

MARCH 31, 2024 COMMUNION SERVICE

COME FORWARD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving God, we come into Your presence knowing we have fallen short of Your desire for us. We have neglected the call and claim You have on our lives as individuals and as a community of faith. We ask for another chance to make all things new again, that we may better follow the way, the truth, and the life. In the name of Your Son. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We have this assurance that no matter how far we may wander from the way of life we are called to lead, we never move beyond the boundaries of God's love. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are blessed.

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MUSIC "O Come to the Altar"
arr. Larry Schackley

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have embraced the beginning of the new age. Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom. May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the Good News. Christ is Risen! Death is Defeated! Life Wins! Alleluia and Amen!

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Sunday Announcements, March 31, 2024

†Please let us know your joys and concerns, if you would like something announced during worship please advise an usher when you come into the sanctuary or if you are live streaming go to the YouTube chat box and type in your prayer request and they will be announced in worship.

†Easter Offering is going to LOVE TAKES ROOT.

†Grief Share each Monday thru May 20 from 6:00—8:00.

†Maundy Thursday service March 28 6:00.

†Easter Breakfast March 31 8:00-10:00.

†Easter Egg Hunt March 31 9:45.

†Congo Night Out Tuesday, April 2 Pizza Ranch 5:00-7:00. Be sure to arrive and place your order prior to 5:30; your meal will be \$10 which saves you money!

†Messy Church Sunday, April 7 5:00-7:00, all ages welcome!

†Luke Winger live and in person at the April 14 worship service,

Luke brings a high-energy, fun-filled show with an inspirational gospel message to reach audiences of all shapes and sizes. His juggling, balancing, and audience participation will keep everyone engaged and laughing! In 2011, Luke shared his faith in Jesus Christ on stage for the first time at a prison. This experience changed his view of juggling from just a skill to an invaluable means to reach others. After losing his daughter in an accident in China, Luke started creating presentations, combining his juggling skills with bible stories and personal testimonies. Luke's goal is to inspire others and bring them closer to Jesus. In whatever setting you hope to have Luke come, be prepared to laugh, cry, cheer, and be encouraged like you never have before.

†UDMO March Donations—cereal, oatmeal, etc.

†If you are visiting the church, we have welcome sacks in the back of the sanctuary for you. Please leave your name and contact information on the table. We are so very happy you are here, welcome!

†Please help ensure all doors to the church are locked, check the door behind you when exiting the church if it is not during office hours.

†Joys & Concerns: Karen & Larry Forbes were in a car accident this past week and are bruised up, Kem Emmert, Matt Bryant, Norma Drake, Bill Green, Karen Forbes, Mary Lou Hoffman, Bonnie Hoover, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Cindy Peterson Journey (daughter of LaVonne Peterson), LaVonne Peterson, Allison (Swenning) Mason, Marcie Muckey, Dianne Phillips, Darlene Prather, Shelly Robison, Wilda Weatherall (mother of Dianne Phillips), Mark Wedel, Mary Kay Zinn...

†We pray for our military personnel: Evan Ball, Brandon Black, Mark Ivey, Nathan Jones, Adam Norgaard, Kathryn Polking, Patrick Sullivan, Nicholas Sundblad, Daniel Wilkerson, and Matt Wilkerson.

†We pray for our nursing home residents and those at home: Dixie Barber, Jennie Byrn, Bonnie Crosser, Norma Drake, Ken Emmert, Bill Green, Mary Lou Hoffman, Cliff Hoover, Barb Joenks, Carol Kettelkamp, Marcie Muckey, Frank Nelson, Polly Nelson, LaVonne Peterson, Darlene Prather, Dean Saunders, Janet Swanson, Gloria Tingle, Ina Faye Underwood, Doris Van Buren, Mary Kay Zinn.

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Upcoming Events:

March 31 Easter Sunrise service & communion at Oneota Park 7:00
 March 31 Easter Breakfast at church 8:00-10:00
 March 31 Easter Egg Hunt 9:45
 March 31 Easter service & communion in sanctuary 10:30
 April 1 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 2 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 April 2 Congo Night Out Pizza Ranch 5:30-7:00
 April 2 CME meeting 6:30
 April 3 Staff Meeting 10:00
 April 3 No Bell Choir
 April 3 No Choir
 April 3 PF 6:00-8:00
 April 3 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 April 4 Executive Council meeting 6:30
 April 7 Adult Education 9:00
 April 7 Sunday School 9:30
 April 7 Worship 10:30
 April 7 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 April 7 Girl Scouts 4:00
 April 7 Messy Church 5:00-7:00
 April 8—11 Minister's Convocation—Pastor Shazzy gone
 April 8 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 9 Tuesday Morning Bible Study
 April 9 CMF 5:30
 April 10 Staff Meeting 10:00
 April 10 Bell Choir 5:00
 April 10 Choir 6:00
 April 10 PF 6:00-8:00
 April 10 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 April 12-13 IA/NE Spring Meeting in Elkader, IA
 April 14 Adult Bible Study 9:00
 April 14 Sunday School 9:30
 April 14 Worship 10:30 Guest Speaker Luke Winger
 April 14 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 April 15 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 16 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 April 17 Staff Meeting 10:00
 April 17 Bell Choir 5:00
 April 17 Choir 6:00
 April 17 Confirmation 6:00-8:00
 April 17 PF 6:00-8:00
 April 17 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
 April 18 MARS 5:30
 April 20 PF Earth Day Outing at Stolley Park fishing 10:00-12:00
 April 21 Adult Education 9:00
 April 21 Sunday School 9:30
 April 21 Worship 10:30
 April 21 Fellowship Hour 11:30
 April 21 CMM 11:50
 April 22 Grief Share 6:00-8:00
 April 23 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00
 April 24 Staff Meeting 10:00
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Monday—Friday Pray As You Go 9:30

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Monday—Friday Pray As You Go 9:30



In celebration of our church covenant by Randall & Kathy Anderson.

In memory of Redge Berg by Diane Berg.

In memory of my baby girl Bonnè by your mom Shazzy Britz.

In memory of William and Jane Byrn by Robin K. Byrn and family.

In memory of Tim C. Murphy by Robin K. Byrn and family.

In memory of our parents by Doug & Sandy Hart.

In memory of Kristin Howe by Tom & Susan Howe.

In memory of Andy & Ardes Johnson by Tom & Katie Howe.

In memory of Bob & Helen Howe, Betsy & Brad Howe by Tom & Katie Howe.

In memory of Hannes & Velva Klinker, Dolly Klinker Kinnetz, and Darcy Webber Lame by Kella Klinker-Simonin.

In memory of Karen Lynn by your husband David Lynn.

In honor of Terry Lynn by your father David Lynn.

In memory of Tom & Wanda Nelson by the Nelson kids.

In memory of Judy Orrison by Bill, Jenn & Tom Orrison.

In memory of Bill & Ruth Thompson by Bill, Jenn, & Tom Orrison.

In memory of Charles & Ruth Orrison by Bill, Jenn, & Tom Orrison.

In memory of parents Wilbur & Naomi Patten by Mike & Sheryl Patten.

In memory of parents Robert & Wilda Erickson by Mike & Sheryl Patten.

In memory of Carma Johnson & Bernie Erickson by Mike & Sheryl Patten.

In memory of Carl Peterson by the Peterson family.

In memory of Doug Rose by Kyle, Kalli, & Kirk Rose.

In memory of Rosemary Saunders by Dean Saunders & family.

In memory of Denny Simpson and in honor of Louise Simpson and Randy & Judy Van Dyke by Wes, Amy, Evalyn & Grace Simpson.

In memory of Walter & Alice Lawson by Allison Swenning.

In memory of Kelly Swenning by Allison Swenning & Christy.

In memory of Linda Taylor from your husband Denny Taylor.

In memory of Chet & Dorothy Taylor from Denny Taylor.

In memory of Sherry Zinn by Bill Zinn.

In honor of Mary Kay Zinn by Bill Zinn.

Wondrous Love Cantata Finale
Bethany & Congo Choirs
Today



Congo Night Out
Pizza Ranch
Tuesday, April 2
5:30-7:00

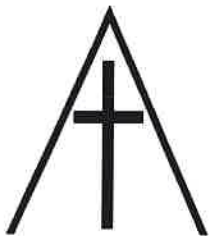
Messy Church
April 7
5:00-7:00 pm
Cross Generational,
Games, Activities, Meal,
All Are Invited



Grief Share
March 4—May 20
6:00-8:00



Communion: Tommy Gerlock, Mike Patten,
Max Munter, Jim Montgomery
Fellowship Hour: Easter Breakfast
Greeter: David & Shelly Robison
Nursery: Ada Conover & Ruby Leggett
Sight, Sound & Light: Matt Bryant,
Robbie Gerlock, Tommy Gerlock, Irie
Leggett, Max Moser, Max Munter
Ushers: Frank Edington, Joel Oldenkamp
Worship Assistant: Shelly Robison



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

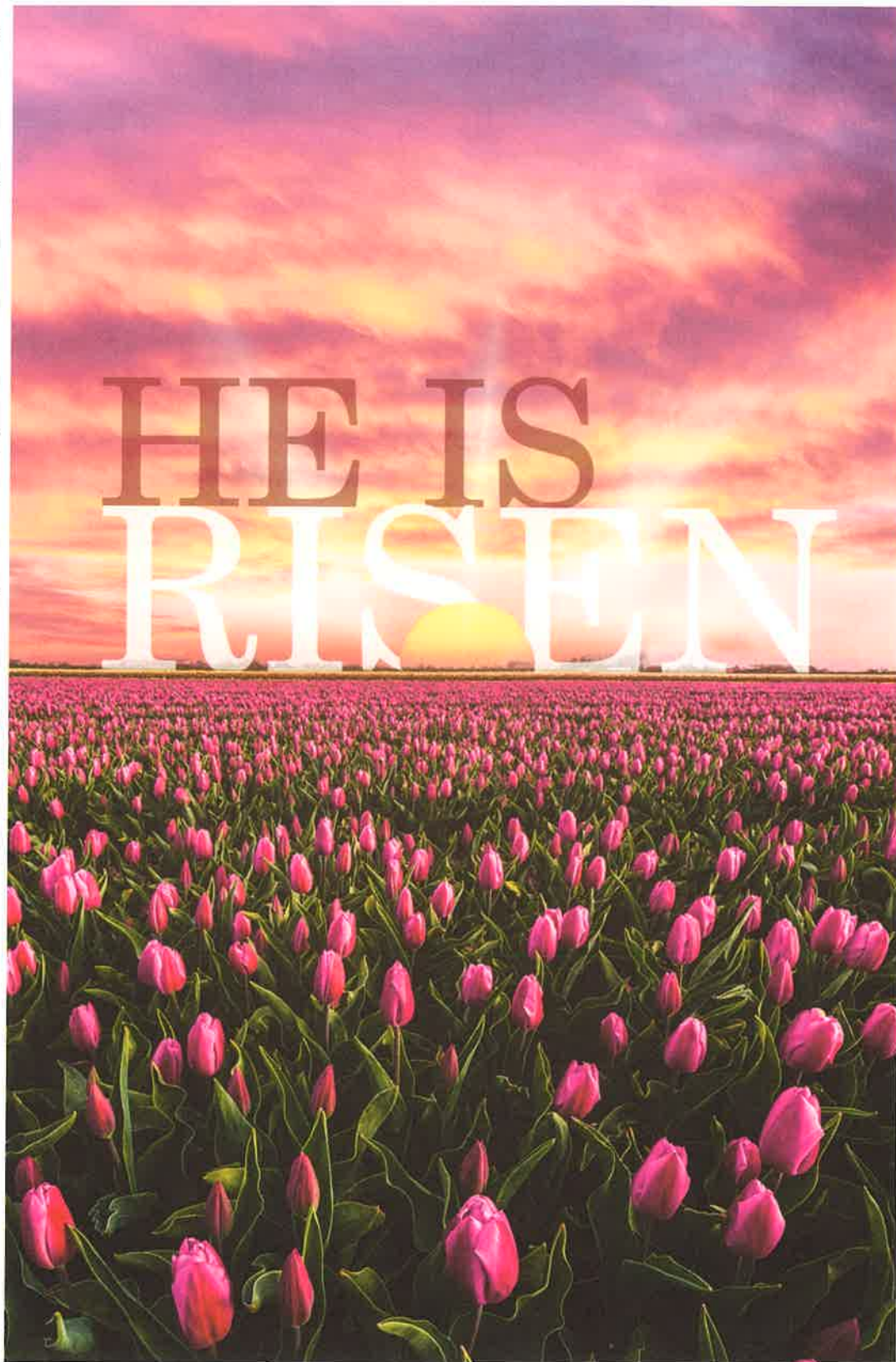
Ministers—All
Pastor—Pastor Shazzy Britz
pastor@congospencer.org
Director of Youth & Family Ministry—Joseph Leggett
familyministry@congospencer.org
Church Secretary—Michelle Tullberg
office@congospencer.org
Organist/Accompanist/Bell Choir &
Choir Director—Elina Ozolins-Leander
Building Manager—Lori Haburn

