

Welcome to Worship  
St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 17, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*

Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



## **To the Glory of God**

March Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

**North Baltimore Food Pantry March** requested donations include: *hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste.* Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please help.

**Choir** rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

# Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

*Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the morning, as the clouds gather and break,

**ALL: we open our eyes and stretch our arms to a new day.**

Leader: As we gather, and the papers rustle and the pews creak, and friends whisper together,

**ALL: we become the beloved community again.**

Leader: In our words and songs and silence and prayers,

**ALL: we open ourselves to wonder, and gratitude, and praise.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #732

BORNING CRY

### \*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection.*

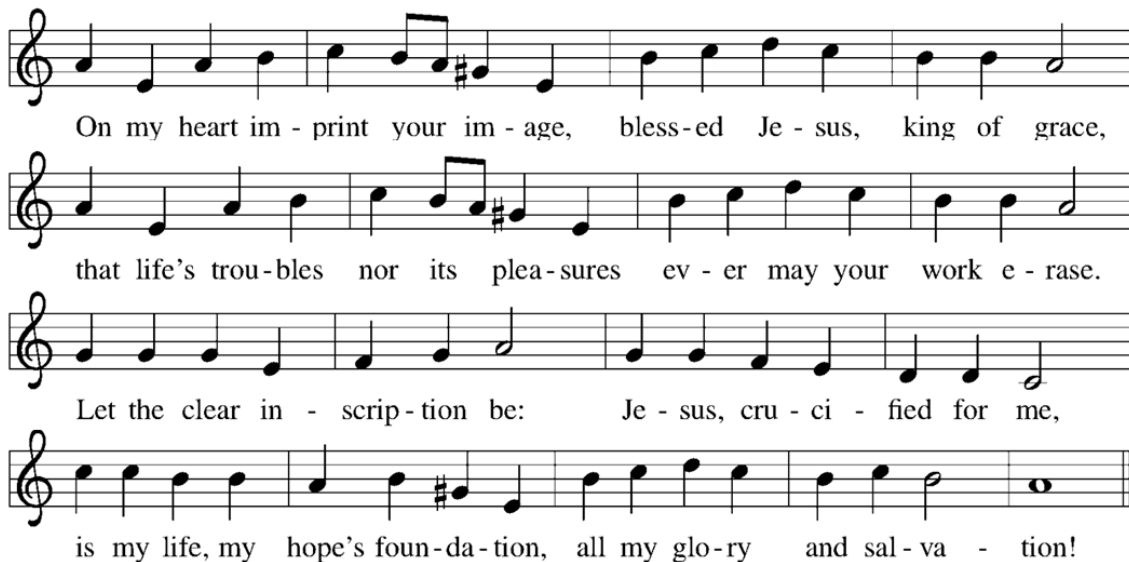
Leader: Holy God,

**ALL: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✕ Jesus Christ. Amen.

### \* LENTEN CANTICLE

ELW HYMN 811



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,  
that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus**

**Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **FIRST READING**

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Reader: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

AS THE WINTER DAYS GROW LONGER

### **PSALM READING**

*(responsively)*

Psalm 51:1-12

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**ALL: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

Reader: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**ALL: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Reader: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**ALL: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Reader: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**ALL: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Reader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Reader: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

HEBREWS 5:5-10

Reader: Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

<sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## \*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:20-33

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

Leader: The holy gospel according to John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father,

glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY #785**

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

### **\*A LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Please join me as we confess our faith for the journey ahead.

**ALL: We believe in God, creator and sustainer of all that is and all that is to come, the God of our living and our loving.**

**We believe in the cross of Christ, drenched in hatred and cruelty, yet overflowing with God’s unquenchable love that we might be free.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts. We believe in the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, despised by the world, but our way of life.**

**We believe that, through faith our sins are forgiven, and that we will be with Christ, our Savior and Lord, our divine friend, in heavenly glory; life that never ends. Amen.**

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.



## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: your mercy is great.**

We pray for We pray for Lorraine, Sue, Dave, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Gus, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

## **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: As we continue our journey through Lent together, let us share the peace of Christ with one another saying “The peace of Christ be with you.” **ALL: and also with you.**

*“Please share God’s peace.”*

## **INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS**

Leader: Heavenly Father, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the countless blessings you have bestowed upon us. As we give tithes and offerings today, we ask for your guidance and wisdom to help us understand that it's better to give than receive. Inspire us to embrace the joy and blessing that come from selfless giving, mirroring the generous spirit of our Savior.

## **OFFERTORY**

## **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Lord God, we remember that your Son, Jesus our Lord, emptied himself and gave his life for us. Grant us courage to empty ourselves, that we may serve humbly. Keep us faithful. Bless us and our gifts to your glory. Amen**

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## GOD NOURISHES US

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## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

**ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them unto the Lord.**

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

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly good, right.....evermore praising you and singing:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*MELODY TUNE; ELW HYMN 666*

Blest be the One who bears God's blest name un - to us. Blest  
be the ho - ly name of our Lord. Let Je - sus' name be blest,  
by all the world con - fessed. Our high - est and our best prais - es  
ring, an - thems sing: "Ho - san - na, Christ our Lord, God and King!"

