

A colorful poster for an Easter service and egg hunt. The background is a teal color with a pattern of small, colorful circles in the top corners. At the top, the text "Easter Service & Egg Hunt" is written in a playful, rounded font. Below this, a paragraph of text describes the event. In the center, there is a dark teal box with white text providing the church's name and address. To the left of this box, the date "5 April" is shown in a white box. To the right, the time "WORSHIP @9:00 AM" is shown in a white box. At the bottom, there is a detailed illustration of a brown rabbit sitting in a basket surrounded by various colorful Easter eggs and greenery.

Easter Service & Egg Hunt

Celebrate Easter with us! Join our uplifting Sunday service, followed by an Easter egg hunt for the whole family. If there is poor weather, we will have the egg hunt indoors.

5
April

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1701 16th Ave, Sterling IL

WORSHIP
@9:00 AM

A close-up photograph of a white lily flower with yellow stamens, set against a background of green leaves and other flowers. The text "I have seen the Lord!" is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. Below the main text, the Bible verse "JOHN 20:18, NIV" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

“I have
seen
the **Lord!**”
JOHN 20:18, NIV

**Sunday, April 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

The April Children's offering will go towards the LWR Personal Care Kits.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Easter Sunday

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

Prelude

"The Wonderful Cross"

arr. Tom Fettke

Welcome/Announcements–Pastor

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

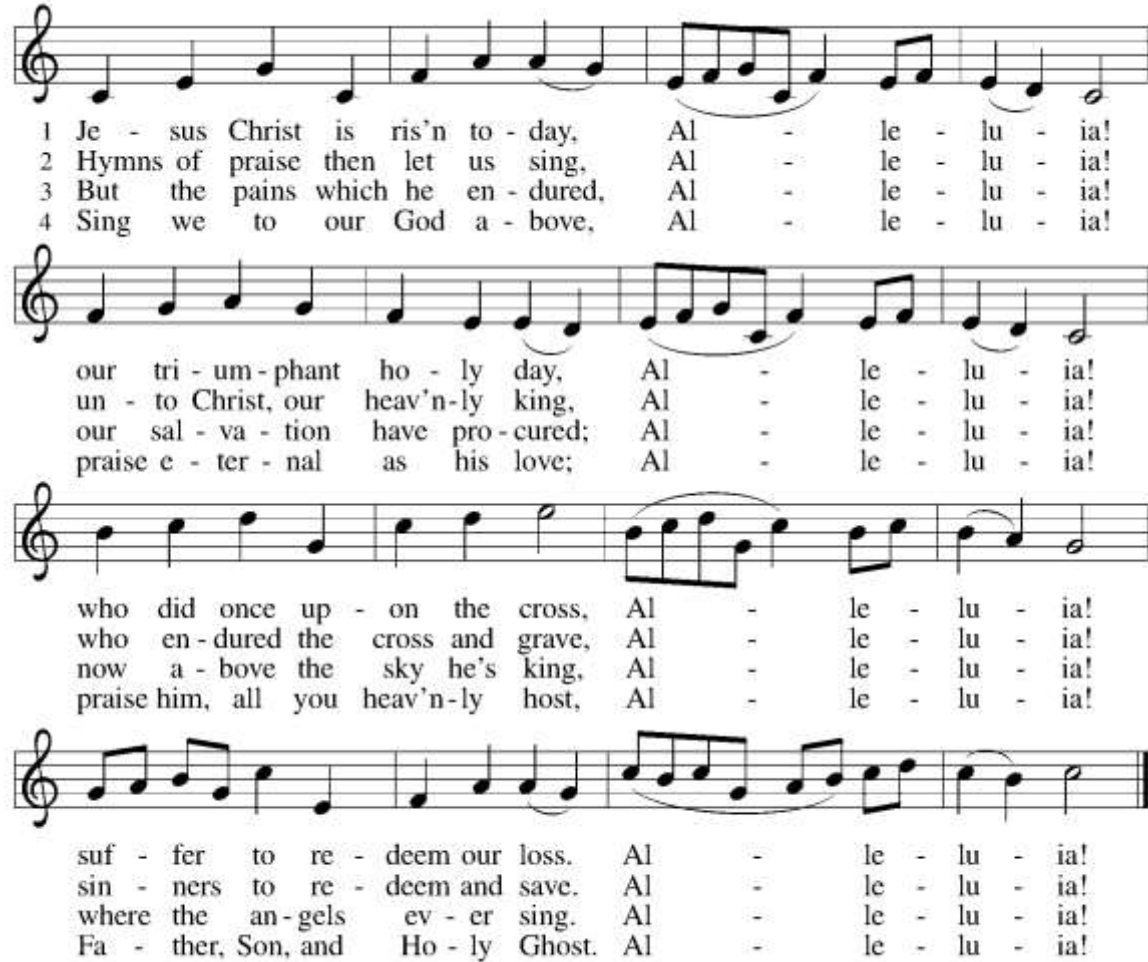
P: We gather to worship in the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

