PRINITY LUTHERAN CHURC

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LENT

2023

MARCH 26,

810 FAIRFAX STREET EPHENS CITY, VA **PRELUDE** Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word Paul Manz (1919-2009)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

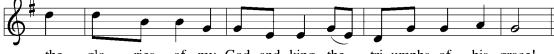
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING SONG vs. 1,4,5,6 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem er's
- My gra cious Mas ter my God, as - sist me and to pro - claim,
- Je sus charms our fears and bids our The name of sor - rows cease,
- He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



glo - ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name. in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace. sings mu - sic mourn - ful, bro-ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Diann Dailey

A reading from Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GoD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GoD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 130 read responsively

Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²O LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

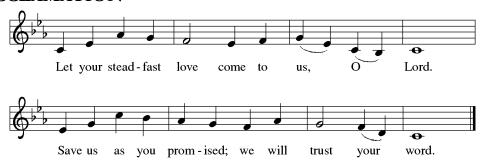
SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,

but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor JMe Lowden

SERMON Pastor JMe Lowden



Text: African American spiritual Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Those making affirmation may gather at the font. They may be joined by others from the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ. Today we come with them before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Nikki, Alice, Barbara, Pat, Earl and others we name now *(worshippers may add names silently or aloud)*. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation (*specific ensembles may be named*) and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

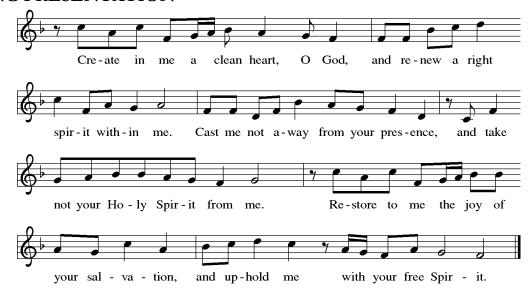
OFFERING

Given for You Williams, Nolan

Trinity Choir

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

OFFERING PRESENTATION



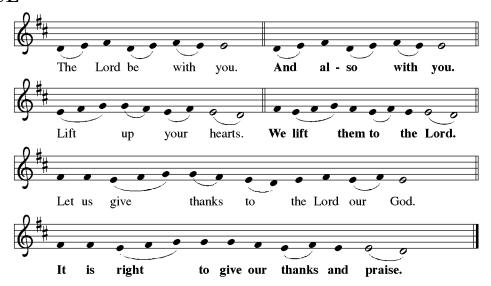
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 $Latheran\,Book\,of\,Worship$, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

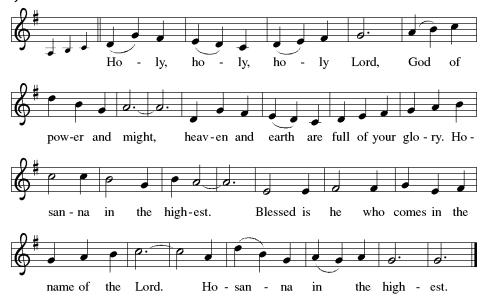
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right.... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

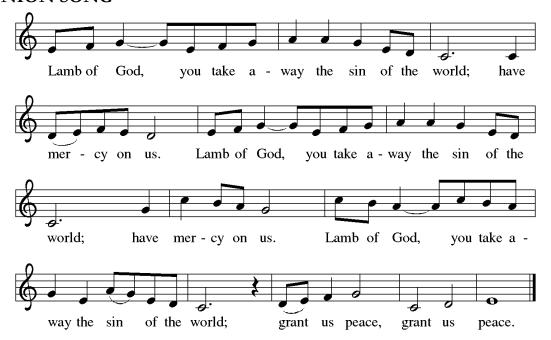
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Then you may partake.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.



COMMUNION SONG



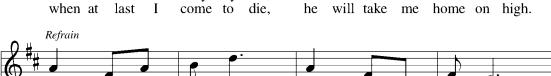
HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW 595











Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

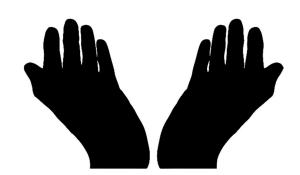


Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

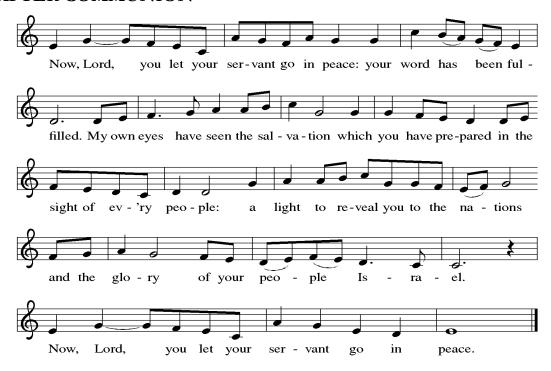
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

