SO MUST THE SONOF **JOHN 3:14**



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 9, 2024 ~ 5:00 pm Sunday, March 10, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE

"For God So Loved"

Jubilation

GATHERING

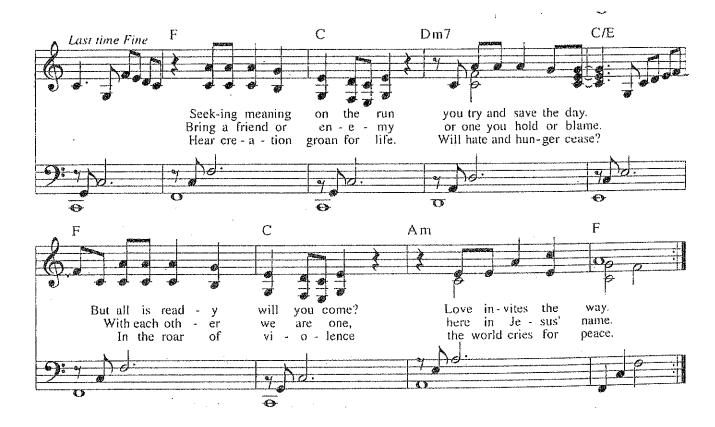
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Round the Table"

vv. 1 & 2





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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm 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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

'You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





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GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who

believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

SERMON

ANTHEM

"Oh The Deep, Deep Love"

Jubilation

APOSTLES 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 PEOPLE

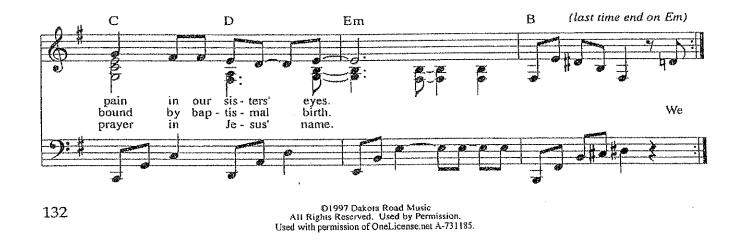
Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each prayer petition will conclude, "Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING





OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

Amen.

PRAYER OF 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs, we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert. pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

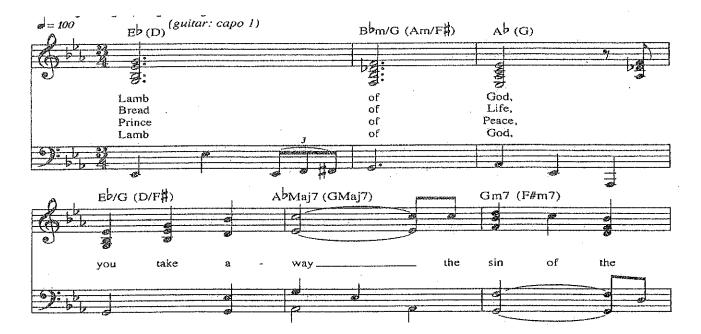
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

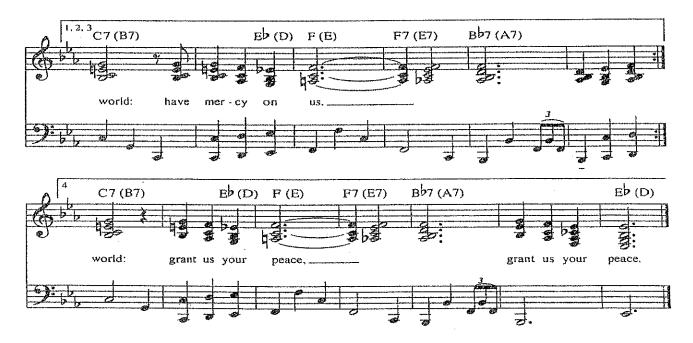
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"





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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. The ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. 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 may come forward to receive a blessing. There are baskets at the end of the front pews where you can deposit your cups as your return to your seat. 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 ANTHEMS "Only By Grace" "Lead Me to the Cross"

Jubilation

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

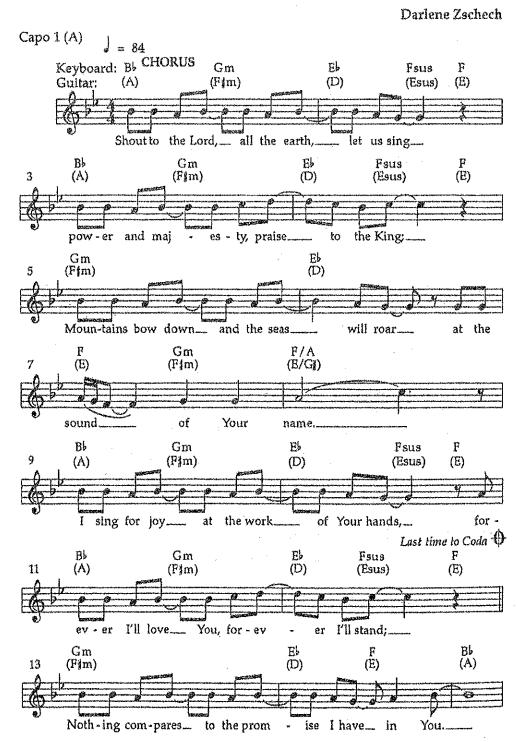
Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

