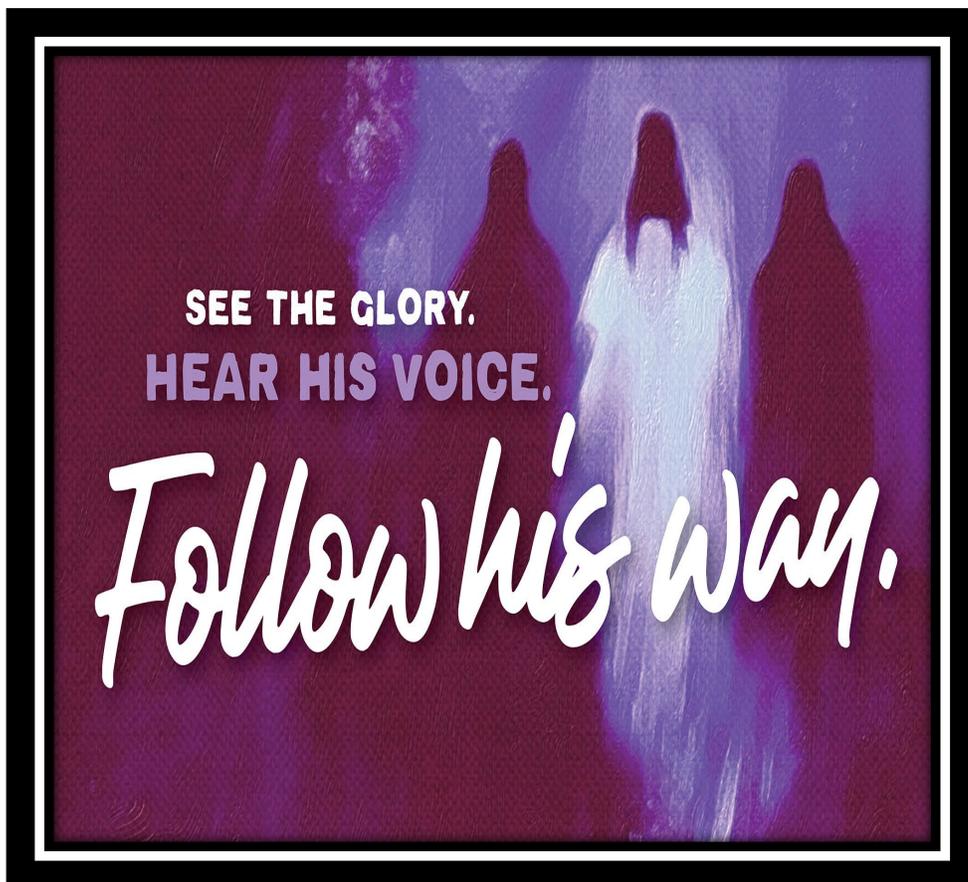


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***March 22, 2026
The Fifth Sunday in Lent***

**Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Amanda Tetzlaff
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org**

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... Lent is a time when God prepares His people to celebrate the Paschal Feast, the resurrection of Jesus, with sincerity and truth. In a Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the power of the Word that transforms dry bones into living flesh with the breath of the Spirit. This same Spirit lives in us and will raise us at the Last Day, which is exactly what we hear from Paul in the Reading from Romans 8. The Spirit who raised Christ will also give life to us. Having received the Spirit in Baptism, we join with Martha in confessing boldly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who comes to us today in His Word and Sacrament and will come again to call us out of our graves.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the narthex.

Confession and Absolution

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness

**My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,

Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;

**Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.**

**4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley,
1703–91, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

**I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid
hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:4–10

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:23–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

**1 Through Jesus' blood and merit
I am at peace with God.**

**What, then, can daunt my spirit,
However dark my road?**

**My courage shall not fail me,
For God is on my side;**

**Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.**

**2 There's nothing that can sever
From this great love of God;**

**No want, no pain whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.**

**Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark His sheep,**

**They never shall confound me,
The vict'ry I shall reap.**

3 For neither life's temptation

**Nor death's most trying hour
Nor angels of high station**

**Nor any other pow'r
Nor things that now are present
Nor things that are to come**

**Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor darkest depths of gloom**

**4 Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This ransomed sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
Named me His child and heir.**

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution Hymns

629 What Is This Bread

1 What is this bread?

Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break,

This life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

2 What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace

Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing!

