



Concordia Lutheran Church  
4210 Johnson Ave NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 15, 2026

# Announcements for March 15, 2026

Sunday (15)	8:30 am Contemporary Worship & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group
Monday (16)	4:30 pm Irish Class
Tuesday (17)	9:00 am Holy Chair Yoga 7:00 pm Church Council
Wednesday (18)	7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Service
Sunday (22)	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group

**Welcome Concordia members & guests – please be sure to fill out the attendance/communion cards located in each pew. Thank you!**

**Last week at Concordia: Attendance: 32    Planned returning: \$ 3,136    Actual returning: \$826    YTD: \$4,384**

**Please join us for our midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. This year the series title is “Promised Treasures”**

Midweek 4 of Lent – March 18 – “Bread of Life”

Midweek 5 of Lent – March 25 – “Palms and Victory”

Maundy Thursday – April 2 – “Water and Blood”

Good Friday – April 3 – “The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross”

**Mark your calendars!** Please join us for our **Easter Breakfast** hosted by Youth Group following service on April 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet for items needed if you would like to donate. You may drop your donation off in the kitchen on Friday, April 3, or on Saturday, April 4 – 8:30-9:00 am.

One month and counting down to the LWML Cedar Rapids Zone Spring Event, “Rejoice in the Lord Always”. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend on April 11, 2026, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, Iowa. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by brunch at 9:00 a.m. and our program. Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig. His presentation will be – Foro: Joy in Working Together in Christ. The in-gathering will be for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP). Requested items are bath towels, washcloths, twin sheet sets, bed pillows, twin size blankets, body soap, shampoo and body lotions. Please join us at Our Redeemer for this uplifting event. RSVP to *your group president/contact person today*.

**Building Healthy Families:** Spring – the season of renewal and new life – officially arrives this week on Friday at 10:46 am. Though you can’t dig in the garden quite yet, take some time this week to take someone you care about (or just go yourself!) to a local greenhouse where you can smell, see, touch, feel, and experience the presence of new life all around you. As you do, be mindful of the new life that stirs within you and of Paul’s inspired words written for you in Romans 6: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Call us for help with any of life’s challenges you’re experiencing along the journey. We’re here to help! Learn more about the many supports available at [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org) **Lutheran Family Service**

**Support Trinity Lutheran School with Your Receipts!** Your Hy-Vee receipts help our PTL (Parent Teacher League) support the school’s teachers, field trips, and other all-school events. Please turn in Marion and Cedar Rapids Hy-Vee receipts dated between April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026. Thank you for supporting TLS!

# Contemporary Service

## Jesus Turns Our Darkness into Light

### As We Gather

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, but He does not forsake them. Instead, He promises to turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground (Isaiah 42:16). The Lord does not give up on His servant, Israel, but sends another Servant who is the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus' light comes to us in His Word, His water, and His Supper. These are His means for opening our eyes to see and to live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). Baptized into Christ, we look forward to the day when these words will come pass: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).

### BOB #122 I Will Glory in the Cross

**I will glory in the cross**

**Where my Jesus was crucified.**

**Through His blood I stand forgiven,**

**Cleansed from sin and justified,**

**I will glory in the cross.**

**I will ever lift it high**

**As a banner for salvation,**

**As the standard for my life.**

(repeat)

## PREPARATION

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 142:1*

**P** With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

**C** with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

*Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, open our eyes. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

**P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

**C** for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

**P** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

**C** that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

**P** For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;

**C** He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

**P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**C** **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

**C** **for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.  
I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.  
<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

*Hebrews 12:2*

- P** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,  
**C** **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 9:1–41*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him

heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **BOB #169 Nothing but the Blood of Jesus**

1. What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Chorus:** Oh! Precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

2. For my pardon this I see,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
For my cleansing this my plea,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Chorus:** Oh! Precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

### **Sermon**

#### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** 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.  
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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

### **Offering**

#### **BOB #211 There Is a Redeemer**

1. There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God,  
Messiah, Holy One.

**Chorus:** Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til  
The work on earth is done.

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2. **Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God,  
Messiah, hope for sinners slain.**

**Chorus: Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til  
The work on earth is done.**

3. **When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
There I'll serve my King forever,  
In that holy place.**

**Chorus: Thank You, O my Father,  
For giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til  
The work on earth is done.**

**Prayer of the Church (each petition after ends)**

...let us pray to the Lord,      **Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**☩ 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.**

**Benediction**

**☩ 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.**

**☩ Amen.**

**BOB #243 You Are My All in All**

1. **You are my strength when I am weak,  
You are the Treasure that I seek.  
You are my All in All.**
2. **Seeking You as a precious jewel,  
Lord to give up I'd be a fool.  
You are my All in All.**

**Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.**

3. **Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,  
Rising again I bless Your name.  
You are my All in All.**
4. **When I fall down you pick me up;  
When I am dry, you fill my cup.  
You are my All in All.**

**Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is Your name.**

**(Repeat chorus)**

**Worthy is Your name.**

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