

# **ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

**Main Office:** 717-248-8780 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:00AM-4:00 PM Fri. 8-Noon  
stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

**Office Hours:** Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon \*please call ahead.

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**Director of Music/Organist:** Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

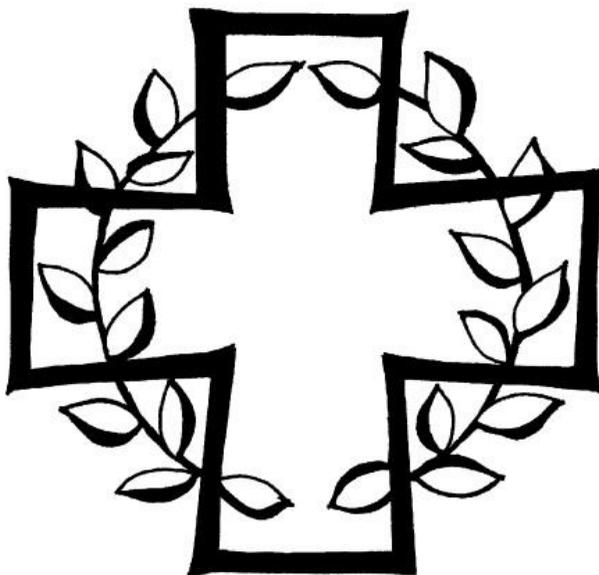
<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, *Fifth Sunday in Lent /Setting 10***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

**WELCOME** to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person. We are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers and care for those in Need.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is served by a 2-line procession down the center aisle. We will celebrate with bread, wine, or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

**GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S** Offering plates are located at each entrance. If you prefer to give electronically, visit our website, and click on the **E-Giving Tab**. Use your existing login information. For new users, search for St John's Lutheran Church Lewistown. Information on **E-Giving** is available on the SJLC resource table. Thank you for your continued support.

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR**, we would like to get to know you. Please fill out a visitor's card from the pew rack and place it on the offering plate at the entrances. May Christ's spirit be with each and every one of us in our congregational life and faith journey.

**LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOKLETS** are available, please see a door greeter.

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Guest Speaker* – Mr. Chad Hershberger

*Acolytes* – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman, Melissa Rosenberry

*Communion Assistants* – Dave Phillips, Tom Beaver

*Lay Reader* – Adele Craig

*Ushers* – Jim Rosenberry – head, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Thierwechter

*Media & Production* – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler, Mary Barr, and Annette Rager

**PRELUDE** "Love Divine" Rowland H. Prichard, Arr. John A. Behnke, 2019 Choristers Guild  
**Handbell Choir**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **GATHERING**

*Please stand as you are able. Congregational responses are in **Bold**.  
Red Hymnal (ELW) will be used for parts of the service.*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW #758 "You Are the Way"

### GREETING

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.**

**Kyrie** (spoken)

P: Hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word: it saves us from despair.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: Make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

**C. Have mercy on us, Lord.**

## RESPONSE HYMN

ELW #328 "Restore in Us, O God"

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Special Music

"My Jesus" Anne Wilson, Jeff Pardo & Matthew West, 2021 Jacobs Story Music  
**Josie Baughman - Vocal**

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE** *All children are invited forward.*

**Today we are hearing the texts that will be used in this summer's camp experience at Camp Mount Luther.**

**WORD**

**Day 1 "Kindness"**

**1 Kings 17:8-16**

*"We wear love with kindness through acts of love, big and small."*

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup> 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' <sup>10</sup> So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' <sup>11</sup> As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' <sup>12</sup> But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.' <sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.' <sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**

Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

**Day 2 "Humbleness"**

**Luke 19:1-10**

*"We wear love through humbleness by putting others before us"*

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup> A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to

him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup> So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**

Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

### **Day 3 "Calmness"**

#### **Matthew 8:23-27**

*"We wear love through calmness by practicing self-care to build resilience and trust"*  
And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. <sup>27</sup> They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**

Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

### **Day 4 "Forgiveness"**

#### **Genesis 45:1-10**

*"We wear love through forgiveness by embracing the freedom to share God's love in the world"*

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me

before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

Reader ends with: **"The Word of the Lord."**

Congregation responds: **"Thanks be to God."**

*Please be seated.*

**Guest Speaker**

**Chad Hershberger**

**Executive Director, Camp Mount Luther**

**Apostles' Creed**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The petitions end with: "*Hear Us, O God*"

And the Congregational response is:

**"your mercy is great"**

### **SHARING of GOD'S PEACE**

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words. "*Peace be with You.*"

**"And also with you."**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie  
Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Toby  
Sweigart, Freda Hook, and the  
Call Committee.

\*To have someone added to the  
Prayer Guide-with their  
permission-please contact the  
church office.



**MEAL** *Please continue to stand.*

### Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G minor (one flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

### OFFERING PRAYER

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

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of

your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW pg. #207 Setting 10**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues:*

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer (spoken)**

**Our Father, which 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**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## **Lamb of God**

**ELW pg. #208 Setting 10**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## **COMMUNION**

All who are baptized are invited to come forward. Children, if not already communing, may be brought forward for a blessing from the Pastor. Please hold both hands out to receive the bread, then choose a cup from the Acolyte. Please dispose of your communion cup in the nearby waste basket.

