

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Grace Instead of Condemnation

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 – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but 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 another congregation 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: We assume people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. Those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father who has eagerly longed for our return. When we do, he takes us in his loving arms and assures us we are still his child. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

March 30, 2025

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN (CW 108)

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.
Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt.

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

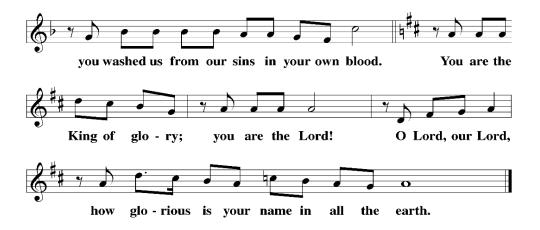


M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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 Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say: I will give thanks to you, LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me.² Surely God is my salvation. I will trust him and will not be afraid, because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. ³ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name. Declare among the peoples what he has done. Proclaim that his name is exalted! ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth! ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

SECOND LESSON Romans 8:1-10

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴ so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵ To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶ Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

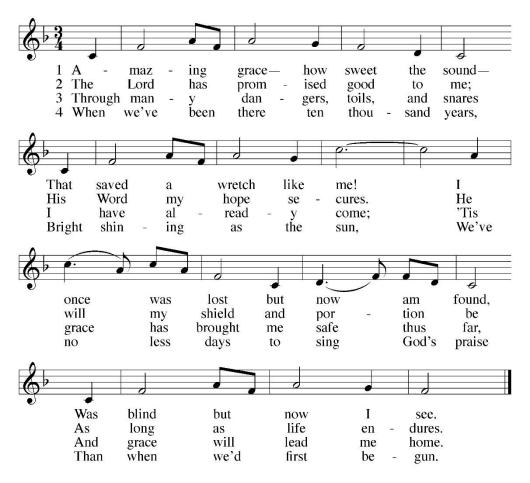
⁹ But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

M: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward and sit on the chancel steps for a brief children's message.



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4. Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'

²⁰ "He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant told him, 'Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

³ He told them this parable:

²⁹ "He answered his father, 'Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³² But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.'"

This Man Welcomes Sinners and Eats with Them!

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.

GATHERING OF THANK OFFERING

During the gathering of the offering, please sign the Friendship Register.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against you, and justify us with your holy absolution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to pastors every good gift as your ambassadors that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of mercy, remember your baptized children who have left your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, watch over our nation and all whom you have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to you for mercy. Deliver them according to your will and keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, who visits us this day with his body and blood! Give to all who partake of this Holy Communion penitent hearts to receive Christ Jesus as our strength and salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.

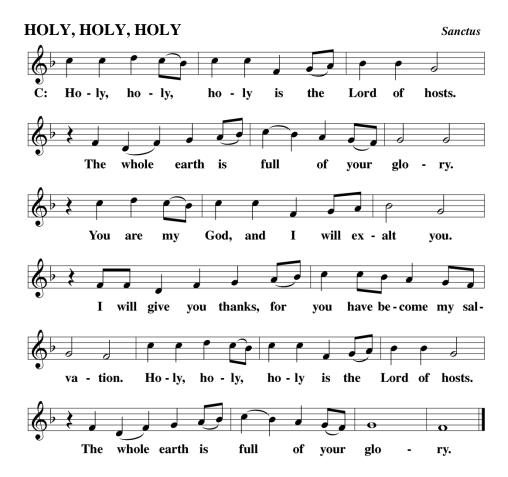


M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:



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."

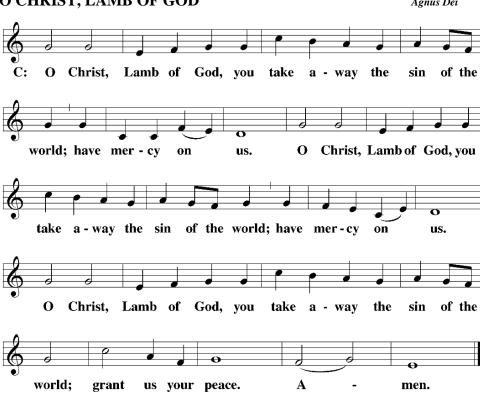
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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