## **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me.” In the same way, 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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me.” **ALL: Amen**

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith;

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Leader: As children of God, with faithful hearts, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

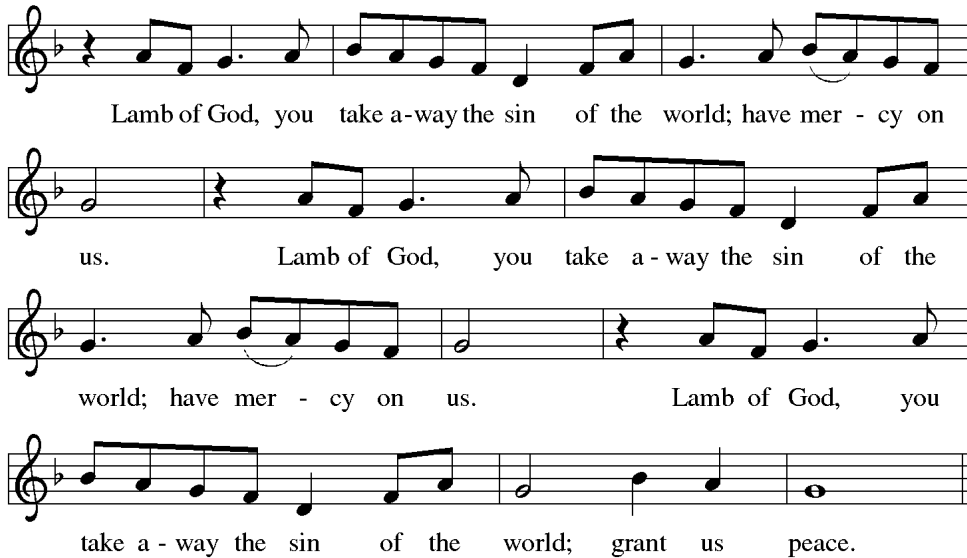
## **\*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**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**



## \*LAMB OF GOD

SETTING 2 PG. 135



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.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the table where heaven and earth are joined as one!

## \*DISTRIBUTION

## \*TABLE BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

(Verse 1)

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

**ALL: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us**

one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
Amen.

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## GOD SENDS US

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### \*BLESSING

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✠ peace.

### \*THE AMEN



### \*SENDING HYMN #623

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

### \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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"*Borning Cry*" TEXT: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: John C. Ylvisaker Text an music © 1954 John C. Ylvisaker

"*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*" TEXT: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, alt. Music: Johann B. Konig, 1691-1758

"*As the Winter Days Grown Longer*" TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, B. 1953 Music: SUO GAN, Welsh melody; arr. Hymnal version TEXT © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All right reserved. Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

"*When Peace like a River*" TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888 Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

"*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*" TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (#313)

"*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*" TEXT: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778 Music: Thomas Hastings, 784-1872

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# Holy Week Schedule



## Palm Sunday, March 24

St. John's Worship @ 8 a.m.

St. Luke's Worship @10:15 a.m.

Pastor Elizabeth Hadler will lead our worship

## Maundy Thursday, March 28

Combined churches @ St. Luke's @ 7 p.m.

SAM Bob Fett and members from both churches will participate in an interactive dialogue of the Last Supper

## Good Friday, March 29

No services @ St. John's or St. Luke's

The Church of Christ in McComb invites you to a  
Worship service @ 7 p.m.

## Easter Sunday, March 31

St. John's Worship @ 8 a.m.

Breakfast @9 a.m.

St. Luke's breakfast @ 9 a.m.

Worship @ 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Elizabeth Hadler will lead our worship



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for the leadership of Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the NWOS, and for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Lorraine Ferguson, Sue & Dave Ebersole, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Suzanne & Bill Bucher and family following the death of Bill's mom, Dolores Bucher, on March 13; the family and friends of Fred Husing who passed away on March 4.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

## The Attraction of the Repellant Cross

Two themes vie for attention in the readings: divine forgiveness (with attention paid to the human sinfulness that makes it necessary!) and the cross's mysterious power.

Jeremiah prophesies of God's desire and ability to wipe the slate clean and to come even closer than before, in the form of a "new covenant" with God's people. But how is this possible? God and God's people were already as close as husband and wife—one flesh! Even so, God promises to forgive the divorce and forge an even more profound unity and intimacy with God's people.

The composers of both psalm alternatives (51 and 119) sing of the relief and joy of being forgiven and then taught, sustained, and sanctified by God's Spirit. Both psalmists testify that relief and joy more than balance the agony of confessing their unworthiness and brokenness and their own culpability for both.



In the gospel, Jesus plants the image of the (dead) seed coming to life and bearing fruit, as a metaphor for his own crucifixion and being "lifted up" on our behalf. The Greeks ask to see Jesus. We might paraphrase Jesus' oblique response this way: "If you want to see me, first look down into the dirt; then look up to the cross."

The connection point for the two themes is deep (even intimate) service to the other. Jeremiah tells us that God will come closer to us than a husband to a wife—directly into our hearts! Deep in this mystery we will be known—truly known even beyond our fear of being known—and forgiven and loved. Jesus then promises that through his life in us, we will be drawn into a similar emptying of selves as we enter richly into the lives of others so that they too will know the joy and relief of being known and loved. In this way, confession leads finally to mission.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)