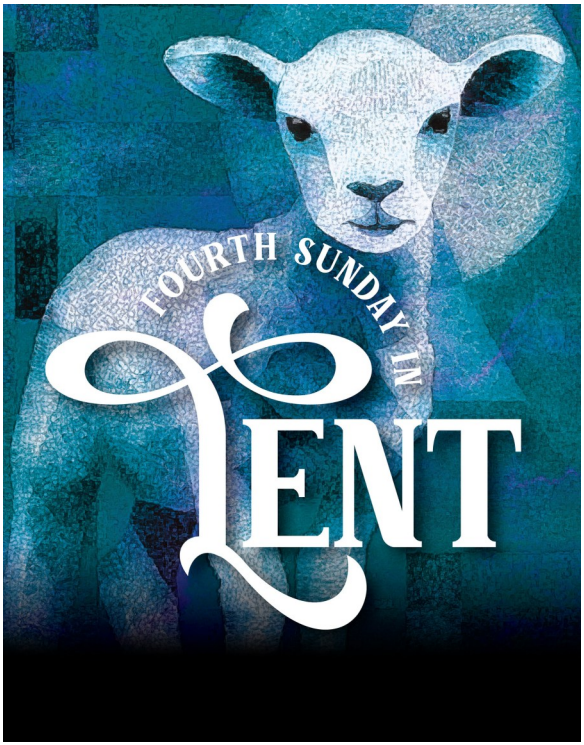
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT ~ MARCH 15, 2026



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

please stand in body or spirit
Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

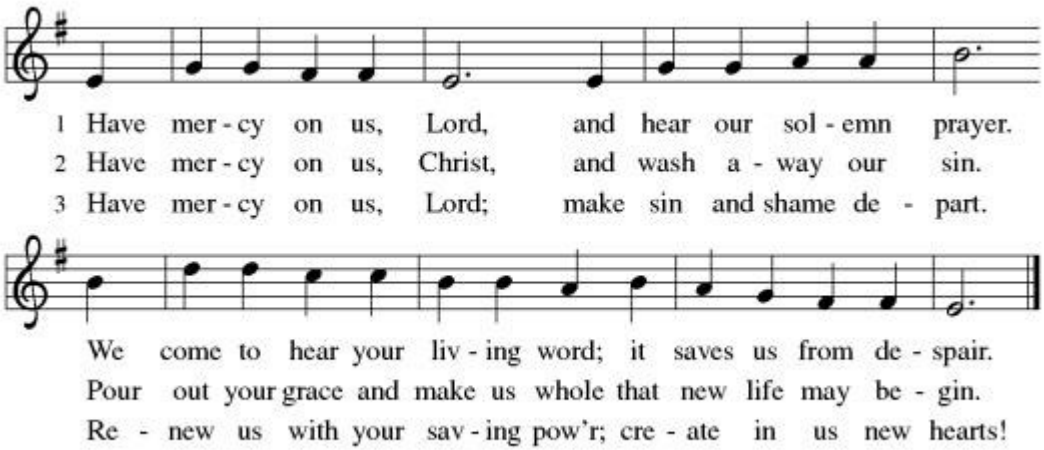
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn "Be Thou My Vision" #793

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 Page 203



Prayer of the Day
Let us pray…….**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have
rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set
out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for
myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul
hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you
and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the
sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for
me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what
the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city
came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He
said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify
yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse
and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he
looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before
the LORD." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance
or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for
the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward
appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called
Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has
the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he
said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his
sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not
chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"
And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the
sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not
sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he
was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said,
"Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn
of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of
the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then
set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**
3 You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

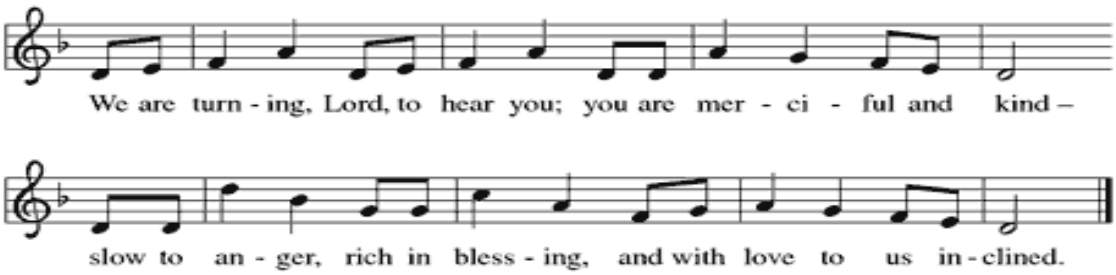
Second Reading Ephesians 5: 8-14

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Children's Sermon Paul Fuelling

