

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

[Jesus said:]¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,



¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 at 8:15 & 11:00 AM
Liturgy of Holy Communion
ELW Setting One

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 service at 11:00 this morning is 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.

Special thanks to Rev. David Stoner for leading us in worship this morning.

DIGITAL SIGN IN

You are welcome to sign in with our 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.



Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
The Reverend Christopher Bruesehoff, Pastor (pastor@stmlutheran.org)
Mark P. Dishong, Director of Music (markdishong@gmail.com)
601 Kings Highway N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
856-667-0973, Fax: 856-755-1247
office@stmlutheran.org www.stmichaelslutheranchurch.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*From SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24280
and streamed by permission under OneLicense.net #A-711336.*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

INTRODUCTION

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing"-Allen Carr, saxophone

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
Amen.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN : “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” ELW 385

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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! | 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
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! | 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. All rights reserved. Used by permission..from OneLicense.net #A-711336

GREETING

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

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



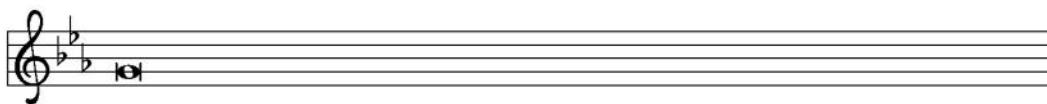
Lord, have mercy.



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 mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

A reading from Acts.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

A reading from First John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

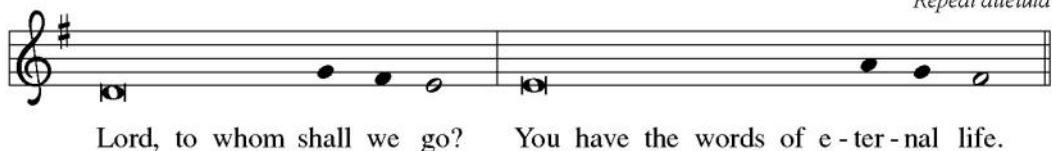
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL:**John 10:11-18**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly is invited to 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 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 OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news, responding with “hear our prayer”.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in

your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”-Allen Carr, saxophone

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.

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

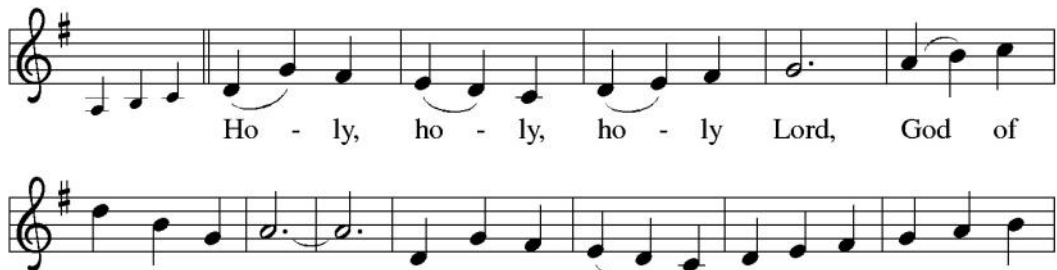
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

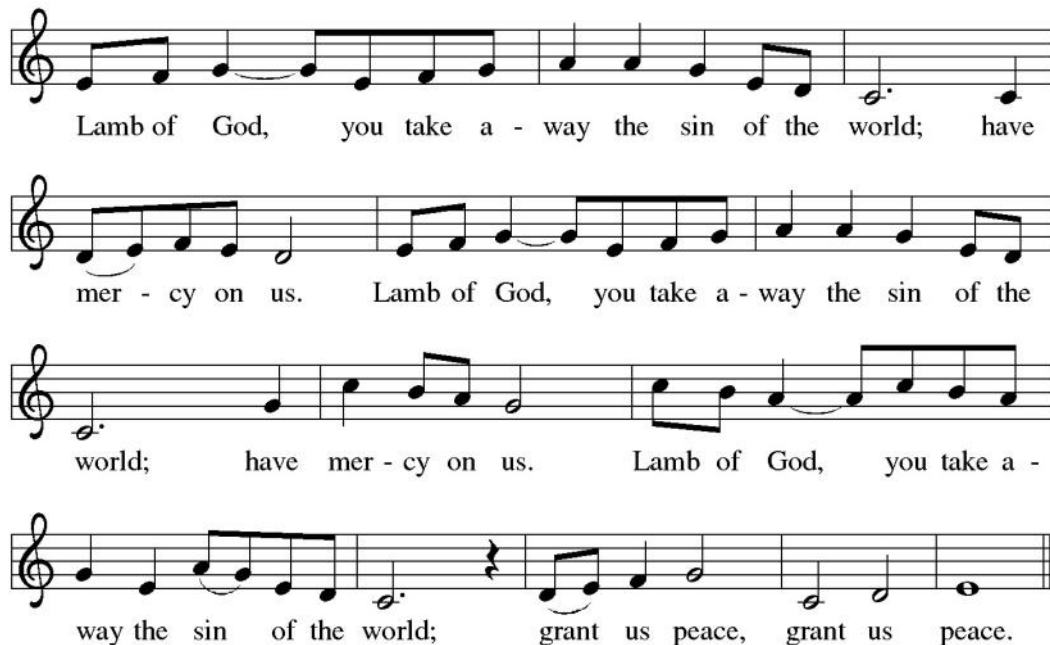
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray: **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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

