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Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday – March 29: We start off Holy Week with the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We have the Divine Service at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. Both services include a Palm recessional and Holy Communion. Bible studies and Sunday school classes are as usual, starting at 9.

Mon., Tues., Wed. Morning Prayer at 7:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Maundy Thursday – April 2: We have worship services at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. Both services include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar and at the conclusion of the service, the stripping of the Altar.

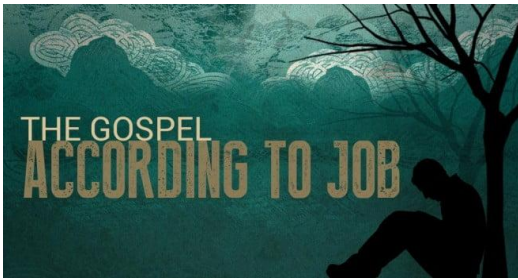
Good Friday – April 3: We have worship services at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. with gradual darkness overtaking us as it did the world on that first Good Friday.

Holy Saturday – April 4: Easter Breakfast set up at 9:30 a.m. Come and prepare the fellowship hall and church for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Higher Things kids and their parents should come. Others are welcome also.

Easter Sunday – April 5: Come celebrate the resurrection of our Lord from death. We have a Son-rise service with Holy Communion at 7:00 a.m. It will be followed by our Easter Breakfast, served by St. John youth beginning at 8:15 a.m. We will serve breakfast until 9:45 a.m. The breakfast is free, but a goodwill offering will be accepted to raise money for the youth and their Higher Things trip. There will be an Easter egg hunt and Easter craft for children Pre-K to 5th grade at 9:00 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., we will have the Divine Service for Easter with Holy Communion.

Church Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3 and Easter Monday, April 6. There is no preschool on those days.



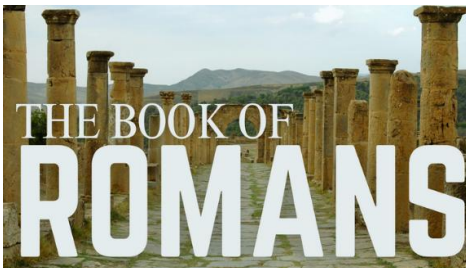
**Pastor Pool's
Sunday
Bible Study
The Gospel
According to Job**

In April, our Sunday class continues our

study of the book of Job. The Christian life is a struggle. But the struggle is worthwhile. This book is full of surprising answers to some of our most difficult questions about suffering, evil, and redemption. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.

Everyone is welcome. Bring your Bible.

- April 5: Easter Sunday: No Class
- April 12: Still Job: Job 14
- April 19: Eliphaz Accuses: Job 15 (Second Cycle)
- April 26: Job and His Miserable Comforters: Job 16



**Tuesday Bible Study
with Pastor**

The Book of Romans

Our Tuesday Bible Study is working through Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Now is a great time to join

us! There is no cost. Bring your Bible and your questions. We normally meet on the first and third Tuesdays. We have two class options at 9:30 am or 7:00 pm.

- April 7: Abraham and David: Romans 4:1-12
- April 21: It Depends on Faith: Romans 4:13-25

Remaining Confirmation Classes

April is the last month for Confirmation for this year.

Confirmation Sunday will be on May 3 at the 10:15 service.

- Wednesday, April 8, 7 – 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 15, 7 – 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 22, 7 – 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 29, 7- 8 pm
- Sunday, May 3, Confirmation Service at Church, 10:15 am



Holy Week

We are doing something new this year for Holy Week. We are adding brief Morning Prayer services at 7:00 am on Monday, March 30, Tuesday, March 31, and Wednesday, April 1. These services will meet in the new chapel. They are spoken services (no hymns) with

prayers and readings. We will use our hymnals and the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*.

With these services, we are encouraging the Lenten discipline of fasting and prayer. But even more, we are preparing our hearts for Holy Week. I hope you see Holy Week as the most important week on the calendar. The Gospel writers focus on the trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even His teachings on Holy Week are substantial in the Gospels.

We all orient our lives around some event. Many of us let past trauma define us, while others let past success. Typically, some accomplishment or tragedy is that pivotal moment for us. But I want us to see the life, teachings, passion, cross, and the resurrection of Jesus at the center of our own lives. This is our defining moment.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were to think about the Exodus this way. Many of the Psalms reflect the language of God's deliverance from the slavery and idolatry of Egypt. They recall God meeting with His people in the wilderness and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Six Psalms are chiefly about God's work in bringing His people out of Egypt (Psalms 78, 105, 106, 114, 135, and 136). In Psalm 106, the Psalmist says it this way, "He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy."

Jesus speaks of His own cross and resurrection as an Exodus-type event. And really, it is the other way around. The Exodus foreshadowed the deliverance and salvation that Jesus won for His people with His cross and resurrection. This is what the

Mount of Transfiguration is all about. Luke 9 tells us, “And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” The word *departure* is actually *Exodus*. And what Jesus accomplishes in Jerusalem is the defining moment of our faith. It is at the center of the Gospels. It belongs at the center of our lives.

I hope your plans this Holy Week will reflect this reality. Come and join us to pray and prepare on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There is nothing more important on our schedules. Everything else can wait. And with these moments, we meet Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of Our Lord, with meaning, reverence, and faith.

Blessed Holy Week,
Pastor



ALL CHURCH POTLUCK

The Board of Evangelism will be hosting an all-church potluck after late service on Sunday, May 3. The Board will be providing coffee and

lemonade. Members are asked to bring a hot and cold dish to share. There will also be a sign-up sheet to help with set-up during late service and clean up after the potluck.

LWML Clinton Zone Spring Rally

Mark your Calendar for the Lutheran Women Missionary League Spring Rally on Sat., April 25, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m at St. John. All ladies are invited to attend.



Mary Martha

The Mary Martha Society meets this month on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses are Barb Stewart and JanaLea Montgomery.



Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Registration is now open for the 2026 Summer Program. This year's theme is *Free to Serve*. There are several Posters throughout the education building. On each poster is two QR codes. One code is for parents to scan which will take them to

their website for more information about the Summer Program and to register kids for camp. The other QR code is for prospective staff members to scan in order to find out more information about being a camp counselor. For kids who would like to register for camp for the very first time, there is a *First-Time Camper* scholarship which will cut the cost of their first camp experience. Camp scholarship funds are also available to those who need financial assistance. Discounts are available to pastors and rostered church workers as well! Additional information can be found on the Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca website.

Sunday School Mission Project

Our Sunday School offerings now and through the end of Summer Sunday School, will go to help the Federwitz Missionaries. Please encourage your child to attend Sunday School each week and to bring an offering. Thank you!

Lutheran Witness

"Lutheran Witness" subscriptions are available for \$23.50 per year. To renew or begin a subscription, sign-up and pay in the church office by April 26. Please make checks payable to St. John. The new subscription begins in July 2026.



Family Night Resumes April 8

Our Wednesday night Family Night will resume on April 8. Family Night meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and is intended for families with kids up to 5th grade. Help is needed. Please see the display in the fellowship hall.





Vacation Bible School Save the Date!

The theme this year for VBS is *Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save*.

Dates will be Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19. VBS will meet from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. each day. VBS is for children 4 years old or enrolled in St. John Sunday School or Preschool through

those entering grade 7. Older children and adults are welcome to volunteer as helpers. Mark your calendars and plan on joining your friends for another exciting adventure! Questions? Contact Sheryl Jindrich or Sarah Flathers.



**American
Red Cross**

St. John Blood Drive June 12, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Please schedule an appointment

for our next American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John. It's still a couple months away but why not go on-line now so that you can add donating blood to your calendar for June 12? Sign up at: redcrossblood.org



T-Shirts Are Needed

Colored t-shirts are needed to make jump ropes for the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

- T-shirts can be new or used, but should be clean.
- It is okay for the t-shirts to have print across the top, but no print on the lower portion please.
- T-shirts should NOT have side seams.
- At this time, colored shirts are needed. There is currently a good supply of black, gray and white shirts.