O taste and see—the Lord is King.

3 So who am I,

That I should live and He should die

Under the rod?

**My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.**

4 Yet is God here?

**Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.**

5 Is this for me?

**I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.**

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used
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421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

**1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,**

**Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.**

**2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
That the tempter flee confounded.**

**3 If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.**

**4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.**

**5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.**

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction *LSB 166*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
 Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
 Gathers round its head sublime.**

- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
 Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
 Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
 Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
 Adds more luster to the day.**

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
 By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
 Joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 16238
General giving last week: \$8462.00
Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

25 Wednesday	Lent Supper	5:15-6:15 pm
25 Wednesday	Lent Evening Service	6:30 pm
29 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
29 Sunday	Bible Class	10:30 am
29 Sunday	Sunday School	10:30 am

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION: Beginning April 12th, we'll be studying selections from the book of Revelation using Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Explaining All the Scary Stuff in Revelation" in our post-Sunday Service Bible Study. This will hopefully be a jumping off point to go a little deeper into the book for the rest of the year. I hope you'll join us!

CHURCH ALERT NUMBER: Please put (855) 248-7295 in your contacts as "St. John Alert" - when we need to reach everyone in the church, our software will use this number to call you. Thank you!

JOIN PASTOR ROB FOR A HOLY WEEK FAST: This is an opportunity to grow closer to our Savior, and discipline our bodies to fend off sin. Following the service on Palm Sunday until Easter morning, we'll fast from all non-work-related technology (excepting Christian devotional time and communication (so as not to offend)), eat only bread, and drink only water. Additionally, from Thursday at 6:00 – Friday at 6:00 (the time of Jesus' Passion), we'll refrain from all food. If you're interested, either follow along on your own or sign up on the back table to receive daily encouragement & pick up a Practical Considerations for Fasting Sheet.

LENTEN SUPPERS: The Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 18 will be sponsored by the LWML and the Altar Guild. They will be serving Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup.

OPEN GYM: PICKUP BASKETBALL: Join us for some fun, casual pickup basketball! When: **Wednesday, March 26, 5:30–7:00 PM.** Where: **St. John Lutheran Gym.** Bring your friends and come play! **For more details or questions, text 920-658-3029.**

CHURCH PICNIC ACTIVITIES: We'll be hosting our church picnic on July 19 and we're looking for someone to plan some activities for kids and adults. If you're interested, please talk with Pastor Rob. Thanks!

BABYSITTING AT THE SCHRADER CONNECTION GROUP: Pastor Rob & Paige's Connection Group for people 40ish and under is now going to be held from 5:30-7:30 at the school and have a babysitter in the gym. We hope some of you who couldn't join us before will be

able to join us now! Beginning March 23rd, join us on any 2nd or 4th Monday.

GATHER WITH US TO PAINT FLOWERS – LITERALLY! March 21st. 10:00 am until Noon. St. John Church basement. \$35 to participate All supplies included. NO Experience necessary. 16 years old and up only. Water provided – bring your morning coffee if you like. Sponsor and Guide is Elissa Ewald.

LENTEN SUPPERS: The Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 25 will be sponsored by Church Council. It's Taco Night! Join us for our final Lenten Supper.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Whether it's before the service begins or while you're waiting during communion time, the elders wanted to provide you with suggestions for growing spiritually. In the front cover of your hymnal is a list of suggestions for things to do during that down time in church. Additionally, after the final hymn is sung during communion time, there'll be a special monthly suggestion on the screens. Please make the most of your time here to learn how to be with God and grow closer to him by adopting some of these practices. Thank you!

SUMMER VBS! Summer Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! The St. John Board of Christian Education is looking for a VBS lead for this summer. You can pick the date(s) the program runs and the times. There is an awesome group of people willing to help out; we just need someone to be the organizer. Please reach out to the school office if you are interested. school@stjohnberlin.org **920-**

361-0555, or talk to any school board member.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE: The Human Care Committee serves our church family and community with compassion and confidentiality by helping with needs such as medical expenses, rent, utilities, rides, and encouragement. We seek to show God's love in tangible ways, remembering that He has first cared for us in Christ. If you have a caring and sharing heart and would like to serve, we would love to have you join us. For more information, please contact Linda Nitz.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS: We want to thank everyone here at St. John who so generously supported our food drives last year. We are again collecting for the Berlin Food Pantry in March. We will be accepting non-perishable food items, paper products and monetary donations. Please place your donations in the large blue bin.

