

# Stop Doubting and Believe!

#### ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

### (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

#### IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

#### Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

**WELCOME TO ZION**. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

**Worship Focus**: Our faith is based in Jesus, our risen Lord, who is revealed to us in the Word.

This is the Second Sunday in the season of Easter. The fifty days of Easter constitute the oldest season of the Christian year. These fifty days correspond to the period of the Jewish year between the Passover and the Feast of Weeks. This season is most important season of the church year, because in it we celebrate the very reason for the hope that we have: the resurrection of our Lord and what it means for our lives now and eternally.

#### LITURGY: Common Service

#### **OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP**

- **BATHROOMS** are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT** is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.
- **VISITORS** are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

CW pg. 15



P: The grace of our Lord ( $^{\circ}$ ) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

#### C: And also with you.

#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

The congregation may kneel.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought *this child* to be baptized. Jesus told us: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

P: Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart  $(\mathbf{I})$  to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:

Wesson Everitt Crawford and Garrett Levi Crawford, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Stand

#### **EXHORTATION**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Wesson and Garrett may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

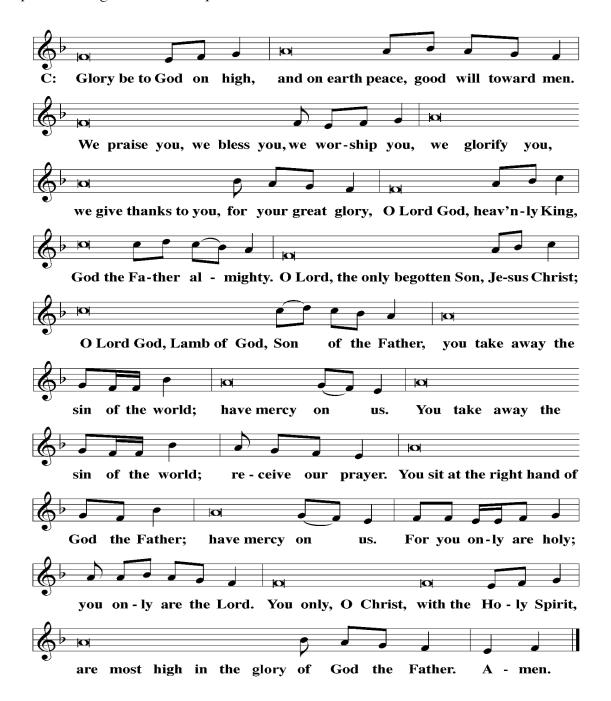
P: Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Wesson and Garrett and grant them a rich measure of your Spirit that *he* may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Let us pray.

P: O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



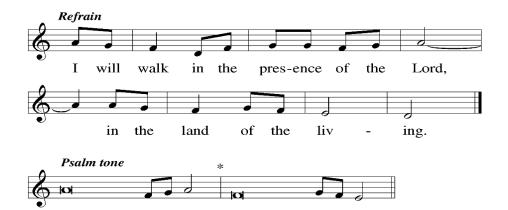


#### THE WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

#### Acts 3:12-20

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup> "Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, <sup>20</sup> so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you. (EHV)



- Keep me <u>safe</u>, O God,\* for in you I take <u>ref</u>uge.
- I said to the LORD, "You <u>are</u> my Lord;\* apart from you I have <u>no</u> good thing."
- I have set the LORD always be<u>fore</u> me.\* Because he is at my right hand, I will not be <u>shak</u>en.

#### Refrain

My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;\* my body also will <u>rest</u> secure,

because you will not abandon me <u>to</u> the grave,\* nor will you let your Holy One <u>see</u> decay.

You have made known to me the <u>path</u> of life;\* you will fill me with joy in your <u>pres</u>ence.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son\* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,\* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

#### Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### SECOND LESSON

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the God who has given birth also loves one who has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: that we keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> because everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He did not come by the water alone but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (EHV)

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20:29b)



#### John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." <sup>22</sup> After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup> After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (EHV)



#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, alt.