### **Communion Music Jerry Stone – Flute**

“Into My Heart” Harry D. Clarke, Arr. Jack Schrader 1985 Hope Pub. Co.

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”/“The Solid Rock” Norwegian Folk Melody/William B. Bradbury, Arr. Brant Adams, 2005 Lorenz Pub. Co.

“My Heart Ever Faithful” J.S. Bach, Arr. Jack Schrader, 1985 Hope Pub. Co.

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### *Sending*

## **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #886 "Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

### **Silent Meditation**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" (#333 in our hymnal)**

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### **DEDICATIONS**

**THIS WEEK'S BASKET** is presented by Sandra and Dennis Noble in memory of their parents.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Pam and Tim Tressler in honor of loved ones.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in honor of in memory of Madeline and Dean Rupe by Dee and Mark Monroe.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Sue and Mike Shawver in honor of their grandsons.

## **ST. JOHN'S NEWS**

**TODAY WE WELCOME** Chad Hershberger, Camp Mount Luther Executive Director, to our church to share about church camp! Campers of all ages are invited to come this summer to CMT, located near Mifflinburg. Check out a summer brochure to see all camps available for school- aged kids and families. Don't forget if you register before April 15th, you receive a discount. For more information on Mount Luther, visit [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org).

**LAST MONTHS** challenge to the organ fund to match a \$1000 donation was met by more than 3 times. The total donations for February, including the initial \$1000, was \$4405. Thank you to all of the donors. In addition, the soup sale netted \$872 for the organ fund as well,

**EASTER BASKETS** Once again, we are planning Easter Baskets for kids in need in our area. We are planning to be able to provide for over 50 kids this year. Easter baskets will be placed at each door, starting **Sunday, March 1st**. No donation is too small.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS** We will be celebrating communions on Maundy Thursday **evening, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If your son or daughter is in fifth grade, please see Pastor Allen to arrange for preparation meeting.

**MEET & EAT** ladies' luncheon on **Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** will be at the downtown O.I.P. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant at 12-Noon.

**BARNABAS BROTHERS** hoagie sale is on **Friday, April 10th** at SJLC. Hoagies are \$5.00 and orders are due **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet on the church window. Any questions please contact Steve Burk.

**REGISTRATION** forms for Camp Mount Luther are on the resource table. The church will cover 75% of Tier 3 Pricing this year. Please register online **by May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**SJLC COUNCIL** members who are recently coming off council, please be sure and turn in your key to the office or to Hillary Worley as soon as possible.

**THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** Committee is looking for someone to represent SJLC Bible School meetings bringing information back so we can stay involved. Meetings have begun so we are looking to pass on a new representative as soon as possible. Interested parties, please see Hillary Worley.

**THERE WILL BE** no Ham Sandwich sales for the month of March due to the Lumina Center auction. Sandwich sell will continue in April.

**CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER** 2026 flyer with summer programs, registration and scholarship information have been placed at the entrances of the sanctuary and on the resource table. Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome, fun-filled programs for summer adventures.

**LENTEN OFFERING** Rainbow Summer

**EASTER OFFERING** Organ refurbishment. Rebuild Capital Improvement Fund.

**FIRST QUARTER** Special Offerings will go towards the Central Pa. Meat Canning Project.

**ORGAN FUND** There is now an option through Vanco (on-line giving) for donations to go towards the organ fund.

**COMMUNION ROBES** If your communion robe is in need of cleaning (i.e. wine) please place it in the laundry basket in the robe room.

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community.

**SJLC OFFICE** lunch hour Tuesday and Thursday is between 11:30am -12:30pm.

**LOST & FOUND** there is a lost and found box in the lobby on the shelf above the coat rack. Please check for any items that you may be missing.

**WEATHER ALERT** If the Mifflin County School District is delayed, closed, or closing due to snow and ice, the SJLC Office and all activities in the church facility will be postponed or cancelled.

### COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

**SJLC COUNCIL MEETING** on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm.

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **March/April** are dish detergent, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products and hand turn can openers.

**HAM SANDWICH SALE** is **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Orders are due by Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the church window. Please see Janet Deamer with any questions.

## Worship SCHEDULE

March 29 [Palm Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

April 2 [Maundy Thursday] 7:00pm Service

April 3 [Good Friday] 7:30 pm Service

April 5 [Resurrection of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

April 12 [Second Sunday of Easter] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

**Meetings (Please see above for details)**

Tue. March 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at 6:30pm.

Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

**Reminders for March**

**Acolytes** – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman, Melissa Rosenberry

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Phillips – crucifer, Jenna Dudukovich, Tom Beaver

**Ushers** – Jim Rosenberry- head, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Theirwechter

**Money Counters** – Cheryl Bressler, Genevieve McCardle

**Lay Lectors**

March 29 – Justice Mills

**Reminders for April**

**Acolytes** – Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Pam Tressler, Katrina Martin, Meagan Earnest

**Communion Assistants** – Scott Price – crucifer, Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer

**Ushers** – Scott Welham – head, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

**Money Counters** – Barry Stuck, Susan Phillips

**Lay Lectors**

April 5 – Gisele Miller

April 12 – Cantata Chancel Choir

April 19 – Jim Rosenberry

April 26 – Hillary Worley

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66*