LAMB OF GOD



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

The assembly is seated.

DISTRUBTION OF COMMUNION

We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. At the 8:15 service Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. At the 11:00 service Communion will be distributed continuously under the

direction of the ushers. 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”. Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

ELW 502
ELW 373

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

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ’s Grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 376

1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we
meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.
Refrain

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt *OneLicense.net #A-711336. Used by Permission*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”-Allen Carr, saxophone

The Altar Flowers are given by Carol and Ed Jensen in honor of our children, Kristen, Andrew, and Martin, on their birthday.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

Sunday, April 21, 2024

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC)

Monday, April 22, 2024

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist

Thursday, April 25, 2024

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY FOR A FAITH-FILLED FUTURE

We are continuing to move closer to our campaign goals. With an overall target of \$120,000, as of today we have received pledges of \$85,080. To discuss your potential contribution or for more information about our campaign, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Chris at (973) 570-8084 or pastor@stmlutheran.org. Together, we can build a future that embodies the principles of faith, sustainability, and community that leaves a lasting imprint for generations to come.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE BREAKFAST CASSEROLES

SMLC continues to support Joseph's House in Camden with their mission to feed the homeless. The next opportunity to volunteer to make BREAKFAST casseroles will be THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024. Casseroles can be dropped off between 10:00AM and 12:00 PM using the Elkins Road door. Sign-up using this link: <https://bit.ly/3Uu9Uwx>

BOOK CLUB

Join us on Monday, May 6 at 7:00 PM as we discuss *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. Everyone is welcome to join us for our discussion. We hope to see you there. See Trudy Carr with any questions.

BENEFIT FOR SMLC NEW AC/HEATING SYSTEM

Join us on Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 PM in the social hall for a 45 minute music driven yoga-like class to benefit the new AC/Heating system. This class is for people of all experience levels. Please bring your own mat and water. A casual reception will be held after class. Advance registration is required and additional donations accepted. Reserve your space at app.arketa.co/fitlifewithkarenr or see Karen Roorda to register in-person. *All proceeds will go towards SMLC fund for a new AC/Heating system.*

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

SMLC Spring Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 27 from 8:30AM-12:30PM..We will focus on general outdoor cleaning (raking leave, picking up trash) and putting down mulch on the flower beds. Please bring any garden tool that you may have (such as gloves, rakes, etc) Refreshments will be provided.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

This year we will host a class about communion for multiple age group on April 28 at 12:15 PM (following the 11am service), parents or guardians are welcome to be a part of the class. The congregation will celebrate anyone receiving Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday, May 5 during whichever service your family attends. If you would like to attend, please send an email to office@stmlutheran.org so that Pastor Chris knows how many folks to expect.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 21

8:15 AM Worship Service (In-Person)
11:00 AM Worship Service (In-Person, Facebook, YouTube)
12:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
5:45 PM Youth Gathering Meeting
6:00 PM Meeting

Monday, April 22

Tuesday, April 23

12:00 NA Meeting

Wednesday, April 24

9:30 AM Weight Watchers Meeting

Thursday, April 25

10:00 AM JH Breakfast Casserole Drop-off
12:00 PM NA Meeting
7:30 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 26

12:00 PM NA Meeting

Saturday, April 27

Sunday, April 28

8:15 AM Worship Service (In-Person)
11:00 AM Worship Service (In-Person, Facebook, YouTube)
12:15-1:30 PM First Communion Class
12:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PM NA Meeting



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.