



The Third Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 2, 2024 - 5:00 pm Sunday, March 3, 2024 - 9:00am

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW #645

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



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Give Me Jesus"

People of Praise

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from Exodus.

God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord

will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that

the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another,

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard.

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,

where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from First Corinthians

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

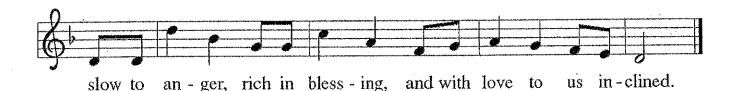
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



GOSPEL John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When Our Song Says Peace"

ELW #709

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy

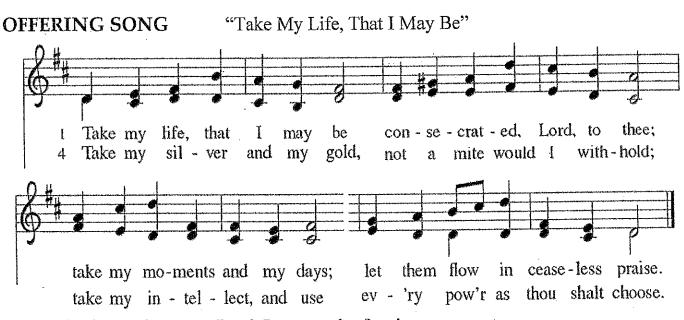
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING



6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

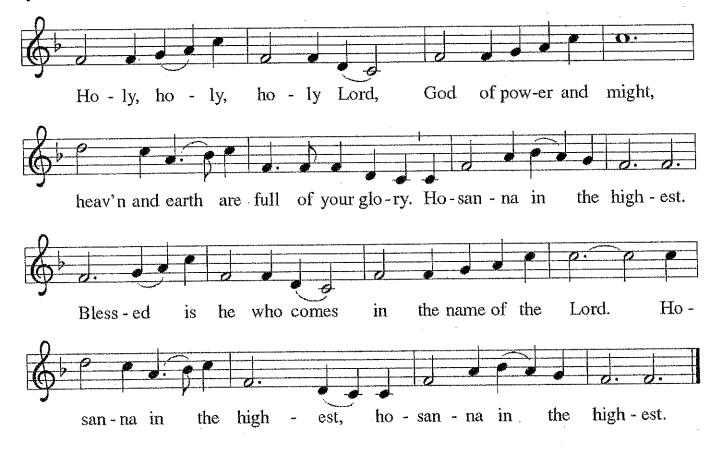
And also with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

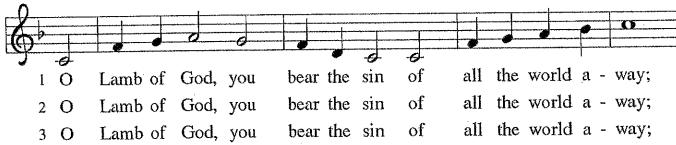


WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION SONG





you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

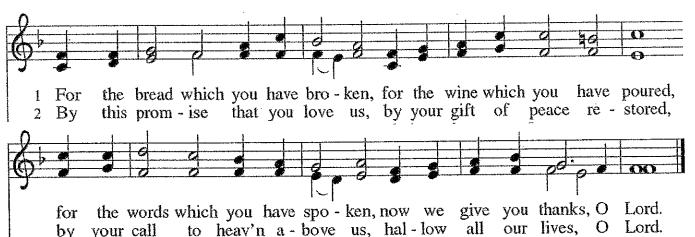
"How Great Thou Art"

ELW #856

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW #705

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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23: \$500\$. \$500\$. \$500\$. \$500\$. \$500\$. \$500\$. \$500\$.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

Saturday	5:00 pm Worship Service		
Ushers	Sue Braack & Joni King		
Reader	Sue Braack		
Communion Assistant	Pat Reese		
Counters	Gary & Joni King		

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service	
Ushers	Diane Krebs & Nina Looney	
Reader	Alexis Yanke	
Communion Assistant	Tom Carlson	
Counters	Chelsey Dingbaum & not yet determined	

Choir Director	Susan Becker	
Organist	Teri Wittkowsi and Susan Becker	
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker	
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich	

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God's Zeal Makes Us Clean

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.

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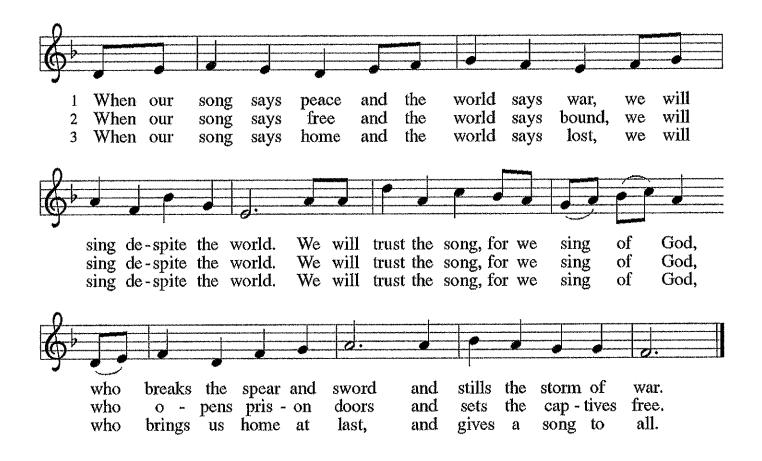
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Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



When Our Song Says Peace



Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
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How Great Thou Art



Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,
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God of Grace and God of Glory



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante

Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-450l Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

GRACE - GIFFED

FAITH - LIFTED

CALLED TO SHARE SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.