Gospel Acclamation "We are Turning" Page 205



Gospel John 9: 1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples
asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born
blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he
was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must
work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when
no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the
world.” 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud
with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, 7 saying to him,
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and
washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had
seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used
to sit and beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No,
but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” 10 But they kept
asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The
man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to
Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” 12
They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” 13 They brought
to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a
Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the
Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to
them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” 16 Some
of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe
the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such
signs?” And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man,
“What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is
a prophet.” 18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had
received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had
received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was
born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We
know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not
know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.
Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this
because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed

that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of
the synagogue. [23] Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” [24]
So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they
said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” [25] He
answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know,
that though I was blind, now I see.” [26] They said to him, “What did he do
to you? How did he open your eyes?” [27] He answered them, “I have told
you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?
Do you also want to become his disciples?” [28] Then they reviled him,
saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know
that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where
he comes from.” [30] The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You
do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know
that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who
worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world began has it
been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this
man were not from God, he could do nothing.” [34] They answered him, “You
were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove
him out. [35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found
him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” [36] He answered, “And
who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” [37] Jesus said to him,
“You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” [38] He said,
“Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. [39] Jesus said, “I came into this
world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who
do see may become blind.” [40] Some of the Pharisees who were with him
heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” [41] Jesus
said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you
say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” #779

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering

Give Online

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory "Create in Me a Clean Heart" #188

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.....O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" #324

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #335

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray..... God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn "Lead Me, Guide Me" #768

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

"Draw near to God"

Welcome: Welcome to our celebration on this Fourth Sunday of Lent. As we pause to celebrate the light of Christ and the nearing joy of Easter, we invite you to reflect on God's lavish love and mercy. May this time of worship deepen your faith and bring healing.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Vickie Fox, Mary Haluptzok, Kevin Tatum, Dennis & Claudia Moellman, Gene Beckman, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.

Junior Garr, Heidi Hopp (grandmother of Nicole Rice), Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).

Nursing Home & Homebound: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash and Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten & Arlene Schlesselman: *GSCC.* Earl Bauer: *Windsor Nursing Home.*

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.

Esther Circle: The next Esther Circle will be held on **March 16, 2026** at 7:00 PM at Janice Gerken's home.

"Simple Soup Supper" #4 is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 18** with serving beginning at 6:00 pm. On the menu is Mary's Fish Chowder and Reuben Soup (a belated observance of St. Patrick's Day) with a side of chili. Hot dogs/chili dogs will round out the supper for the evening. See you there...

Worship and Music Committee: The Worship and Music Committee will meet on **March 18 at 3:30 pm** in the Meeting Room

Family Swim Party: Join us Sunday, **March 22nd from 3-6** pm at the Heckart Rec Center in Sedalia for an indoor pool party. We invite families of kids in both Luther League and Junior Lutherans to join us for the fun! Please sign up at church if you plan to attend.

A fundraiser for "Little Blessings" Daycare will be held on **Sunday, March 29** following worship. On the menu is a choice of lasagna or spaghetti with salad and a choice of desserts. [There is a sign-up in the link for those wishing to donate a 9" x 13" dessert.] All proceeds will be donated to the Little Blessings Daycare. Come and enjoy good fellowship and good food for a good cause!!

Memory Garden: Easter Lilies will be ordered for our sanctuary for the Easter Services. These plants may be given in memory or honor of a loved one or to the Glory of God. The cost is $12.00 each. If you would like to donate one or more, please fill out the insert you will find on the ushers stands. The deadline for ordering is **March 29.**

Elevette Update: At the annual meeting we heard an update about the elevette in the Sanctuary. It has aged beyond its useful life and needs to be replaced if we want to continue to use it. We've received a significant pledge towards replacement cost (which also includes some construction work so that a new unit can fit) but would like to see if anyone else would be willing and able to pledge towards this project. Please speak with Pastor Stephen or Jake Jackson if you are interested. Thank you!

~ * ~ Community Events ~ * ~

The Antique Tractor Association will host a **Soup/Chili Luncheon and Silent Auction** at the American Legion, 201 N. Maple St., Cole Camp, MO, on **Today** from **11:00 am - 1:00 pm**. Free will donations are appreciated.

A DELICIOUS GERMAN DINNER will be served **today** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The menu includes German Brats, SauerKraut, Hot German Potato Salad, German Green Beans, Hot Dogs, and a variety of wonderful desserts. This free-will donation fundraiser is being sponsored by the Trinity Men's Club with proceeds for financial aid to students of professional church work. Please use the ground-level entrance at the back of the church.