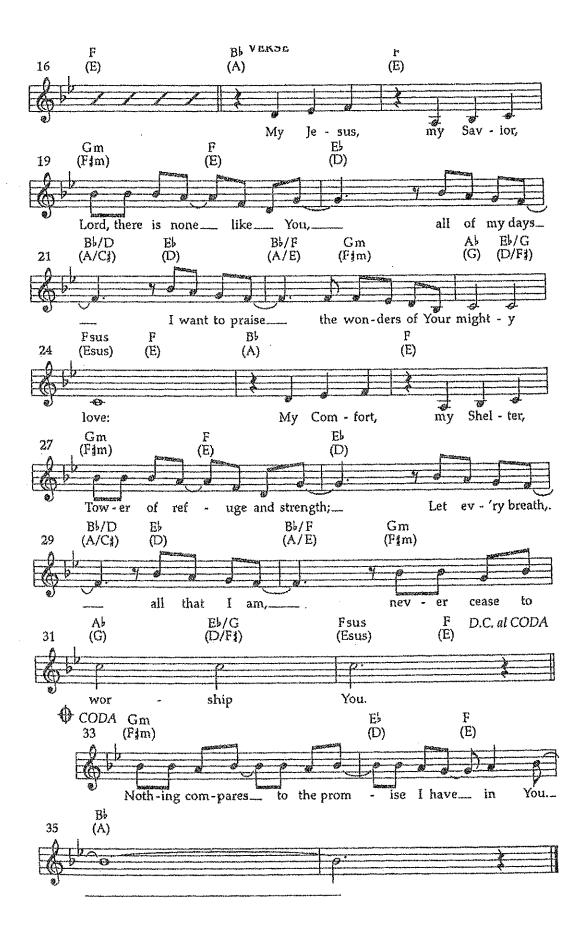
"Shout to the Lord"



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

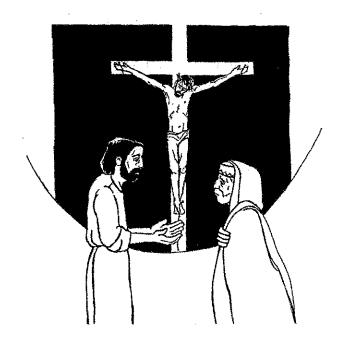
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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

Saturday	5:00 pm Worship Service	
Ushers	Mike & Rita Smith	
Reader	Nina Looney	
Communion Assistant	Rita Smith	
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith	

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service	
Ushers	Carol Roe & Linda Szemkus	
Reader	Nina Looney	
Communion Assistant	Linda Szemkus	
Counters	Carol Roe & Deanna Nielsen	

Choir Director	Susan Becker	
Organists	Susan Becker & Teri Wittkowski	
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker	
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Kevin Zidarich & Scott LaPlante	



Lifted Up for Us

So must the Son of Man be lifted up," Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society's ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity's rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls "the passions of our flesh" (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being "lifted up," for "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world.

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 - GIFTED

FAITH - LIFTED

CALLED TO SHARE SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.



The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 9 & 10, 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.

Hord Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.				
Ron McFate Sally Puls	Dan Anderson Pam White	Sue Vogel Andrew Arp	Marilyn 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	



















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.

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 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.



Youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July will be making and selling cinnamon rolls the weekend of March 23 & 24 to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship March 23 & 24, or pre-order by signing up online (link found on our website and on Facebook) or on the sheet in the gathering space. **Cost**

is \$3/2 rolls, \$8/6 rolls, and \$15/dozen. Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen. *Thank you for supporting our youth!*

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!**





March 2 & 3: 5pm: 35, 9am:102, Online: 40, Total:177

March 6: 7pm: 22. Online:12, Total 34



Saturday, March 9 5:00 pm Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, March 10 9:00 am Jubilation Worship In Sanctuary

10:15 am Fellowship Hour

10:15 am Sunday School

Monday, March 11 Office Closed

6:00 pm Lions Club Exec. Mtg.

Tuesday, March 12 Office Open 9:00 am—Noon

1:00 pm Bible Study

5:15 pm Resounding Joy

5:30 pm Food Pantry

Wednesday, March 13 Office Open 9:00 am—Noon

6:00 pm People of Praise

7:00 pm

Worship Service

Thursday, March 14 Office Open 9:00 am—Noon

Friday, March 15 Office Open 9:00 am—Noon

9:30 am Food Pantry

Saturday, March 16 5:00 pm Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, March 17 9:00 am Worship In Sanctuary

10:15 am Fellowship Hour

10:15 am 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.