

*First Lutheran Church*

**MARCH 29, 2026**

**PALM SUNDAY**

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Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into the promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*The assembly gathers in the Fellowship Hall.*

*The assembly stands.*

### **PALM SUNDAY ACCLAMATION**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest!**

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### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL**

*MATTHEW 21:1-11*

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem*

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey

and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" <sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***BLESSING OF PALMS***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

We praise you, O God,

for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph

and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way.

Bless these branches and those who carry them.

Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,

so that, joined to his death and resurrection,

we enter into life with you;

through the same Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### ***PROCESSION***

P: Let us go forth in peace,

**C: in the name of Christ. Amen.**

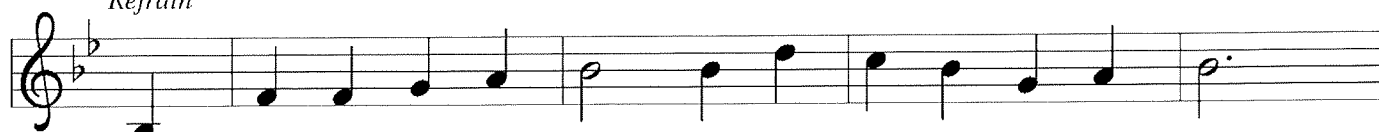
*As the "Palm Sunday Procession" begins into the Nave,  
you are invited to wave your palms just as many did as they welcomed Jesus into  
Jerusalem.*

### **EXTENDED HYMN INTRODUCTION**

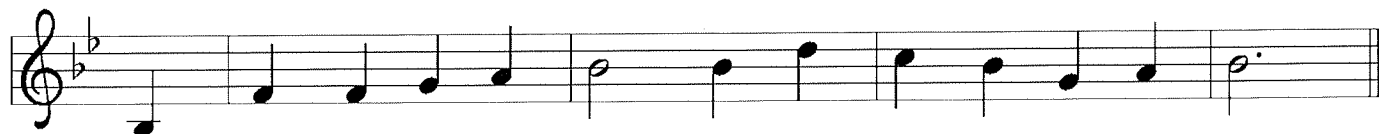
*VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN*

*All Glory, Laud and honor*

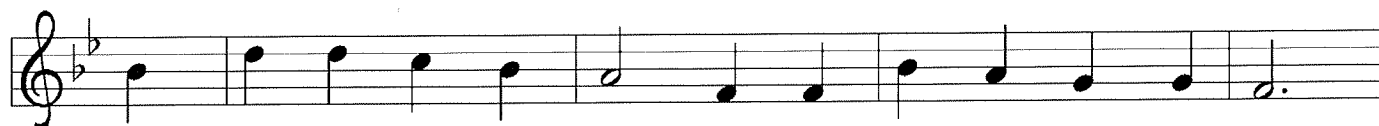
*Michael Burkhardt*

*Refrain*

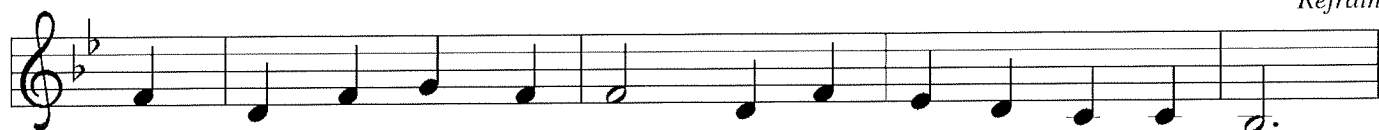
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Everlasting God,  
 in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to  
 take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross.  
 In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will  
 and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns  
 with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.***The assembly is seated.*

**BELLS OF PRAISE**

ELLACOMBE

BILL INGRAM

HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**++ CHILDREN MAY ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**FIRST READING**

ISAIAH 50:4-9

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

*R: A reading from Isaiah, the fiftieth chapter.*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me a trained tongue,  
 that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
 Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious;  
 I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me  
 and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
 I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set  
 my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me  
 is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my  
 adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will  
 declare me guilty?

*R: Word of God, Word of Life.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

PSALM 32



Mer-cy em-brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

*The cantors will sing the verses.*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
 and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!

<sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,

- and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me <sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer. **Refrain**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."  
Then you forgave me the guilt <sup>1</sup> of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that <sup>1</sup> you should go;  
I will guide you <sup>1</sup> with my eye. **Refrain**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no <sup>1</sup> understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will <sup>1</sup> not stay near you."
- <sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup> of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup> true of heart. **Refrain**

## SECOND READING

*Philippians 2:5-11*

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

*R: A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*R: Word of God, Word of Life.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

**REVEREND MARK SCHURING**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA*



1 Ho - san-na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - owed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3 "Ho - san-na in the high - est that an - cient song we sing,



throughpil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang,  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing and chant - ing clear and loud.  
for Christ is our Re - dem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,  
The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - na - ly re - joice!

**APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith  
as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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.

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING**

*Joseph M. Martin*

*Hosanna, Hosanna!*  
Senior Choir

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
C: **Amen.**

*The assembly kneels.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,  
let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

L: O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus.

*Each petition concludes:*

P: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 assembly is seated.*

### **PASSION READING**

*LUKE 23:1-56*

*P: This is the Passion of our Lord according to Luke, the twenty-third chapter.*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Passion is sung by the Presiding Minister and the two Cantors using Martin Luther's Gospel Tone.*

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole assembly rose and led Him off to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar, and claims to be Christ, a king." <sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, it is as you say." <sup>4</sup> Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." <sup>5</sup> But they insisted and said, "He stirs up the people all over Judea, by His teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." <sup>6</sup> On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been waiting to see Him. From what he had heard about Him, he hoped to see Him perform some miracle. <sup>9</sup> He plied Him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing Him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him. Dressing Him in an elegant robe, they sent Him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That same day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies. <sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined Him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against Him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; as you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish Him and then release Him." <sup>18</sup> With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" <sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again; <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" <sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them, "Why, what crime has this man committed? I have found in Him no guilt deserving death; Therefore I will have Him punished and then release Him." <sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that He crucified. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. <sup>26</sup> As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of the people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. <sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bare, and the breasts that never nursed.' <sup>30</sup> Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' <sup>31</sup> For if men do this when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" <sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals, one on His right the other on His left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do." They divided up His clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup> The people stood watching; and the rulers even sneered at Him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked Him, They offered Him vine vinegar and said, <sup>37</sup> "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also a written notice above Him, which read, "This is the King of

the Jews.”<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him. “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence?”<sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise.”<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour (noon), and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, (three in the afternoon),<sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.<sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” when He had said this, He breathed His last.<sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”<sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place; they beat their breasts and went away.<sup>49</sup> But all those who knew Him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching all these things.<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man,<sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.<sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body.<sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.<sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.<sup>55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how the body was laid in it.<sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

P: The passion of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,  
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?  
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;  
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,  
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.  
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

**DEPART IN PEACE AND SILENCE**

## Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>		<b>Mar 29</b>
10:00 AM		Palm Sunday
<u>Monday</u>		<b>Mar 30</b>
10:00 AM	<b>NO</b>	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM		Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>		<b>Mar 31</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>		<b>April 1</b>
6:00 PM		Worship & Music Mtg
<u>Thursday</u>		<b>April 2</b>
7:00 PM		Maundy Thursday Service
<u>Friday</u>		<b>April 3</b>
7:00 PM		Good Friday Service
<u>Saturday</u>		<b>April 4</b>

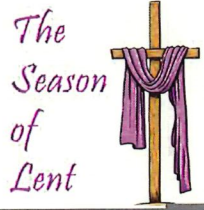


If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

## Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>		<b>Apr 5</b>
10:00AM		Easter Service
<u>Monday</u>		<b>Apr 6</b>
10:00AM	<b>NO</b>	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	<b>NO</b>	Bell Choir Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>		<b>Apr 7</b>
<u>Wednesday</u>		<b>Apr 8</b>
9:00 AM		Peace Corp
6:00 PM		Property Committee
<u>Thursday</u>		<b>Apr 9</b>
<u>Friday</u>		<b>Apr 10</b>
<u>Saturday</u>		<b>Apr 11</b>

Maundy Thursday—April 2 &  
Good Friday—April 3 service  
will be held at 7:00 PM



Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board in the hallway. The time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



*And Daffodils*

Order Forms are available on the hallway table.

They are \$15.00 a piece

Orders are due by March 29th

(Palm Sunday)

*Monthly Scroll*  
Available on line and on  
table in hallway

## Contact Us



### First Lutheran Church

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## Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Sandy & Ron Mellott

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Nick Saxton

Facebook Camera: The Rosses

Host

Reader: Shelley Ross

Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Minister: Pastor Mark Schuring

Acolytes: Cora Daniel

Angela Nominee

## Interim Pastor

**Pastor Mark Schuring**

(740) 360-2306

[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Emergency Contacts

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GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

## Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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