ELW #365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

GREETING

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise



Refrain
This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

R: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

All: Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures forever.”

R: The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

All: Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

R: The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

All: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

R: The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

All: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks the LORD.

R: “This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

All: I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

R: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

All: By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

R: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Gospel: John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

“Anticipate the Celebration: Be Open to God’s Surprises”

Hymn of the Day

“Resurrection Hymn”

Words and Music by
Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

1. See, what a morn - ing, glo - rious - ly bright, with the
2. See Ma - ry weep - ing, “Where is He laid?” As in
3. One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, through the

dawn - ing of hope in Je - ru - sa - lem; Fold - ed the grave clothes,
sor - row she turns from the emp - ty tomb; Hears a voice speak - ing,
Spir - it who clothes faith with cer - tain - ty, hon - our and bless - ing,

tomb filled with light, as the an - gels an - nounce Christ is ris - en!
call - ing her name; It's the Mas - ter, the Lord raised to life a - gain!
glo - ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au - thor - i - ty!

See God's sal - va - tion plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in
The voice that spans the years, speak - ing life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing
And we are raised with Him, death is dead, love has won, Christ has

sa - cri - fice, ful - filled in Christ, the Man, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the
peace to us, will sound till He ap - pears, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the
con - quered; And we shall reign with Him, for He lives: Christ is ris - en from the

dead!
dead!
dead!

Nicene Creed

P: Trusting in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed:

All: 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Reconciled Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

All: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

Offering

"In the Garden"

arr. Mark Hayes

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth

and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

**All: 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;**

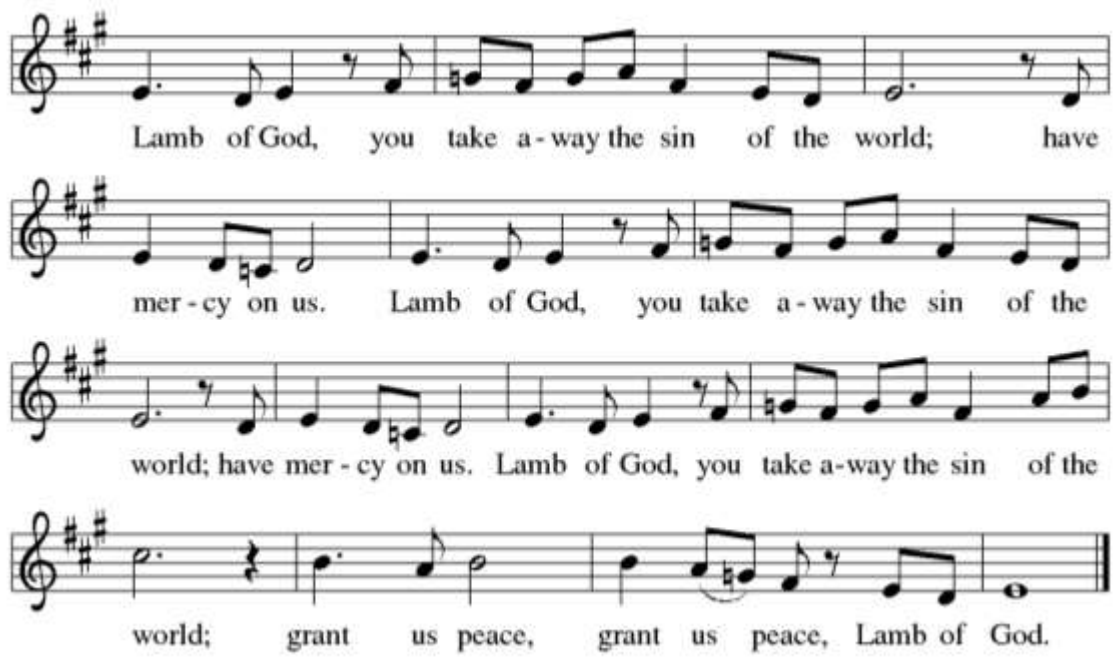
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Communion

