

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Houma, Louisiana 70360
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Pastor - Richard D. Rudnik
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President - Mike Cape
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Church Secretary - Lorie Souther
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Accompanists-David West & Mike Cape

Today

Service Elder - Joey Souther
Scripture Reader - Shelby Giroir
Offering Stewards - Lisa Giroir
Altar Guild - John & Rana

Next Sunday

John Wegner
Belinda Thibodaux
Lisa Giroir
Pastor Rich & Bridgette

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion	April 13, 2025
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Welcome to God's house! Please allow us to keep in touch with you by signing the register in the foyer/narthex. Thank you!

Altar Flowers are placed today to the glory of God in celebration of Ruby Harlo Souther's 15th birthday today.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each week. Those Christians who truly believe that they receive the true body and blood of Christ Jesus our Savior, in, with and under the bread and wine are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

The Apostle Paul's words in Corinthians 11:27-29 set forth, "*Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.*"

If you are concerned about having a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper, we urge you to speak with pastor. Questions and answers that may aid your understanding of and preparation for Holy Communion are on pages 329-330 in the pew hymnal.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cup trays for those who cannot tolerate alcohol.

† PREPARATION †

The congregation gathers in the narthex at the back of the sanctuary.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: who loved us unconditionally, even before the foundation of the world;

Pastor: and of His † Son, Jesus,

People: the name above all names, who came to pay a King's ransom for us;

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: who brings us to the faith and keeps us in the faith from the cradle to grave. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Hosanna!

People: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We confess before You, Lord, that we have sinned against You.

People: We have sinned not only against You but one another, with what we have thought, what we have said, and by what we have or have not done.

Pastor: We unseat You and put ourselves on the throne that belongs only to You.

People: Our pride in these and all sins deserves Your punishment, yet today we approach Your throne of grace, asking for Your mercy.

Pastor: So I ask you now: are you sincere in this, your confession before God, and promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

People: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday to show His love for you at the cross. At the cross, He showed His passion for you by dying for your sins and paying the price we could not pay. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen! Thank You, Lord, for Your passion for us.

† WORD †

COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL *John 12:12-19*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

People: in the name of the Lord.

The congregation enters the sanctuary waving their palm branches and singing.

HYMN *“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” LSB #442*

Refrain:

**All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the King of Israel
And David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s Name coming,
Our King and Blessèd One. [Refrain]**

**The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply. [Refrain]**

**The multitude of pilgrims
With palms before You went:
Our praise and prayers and anthems
Before You we present. [Refrain]**

**To you before Your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. [Refrain]**

**As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King. [Refrain]**

Stand

GREETING

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our Savior's willingness to ride into Jerusalem, let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our Savior's humility in showing His real passion for all by dying five days later, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to grow in faith during this Holy Week, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, our gracious Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

HYMN *"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" LSB #438, verses 1 & 3*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day, You entered Jerusalem with pomp and circumstance, yet Your true passion was to be sacrificed for our sins. Help us, we pray, to look past the pomp and circumstance and see Your passion

for us; we ask this in Your name, who with the Father and Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 32:36–39*

³⁶ The Lord will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone
and there is none remaining, bond or free.

³⁷ Then he will say, “Where are their gods,
the rock in which they took refuge,

³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offering?

Let them rise up and help you;
let them be your protection!

³⁹ “See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;

I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a*

Pastor: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

People: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Pastor: He sent redemption to His people;

People: He has commanded His covenant forever.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:5–11*

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

VERSE *Philippians 2:8b*

Pastor: He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

People: **even death on a cross.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 22:1–23:56 (Stand at Luke 23:26)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second and twenty-third chapters.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” ⁵But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him."

¹⁸But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas" — ¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

²⁶And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?

⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

HYMN *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" LSB #443*

SERMON

MEDITATION

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(After each petition...)

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERTORY *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” LSB #955*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us
A foretaste of the feast to come.**

† SACRAMENT †

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” LSB #940, verses 1 & 5*

**Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav’n above adore Thee.
Infinite The vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee.
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *“Lamb of God” LSB #550 verses 1*

**Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Savior, Precious Savior” LSB #527

“The Wonderful Cross” Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, J.D. Walt and Isaac Watts

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it Lord that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most; I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;**

**Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled
down:**

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

**Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;
Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!**

**Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;
Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.
(Repeat Chorus to end)**

*2000 Worshiptogether.com Songs
CCLI 314835*

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed” LSB #560

Stand

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee” LSB #632*

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:**

How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:23–26*

Pastor: Your King cares for you! Receive His blessing through the words of the Aaronic benediction, by which He said, "Thus you shall bless the people." Receive that benediction, your King's blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

