

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's



name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."
John 10:22-30

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM
Liturgy of Holy Communion
Now the Feast and Celebration

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ.

Our worship services this morning are streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
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INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Voluntary” - G. F. Handel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt. Text © 1952, ren. 1986 Hymns *Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Cantor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Cantor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...

Refrain

Cantor: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Cantor:
Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now the Feast”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

The assembly is seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

Lector: A reading from Revelation.

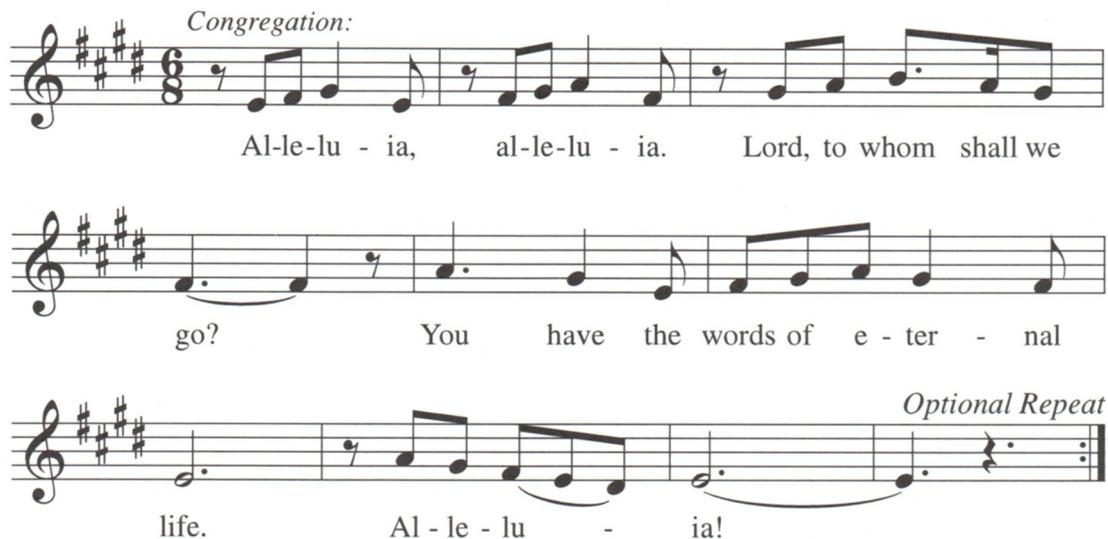
⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL:

John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

ALL: 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation, responding with “hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unflinching trust, unafraid to join in Jesus’ work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation especially...those we name aloud now...and those we hold in our hearts. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding. Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. God, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Pastor: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

The assembly is seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” -

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **ALL: Amen**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: 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.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: 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.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: 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.

ALL: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray:

**ALL: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus-tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer-cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." and each person may respond, "Amen". Worshipers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.

TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's Grace

All: Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

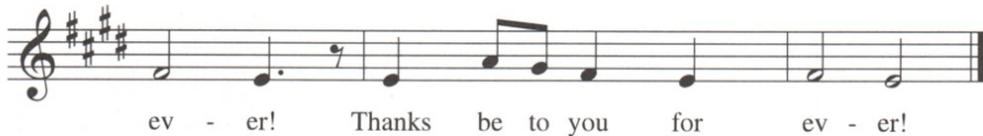
Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, + bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” *ELW 789*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
 much we need your tender care.
 In your pleasant pastures feed us,
 for our use your fold prepare.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 you have bought us; we are yours.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 you have bought us; we are yours.</p> | <p>3 You have promised to receive us,
 poor and sinful though we be;
 you have mercy to relieve us,
 grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 early let us turn to you.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 early let us turn to you.</p> |
| <p>2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
 be the guardian of our way;
 keep your flock, from sin defend us,
 seek us when we go astray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 hear us children when we pray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 hear us children when we pray.</p> | <p>4 Early let us seek your favor,
 early let us do your will;
 blessed Lord and only Savior,
 with your love our spirits fill.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 you have loved us, love us still.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
 you have loved us, love us still.</p> |

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune for a Festive Day” - Johnson

Upcoming Commemorations

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Sunday, May 8, 2022

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

Monday, May 9, 2022

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Altar Flowers - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Frances Olivo in memory of her Mother, Amanda Sindoni's birthday and Mother's Day and in honor of her son's birthday.

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 22

Please plan to join a hands-on inter generational project to support Lutheran Social Ministries "Cherishing our Elders" program. LSM provides affordable housing, social services and healthcare to more than 1,400 NJ seniors. Many are home-bound and have limited incomes. LSM's ministry helps seniors with food and personal care items and nurtures fellowship with cards or room decorations. Our work session will begin with a light lunch at 12:00 Noon in the social hall. All ages and abilities welcome to join in! Project details to follow; contact Kay McConnell with questions. LSM info: <https://www.lsmnj.org/cherishing-our-elders/>.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

Since last month, the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has filled news reports and social media. Heartbreaking images of people saying goodbye to loved ones and lining up to leave the country have occupied our media.

