



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

**OUR
GREATEST
NEEDS**

Welcome to Worship!

Being unable to see isn't pleasant. How many of us can remember bruises from walking into furniture in a dark room? During his earthly ministry, Jesus healed those who were physically blind—but he did much more than that. He offered healing that all of us need, healing from our spiritual blindness, healing that comes when he shone his light into our darkened eyes so that we might see him and live.

And now that we've been given back our spiritual sight, we are called to use that sight by living a focused life. We can see that there's more to our existence than living for the present—we look forward to an eternity in heaven. In his grace, God reminds us to focus on eternity and to reflect this focus in our generous giving to the work of his kingdom.

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18 & 19, 2023

Our Greatest Needs: Sight for the Blind

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Christian Worship 517

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Please kneel

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

Please stand

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness into light.

- ¹⁴“For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
- ¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
- ¹⁶I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.
- ¹⁷But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’
will be turned back in utter shame.
- ¹⁸“Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
- ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?
- ²⁰You have seen many things,
but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”
- ²¹It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27 (see pg. 15)

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

Those who have seen the light of Christ strive to leave the deeds of darkness behind.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

John 9:1–7,13–17,34–39

Jesus miraculously enables a man who had been born blind to see both physically and spiritually.

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

³⁴To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (8:00 a.m.)

Grades 3 & 4

The Lord Is My Light

Christian Worship 825

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, whom then shall I fear?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord: to dwell in his house forever,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord all the days of my life. *Refrain*

Do not hide your face, O Lord. Ev'ry day I will seek your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me, the Lord will receive me. *Refrain*

Teach me, Lord, and keep me on your paths; guide me, Lord, along a level way.
I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord in the land of all the living. *Refrain*

Text: Alberto Taulé, 1932–2007; tr. Jon D. Vieker, b. 1961; tr. Lorraine Florindez, 1926–2011
Text: © 2006 Jon D. Vieker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Hymn of the Day

Christ Is the World's Light

Christian Worship 515

The High Cost of a Wrongly Ordered Life

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Please stand

Nicene Creed

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 truly 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 worshiped 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.

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, so often the busyness of our day-to-day lives threatens to divert our focus from you and your Word.

In the midst of this busyness, remind us of the importance of daily time spent in your Word and in prayer.

When life seems overwhelming, when we feel as though we are failing our loved ones, when even the simplest task brings stress and worry, reassure us that our earthly troubles are but light and momentary.

Fix our eyes on what is unseen and keep before us the eternal glory that far outweighs all these earthly troubles.

Give us clear vision to focus on eternal things that will never perish, spoil, or fade, rather than on the things of this world that will pass away.

Let this focus guide our decisions as we seek to glorify you with our time, talents, and treasures.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Help us share this heavenly focus with those around us who do not yet know you, that they also might be with you in eternity.

Bless both our personal mission work and the mission work of our church, and bless us as we give generously toward this work. Amen.

Be seated

Adult Confirmation (Saturday)

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

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.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Be seated

The Scriptures teach us that receiving the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of shared belief. Therefore, we ask our guests who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until they have had the opportunity to talk with one of our pastors about our beliefs and practice.

To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles. Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 14 of the service folder.

Distribution Hymns

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Christian Worship 713

Amazing Grace

Christian Worship 576

Your Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Christian Worship 671

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Please stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

I Hear the Savior Calling (st. 1)

Christian Worship 743

Announcements

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the sacrament. Take away any unbelief and overcome any doubts that I may have. Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart that the gifts and forgiveness offered here truly are for me. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Heavenly Father, through this holy supper you nourish my faith, increase my hope, and strengthen my love. Teach me always to hunger for your Son, the true and living bread. Enable me to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Amen.

Psalm 27



1 O LORD, you are my light and my sal - va - tion near;
2 My one re - quest has been and still this prayer I raise;
3 When trou - bles round me swell, when fears and dan - gers throng,
4 Up - lift - ed on a rock a - bove my foes a - round,



then who will cause me fright or fill my heart with fear?
that I may live with - in God's house for all my days.
se - cure - ly I will dwell in his pa - vil - ion strong.
a - mid the bat - tle shock my song shall still re - sound.



While God my strength, my life sus - tains, se - cure from fear my
God's glo - rious beau - ty to ad - mire, and in his tem - ple
With - in the shel - ter of God's tent he hides me till the
Then joy - ful of - f'rings I will bring; the LORD God's praise my



soul re - mains, se - cure from fear my soul re - mains.
to in - quire, and in his tem - ple to in - quire.
storm is spent, he hides me till the storm is spent.
heart shall sing, the LORD God's praise my heart shall sing.

Text (st. 1): Psalter, 1887, alt.; (sts. 2-4): Psalter, 1912, alt.