LOOKING FOR USHERS: If you're interested in serving the church one month a year as an usher, please sign up in the back of church. It's a great way to start getting involved and give back to the Lord who has given so much to you!

LOOKING FOR MEDIA HELPERS: We could use more helpers to advance the slides during both Thursday and Sunday services and to video record the Sunday services. Both tasks really help us to proclaim the Gospel and neither require much computer savviness. Please sign up in the back of church.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY AT RIVER SHORES! Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery group for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind. Meetings are held every Monday night at 6:00 pm at River Shores Church in Berlin. Feel free to call or text Bob M. with any questions: (920) 896-3755. Change is possible!

GRIEFSHARE: There is going to be a new Griefshare session starting up at River Shores Church every Tuesday from March 3 - June 2. This is a faith-based support group with teachings to help you through any kind of grief. If you have questions, please talk with Amy Brooks or call the program leader at (520)-330-9379.

DIVORCE CARE: Meets on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm in the 4th/5th grade room off the multipurpose room at River Shores church (253 S. Church St.) Contact River Shores Church Office with any questions. (920-376-5877)



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to share your Easter flower, in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Deadline for signing up and having your dedication in the Easter morning bulletin is Palm Sunday, March 29th.** Anyone signing up after that will have their dedication appear in the bulletin the week following Easter, when we will reprint all the flower memorials.

You may bring your plant/flower to the church on Saturday, April 4th between 9:00am and 11:00am. You may take your flower(s)

home following the service on Easter morning. Please LABEL your flower with your name so you can identify it to take home.

If it would be more convenient for you to bring your flower at another time, please feel free to set it in the Altar Guild workroom. You should check with Cathy in the office (920)361-9935 or an April committee member (Lynette Wilde -920-517-5088, Joyce Parsons 920-369-6828, Amy Radliff 920-361-1437 or Debbie Wissel 920-361-0791) to make sure the church will be open when you want to bring it. Also, a reminder, the church is always open at least thirty minutes before a service begins.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the ladies listed above. Thank you in advance for helping us beautify the church at this special time.

Sermon Notes – 3-22-26 – The Christ

-We're now halfway through our series, and we've come to a _____ moment – all that we've talked about has led us to today – God finally sending the descendant, the blesser, the deliverer, the King – the Christ – we call him Jesus.

-“Who are we?”

-In the first lesson of this series, we said that we're created in God's image, which means that we're his _____ who are supposed to take care of his creation.

-Jesus Christ is the ideal man perfectly doing what God made man to do; he's the man that man was always meant to be.

-As humans also made in God's image, we're to also fix and build up creation. Who we are as sinners are those who break God's creation. But *who we are* _____ *to be* is seen in Jesus Christ. The great lesson for us so far is that we're to imitate Jesus.

-Knowing that you're a representative of God informs who you are as a parent, who you are as a spouse, and who you are as a worker for we realize that in all those areas of life, our objective is to _____ and build up God's creation.

-So, today, let's also move beyond understanding why things are the way they are, and also focus on the question, "Why not make things the way they should be?"

-Look around you and ask, "With God's help, what can I fix? What can I _____?"

-“Where are we going?”

-The temporary things pointed ahead to his main mission: ultimately, totally, completely fixing what's wrong with this world and building up a _____.

-In his death, he forgave the sin that ruined the world. In his resurrection, he defeated the death that broke the world. And he promised to come again to usher in a brand new, perfect, forever world that all who believe in him will be a part of.

-That's where we're going. And in that, we find the hope, strength, and motivation to keep putting duct tape on this world – to keep doing the temporary fixes and builds.

-So, I guess my final encouragement for you is this: live your life with _____ and _____.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service/Communion

Thursday, April 2nd 6:30 pm

Good Friday Services on Friday, April 3rd

Afternoon Service 1:00 pm

Evening Service 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday April 5th

Sunrise Service with Communion 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast between services
in lower level

Morning Service with Communion 9:00 am