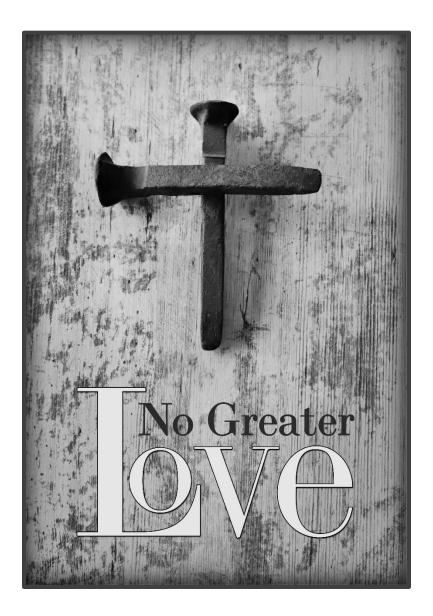
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 5, 2024



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

Welcomíng all to walk together toward abundant lífe ín Chríst.

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 151)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In the event of any safety emergency, please call 911. More phone calls received by law enforcement will help ensure a prompt and accurate response.
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A WORD TO OUR FRIENDS ABOUT COMMUNION:

As members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine when we receive the Sacrament. We do not believe that the bread and wine somehow mystically "change" into something other than bread and wine, nor do we believe that the bread and wine merely "represents" Christ's body and blood; rather, we are bound by the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, when He said "Take eat, this is my body" and "Take drink, this is my blood." We believe and teach that when we receive the bread and wine, we are also truly receiving the body and blood of Christ (because of His divine Word.) We therefore, also believe that the Sacrament of Holy Communion is more than just a memorial, we believe it is Christ truly coming to us and offering His body and his blood in an outward sign of His love for us and as an outward assurance of the forgiveness He won for us by His death on the cross. This is our belief and confession regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and if you have any questions or concerns about our Communion practices and desire to partake of Holy Communion, will you please consult with the pastor beforehand. Having read this Communion Statement and prayerfully considered what you believe and confess, please complete the Pew Card found in the pew rack. After you place your tithes and gifts in the offering plate, please pass your Pew Card to the center aisle and the ushers will pick them up as they return from presenting our offerings to the Lord. May God truly bless our Communion Service this day.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686 sts. 1, 3–4

- Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be; Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.



4. Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face; Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace! Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away; Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt. Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b [18:20]

INTROIT

- P Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.
- C Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!
- P Bless our God, O peoples;let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
- P Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!
- C 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.
- P Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

\intercal Confession and Absolution \intercal

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- CBut if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.1 John 1:8-9Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:19-23]
- C Amen.

T Service of the Word T



COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

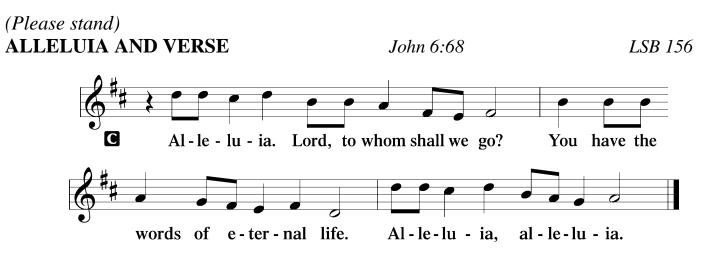
EPISTLE

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1 John 5:1–8
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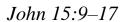
¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.





⁹[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another."



