St. James Lutheran Church Fourth Sunday of Lent March 30th, 2025



St. James Lutheran Church

Presiding Minister: Bryce Hewlett, SAM Assistant Minister: Tom Sladky Acolyte: Dex Hewlett Music Minister: Steve Abel Church Address: 1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722 Office Email: *stjamesbett@gmail.com* Church Office: 563-355-4161 Website: *www.stjamesbett.com*

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from St. James following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate. Welcome!

Children's Church for children takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after the *Prayer of the Day* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

You may find a simple prayer helpful, such as: "Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Lord, you see all things. I open my heart before you now."

P: Merciful God,

C: 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.**



GATHERING HYMN ELW 807 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing



GREETING

P: 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

P: Let us pray.

C: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated. Children are dismissed for children's church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 32 (read responsively)

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.
 - ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
 - ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
 - ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

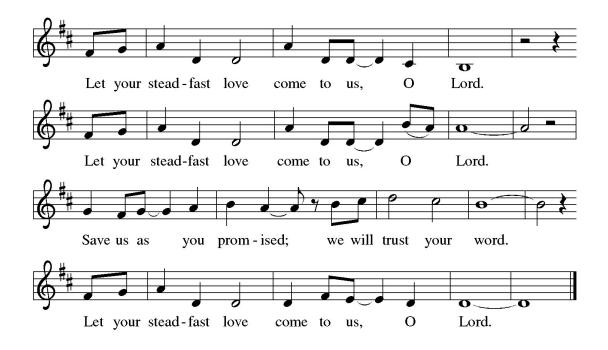
SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A: Word of God. Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." '²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

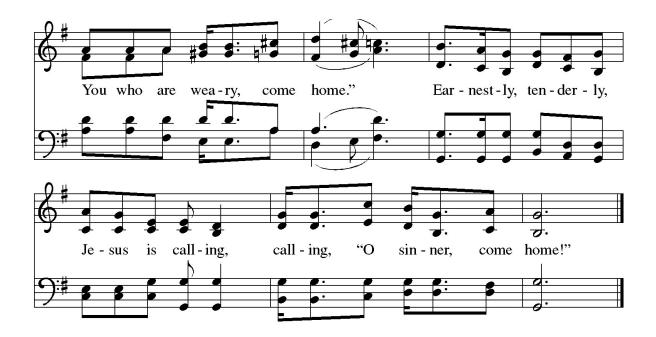
The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 608 Softly, Tenderly, Jesus is Calling





APOSTLES' CREED

A: With the whole church let us confess our faith.

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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.** *Pass the peace by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.*

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. We pray for peace and safety for the people of **Syria**, **Ukraine**, **and the Holy Land** who are in harm's way through no fault of their own. Keep safe first responders, especially those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony, Brandon, Eli, Nathan, and Samantha.** God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially Barry, Bev, Carol, Cathy, Connie, Donna, Dotty, Drew, Ed, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Joe, John, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Mark, Maggie, Michelle, Michelle, Minhon, Phil, Russ, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, Wally, and the Young Family. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

A: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all.

God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We give you thanks for **John Donne and Benedict**, whom we will commemorate* in the upcoming week. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

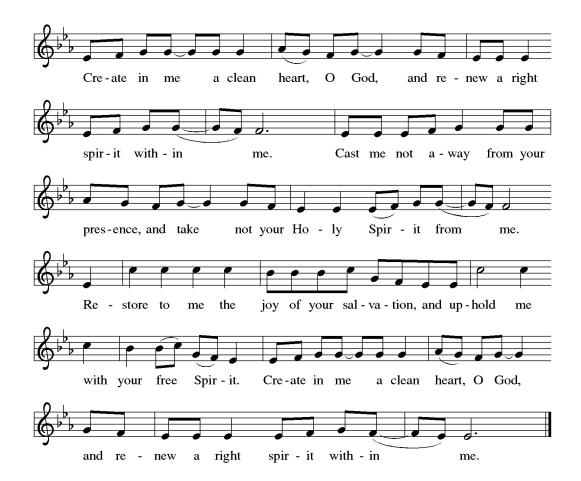
A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C: Amen.**

*See announcements for additional details.