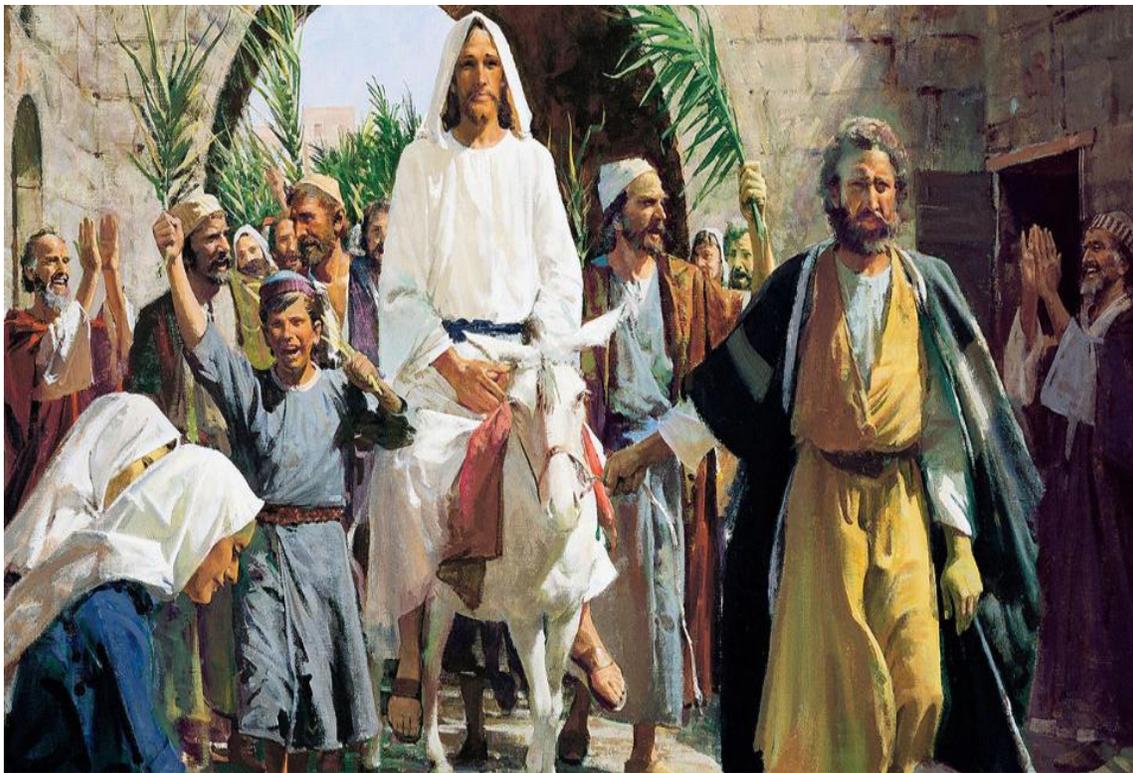
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" LSB #441*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2.

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This Week at Grace

Today	9:00 a.m.	Worship Coffee & LWML Baked Goods
	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	4:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Holy Thursday Worship Service
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship Service

For the week April 13 - 19, 2025

Birthdays

04/13 Ruby Harlo Souther

04/17 Roy Labat

Baptismal Anniversaries

04/16 Alyssah Kinsella

04/18 Barbara Jakob

In the palm of God's Hands...

PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS: Carmen Cunningham, Cynthia Ratliff and Todd Cunningham.

BATTLING CANCER: Beau Bourgeois, Helen Duplantis and Michael Hamilton.

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY/INJURY: Andrew Beasley, Jacqui Kaplan and Joe Deane.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS & ELDERLY: Connie Oswalt, DeAnn Barrios, Donna Von Burgsdorff, Ellen DeSoto, Frank Alessio, James Hillman, Jaxon Greene, John Wegner, Kim Cape,

Marilyn Beach, Mike Wallace, Rana DaSilva, Richard LaCour and Toni St. Amant.

MOURNING A LOSS: The families of Annick George Matherne, Elaine Waswick, Patsy Wegner and Richard Hauser.

NEW & EXPECTING MOTHERS: Hailey & baby Crawford, Karoline and baby Cormier and Lei'Lyn and baby Hebert.

SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES & THEIR FAMILY: Austin Lirette, Haize Shroyer, Jason Reid-O'Neill, Julia Shroyer, Kyle Turcott, Lei'Lyn Hebert and Noah Scheufens.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alyssah Kinsella, Jonathan Dahl, Nicholas Scott, Niyah Shroyer and Victoria Thalheim.

