

Third Sunday in Lent



Always Present, Always Patient

Lord of Love Lutheran ChurchWisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent's Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However, there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – The offerings gathered this morning supports the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give but certainly may if you wish.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or other congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

Explanation of the theme of the day: The heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it's only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgement that would otherwise be ours.

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

March 23, 2025

THE COMMON SERVICE

OPENING HYMN (CW 116)

In the Hour of Trial



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Tune: St. Mary Magdalene (65 65 D) John B. Dykes, 1823-76.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

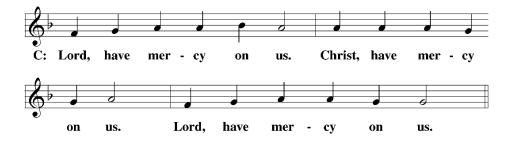


CONFESSION OF SINS

- **M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

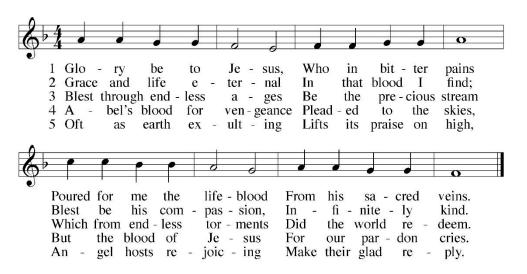


M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian hymn, 18th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN (65 65) Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Exodus 3:1-15

PASTOR: Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. ³ So he said, "I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!" Moses said, "I am here."

MEN: ⁵ The LORD said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He then said, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

ALL: ⁷ The LORD said, "I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now indeed, the Israelites' cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

WOMEN: ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² So he said, "I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

ALL: ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I say to them?" ¹⁴ So God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He also said, "You will say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." ¹⁵ God also told Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.'

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, ² and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly." 8 And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. ⁹ Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come. 12 So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Text: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872, alt.

Tune: MALDWYN (11 11 11 11) Welsh melody, 17th century.

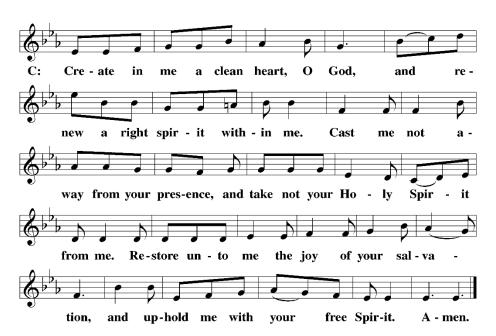
SERMON Luke 13:1-9

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² He answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³ I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too."

⁶ He told them this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?' ⁸ But the gardener replied to him, 'Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹ If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.'"

Better a Fruit-Producer than a Fruit-Inspector

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



GATHERING OF THE THANK-OFFERING

While the offering is being collected, please sign and pass the Friendship Register.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Merciful Lord, you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, guard your people against immorality. Grant that our homes would be havens of godly instruction and chastity, and fill marriages with fidelity and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, protect us when we are tempted. Guard us especially from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that you provide the way of escape. Strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until you deliver us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, remember your people who cry to you for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, and strengthen them to look to you for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, through the abundance of your steadfast love you gather us into your house and to your Supper. Give all who commune this day a holy fear of your wrath and faith in your promises, that they would receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of life, you have brought us into your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for your patience, and grant that we would show your love and grace in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.

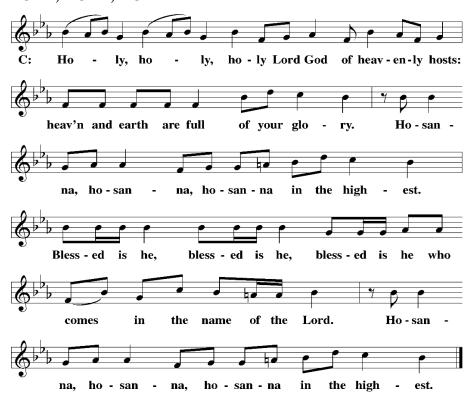


M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



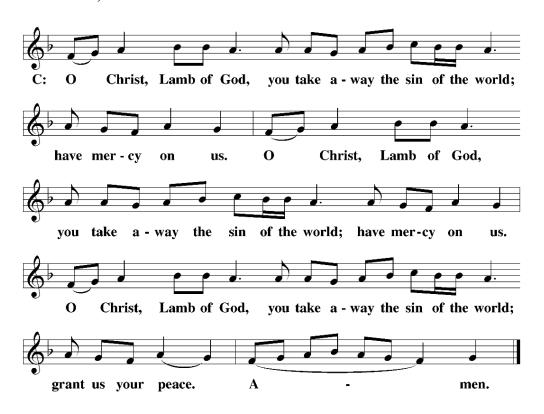
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.





BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

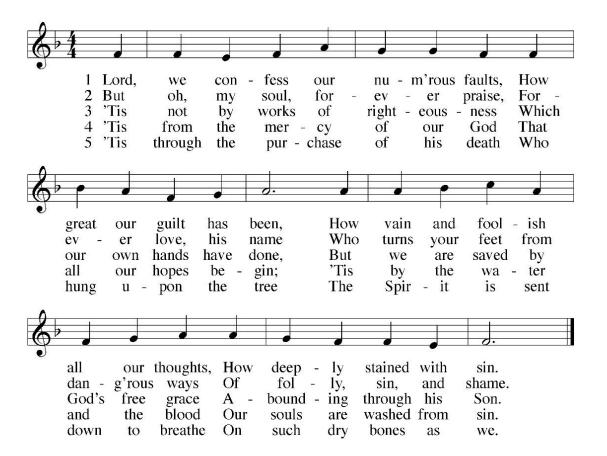




- 6 When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands; He who by grace the Word believes Forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.
- 7 Praise God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One, As was, is now, and so shall be Forever and eternally!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Tune: St. Luke (LM) Jeremiah Clarke, 1674-1707.



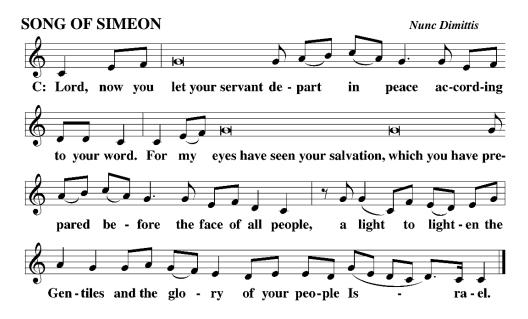
6 Raised from the dead, we live anew; And, justified by grace, We shall appear in glory, too, And see our Father's face.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

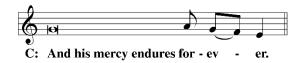
Tune: St. Flavian (CM) The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1562, alt.

THANKSGIVING

STAND



M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN (CW 331)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, st. 1; William Williams, st. 2-3. Tune: GUIDE ME (87 87 47) George W. Warren, 1828–1902.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Gluten Free communion wafers: Gluten free communion wafers are available during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you would prefer this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar.

Weekly Bible Studies

Sunday 9:15 am: Exodus, *sanctuary*

Tuesday 9:00 am: Kings and Prophets of Israel, lower level

<u>Wednesday 6:30 pm:</u> Gospel Motivation, lower level Thursday 6:30 pm: Christian Doctrine, lower level

Friday 6:00 am: Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Hebrews

DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

Sunday March 23rd: Third Sunday in Lent

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman/Elder: 8:00: Mitch Myhre, 10:30: Dave Olson
- Ushers 8:00: Roger and Lucas LaGrange
- Ushers 10:30: Dave and Ben Olson
- Counters: Sharon Kalscheuer and Donna Cotter
- Altar Guild: Bonnie Punzel and Reagan Oughton
- A/V & Recording: RaeLyn Parker
- Refreshments: Sue Jenswold

Sunday March 30th: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman/Elder: 8:00: Jim Miller, 10:30: Steve Kalscheuer
- Ushers 8:00: Mike Wilson and Ken Krey
- Ushers 10:30: Ryan and Anna Jaeger
- Counters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Altar Guild: Bonnie Punzel and Reagan Oughton
- A/V & Recording: Julie Doyle
- Refreshments: Volunteer(s) Needed