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Music

“How Beautiful”
Twila Paris

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.
All: Amen.

P: Let us pray.
Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
All: Amen.

Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.
All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

ELW #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



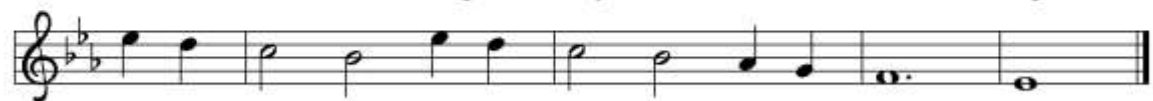
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengestänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

“The Strife Is O’er”

arr. Lani Smith

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Brad Wussung, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Maggie N., the Woodworth family, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Dylan Wescott, Phyllis Jacobson, and Betty Steinke

Placing our confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Joan Geiger. Joan passed away on Wednesday. She is the mother of Andy (Marilyn) Geiger.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Lyle Dirks. Lyle passed away on Thursday. He is the father-in-law to Sue (Larri) Dirks.

May God’s presence bring you comfort and peace.

Worship Assistants:

Easter Sunday

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bartel family

Ushers – Dan Bartel, Diane Yoeckel

Reader – Ann Beswick

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Ann Beswick

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Musicians:

Live: Linda Von Holten, vocals

Recorded: Dawn Zeigler, organ and piano

Next Week – April 12

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chrissy Zollinger

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Nancy Eilers, Ann Beswick

Ushers – Tim Zollinger, Mel Johnson

Reader – Tim Zollinger

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Nancy Eilers

Altar Guild – Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer needed*

Spring Plant Donations

If you ordered a plant, you may take it with you following worship this morning.

Spring Plants in Honor of:

The Waite family

Easter Lily

By Tim & Chrissy Zollinger

Easter Lilies given in Memory of:

Loren T. Beswick & his parents by Ann Beswick and family

Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman by Jim & Cheryl Gorman

Tulips given in Honor of:

Phyllis Jacobson by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Tulips given in Memory of:

Family by Dianne Stern Miller

Ron and our parents by Janie Billings

Heather Crofts by Khe & Jerry Crofts

Lila & Martin Edeus, Luke & Louise Edeus by Jennifer Pillars and Jill O'Brien

Ed & Barb Hussung, Harry & Winnie Riggins by Debbie Riggins

Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde by Judy & Bob Bartel and family, Donna & Dave Kendall and family

Hazel, Harold, Bob & Bill Cox by Cox family

Dick Cox by Audrey, Cathy and Rick Cox

Graftaas & Garcia family by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Dave & David Beck, and George & Sylvia Day by Nancy Beck

John & Mary Garrett, Melissa Wittbecker by Myra Oelrichs

Julie Renner by John Renner

Daffodils given in Memory of:

Bob, Lila & Ted Gomsrud by Ann Beswick and family

Dale Graunke by Bev Graunke

Warren & Louise McDearmon by Mike & Debbie O'Brien

My brother, Terry Warnick by Nancy Luepke

Hyacinths given in Honor of:

Phyllis Jacobson by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Hyacinths given in Memory of:

Ed & Barb Hussung, Harry & Winnie Riggins by Debbie Riggins

Ian Whitmore by Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman by Jim & Cheryl Gorman

Harry & Ann Landheer, Richard Landheer & Merwyn Landheer by Leta VanZuiden

Graftaas & Garcia family by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia