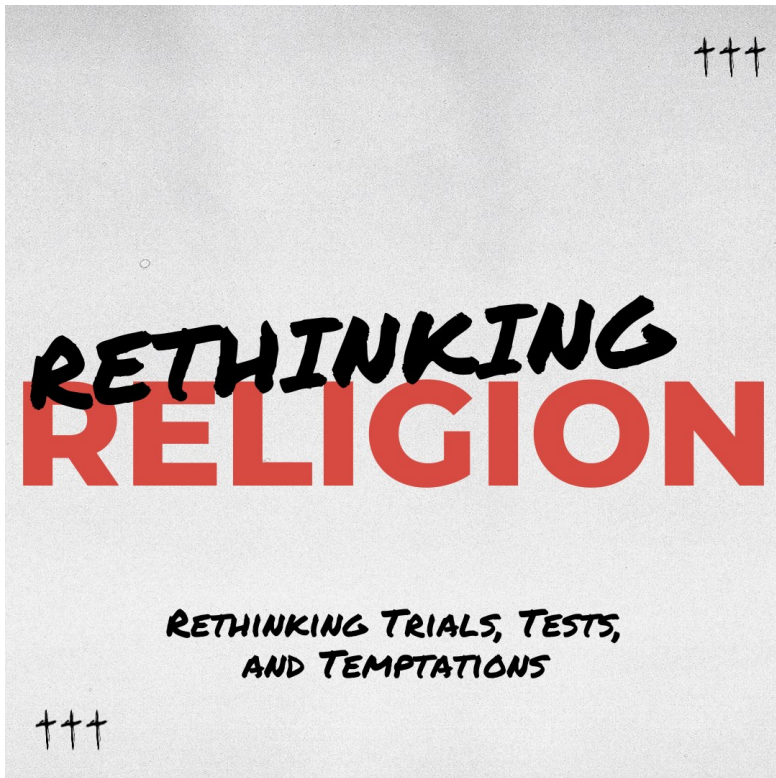




Ascension  
Lutheran Church



February 18, 2024

# Ascension Lutheran Church

## *Today's Theme: Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations*

### **Welcome**

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we—the pastor and members of Ascension. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection Jesus won forgiveness for all. God teaches these truths in the Bible—God's complete plan for your salvation and his guidebook for your life. Ascension greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

### **For Your Convenience**

Restrooms are located near the entrance of the building. If your child becomes restless, that's okay! There is a speaker equipped children's area also near the entrance.

### **Worship at Ascension**

The order of service is printed in this worship folder. Many of the elements in this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Ascension values your participation in the service. Congregational responses are printed in **bold** and marked with a "C:."

### **Prayer Before Worship:**

Lord Jesus, you promised, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Be with us as we gather for worship. Answer our prayers. Fulfill our desires according to your perfect wisdom and love. Grant us a greater knowledge of your truth, and the peace of your forgiveness. Amen.

### **The Sacraments**

**Baptism** - Christians have been baptizing infants and adults for 2000 years. We here at Ascension do as well. You do not need to be a member. If you, or a little one you know, would like to be baptized or learn more about baptism, speak with the pastor at any time. His contact info is on the back page.

**Lord's Supper** - Two Sundays each month we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Speak with the pastor about details or see the announcement in the back of the worship folder.

### **Serving in Worship**

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

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# Opening Hymn

## Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing CW #121 (Verses 1-2, 4)



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In your  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci -  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By your



ho - ly wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that  
nate my sin - ful mind, Let me think a -  
wounds, Lord, is made whole; When I'm weak, your



I am feel - ing Pains of bod - y and of mind.  
bout your pas - sion, And new cour - age I shall find.  
cross re - vives me, Grant - ing new life to my soul.



Should some e - vil thought with - in Tempt my treach - 'rous  
Or should Sa - tan press me hard, Let me then be  
Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet Ev - 'ry bit - ter



heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from sin - ning  
on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was wound - ed,"  
cup I meet; For your all - a - ton - ing pas - sion



Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.

*Stand*

## Opening Words

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: **Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

P: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## THE WORD

### The Passion History

### Part One

P: The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples,

Men: "You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

P: Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas.

Wm: They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him.

C: **But they said, "Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people."**

P: Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

Wm: On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him,

Men: "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

P: He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

Wm: They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

P: When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles.