The Sophomore class at Cole Camp High School invites you to join them for their **Annual Class Dinner** on **March 22, 2026** from 11 am - 1 pm in the Cole Camp High School Cafeteria. Stop by for a traditional taco bar with your favorite sides and desserts. Tickets can be obtained in advance from any Sophomore or can be purchased at the door. Ages 12 and up - $15, Ages 6-11 - $6, 5 and under - Free. Hope to see you there!

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

4th week of Lent ..... March 18
5th week of Lent ..... March 25

All services will begin at 7:00pm

Midweek Worship Services: Throughout the season, we will gather on the five Wednesdays of Lent for midweek worship, weekly at 7:00 pm. This is a casual worship service that is held in the Fellowship Hall. Grounded by songs, scripture, and prayer we will be invited more deeply into the Lenten season. We hope that you'll take some time during this special season to join us.

This year's Lent midweek worship services will explore Jesus' Seven Last Words. These are the collections of phrases Jesus spoke in his final hours on the cross before his death. While these words are filled with the pain of Jesus' suffering, they can also bring great hope to our ears today.

LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance will host a Lenten breakfast here at St. Paul's Church each Wednesday morning beginning at **8:30am**. ***Please note the time change for this year!*** Everyone is invited to attend each week. The following churches will host each week, offering food and a leader for devotions:

March 18th…….Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic and Grace Fellowship
March 25th……St. Paul's Lutheran and Brauersville Lutheran

If Cole Camp schools are closed due to weather, the breakfast will also be cancelled that day.

AFTER LENTEN SERVICE

There will be the traditional fellowship time (cookies, coffee and hot chocolate) following each Lenten Service. To ensure that there are enough cookies each week, each family is asked to provide cookies according to the following schedule (based on the first letter of your last name). Additionally, please note the organizations asked to serve after each of the five Lenten Services.

March 18……R-T……Esther Circle Serving
March 25……V-Z……..St. Paul's Youth Serving

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Saturday…… March 28 at 5:30 pm …… Procession of Palms
Palm Sunday…… March 29 at 10:00 am …… Procession of Palms
Maundy Thursday…… April 2 at 7:00 pm …… Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday…… April 3 at 7:00 pm …… Service of Darkness
Easter Saturday …… April 4 at 5:30 pm …… Easter Vigil
Easter Sunrise …… April 5 at 7:00 am…… Breakfast to follow
Easter Sunday …… April 5 at 10:00 am …… Holy Communion

In addition to our regular Holy week worship schedule, we hope that the following activities will add to your Lenten journey:

Holy Week Virtual Devotions: Join Pastor Stephen at **noon each day** (Monday - Saturday) during Holy Week on Facebook Live for a short reflection.

Holy Week Children's Event: Join Pastor Kim on **Wednesday, April 1**, at **6:30 pm** for a special Holy Week activity. This will be geared toward children and their families. A light supper will be served starting at 6:30, so an RSVP would be appreciated.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 15:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, March 16:	6:30 pm	Yoga
	7:00 pm	Janice Gerken's home
Wednesday, March 18:	8:30 am	Lenten Breakfast
	3:30 pm	Worship and Music Committee
	6:00 pm	Simple Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Service
Thursday, March 19:	8:00 am	BCHD
Saturday, March 21:		No Casual Worship
Sunday, March 22:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	SS / Adult Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by stations
	3:00 pm	Family Swim Party

~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

March 16 ..... Esther Circle
March 18 ..... Worship & Music Committee
March 22 ..... Family Swim Party
March 25 ..... Sunbeam Committee
April 26 ..... Lois Viebrock's Retirement Luncheon

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers ..... The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist ..... Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist ..... Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians ..... Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild ..... Glenalee Dillon and Suzanne Lutjen
Ushers ..... Melinda Strathman - Head Usher
.... Mark Oelrichs, Chad Schlesselman, Randy Schlesselman and Steve Triplett

4th Sunday in Lent ~ March 15, 2026

Assisting Minister ..... Melisa Balke
Communion Assistants ..... Luther League
Reader ..... Adrienn Dieckman
Children's Sermon ..... Paul Fuelling
Acolytes ..... Lauren Jackson and Hudson Kullman
Flowers ..... Joyce Webb

5th Sunday in Lent ~ March 22, 2026

Assisting Minister ..... Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants ..... Debbie Eckhoff and Krista Poe
Reader ..... Jim Gumbel
Children's Sermon ..... Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes ..... Logan Jackson and Lena Smith
Flowers ..... Susan Rusk