<u>MEAL</u>

OFFERING: our offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

OFFERTORY: Create in Me a Clean Heart



Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

OFFERING PRAYER:

A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

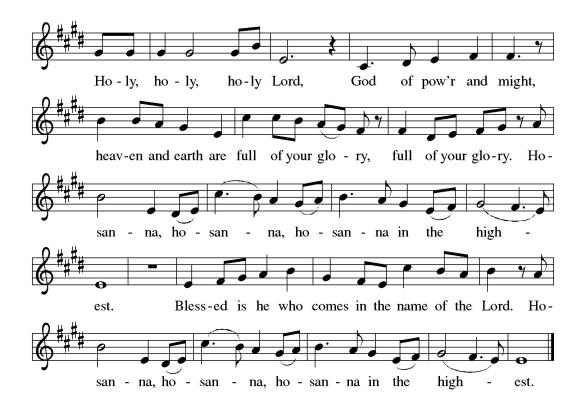
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures. with sun and moon and stars. we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

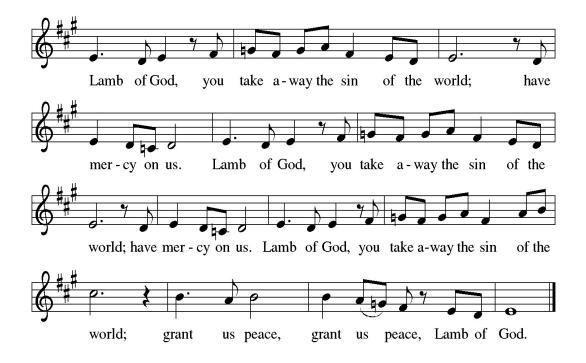
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome here. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is seated.

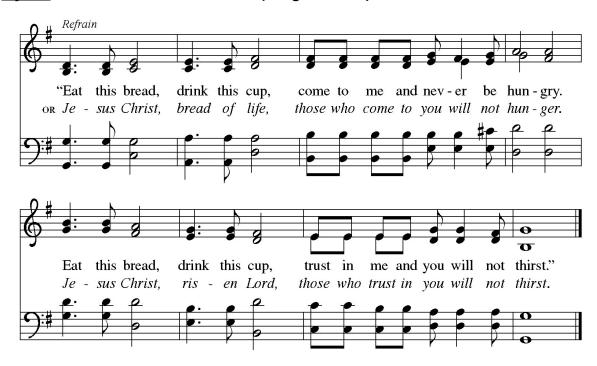
Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Hymn: Lamb of God



<u>COMMUNION HYMNS:</u> <u>Hymn</u>: ELW 779 Amazing Grace





Hymn: ELW 472 Eat this Bread (sing 3 times)

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

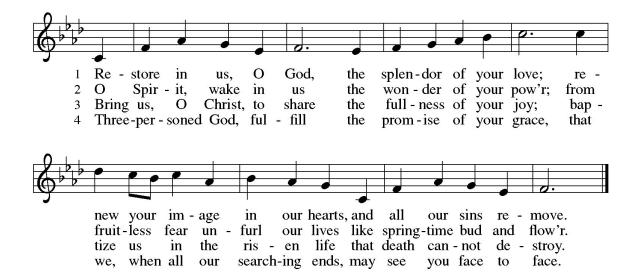
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 328 Restore in Us, O God



AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

P: Siblings in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ all the days of your life?

C: I will, and I ask God to help me.

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor. C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Brunch—There is a sign up sheet to attend the Easter Brunch located in the Narthex to help Fellowship plan how much food to provide. Brunch will be in between services on Easter, April 20th, at 10:00 a.m.

Swanson Scholarship—Attention High School Seniors that will be graduating in 2025: Any Senior church member that would like to be considered for the Swanson Scholarship should contact the church office for an application. All applications need to be submitted for consideration by March 31, 2025. The Swanson Scholarship Committee will review all applications and contact each applicant. If you have any questions please reach out to **Holly Garcia (563)-508-6673 or garciaholly3@gmail.com.**

Easter Egg Candy Collection—There is a basket in the Narthex to collect candy to fill Easter eggs! Candy will be collected until April 12th. If you have any questions, contact Dee Worley at ddworley54@gmail.com or Jason Forari at jmforari@msn.com.

April Adult Prayer and Learning Group:

Sign up sheets located in the Narthex.

April: A Trellis for the Christian Life: Spiritual Disciplines

Date: April 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., April 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

- Do spiritual disciplines border on works-based righteousness?
- What is the point of discipline when the big picture is love?