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Public domain

SERMON

"Agape"

Rev. David Barber

CREED

The Third Article

- P The First Reading today tells how the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews—which includes all the peoples of the world. Sharing words of faith confessed around the world, we speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and then express our confession of its meaning in the Small Catechism words of Martin Luther.
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- P What does this mean?
- C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Heavenly Father, You invite us freely to come and hear Your Word. Bless and increase our faith, that we may rightly fear You and learn what You have done for our souls. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

[continued]

P Lord of all, You make known the good news of peace through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Bless and direct the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father of love, out of great love for You and for sinners, our Lord Jesus laid down His life for the world. Increase in us true love for one another, that like our Lord, we may also lay down our lives for our friends. Be with those who celebrate birthdays (80+) and anniversaries this month, [*including the* (80+) *birthdays of... Ruth Albert, Angie Brown, Ann Hagey, Janet Jackson, Jeanette Kamke, Howard Meissner, Phil Miller, Phil Woodruff; the anniversaries of...Mike & Jeannie Barzona, Nat & Melinda Fiordimondo, David & Faith Gruntman, Cris & Linda Kelly, & David & Kristin Schultz*], Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

c near our prayer.

P Almighty Father, You rule this world by Your established authorities in ways that we do not always understand; yet in the name of Jesus, we may ask You anything freely as friends and sons. Bless our nation's leaders, and cause them to serve wisely for our good. Give earthly peace and justice that is in accord with Your commandments and the order You have revealed. Bring an end to injustice, violence and disdain for Your truth, and let us receive all good with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, the Giver of all that is good, grant Your healing and support to all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity *[especially Dee Maris, Chris Sabin]*. Give them also the gift of Your grace to accept and bear their crosses with faith in You, that finally they would be prepared to depart this life and receive the gift of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OFFERING

For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6 You may also drop off your offering at the church office Mondays and Wednesdays

from 9 AM – Noon.

For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card. They can be placed at the altar as you leave the service.



OFFERING MUSIC Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings LSB 782 sts. 1, ref, 2, 4

- 1. Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days. For Your mercies never ending, For Your love we offer praise.
- REFRAIN Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim, Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.
 - 2. By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small; As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all.
 - 4. Heav'nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace; With the Son and Holy Spirit, Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! **Refrain**

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946 Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

Refrain

Refrain



TService of the Sacrament T

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

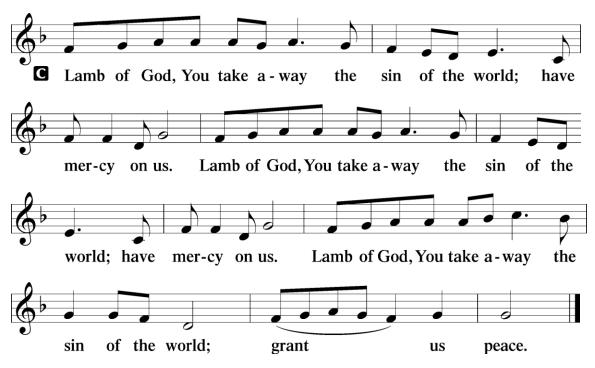
Mathew26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24 Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LSB 163



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Love To Tell The Story

- I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true; It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do. *Refrain*
- I love to tell the story, For those who know it best Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, 'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain*
- **REFRAIN** I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

Text: Arabella C. Hankey, 1834–1911, alt. Text: Public domain



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

When I Behold Jesus Christ



Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959 Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3) and tune: Almaz Belhu

Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907 Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

- The One whom God has chosen Now chooses from all lands That all who know the Savior Will love, as He commands. The Spirit freely given To those of ev'ry race Enables them to witness In ev'ry time and place.
- 2. The One whom God appointed Appoints those who believe To share the testimony Of all that they receive. The gift of grace is wondrous To all who are set free. They cannot help but share it— This blessed eternity!
- 3. The One whom God anointed Anoints us with His pow'r; Through water and the Spirit, We wait for that great hour. We know that our Redeemer Has overcome all strife. We sing a song of triumph, For we are born to life!