#### **SERMON TITLE:**

# Stop Doubting and Believe!

#### CREATE IN ME



**OFFERING:** The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

#### 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.

#### THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

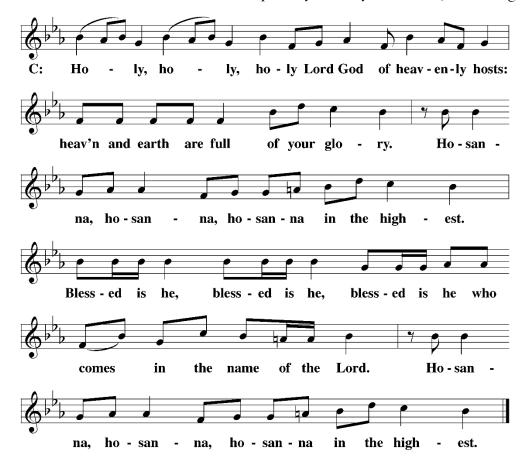




P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

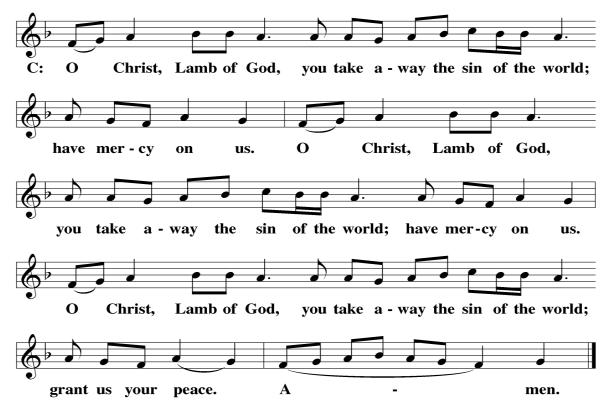
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



#### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

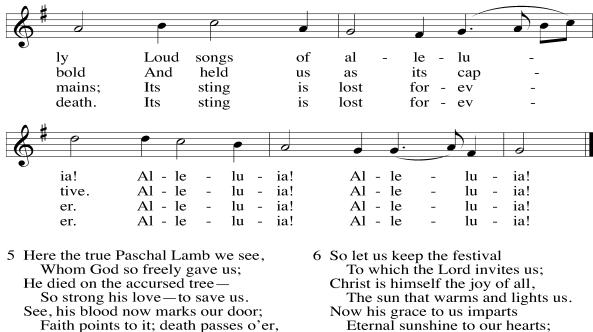
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: CW 341 CWS 720 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

# **Crown Him with Many Crowns**



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3. Tune: DIADEMATA (SM D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.





And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

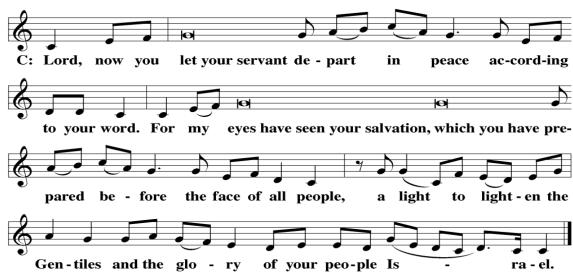
Eternal sunshine to our hearts; The night of sin is ended. Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the bread of heaven; The Word of grace has purged away The old and evil leaven. Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia! Alleluia!

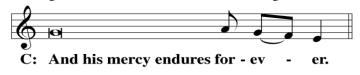
#### THANKSGIVING

#### SONG OF SIMEON

#### Nunc Dimittis



P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



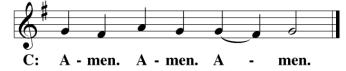
P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and  $(\clubsuit)$  give you peace.



**Closing Hymn:** *CW* 165 (vs. 8-9 – *Music from Before*)

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

- 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen And yet whose faith has constant been; In life eternal they shall reign. Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days To God your hearts and voices raise In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!

Officiants Accompanist: Dottie Bober Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

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#### Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; <u>gsitzman@zionmonroe.org</u> Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; <u>bschneck@zionmonroe.org</u>

**HCA NEWS:** Join us this Sunday for a special presentation by Principal Matt Foley of Hope Christian Academy! Immediately following the service, Principal Foley will be sharing valuable insights about the vision and mission of Hope Christian Academy in place of our regular adult Bible study. Discover how Hope Christian Academy is shaping hearts and minds through education grounded in faith and excellence. Don't miss out on this enlightening opportunity to learn more about the impactful work happening within our community. We look forward to seeing you there!

**CALL UPDATE**—Zion extended a call to Pastor Frank Italiano Jr. Please keep Zion and him in your prayers as he deliberates the call.

**THANK YOU:** Friends in Faith is happy to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed baked good items or bought baked good items at their recent Bake Sale. This year the bake sale made \$980 towards the card ministry. If you were wondering, what is the card ministry? Here's the answer, Friends in Faith sends cards to not only our shut-ins, but also to many other people. For instance, if you are sick or in the hospital, if you have had a baby, if you have had a death in your family, or have had any other special occasion happen in your life, they'll send a card to you to encourage and uplift. Thanks again to everyone for helping with this ministry.