Men: He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

**C: A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest.**

P: But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Wm: Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.

**C: Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.**

Men: By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

**C: Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God.**

P: He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist.

Wm: Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Men: He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

P: Jesus answered him, “You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand.”

Men: Peter told him, “You will never, ever, wash my feet!”

P: Jesus replied, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.”

Men: “Lord, not just my feet,” Simon Peter replied, “but also my hands and my head!”

**C: Jesus told him, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you.” Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”**

Wm: After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again.

P: “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen, I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

**C: He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”**

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25

*Refrain*



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

*Psalm tone*



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

### *Refrain*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;\*  
in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,\*  
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;\*  
according to your love remember me,  
for you are good, O LORD.

### *Refrain*

Turn to me and be gracious to me,\*  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

Look upon my affliction and my distress\*  
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,\*  
for I take refuge in you.

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.

### *Refrain*



*Stand*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Hebrews 4:15

**C: We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses; we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.**

## **Gospel**

Mark 1:12-15

<sup>12</sup>At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup>and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

# Hymn of the Day

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* CW #200



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



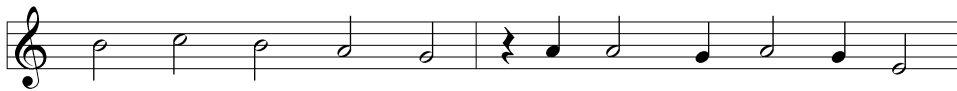
and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one  
 de - your us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old  
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's  
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;  
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—