Text: Lisa M. Clark

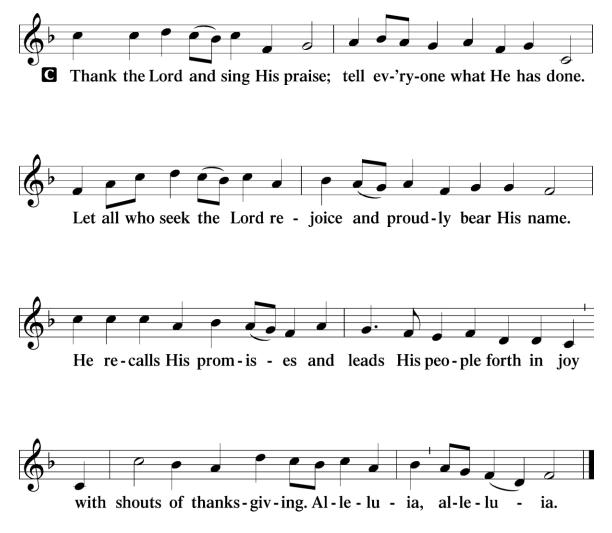
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- From God can nothing move me; He will not step aside But gently will reprove me And be my constant guide. He stretches out His hand In evening and in morning, My life with grace adorning Wherever I may stand.
- When those whom I regarded As trustworthy and sure Have long from me departed, God's grace shall still endure. He rescues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me. I leave death's fear behind me; His peace I have within.
- The Lord my life arranges; Who can His work destroy? In His good time He changes All sorrow into joy. So let me then be still: My body, soul, and spirit His tender care inherit According to His will.
- 4. Each day at His good pleasure God's gracious will is done. He sent His greatest treasure In Jesus Christ, His Son. He ev'ry gift imparts. The bread of earth and heaven Are by His kindness given. Praise Him with thankful hearts!
- Praise God with acclamation And in His gifts rejoice.
 Each day finds its vocation Responding to His voice.
 Soon years on earth are past; But time we spend expressing The love of God brings blessing That will forever last!
- 6. Yet even though I suffer The world's unpleasantness, And though the days grow rougher And bring me great distress, That day of bliss divine, Which knows no end or measure, And Christ, who is my pleasure, Forever shall be mine.

7 For thus the Father willed it, Who fashioned us from clay; And His own Son fulfilled it And brought eternal day. The Spirit now has come, To us true faith has given; He leads us home to heaven. O praise the Three in One!

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; (sts. 1–2, 6): tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946; (st. 7): tr. Joseph Herl, 1959

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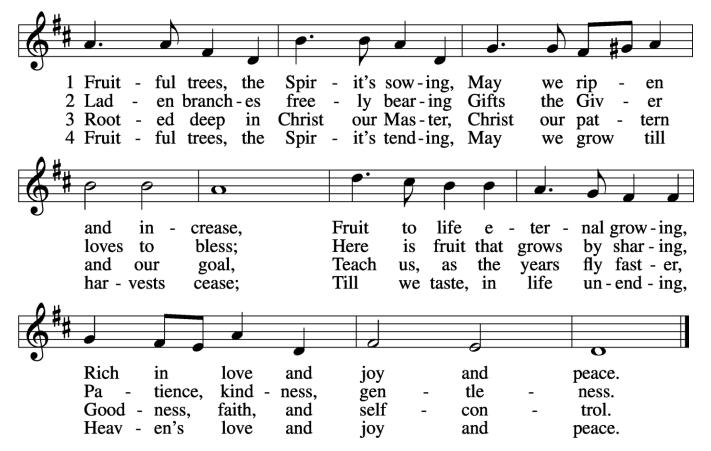


BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



Fruitful Trees, The Spirit's Sowing



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

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SILENT PRAYER & PARTING ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

You have been a blessing to us! Please use this time to "check-in" with your Christian brothers and sisters around you. Coffee and donuts are being served for fellowship at 9:00am in the Fellowship & Ministry Center along with our Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School. Please stop by and enjoy.