Resource Study: Philippians 3

Recommended Reading: *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster

Lenten Meal Schedule

4/2 - Site Committee and Christian Education **4/9** - Fellowship/Food Pantry and Council

Attendance last week:	Saturday Evening	23		
	Sunday Morning	56	YouTube	2

This week's birthdays:

- 3/30 Ed Arp
- 4/3 Reese Wendell
- 4/4 Heather Hogbin
- 4/5 Kelly Crooks
- 4/5 Jeff Hicks
- 4/5 Roberta Leder

There are no anniversaries this week.

The flowers now through Easter will be Easter Lilies.

The available dates in May to purchase flowers are: 5/4, 5/18.

YouTube Livestream

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

Youtube Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g_QWtn_l2SqpL5Q

Sermon Podcast on Spotify!

If you missed a Sunday, click the link below & listen to the sermon on Spotify

Please contact the church office if you need assistance accessing it!

Spotify Link: <u>https://open.spotify.com/show/2bmzh6HFSREErlSkUX5mlX?</u> <u>si=zG2ldhASSyCDYZi5QhDc1w</u>

*COMMEMORATIONS

John Donne, poet, died 1631 Monday, March 31, 2025

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 Friday, April 4, 2025

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

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Prayers for Healing and Support Congregational Members

 Ed Arp, Lynn Chamberlain, Bev Chappen, Sherry Germanio, Sandy Henry, Frieda Houldsworth, John Leder, LaVonne Mienke, Maggie Bayliss, Minhon Ridenour

Family and Friends

Barry (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), Carol (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Cathy (friend of Deb Crooks), Connie (friend of Maggie Bayliss), Dotty (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), Donna (Ed Arp's sister),
Drew (Pat Larson's friend), Hattie (Frieda's sister)
Jason (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son),
Joe (Janene's son-in-law), Konnor (Bert Leder's grandson), Mark (friend of Jason Forari), Michelle (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken),
Michelle (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari), Phil (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), Russ (friend of Steve & Sue Miller, husband to Chris),
Stan (relative of Frtiz Voss), Wally (Frieda's nephew), Young Family—especially Emmett, their son (friends of Diana Worley)

Military Personnel

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew) Lt. Col. Brandon Sandoval USAF (Pat Larson's grandson) CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson) Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend) Samantha Richard (friend of Larson family)

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

Worship Assistants

March 30

Presider Assisting Minister Acolyte Ushers YouTube Assistant Altar Guild Counters

April 6

Presider Assisting Minister Acolyte Ushers YouTube Assistant Altar Guild Counters

April 13

Presider Assisting Minister Acolyte Ushers YouTube Assistant Altar Guild Counters

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Tom Sladky Dex Hewlett Kelly Crooks & Ron Mekalson Deb Crooks Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley Tom Sladky & Kelly Wainwright

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Caroline Hicks Jude Hewlett Darryl Worley & Diana Worley Deb Crooks Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley Janet Brakel & Paul Brakel

9:00 AM Worship

Bryce Hewlett, SAM Janet Brakel Rilynne Larson & Carter Royse Jerry & Yvonne Nichols Deb Crooks Mary Meumann & Pat Larson Janet & Paul Brakel

<u>Notes</u>

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3/30 9AM Worship 10:15AM Friendly Visitor's Mtg.	3/31	1	2 5:45PM Lenten Meal 7PM Holden Service 6-8PM Food Pantry	3 9-11AM Food Pantry	4	5 5:00PM Saturday Service
6 9AM Worship	7 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship 4PM Social Ministry Meeting	8 4PM Property Mtg.	9 2PM Prayer & Learning Group 4PM Christian Ed. Mtg. 5:45PM Lenten Meal , 7PM Holden Service 6-8PM Food Pantry	10 9-11AM Food Pantry 6PM Prayer & Learning Group	11	12 NO Saturday Service
13 9AM Worship—Palm Sunday 10:15AM Coffee & Conversation	14 1PM Finance Mtg. 7PM Holy Monday Vigil	15 7PM Holy Tuesday Vigil	16 6-8PM Food Pantry 7PM Holy Wednesday Vigil	17 9-11AM Food Pantry 7PM Maundy Thursday Service	18 7PM Good Friday Service	19 NO Saturday Service 7PM Saturday Easter Vigil
20 9AM Easter Service 10AM Brunch 10:30AM Egg Hunt 11AM Easter Service	21 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship	22 12-4PM Quilting	23 6-8PM Food Pantry	24 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG	25	26 5:00PM Saturday Service
27 9AM Worship	28	29 1PM Sarah Circle (Date change in honor of Holy Week)	30 6-8PM Food Pantry	5/1 9-11AM Food Pantry	5/2	5/3 5:00PM Saturday Service