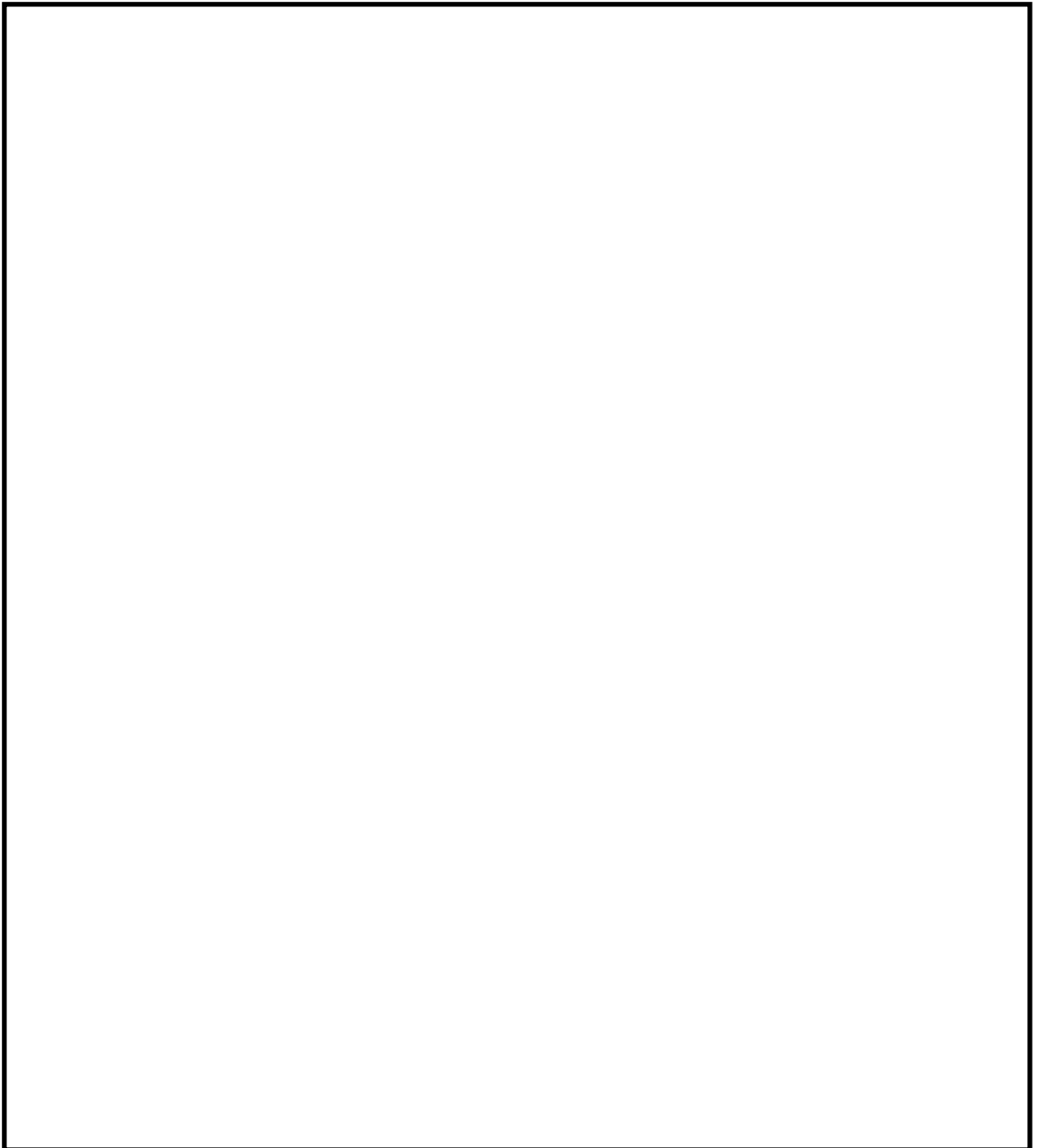


Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;  
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!  
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.  
 He holds the field for - ev - er.  
 One lit - tle word can fell him.  
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations



*Stand*

## **Confession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Offering & Connect

Guests, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at Ascension. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the gospel.



We would really appreciate it if you let us know that you are here. Please fill out the yellow “Connect Card” you see on the back of the seat in front of you. Either put it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor.

*Stand*

## Prayers

### Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

C: **Amen.**

### Words of Institution

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Distribution of Lord's Supper

## Communion Hymn

*The Lamb*  
CWS #714



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their  
4 He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and  
5 He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now

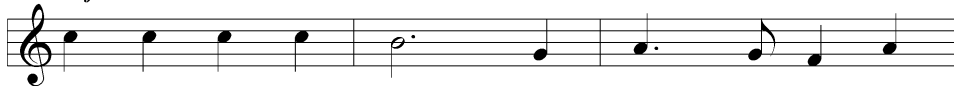


sac - ri - fice? Faith sees, be - lieves God  
of - fer - ing. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let  
shep - herd kill So still, his will, On  
wretch - ed - ness. He lives, for - gives, He  
o - ver - flows. His song pro - long 'Til

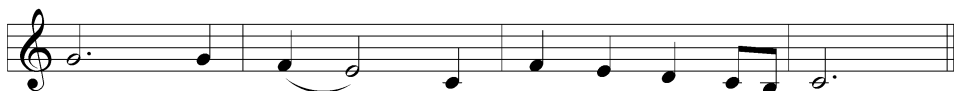


will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
earth join heav'n his praise to sing.  
our be - half the law to fill.  
gives me his own right - eous - ness.  
ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

### *Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

## Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

P Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



## **Blessing**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Announcements

## **Lord's Supper**

Dear guests, at Ascension we practice "close communion." That is, we invite only those who are in fellowship with us as members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or of a synod that is in fellowship with us) to commune with us. We are in no way judging your personal faith. We believe that in the Lord's Supper we enjoy not only a close communion with God, but we also enjoy a close communion with one another as we publicly express our agreement in every teaching of God's Word. We wouldn't want to ask you to publicly confess your agreement with all that we teach and believe without first being instructed in what it is that we teach and believe. If you do desire to commune with us, please speak to the pastor after the service. Gluten-free bread is available by request.

## **Adult Bible Study**

Our Bible study on Revelation (Sundays at 10:15am) will continue through the beginning of March. After that time, we will likely begin a study on the book of Romans.

## **Lenten Bible Reading Plan**

Did you join our 40-day Bible reading plan for Lent? It started this past week, but it's not too late to join in! We have a Facebook group available with daily reading reminders and where you can share insights or ask questions about the day's section of Scripture. You can find the plan on our website, in the weekly update email, or in the Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/lentprepare](https://facebook.com/groups/lentprepare)). If you need assistance in joining the Facebook group, please see Michelle Greuel.

## **Thank You**

The teens would like to thank everyone who supported their dinner and desserts this past Wednesday. Your generosity was truly amazing and appreciated as they seek to raise the necessary funds to attend the 2024 WELS International Youth Rally in Fort Collins, Colorado, this summer. There are still some desserts leftover and will be available after worship this morning.





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