## St. James Lutheran Church Fifth Sunday of Lent April 6th, 2025



## St. James Lutheran Church

Presiding Minister: Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assistant Minister: Caroline Hicks

Acolyte: Jude Hewlett Organist: Linda Gross

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.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

#### **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.

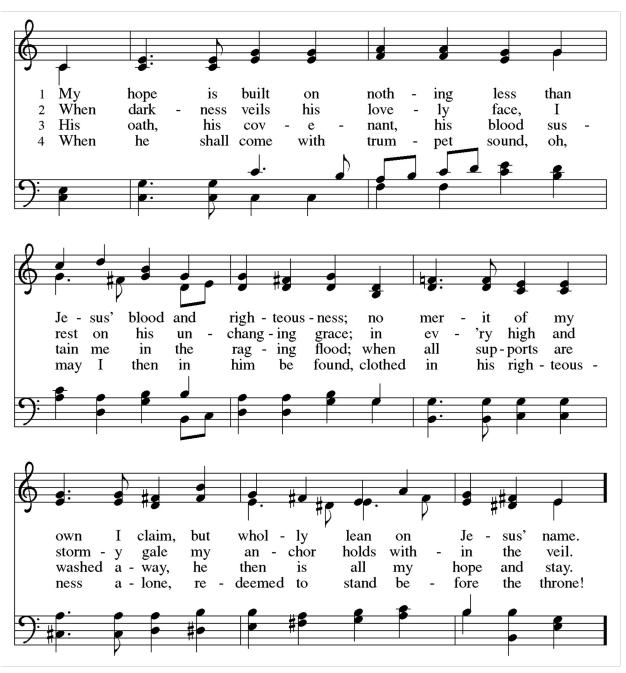
I have called you by name. You are mine."

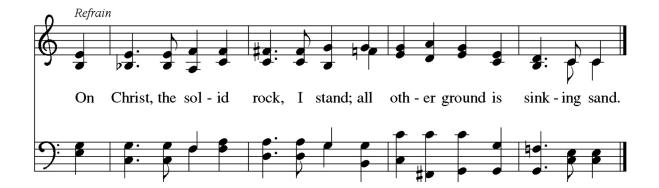
In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

## **GATHERING HYMN** ELW 597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less





#### **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: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me. the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert. to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

## PSALMODY: Psalm 126 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

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

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
- <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- <sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## **SECOND READING** Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

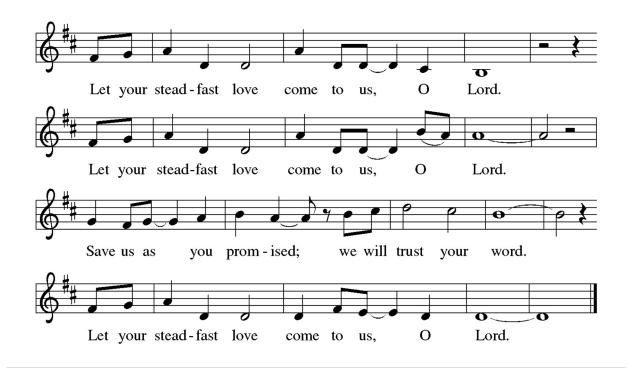
<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 St. John 12:1-8

## C: Glory to you, O Lord.

- <sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"

<sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.** 

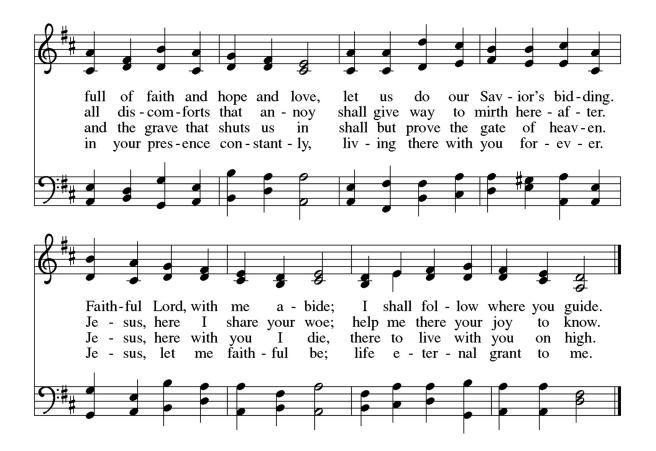
The assembly is seated.