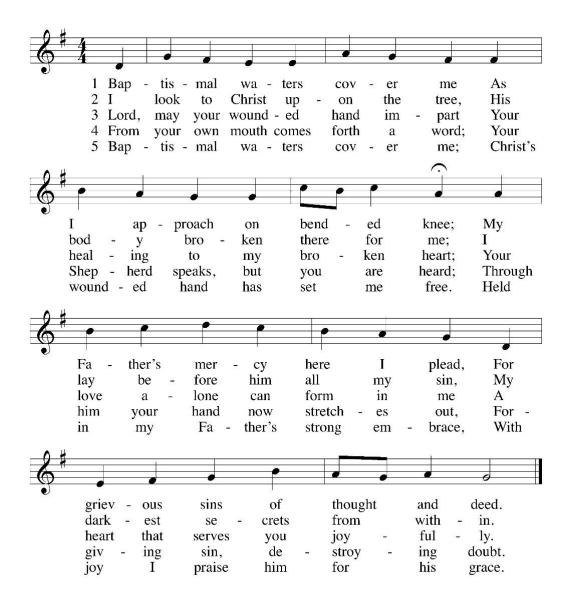


Agnus Dei



BE SEATED





The vital relationship between Holy Baptism and daily repentance and absolution is vividly described in this hymn.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969 © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: KATY (88 88) Kermit Moldenhauer, b. 1949 © 2005 Kermit Moldenhauer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.

Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857.

THANKSGIVING

STAND

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 304:6-7)

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

Oh, how blest it is to know, Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow By your blood and bitter passion, For these words I do believe -Jesus sinners does receive. Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven. And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to him I cleave – Jesus sinners does receive. Service of Word and Sacrament and Personal Prayers for Worship © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org
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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 each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you require 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 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: The LaGrange Family

Sunday April 6th: Fifth 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: Shane Strong, 10:30: Phil Boll
- Ushers 8:00: Steven and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30: The Holzman Family
- Counters: Roger LaGrange and Greg Zeman
- Altar Guild: Kristin Huebner and Sophia Strong
- A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson
- Refreshments: Volunteer(s) Needed

Happy Birthday We wish God's blessings to Kevin Hill as he celebrates his birthday 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

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

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

April 30 – 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

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.

Dr. Arthur Eggert - Class announcement:

At the time of Martin Luther, people regarded God as being both awesome and scary because he could cause people to die suddenly and then send them to hell for seemingly unknown reasons. Today, many people have reduced their "God" to a size where they can put him into their hall closet next to their umbrella so he will be available in case of emergencies, i.e., bad spiritual weather. The Lord God of the Bible cannot be so condensed. In a 4-week course Dr. Arthur Eggert will discuss in some depth the incredible attributes of the LORD in the areas of his power, his presence, his glory, and his jealousy. The course will be taught in two parallel sessions, one at 6:30 pm on Tuesday evenings beginning April 22 at Eastside Lutheran in Madison, and the other at 1:30 pm Wednesday afternoons beginning April 23 at Lord of Love Lutheran in DeForest. The sessions will be 60 minutes long. If you cannot attend in person, you can view the video sessions of the course later. To register for the class, please see the Online Classes page of the In Terra Pax website www.interrapaxlp.com. Please register early so enough handouts can be prepared. There is no fee for the class. Information, class notes, and videos will be updated on this website on a weekly basis. There is no book for the class; the readings will be posted on the website.

Fireside Theater Group Outing

The Fellowship Group is planning a group outing to the Fireside Theater in Fort Atkinson to see *The Last Potluck Supper* on June 21st. We will carpool and leave the church parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and plan to arrive at the Fireside at 10:30 a.m., with time to browse through the shops, perhaps enjoy one of their specialty beverages, and then enjoy a wonderful lunch with your choice of four different entrées. The show begins at 1:30 p.m. The discounted group rate is \$83.00 per ticket, which includes your meal with coffee, tea and milk (including tip), and the show. We have 16 tickets reserved, so please sign up on the sheet in the entryway if you are interested in attending this fun outing. If you have questions, please see Elaine Wilson or Donna Cotter.

Easter Egg Hunt | April 19, 10:00 am – 11:00 am (set up at 8:30 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.

Annual Christian Book Fair | Ongoing until April 13 - Come be Inspired!

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 April 2, 9

Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm

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

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"

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday – April 17

6:30 pm - Communion

Good Friday - April 18

1:00 pm

6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – April 20

8:00 am

10:30 am

(Easter Breakfast served between services at 9:15 am)



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Pastor Joel Jenswold pr.jenswold@gmail.com Cell phone: 608-572-1654

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.