizing, pricing, cashiers, bagging, assisting customers, general security
- ☞ Bakery pre-packaging, pricing, selling, cashier

If you have any other questions, contact Pat Suderland 414-425-4647; Sharon Hause 262-679-2161; Priscilla Brugger 414-425-4824.

WANTED: Your STUFF!

Books! ★ Puzzles ★ Crafts/supplies ★ Wedding supplies ★ Party supplies ★ Pots&Pans ★ Office supplies ★ Radios ★ Small Appliances; crockpots, toaster ovens, etc ★ Dishes, Glasses, Household ★ Vintage/Antiques ★ Lamps ★ Tapes/Records/CDs ★ Kids' & Baby Items ★ Games ★ Sports Stuff ★ Tools of all kinds ★ Shovels/Gardening Tools ★ Hardware ★ Holiday ★ Art ★ Jewelry ★ Shoes ★ Bicycles ★ Camping Gear ★ Fishing ★ Desks ★ Cabinets—curio or others ★ Shelving ★ Chairs/Rockers/Stools ★ Tables ★ End Tables ★ Garage items ★ Outdoor Items... *What else do you have?*

We cannot accept the following items:

Items containing Freon, i.e. refrigerators, dehumidifiers, freezers. No kitchen stoves; computers; TVs; extra large heavy furniture (i.e. sofas, recliners, heavy upholstered chairs); beds are OK but no mattresses; cribs. NO clothing, please (shoes & purses—OK).

Questions? Ask Pat, Sharon or Priscilla