#### **SERMON**

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 802 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus





## **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: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.** 

A: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.** 

A: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need, 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. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

A: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities.

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: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel, especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.** 

A: The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, especially **Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Mikael Agricola**, whom we will commemorate\* in the upcoming week. We trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. 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.** 

## **MEAL**

**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.

<sup>\*</sup>See announcements for additional details.

## **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**

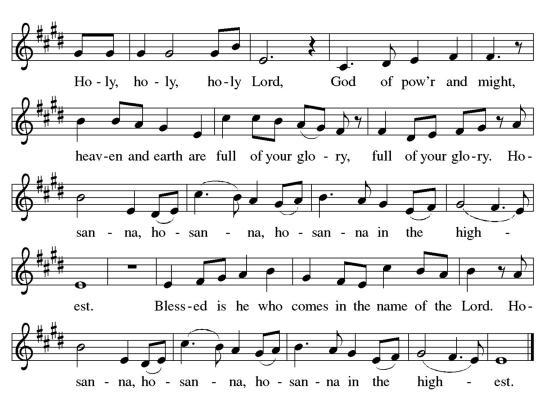
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

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 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.

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**

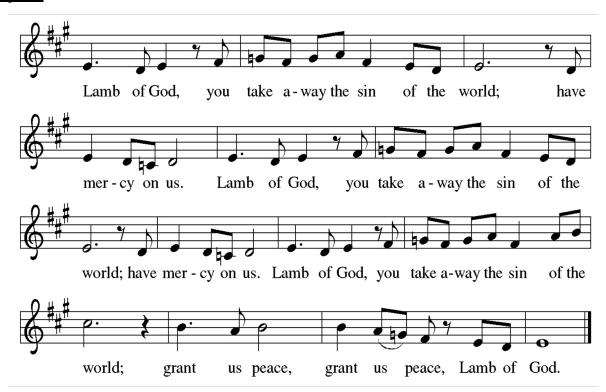
P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

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

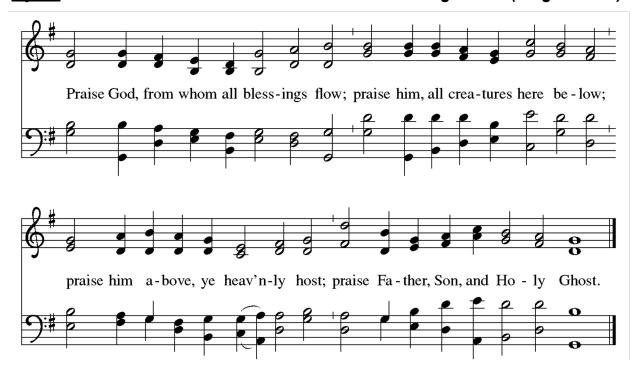


#### **COMMUNION HYMNS:**

## Hymn: ELW 515 Break Now the Bread of Life



## Hymn: ELW 884 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (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.

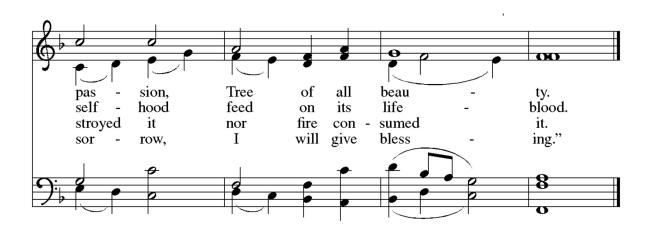
## **SENDING BLESSING**

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  $\oplus$  give you peace.

C: Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN: ELW 342 There in God's Garden





#### **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. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

April 12th—No Saturday Service. Please join us Sunday for Palm Sunday!