Dear Ladies of Zion,

We have 3 ladies groups here at Zion and even if you didn't know it, you're a member of 1 of these groups! What do you do in your group? We do a major spring cleaning in the church and the school kitchen once a year. If possible, we would like to have it all completed by Confirmation which is Sunday. May 12<sup>th</sup> - Your Group

have it all completed by Confirmation which is Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Your Group leaders are as follows:

Group #1: Brenda Chandonnet (734) 915-5477

Front of church, Sacristy, Balcony & Flowers

Group #2: Sherry Fuerstenberg (734) 755-7273

East Foyer, Pews, Narthex, Church proper

Group #3: Linda Johnson (734) 735-0090

Sue Moore (734) 735- 7380

Mother's Room, West Foyer, Kitchen & Pantry

We believe we have all the ladies from the Congregation in one of these groups.

Hopefully, you'll hear from your leader soon! Men, please feel free to come and help. Sorry for the late notice.

Also, 2 years ago the funeral dinner list had been revised from three groups to one large group. Sherry Fuerstenberg will head the funeral dinners and Kathy Wozniak will contact you to see if you are available for set-up, serving, clean-up or making a dessert on a rotating basis.

Thank you to all who have helped in the past, continues to help and we pray we can continue to serve our Congregation faithfully together.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Sincerely,

Sherry Fuerstenberg

**KILLARNEY CAMP SPRING CLEAN:** Friday, Apr. 19-Sunday, Apr. 21 Killarney Camp is planning a spring clean-up, paint and repair weekend. If you would like to come help, there is **FREE** camping for any workers for the weekend. There is a lot of items on the wish list to get done –weather permitting-roof on the cabins, painting in the dining room, cabin 3, the beach bathrooms (floors and walls), campground girls shower and both of the bathroom floors. Many hands make quick work so please consider using your talents to help enhance the campground.

**HELPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY:** Friends in Faith has a "Zion's Meal Train" program. The "Zion Meal Train" is a program that assists members of the Congregation with meals for situations such as surgeries/recovery, unexpected hospital stays, loss, birth of a child, etc. The meal train is open to all male and female members of the Congregation interested in providing meals for fellow members in need. We will be utilizing the official Meal Train website (<u>www.MealTrain.com</u>) to stay organized. When many friends provide support through a meal it means you may only have to volunteer once in a while to make a meal. The Meal Train program keeps schedules, as well as provides locations and dietary restrictions. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare an occasional meal as needed, please sign up in the west foyer or contact Melissa Freiny at 734-652-1638. Thank you in advance for considering to use your time and talents to support our church family.

**ZION RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING:** Mark your calendars for the upcoming Rummage Sale on Friday, May 31 & Saturday, June 1. The proceeds from the sale are going to replace the yellow curtains on the stage in the gymnasium. Lots of helping hands make the work a lot easier. Please see the West foyer for sign-up sheets for the different times that we need volunteers. There is a separate sign-up sheet for students who would like to get some extra volunteer hours in before school releases for this year. Thank you for any assistance you can give.



## Coming up at Zion ....

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)			
-	10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class			
Tuesday	Pastor's Conference			
	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class			
	5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting			
	5:30 p.m. Zion Literacy Night and Open House			
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Worship Service			
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship Service			
	10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class			
	2:00 p.m. Mother/Daughter Tea			

# April Volunteers

	April 3 & 7	April 10 & 14	April 17 & 21	April 24 & 28
Altar Guild		Diane Affholter	& Linda Selvidge	
Live Stream				
Helpers	William Robinson	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth
Ushers	<u>April 3</u>	<u>April 10</u>	<u>April 17</u>	<u>April 24</u>
	Tony Affholter	Dave Benge	Jake Burke	Mark Kipf
	Jeff Douglas	Alan Bober	Rich Heusman	Keith McBee
	Mark Fuerstenberg	Matthew Hill	Jeff Heusman	Joe Schmeling
	Ray Palmatier	Joe Koch	Juergen Koenig	Russ Vitale
		Jeremy Robinson	Matt McCormick	
	<u>April 7</u>	Jacob Robinson	Zach McCormick	<u>April 28</u>
	Tony Affholter	William Robinson		Mark Kipf
	Jeff Douglas		<u>April 21</u>	Keith McBee
	Mark Fuerstenberg	<u>April 14</u>	Jake Burke	Joe Schmeling
	Ray Palmatier	Dave Benge	Rich Heusman	Russ Vitale
		Alan Bober	Jeff Heusman	
		Matthew Hill	Juergen Koenig	
		Joe Koch	Matt McCormick	
		Jeremy Robinson	Zach McCormick	
		Jacob Robinson		
		William Robinson		
Communion	<u>April 3</u>		<u>April 17</u>	
Helpers	Mark Kipf		Ken Vagt	
	<u>April 7</u>		<u>April 21</u>	
	Mark Kipf		Alan Bober	
	Mark Fuerstenberg		Ray Palmatier	