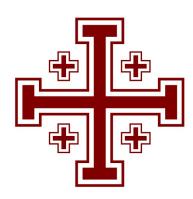
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

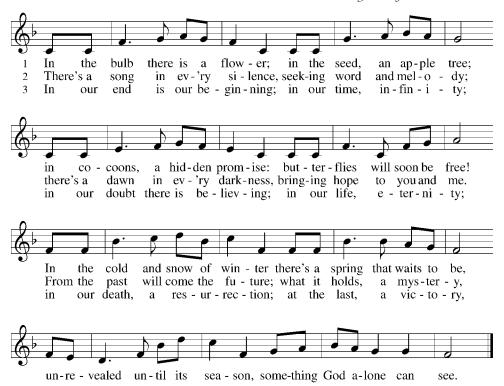
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.



SENDING SONG

In the Bulb There Is a Flower/Hymn of Promise



Text: Natalie Sleeth

Music: HYMN OF PROMISE, Natalie Sleeth

Text and music $\ensuremath{\mathbb{O}}$ 1986 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee Johann Kirnberger (1721-1783)

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Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US (Washington D.C)

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/

TRENDING @ TRINITY

This final Wednesday in Lent before Holy Week our soup supper is replaced at 5:30PM by the community meal followed by a service of compline, or night prayers. The sign-up list to provide portions of the community meal is in the Parish Hall. Menu is chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert. The service will be on Facebook and available through Zoom using ID: 835 4600 6243 Passcode 402877



Saturday April 1, (no foolin') there will be a craft sale here at Trinity. Additionally, the Sewing for the Savior group will have lap quilts for sale, the Lutheran Church Women will have a bake sale and the council will be selling country ham sandwiches to-go.

HOLY WEEK AT TRINITY

Palm Sunday weather permitting we will begin worship outdoors, in the upper parking lot at the corner of Main and Fairfax. We will process along Fairfax and enter the church from the "old" front doors.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, Trinity will Walk Through Holy Week with Jesus. During Palm Sunday worship you will experience Jesus on Palm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Throughout the week a special Stations of the Cross will be available to all. The stations are artwork done by artist Mary Button looking at the stations through the eyes of immigrants. There will be booklets available to guide you. (The church office is open Monday through Thursday 8AM-1PM, but if you have the code to the door, you are welcome to come at any time.)

To complete the walk through Holy Week, Trinity will have a Maundy Thursday service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7PM. Good Friday Tenebrae:diminishing light will also be at 7PM.

Easter Breakfast You are invited to share breakfast on Easter morning (April 9) from 8:00 - 9:00 am with the Trinity family. We plan to serve homemade egg casseroles, bagels, coffee cake, juice and coffee. The breakfast will be open to the community as well as Trinity members and guests. If you can make and bake a 9x13 egg casserole (your favorite recipe) or a coffee cake (or other sweet), please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your item(s) baked and ready to serve to the kitchen Easter morning by 8:00 am.

Easter worship will follow the breakfast at 9:30AM.

APRIL

Calendar

Choir meets each Thursday at 5:45PM

- 1-Spring Craft and Bake sale, 9AM-3PM
- 2- Palm Sunday worship 9:30AM, begin outdoors

Stations of the Cross will be up though the church through the week for prayer

Feel free to come by during office hours (or at your convenience if you have the door code)

- 2-8- Parish Hall occupied with food distribution preparation
- 6-Maundy Thursday worship 7PM
- 7-Good Friday worship 7PM
- 8-Food distribution
- 9-Easter: breakfast 8AM, worship 9:30AM
- 10-Church office closed
- 11-Sewing for the Savior, 9:30AM, room 204 Lutheran Church Women, 11AM, parish hall
- 16-Noisy Offering Sunday, donations go to The Red Wagon
- 25-Sewing for the Savior, 9:30AM, room 204
- 26-Community meal ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, dessert

Birthdays

- 5-Jacob Carroll
- 6-Anne Vermillion
- 7-Charles Koontz
- 14-Helen Pyne
- 26-Junaita Fertig
- 29-Emily Patterson

