



The Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: **To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.**

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

771

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove; join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love,
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy
hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P The word is near you,

C on your lips and in your heart.

P If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

(*Romans 10*)

+ SCRIPTURE SONG



Sal-va-tion be-logs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

CHOR

Old Rugged Cross

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the **Lord** commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the **Lord**?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the **Lord**, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The **Lord** said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the **Lord**, saying, "Is the **Lord** among us or not?"

PSALM 95

P ¹ Come, let us sing to the **LORD**;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
C ² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
P ³ For you, **LORD**, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
C ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
P ⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
C ⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
P ⁷ For the **LORD** is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
C ⁸ **"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
P ⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
C ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
P ¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God ⁹ proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+ THE GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me

and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

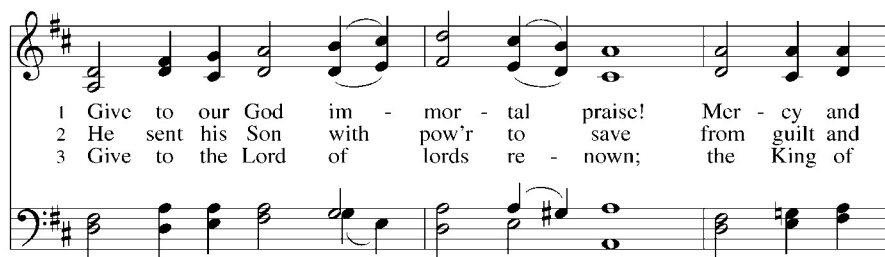
SERMON

Pastor Francis

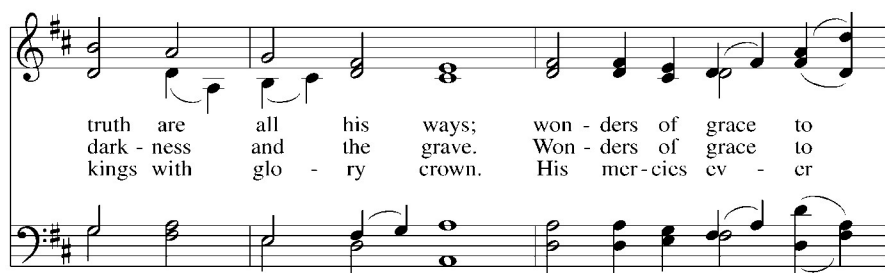
SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY *Give to Our God Immortal Praise*

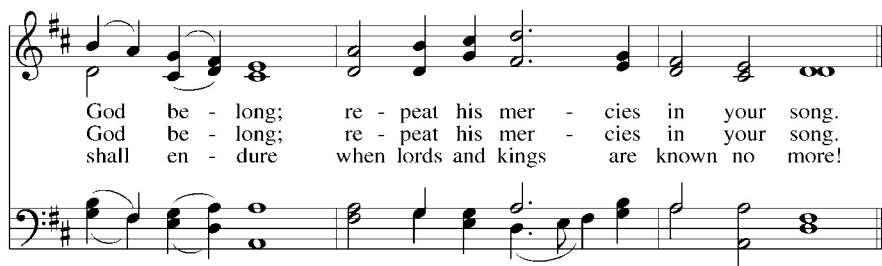
#520



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God,

C in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

P O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (*especially*), and bring relief to places damaged by floods (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O Holy Spirit, We pray for our next pastor. We know not who you are making ready to come and be with us, but we ask that you speed our meeting with one another, and that you make us ready to seek new adventures with a new shepherd at our side. Grant that we might make ready today to find the new tomorrow you desire for St. John Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

C Your mercy is great.

P O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation .

C Amen.

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

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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;
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

+ BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

+ SENDING SONG

A Mighty Fortress

#229

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Acolyte
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Shaun Allen
Amy Fraulini
Kymber Thackston
James & Kym Hayman
Kendra Hughes, Vicki Nye Titus
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

TODAY is the Third Sunday of Lent. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays). Lent --- the word originally meant “spring” --- is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is, therefore, a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest somberness and solemnity. (The Lutheran Manual on the Liturgy)

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Rod Schneider, Brian & Carol Hicks, Ed Hughes, Karyn Sexton, Brenda Moore, Shirley Gleim, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in memory of Forrest Oakes March 10 birthday by Cindy Oakes and Sherry Patterson,

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

KELLY SKIPWORTH & JOANNE OAKES will be leading Lenten Bible Studies and Devotion each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., beginning with a light supper. We will be watching The Chosen. Thanks to Debbie Clevenger for organizing the food. All is welcome.

THERE WILL BE A MEAT LOAF DINNER in honor of the First Communion class and Holy Baptism next Sunday, March 15.

BRIAN OAKES will be organizing an acolyte schedule on a monthly basis. Please see Brian if your child is interested in being an acolyte.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, March 22 and April 12 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

This Week at St. John

Today—*Third Sunday in Lent*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Next Sunday—*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion—Holy Baptism—*
First Communion

11:00 a.m. Meat Loaf Dinner

Attendance

2026 Average: 64

2025 Average 62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Organist

Worship Assistant

Lay Reader

Prayer Leader

Greeter

Acolyte

Altar Committee

Council President

Leigh Ann Henry

Vivian Riffel

James Hayman

James Hayman

George & Brenda Moore

Ryleigh Blagg, Avery Miller

Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Bill Culver, Mary Ramey

BAPTISMS: JoAnn Hileman, Vicki Nye-Titus

ANNIVERSARIES:

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 15 following worship Meat loaf dinner in honor of Holy Baptism
and First communion Class

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 22 at 11:00 Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Night

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 29 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Easter Festival of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 5, following Easter Worship Service, Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, April 12 Holy Humor Sunday

Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 19 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, May 3 Confirmation

Lenten Bible Study & Devotion
Wednesday, February 25—March 25

At 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Youth Night
Wednesday, March 25
At 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday
Service

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Service of Holy
Communion

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 5 following worship.

Holy Humor Sunday
Sunday, April 12 during worship

Confirmation
Sunday, May 3 during worship

Join us for
Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5
at 9:00 a.m.



Sunday, April 5
Following Easter Worship Service