Proud to be a member of the National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches and the Iowa-Nebraska



MISSION STATEMENT ~ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ SPENCER, IOWA

The First Congregational Church of Spencer joyfully worships and praises God. Bound by our covenant, we strive to be the Body of Christ throughout the world by loving, helping and supporting our church family and others through fellowship, missions, and outreach. Our philosophy encourages all people to experience God's grace by freely thinking and building personal relationships with Christ to the glory of God.



AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

10:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

"Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present."
N.T Wright

PRELUDE "Easter Fanfares" by Robert Lau

GREETING

LEADER: The Lord be with you. (extending arms)

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**
(Congregation responds with extended arms)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The tomb is dark but empty.

PEOPLE: **The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness.**

LEADER: The stone has been rolled away.

PEOPLE: **The one you are looking for has overcome death.**

LEADER: The burial clothes are put aside.

PEOPLE: **The one you are looking for is alive!**

LEADER: Christ is Risen!

ALL: **Christ is Risen indeed! Let us worship our Risen Savior!**

*PRAYER OF NEW LIGHT

*LIGHTING OF THE PASCAL CANDLE

CANTATA FINALE "My Redeemer's Love"
words by Phillip P. Bliss, 1876 & Lloyd Larson
arr. with new music by Lloyd Larson,
tune Hyfrydol by Richard H. Prichard, 1830
Bethany Lutheran Church & First Congregational Church Choirs

*EASTER PROCLAMATION:

Leader: Rejoice, O Holy Church!. Exult in glory! The risen savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people. This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain. This, the night when first you saved our forebearers, you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them with dry feet through the sea.

PEOPLE: **Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

Leader: This, the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This, the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

PEOPLE: **Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!**

LEADER: Accept this Easter Candle, a flame divided and undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to honor you. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven, and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of the night. May the Morning Star, which never sets, find this flame still burning. Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, Your Son who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

PEOPLE: **Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Alleluia! Amen!**

*PASS THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG DISCIPLE'S MOMENT

Pastor Shazzy Britz

ACOLYTE PIN PRESENTATION

Joseph Leggett

*PASTORAL PRAYER

& LORD'S PRAYER (see screen)

THE OFFERING Ponder the gifts you will offer to God
your tithes, your time, your resources.

OFFERTORY "Who Will Roll Away the Stone" PF Rock Band

***DOXOLOGY** #563

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

MIDDLE HYMN "Up From the Grave He Arose" #207

GOSPEL READING Mark 16:1-8 pg. 780

MEDITATION "Expect the Unexpected" Pastor Shazzy Britz

COMMUNION SERVICE (see insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** "Sing to the King" PF Rock Band

*BENEDICTION

***CHORAL BLESSING** "God Be With You" #580

POSTLUDE "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" Mary McDonald

*All who are able please stand.