Tune: John D. Edwards

Text and tune: Public domain

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Musicians

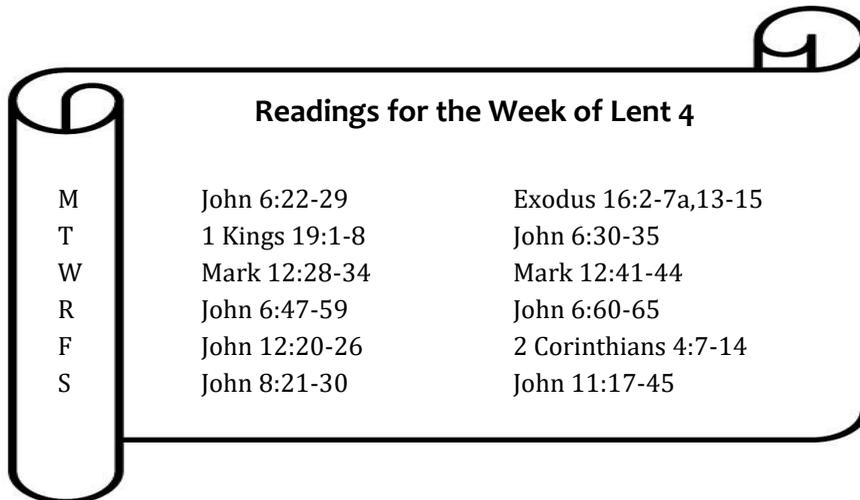
Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday)

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

Communion Assistants

Dan Ebeling & Dave Leyrer (8:00 a.m.)

Keith Hackbarth & Brian Treichel (10:30 a.m.)



Readings for the Week of Lent 4		
M	John 6:22-29	Exodus 16:2-7a,13-15
T	1 Kings 19:1-8	John 6:30-35
W	Mark 12:28-34	Mark 12:41-44
R	John 6:47-59	John 6:60-65
F	John 12:20-26	2 Corinthians 4:7-14
S	John 8:21-30	John 11:17-45

Worship Notes

- We welcome Lily Kuether into membership today by adult confirmation.
- The flowers are placed by Esther Otto in celebration of her 24th birthday.

In Our Prayers

- Family and friends of long time St. John's member Jim Minor, whom the Lord called to his side this past Wednesday at the age of 87 and whose Christian Victory Service will be held at a later date.
- Brian Denk, scheduled for back surgery at Froedtert on Tuesday, March 21.
- Cheryl Thompson, who after several delays and setbacks over the past year is now scheduled for hip replacement surgery on Thursday, March 23.
- All those who are currently deliberating or who have recently decided on divine calls:
 - Pastor Eric Schroeder, who was reissued and accepted his call to serve as lead pastor at St. John's following Pastor Leyrer's retirement in June.
 - Pastor Brett Krause, currently serving at Zion Lutheran Church in Denver, CO, whom we called to serve as our next discipleship pastor.
 - St. John's 3rd grade teacher and school music coordinator Mandy Treder, who recently returned her call to St. Matthew's Lutheran School in Spokane, WA.
 - St. John's upper-grade teacher Brett Kriese, who received a call on March 7 to teach 6th grade at Garden Homes Lutheran School in Milwaukee.
 - Laura Otto, currently serving at Salem Lutheran School in Milwaukee, whom we called to serve as our Early Learning Center Director.
 - Kathy Werre, currently serving at Luther High School in Onalaska, WI, whom we called to serve as our upper-grade language arts teacher.

Parents' Preview for March 26

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

Children of the Heavenly Father (*Christian Worship 502*)



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; in his
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; in his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Tune: Public domain

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

Saturday, April 1

Palm Sunday Worship
5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Worship
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Worship
3:30 & 6:45 p.m.

Friday, April 7

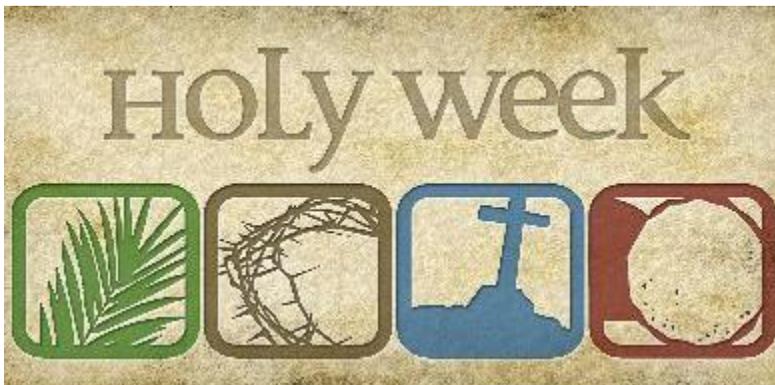
Good Friday Worship
1:00 & 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunrise Worship
6:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Worship
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast
7:15 a.m.



The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org

Church Office

7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org

School Office

1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

sjtosa.org