<u>Happy Birthday</u> We wish God's blessings to Kassandra Bartosch (3/23), Ron Fredrick (3/23), Matt Gotzion (3/23), Anka Kopplin (3/23), Mackenzie Johnson (3/25), Cameron Vinson (3/25), Paul Weinheimer (3/25), Greg Zeman (3/25), Ashley Natysin (3/27), and Benjamin Pluim (3/28) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, and Steve Tobison, who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE

March 26, April 2, 9: Lenten Potluck Dinners | 5:30 pm – Fellowship Hall

March 26, April 2, 9: Lent Worship at 3:30 and 6:30 pm

March 23 – April 13: Annual Christian Book Fair | Fellowship Hall

April 18: Easter Altar Flowers Collection Ends

April 19: Easter Egg Hunt | 10:00 am

April 20: Easter Breakfast | 9:15 am – Lower Level

<u>Lent Potluck Dinners:</u> All are welcome to join us for dinner each Wednesday at 5:30 pm during Lent. Bring a dish to share and stay for the 6:30 pm Lent Service.

<u>Chili Cook-off April 9:</u> Once again this year we will be hosting our annal Chili Cook-off Challenge! If you would like to enter your favorite chili recipe, please sign up. There are also additional items to sign up to bring if you do not want to enter the chili challenge. For more information, please contact Jen Olson.

Note to Sunday School Parents:

The Sunday School children have been busy working on a song that they will be singing with the Senior Choir at the beginning of both services on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Please have the children arrive at church by 7:40 a.m. for a final rehearsal upstairs in the worship area. If you have any questions, please see Elaine Wilson, or contact her at 608-692-9830 or ewilson4519@gmail.com.

2025/26 School Year Enrollment:

As we prepare for the 2025/26 academic year, we kindly ask families to let us know if their children are currently or plan to enroll at one of our sister congregation schools. Your response will help us make important budgeting decisions. Please call or email Kristin at lockurchoffice@gmail.com or 608.846.9036.

Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

Easter Egg Hunt | April 19, 10:00 am - 11:00 am:

We are looking for helping hands to make our church's Easter Egg Hunt a fun and enjoyable event for our community! If you are available to assist with setup, hiding eggs, guiding families and children, supervising activity/craft station or cleanup, we'd love to have you join us. This is wonderful opportunity to bless the children in our community and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Jesus said. "Let the little children come to me." (Matthew 19:14), and this event is a beautiful way to do just that! If you are willing to serve, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. For questions see Anka Kopplin or Lisa Myhre.

Easter Altar Flowers:

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we invite you to help beautify our church altar with Easter flowers. Your generous donations of potted lilies, tulips, daffodils or other spring blooms will add to the joy and reverence of our Easter Services. As Pastor says, "There can never be too many flowers!" If you prefer to donate there are envelopes available on the back table. Please have all flowers at the church by Friday April 18, so our altar guild can prepare the altar. Thank you for helping us create a beautiful space to worship and rejoice in Christ's victory over the grave!

Easter Breakfast | April 20 9:15 am:

All are invited to come be part of a joyful morning of fellowship and service as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior! We need volunteers to help with setting up, preparing food, serving, and cleaning up for our Easter breakfast. Your helping hands will make this a special time for our church family! If you are willing to serve, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Paul or Cindy Crary.

<u>Annual Christian Book Fair | March 23 – April 13 - Come be Inspired!</u>

Join us for our Annual Christian Book Fair, where you'll find a wonderful selection of books to strengthen your faith, deepen your understanding of God's Word and encourage spiritual growth. From Bibles and devotionals to Christian living and children's books, there is something for everyone! Come browse the selection in the fellowship hall. Please see Tess Weinheimer with questions.

Lent services continue each Wednesday. 3:30 & 6:30 pm March 26, April 2, 9

Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm

Lent Services: "Behold! The Hidden Glory of the Cross!"

March 26

Pastor Joel Jenswold – Lord of Love "It is Hidden in the Savior's Stumbling"

April 2

Pastor Scott Schwertfeger – Zion, Leeds "It is Hidden in the Savior's Sighs"

April 9

Pastor Joel Jenswold – Lord of Love "It is Hidden in Powerful Words"



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Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday.
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122:1



Today's 8:00 service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament. Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.