The Third Sunday in Lent March 2 & 3, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at **faithlutheraneldridge.com**.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.

2 Lord, 3 Heyr Our Prayer 5	Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.			
Ron McFate	Dan Anderson	Sue Vogel	Marilyn	
Sally Puls	Pam White	Andrew Arp	Glen	
Jensen Spencer	Jim St. John	Kim Pierce	Kelly	
Ann Kuehl	Carolyn Scheibe	Jeanette Myers	Vaughn	
Madison Russo	Maisie Knutsen	Bill Lind	Shawn	
Janet Bowman	Jim Schneider	Pam Lueder	Don	
Kathy Stoltz	Ida Weibel	Barb Conklen	Tim	
Steve Mixdorf	Ed Stoltz	Jacki Caugherty	Craig	
Duane Miller	Judy Knoer	Jim Peters	Joyce	
Henry Storjohann	Melissa Alden	Kathy Schultz	Roger	



















Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. Quarterly training will be held on **Sunday, March 3 @ 10:15** am in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend! **Contact Tom Bauer for more information**.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. It begins with an ashen sign of mortality and sin. Bright colors turn to deep purples, alleluias fall silent, and we ponder what to give up this year. Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Bells ring, alleluias echo, white and gold shine brightly, and every single candle is lit. Jesus is risen, and so are the daffodils, hyacinths, and lilacs. Joy clearly belongs to Easter.

Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter? A joyful Lent is not an oxymoron. As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent—and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward God's unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.

During the season of Lent, we will explore how joy is planted, tended, nurtured and nourished by God and God's people through the scripture readings assigned for each week. Each Wednesday, during our Lenten Evening Prayer Service, we will use Holden Evening Prayer and will respond to readings from the previous Sunday using a different devotional practice to help provide fertile ground to explore the seed of joy. The theme and practice for each week will be:

Week 3: Liberating Joy-Embodied Prayer

Week 4: Transformative Joy-Praying the News

Week 5: Vocational Joy-Vocational Prayer

Holy Week will focus on "Joy Everywhere and Nowhere," and Easter will finally erupt in "Glorious Joy."

There will also be an accompanying daily devotion guide that will guide us through the covenants of God as we explore scripture's lead to explore the different textures and colors of joy each week. With the exception of the brief half-week at the beginning of the season, each week's devotions are structured by the regular practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving using a journal or through reflection or conversation, whatever works best for you and your life. Sundays will reflect on the scripture. Mondays will invite you the practice a kind of prayer to connect to a specific aspect of joy. Tuesdays will provide a prompt for journaling that suggests how you might ask for God's help. Wednesdays provide a suggestion for a fast, not from food, but to help you focus on what you already have rather than what you have given up. Thursdays return to the journal with prompts for how to direct thanksgiving to God. Fridays invite you to respond to God's work in your life by giving time, talent or treasure in a way that honors the week's exploration of joy. Saturdays invite you to connect with creation to learn how to "tell forth the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

We hope that you will join us on this Lenten journey as we seek that God-given joy that is richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness.



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during March, especially during the Holy Week and Easter worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up. *Thank you for helping!*

New Church Photo Directory



Photos for a new church directory will be taken April 16-20 with a Fall 2024 delivery. A free directory and 8x10 photo will be given to each family who has their photo taken for the directory. You can bring family, friends, and pets! No obligation to buy photos. Sign up early to get the spot of your choice. Sign Up online at www.ucdir.com The Church Code is **IA300**, and the password is **photos**. Call Joan Hennigan or Pam Engelbrecht for help or more info.



If you wish to contribute toward Easter lilies to decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area or online. We are asking for a contribution of \$14.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds. Names received by March 24 will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.

Service in the World Compassion Children and Missionary Sponsorships

There are opportunities now available to sponsor the Bencke Family or Compassion Children John and Denisse in 2024. The sign up form is on the bulletin board and on our website. Thank you for your past and future support. ~ Service in the World Team



We are in need of snow removal volunteers! If you are able to help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online using the link on our web site: www.faithlutheraneldridge.com. **Thank you for your help!**





February 24 & 25: 5pm: 34, 9am:82, Online: 44, Total:160 February 28: 7pm: 31. Online: 22, Total 53



Saturday, March 2	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, March 3	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:15 am 10:15 am	Worship In Sanctuary Fellowship Hour Sunday School Usher Training
Monday, March 4	Office Closed 6:00 pm	Lions Club
Tuesday, March 5	1:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bible Study Food Pantry VFW Jubilation
Wednesday, March 6	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Confirmation Dinner Confirmation Service Event/Mentor Night People of Praise Worship Service Youth Group
Thursday, March 7	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Team Night Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 8	9:30 am	Food Pantry
Saturday, March 9	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, March 10	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:15 am	Worship In Sanctuary Fellowship Hour Sunday School



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.