The Mary Martha ladies will cut the donated shirts into strips and braid them together to make jump ropes to include in the OCC boxes. Thank you for helping to spread the Gospel around the world through Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!



St. John Preschool News

Spring in Iowa—it's always a roller coaster! We are taking advantage of every warm day to enjoy our time outside. There are only 7 weeks left of school and we plan to make the most of every day with the children that have

been entrusted with us. This month during Jesus Time we will learn about all the events that took place after Easter: Jesus' appearance to his followers, the Ascension and Great Commission, the gift of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' Disciples traveling around sharing the good news. Indoors, we are enjoying our grocery center, exploring different art processes, and stringing many, many beaded necklaces, and playing with play dough. Throughout each day we look for ways to help the children build their social and emotional skills as well as working on problem solving, literacy, and number knowledge. Registration for the 2026 – 2027 school year continues online. The link to the application is on the church website and Facebook page. Please tell all of your family and friends about us. We would love to fill our school to capacity. Mrs. Sperry is happy to give tours upon request.

~Cindy & Gina



Raise Right Fundraiser

Raise money for our preschool every time you grab a latte, fill up on gas, buy groceries, or dine out. RaiseRight is the easiest, most practical fundraising program for our kids—no selling goods, planning events, or knocking on doors. If you haven't taken advantage of the Raise

Right fundraising program in the past, please give it a try in April. Orders are due on April 5. Please put your order form and payment in the blue box in the fellowship hall. Checks should be made out to St. John. The gift cards that you order will be in your mail slot in the Narthex on Sunday, April 12. Thank you for continuing to support our preschool!

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



CONGRATULATIONS!

Happy Birthday to:

Lois Lamz, who will be 91 on April 1.
Sharon Brown, who will be 82 on April 9.
Mary Lou Asmus, who will be 85 on April 12.
Barbara Tietjens, who will be 88 on April 15.
Janice Brown who will be 82 on April 26.

Happy Anniversary to:

Dan & Barbara Jepsen, 55th Wedding Anniversary on April 10.
Johnathon & Brianna Swanton, 10th Wedding Anniversary on April 16.

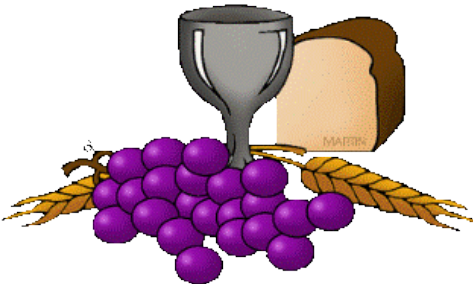


We list birthdays 80 and above and anniversaries for year one and every five years thereafter unless we receive a request not to do so.

Holy Communion at Home

If you are at home and would like a visit from Pastor, Please call the office to set up an appointment. He is glad to come and

bring you God's Word and the Sacrament. Pastor also does a monthly service at the Alverno on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30. Visitors are generally welcome.



THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL

Early

Elders: Dave Reynolds
Kurt Flathers

Ushers: Calvin Lange
Rick Christiansen
Jon Meyermann

Late

Elders: Tom Hardersen
David Becker

Ushers: Tom McHugh
Kevin Montgomery
Peter Sirna

Recording

5 Darlene Paysen
12 Darlene Paysen
19 Darlene Paysen
26 Darlene Paysen

Acolyte Schedule

5 **Early** Elder
5 **Late** Elder
12 **Early** Elder
12 **Late** Aryanna Hagen
19 **Early** Elder
19 **Late** Ben Leslie
26 **Early** Elder
26 **Late** Lainey S.

Crucifer Schedule

5 **Early** Darren S.
5 **Late**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: APRIL 20

If you would like to put any information in the newsletter, please contact Camil, and get her the information by April 20

