



UNBIND HIM, AND LET HIM GO

JOHN 11:44

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 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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March 22, 2026
THE FIFTH 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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

#104

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

+ 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

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

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

just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.

Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?



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



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



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

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

CHIOR

Wondrous Love

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ 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. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord **God**, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and

say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the **Lord**.⁵ Thus says the Lord **God** to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.⁶ I 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**.”

⁷ So 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.⁸ I 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.⁹ Then 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.”¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then 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.’”¹² Therefore 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.¹³ And you shall know that I am the **Lord** when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ I 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**.”

PSALM 130

P ¹ Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

C ² **O LORD, hear my voice!**

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

P ³ If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

C ⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.**

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

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

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

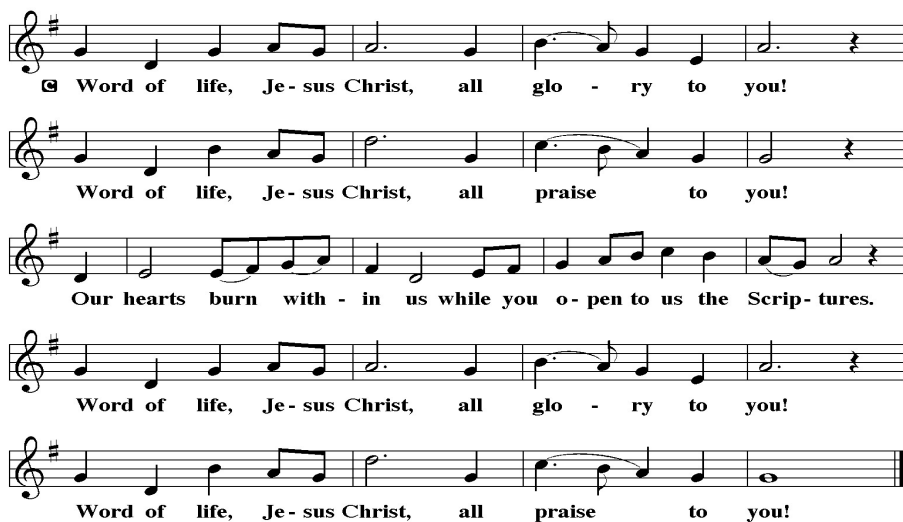
C ⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But 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." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved

Martha and her sister and Lazarus,⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"⁹ Jesus 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."¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

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

²⁸ When 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."²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The 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.³² When 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."³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus 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." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I 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." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Kruse

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Am the Bread of Life

#702

Leader or All

1 "The bread that I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat give is my
3 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, of the
4 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life. . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . me, e - ven . . though you
Son . . . of . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, . . . you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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+ 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 We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (*local places in nature may be named*). Hear us, O God..

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (*especially*). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. 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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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.

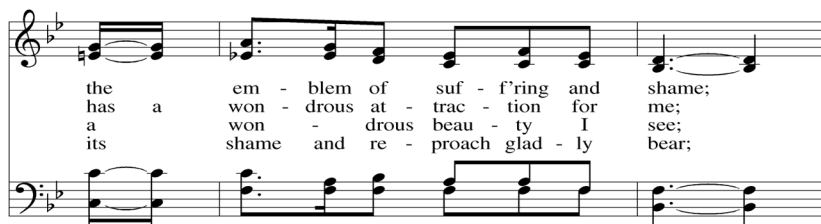
C Amen

+ SENDING SONG

The Old Rugged Cross



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,
2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
its won - drous beau - ty I see;
shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,

for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross,
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

till my tro - phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug - ged cross,
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text: George Bennard, 1873–1958
 Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1873–1958

+ 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	Leigh Ann Henry
Lay Reader	Dené DeGonzague
Prayer Leader	Ophelia Hatfield
Acolyte	Kymber Thackston
Greeter	Ophelia & Everett Hatfield
Altar Committee	Kendra Hughes, Vicki Nye Titus
Council President	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 Fifth 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, Ken Staker, Pastor Dennis King, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

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.

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, April 12 and 26 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

This Week at St. John

Today—Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

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

11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

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

6:30 p.m. Youth Night

Next Sunday—The Passion, Palm Sunday

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

Attendance

2026 Average: 64

2025 Average 62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Organist

Lay Reader

Prayer Leader

Greeter

Acolyte

Altar Committee

Council President

Leigh Ann Henry

Shane Tieman

Kara Tieman

Jim Gleim

Eli DeGonzague

Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Norman Staker, Garrett Staker, Sienna Wilson

BAPTISMS: Leah Willis

ANNIVERSARIES: Brett & Lori Oakes

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

Coming Events

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

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

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