Acknowledgments

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ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR BOOK:

Carol Burgess has not been able to locate her Altar Assignment Planning Book since Sunday April 28th. She remembers last having it in the church and knows she was in the Sanctuary, Sacristy & FMC with it. If you find a 2024 planning calendar book with a TEAL cover, please notify Carol at (941) 286-7928 or call the church office.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8: Board of Elders meeting @ 3:30pm (FMC)
Thursday, May 9: Shepherding Leaders Meeting @ 9:00am (FMC) The Chosen Bible Study Begins @ 10:00am (FMC ONLY)
Saturday, May 11: Stephen Ministry Supervision @ 11:00am (FMC)
Saturday, May 18: Landscape Loving Care Day @ 9:00am (Outdoor FMC/Sanctuary)
Sunday, May 19: Final Sunday for Youth Sunday School (FMC)
Tuesday, May 21: Church Council Meeting @ 7:00pm (FMC)
Monday, May 27: Church Office Closed ~ Memorial Day

LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT:

On Site Attendance Sunday: 04/27/2024 45 / 156

LCC WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024

	Week:	04/28/2024		
	WCCK.	04/20/2024		
	Weekly Income:	\$ 9,667		
Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian	Weekly Expense:	\$ 13,846	Stolarczyk ~ Guest	
	Pastor: Rev. Da	-		
Liturgist: Mark Polzin				
Organist: Stephen Kopp III ~ Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman				
Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman ~ Flute: Raymond Stolarczyk				
Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering				
Morr 5, 2024				
May 5, 2024				
Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ				
The ETERNAL LIGHT is provided to the Glory of God by Marita Noe in honor of our				

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** is provided to the Glory of God by Marita Noe in honor of our recent confirmands.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar for are provided to the Glory of God by Robert Trapp in memory of his sainted wife, Marge Trapp.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers Elders on Duty Communion Assistants Greeters/Ushers Altar Servers Safety Team Streaming Team Sue Richard, Bill Trueman Richard Fasnacht, Mark Keck Ron McCormick, Chris Trapp Tom & Jan Rittenhouse Suzanne Fadely, Pam Specht, Joyce Spier David Aiken, Mark Keck Gloria Cvelbar

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Ann Curley-LaFave, Marvin & Lillian Fitzwater, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Cris & Linda Kelly

Strength, Healing, Guidance: *

Doris & Jim	Family of Carolyn Lawson; testing & strength	
Joe, Kim, Caitlyn & Ben	Friends of LCC; strength, healing & faith	
Ron Acosta	Friend of LCC; hospitalized	
Chuck Anderson	Recovery & healing	
Fran Boatwright	Recovery	
Bea Butler	Strength & healing	
Val Korman	Hospice Care	
Dee Maris	Strength & comfort	
Rev. Michael Mueller	Schedule for surgery	
Chris Sabin	Strength & healing	
Dale Sawicki	Healing & comfort	
Family of Samuel Vazquez	Son of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; strength & healing	
Ken Werring	Recovery & healing	

*Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.

Battling Cancer:

8		
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer	
Karen	Daughter Ann LaFave; battling cancer	
Holly Beyer	Cousin Ron McCormick; battling cancer	
Cate Bocassi	Friend of LCC; battling cancer	
Lynn Clawson	Friend of LCC; battling cancer, testing	
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength	
Lisa Anne Denofrio	Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care	
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; battling cancer	

Steve Kirkland Todd Klietz Patricia Ruiz Kathy Sanders Carmen Torres Lori Truelove

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling USAF TSGT David Cope Jr. US Army CSM Matt Hopkins USAF Sr. Airman Shawn Golembieski US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski USCG SCPO Robert Kecken USAF A1C Riley Latarski Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker USAF TSGT Kalin Verardi US Army PFC Parker Woodruff Brother of Bruce Kirkland; battling cancer Battling cancer Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer Friend of LCC; battling cancer Sister in law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

Family Prayer: We remember all our families during times of personal and family trial and tribulation.

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.