People are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. Many of these Ukrainians need shelter and basic necessities as food, water and toiletries.

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining companion churches and partners in response to this crisis. These partners provide immediate support and supplies. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

There are ways to help in support of those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries affected by this crisis. Please pray for healing, peace and hope in their time of need. An offering labeled "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be placed in the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary or sent to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

BIBLE STUDY

We will finish up our Bible study series talking about a Royal Pain, May 11. Please join us in-person or on Zoom. If you have questions please contact the church office or the Pastor.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 17 at 12:00 Noon, in the Social Hall. Vivian Gano's group will be responsible for our lunch. Contact Kathleen with any questions.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

St. Michael's Spring Clean-up Day has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 14, starting at 8:30 AM**. We will perform general outdoor clean-up, including picking up trash, raking leaves, and trimming shrubs and mulch to flower beds. All are welcome! The more, the merrier. Bring trimmers, garden tools, including rakes, leaf blowers and a wheelbarrow.

PRAYER SERVICE

Please join us in-person or on Zoom, May 11 at 7:00 AM for Prayer Service. If you have questions please contact the church office or the Pastor.

SUMMER CAMP AT CROSS ROADS

Cross Roads offers unique summer camp programs for youth and families. Campers encounter God in nature, in worship, and in relationships during their time at camp. Our amazing summer staff of young adults create an environment for personal growth, wholesome fun, and an experience of genuine community.

Youth Camp (Grades 2-8): Multiple Weeks
High School Week (Grades 9-12): July 10-16
Adventure Camp (Grades 4-8): July 17-23
Leaders In Training (Grade 11): July 31-Aug. 13
S.E.E.K. (Grades 8-10): July 31 – Aug. 13
Family Camp: August 14-19
Family Camp Weekend: August 19-21

Reach out to the Bruesehoff Family if you have any questions about camp and talk to Pastor Chris about financial resources that are available.

Cross Roads URL: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/>

MAY 8, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus is our shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:20-22	Final prayers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:6-11	Encourage God's people
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-7	Helping Christian leaders
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to trust Jesus, our good shepherd, and to faithfully follow him into the world and do your will. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

God, we thank you for preparing this table and food before us that we may be strengthened in faith and in service to others through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd hold you in eternal care.



MAY 8, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shepherd Me, O God



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you talk with others, who are the voices you trust? Explain.
- Think about or tell a story when you were aware of God's presence in your life.

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 10:22-30.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally the Good Shepherd Sunday. The most recognized of all the psalms, Psalm 23, reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus identified himself as the good shepherd. As the Messiah, Jesus has followers he refers to as "my sheep." His sheep recognize his voice and follow the good shepherd as the Messiah (a translation of Christ). Today, we, too, serve as the voice of Jesus in the world that others may follow the good shepherd and recognize Jesus as the Christ. 1 Peter 5:4 alludes to this when Jesus is named as the "chief shepherd." Not only pastors but everyone, including parents and other trusted voices, shepherd one another in faith and life. As followers of Jesus, as sheep of the good shepherd, we all carry the voice and message of Jesus into the world.

Shepherding is a way of life for disciples that guides, protects, and serves others that they may hear and recognize Jesus.

Discuss: How has someone helped you hear the voice and message of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Comforting and gracious God, help us to hear and trust the message of Jesus, the good shepherd, that we may care for and shepherd one another in faith, hope, and love. Amen**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you shepherd someone who needs to feel the love of Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have cared for us and others. Reach out to a woman you know with a special thank you card, with a phone call, or a visit. Use this prayer: **Lord God, thank you for (name). May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Bless her this day and each day with your love and care. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

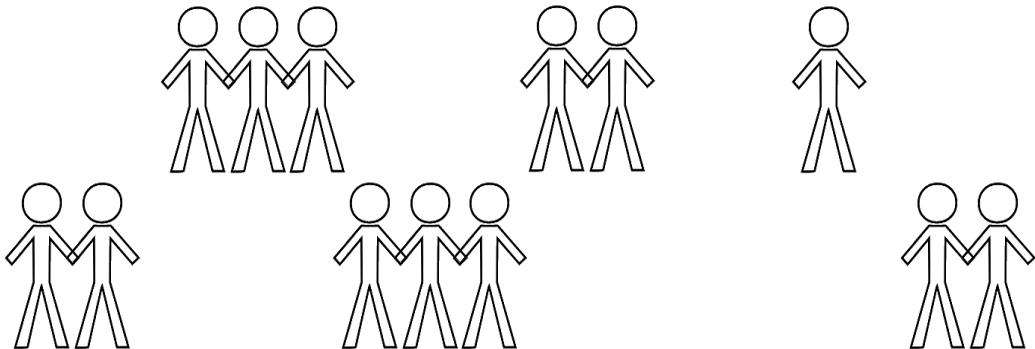
DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.