<u>April 13th</u>—10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation. This is an intentional time for conversation and prayer facilitated by me (Bryce) to discuss current events and cultural trends. No sign-up required. All are welcome.

April 13th—Palm Sunday
—St. James invites all kids to join the Palm Sunday
Procession on Sunday, April 13th. Meet in the narthex at 8:50 AM to receive
your palms. Then follow Bryce as you enter the sanctuary waving your palm
branches in remembrance of the triumphal day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a
donkey as the people shouted, "Hosanna in the highest."

<u>Easter Brunch</u>—There is a sign up sheet to attend the Easter Brunch located in the Narthex to help Fellowship plan how much food to provide—please indicate how many people in your family/group will be attending. Brunch will be in between services on Easter, April 20th, at 10:00 a.m.

<u>Easter Egg Candy Collection</u>—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.

May 4th—10:15AM Assistant Minister Training. This is a training session for current Assisting Ministers and all interested in becoming an Assistant Minister! In addition to Assisting Ministers, we would like to add the role of a Reader each week. Anyone interested in becoming a Reader but not an Assisting Minister, please contact Janet Brakel at Janetjbrakel@ameritech.net

#### **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

## **Last Lenten Meal:**

4/9 - Fellowship/Food Pantry and Council

Attendance last week: Saturday Evening 21

Sunday Morning 62 YouTube 4

This week's birthday:

4/6 Myrna Mattly

This week's anniversaries:

4/9 Jeff & Caroline Hicks

4/12 Sue & Steve Miller I

The flowers now through Easter will be Easter Lilies.

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

#### \*COMMEMORATIONS

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945 Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

## Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557 Thursday, April 10, 2025

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

#### 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: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g\_QWtn\_I2SqpL5Q">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g\_QWtn\_I2SqpL5Q</a>

## 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.

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## **Worship Assistants**

9:00 AM Worship

April 6

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assisting Minister Caroline Hicks
Acolyte Jude Hewlett

Ushers Darryl Worley & Diana Worley

YouTube Assistant Deb Crooks

Altar Guild Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley
Counters Janet Brakel & Paul Brakel

April 13 (Palm Sunday) 9:00 AM Worship

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assisting Minister Dee Worley

Acolyte Rilynne Larson & Carter Royse

Ushers Jerry & Yvonne Nichols YouTube Assistant Deb Crooks

Altar Guild Mary Meumann & Pat Larson

Counters Janet & Paul Brakel

April 20 (Easter) 9:00 AM Worship
Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM

Assisting Minister Janet Brakel / Mary Meumann (Reader)

Acolytes Edi Southwell & Velvet Collison Ushers Ron Mekalson & Kelly Crooks

YouTube Assistant Deb Crooks

Altar Guild Pat Larson & Mary Meumann

Counters Janet & Paul Brakel

April 20 (Easter) 11:00 AM Worship

Presider Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Assisting Minister Needed / Needed
Acolytes Jude & Dex Hewlett

Ushers Needed
YouTube Assistant Deb Crooks

## **April / May 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9AM Worship	7 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	9-11AM Food Pantry 6PM Prayer & Learning Group	11	12 NO Saturday Service
13 9AM Worship—Palm Sunday 10:15AM Coffee & Conversation	14 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship 1PM Finance Mtg. 7PM Holy Monday Vigil	15 7PM Holy Tuesday Vigil	16 6-8PM Food Pantry 7PM Holy Wednesday Vigil	9-11AM Food Pantry  7PM Maundy Thursday Service	18 12PM Stations of the Cross 7PM Good Friday Service	19 NO Saturday Service 7PM Saturday Easter Vigil
H O L Y W E E K						
20 9AM Easter Service 10AM Brunch 10:30AM Egg Hunt 11AM Easter Service	21	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 10AM Council Mtg.	28 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship	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
5/4 9AM Worship 10:15AM Assistant Minister Training	5/5	5/6	5/7 6PM-7PM Kaylee and Noa Recital 6-8PM Food Pantry	5/8 9-11AM Food Pantry	5/9	5/10 5:00PM Saturday Service