

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

Amen.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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!

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW 364

Christ Has Arisen. Alleluia

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.

Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.

For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,

e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The lyrics are: '1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia. Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia. For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.'

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

A reading from Acts:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the

grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

A Word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

v. 1 before, v. 2 after

ELW 385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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***GOSPEL – Mark 16:1-8**

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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***APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER REFRAIN

ELW 388

Be Not Afraid

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The first system of musical notation for 'Be Not Afraid' consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The second system of musical notation for 'Be Not Afraid' continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also consists of a treble and a bass staff in the same key and time signature. The lyrics are repeated, and the system ends with a double bar line.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us rejoice and be glad on this festival of Christ's resurrection, offering our prayers to God for all in any need, concluding each petition with the Easter response "for Christ is risen," and you are invited to respond, "**Christ is risen indeed.**"*

Heavenly Father, we give thanks this day for your great gift of Jesus Christ, that you would love us so much you'd send your only son to live and die for our sins. We celebrate in his glorious resurrection claiming victory over death and sin. Forgive our sins Lord and let us live fully in the joy of Christ, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Lord, open our ears to hear the story of Easter. Open our minds to understand your sacrificial love. Open our hearts to know your forgiveness. Open our lips to sing your praises and open our lives to the wonder and joy of Easter, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Gracious Lord, we praise our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified for our salvation. We are happy to know such love today, as we celebrate his resurrection. Thank you for the gift of new life that you have given to us. Fill our hearts with happiness today and every day of our lives, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. Today we pray especially for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant and their pastor, Rev. Dana Hendershot, for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER REFRAIN

ELW 388

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

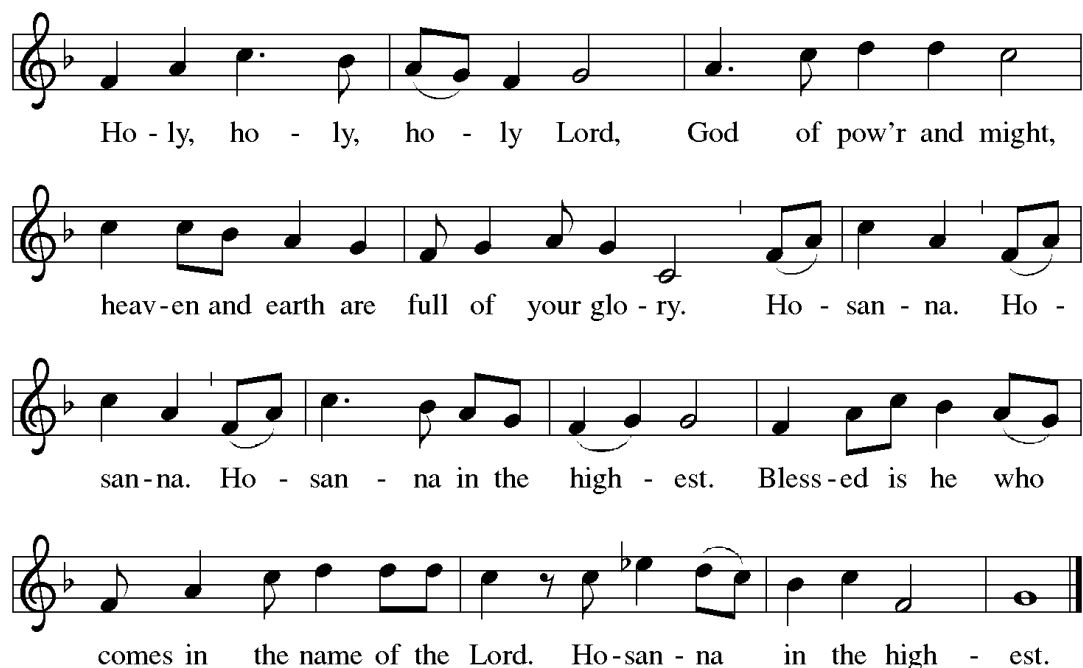
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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

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

With this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

***COMMUNION**

This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
Amen.**

***BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2055 E. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-963-5356

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:

Presider	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Doug Martens
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Don Boulton
Prayers	Linda Hermann

A special thanks to Jeff Andert and Tish Gancer on trumpet for the festive addition to this morning's service.

Thank you also to all who contributed lilies to decorate our sanctuary

Kathy Chapman	In memory of loved ones
Ellis and Sharon Cutler	In memory of our parents, Darcy & Kathryn
Dick and Connie Everson	Everson and Robert & Florence Gaus
John and Gloria Kolodizieizyck	In memory of loved ones
Doug and Eileen Martens	In memory of loved ones
John Sullivan	
Bob and Laurie Swanson	In memory of loved ones
Wayne Walentowski	In memory of Rose Walentowski

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Sermon transcripts can be found at: www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY
March 31-April 7, 2024

TODAY: 9am Easter Brunch | 10:30am Worship

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat

WEDNESDAY: 10:30am Bible Chat | 5:30pm Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.

March 24: Jack (friend of the Martens)

March 17: Kendra, Jean (boss of Janet's son), family and friends of Charlene (Kathy's friend), thanksgiving for Matthew on his birthday (Tresa's nephew), Angela (Tresa's sister), thanksgiving for the anniversary of Amy and Chris (Martens' daughter and son-in-law), peace for Dick and Connie as they are spring break day care, Don and Dorene, Kreiter family in the passing of Betty (Anderts' neighbor), Sonya, thanksgiving for the Martens' anniversary.

March 10: Angela (Tresa's sister), Butch and Cindy (Doug's brother and sister-in-law), Tammy (Martens' niece), David (Martens' brother-in-law), Steve (Martens' nephew).

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant and their pastor, Rev. Dana Hendershot. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://immanuelmp.com/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is First Lutheran Church in Muskegon and their pastor, Rev. William Uetrict. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://www.firstlutheranmuskegon.org/>.