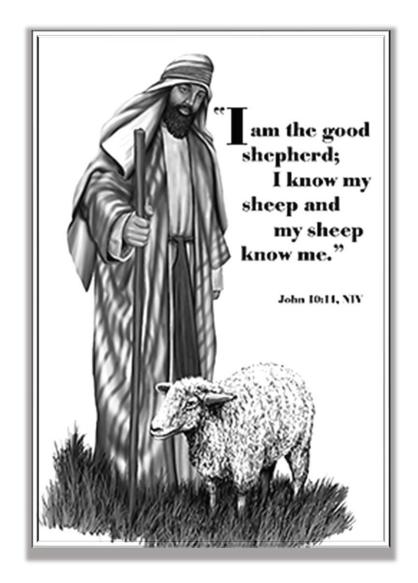
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ.

THEME: BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 203)

THE PREPARATION

We prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our sins and humbly turning to our God who alone is able to forgive our sins. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." (II Corinthians 5:17)

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 a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A REMINDER: Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER

In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

The TOLLING OF THE BELLS



(*Please stand*) **OPENING HYMN**

Father Welcomes

- Father welcomes all His children REFRAIN To His fam'ly through His Son. Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.
 - 1. Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these. Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin.



Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

- 2. In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured: Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again.
- 3. Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God.

Text: Robin Mann, 1949 Text: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

The sign of the cross T may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Ρ
 - Matthew 28:19b [18:20]

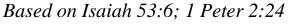
Amen.

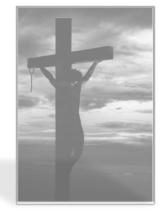
С

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

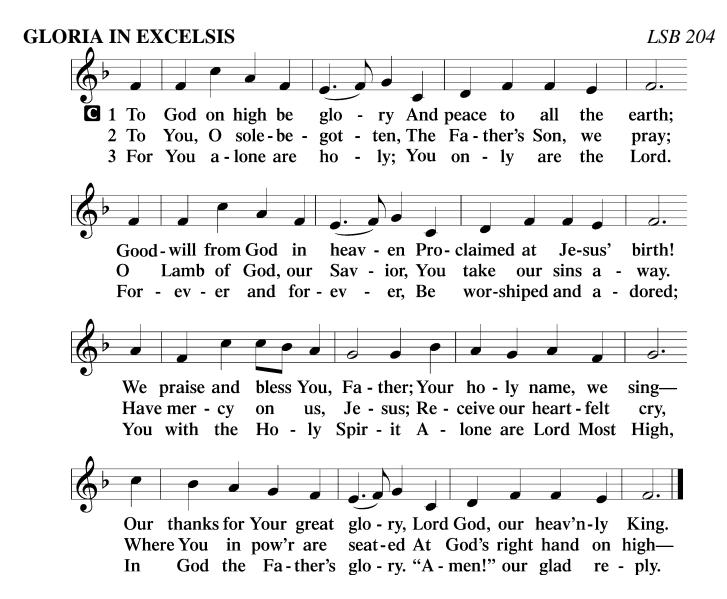
- All we like sheep have gone astray; Ρ
- we have turned every one to his own way; С
- Ρ and the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross
- that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. С

Silence for reflection and 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.
- C Amen.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

- The Lord be with you. Ρ
- And also with you. С
- Ρ Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- С Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 20:17–35 (The only address recorded in Acts that Paul makes to a Christian audience. Paul recalls the work he did among the Ephesians (vv 18–21) and then speaks of the imprisonment and afflictions awaiting him in the future (vv 22–24). Since the Ephesian Christians will encounter similar trials (vv 29–30), Paul encourages the elders to watch out for the sheep under their care, faithfully exercising their office (v 28), as Paul had been faithful in the exercise of his office (vv 26–27, 31, 33–35). The power and strength to carry out their duties comes only from God and His Word (v 32).)

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I

set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the



gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God,

which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'''

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

EPISTLE

Revelation 7:9–17

(John gives a glimpse of the glory that is Christ's. How incredible to be part of that blessedness! Drawn onward and upward by the magnificence of this hope in Christ, God's people join in the heavenly chorus even now. • By Your grace, Lord, keep me among the faithful, so that I may forever sing Your praises in the glory of heaven. Amen)



⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "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, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them,

nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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



HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:22–30

(In the colonnade of Solomon during the Jewish Feast of Dedication, Jesus declares His oneness with the Father, which the unbelieving crowd understands to be blasphemous and worthy of death. To reject Jesus is to reject God and abandon the hope of everlasting life. Believers can rest secure that they belong to Jesus Christ and will never perish; all of Jesus' works affirm this truth. • O Lord, "into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things." Amen.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

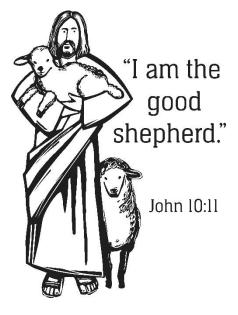
- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAYThe King of Love My Shepherd IsLSB 709

- The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.
- Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
- 3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6. And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Text: Public domain



SERMON

(Please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED LSB p

- LSB pg. 159
- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- 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 T everlasting. Amen.

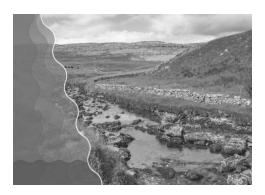
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep. Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- Father, Your Son has raised up undershepherds through whom He provides His care and protection, guarding us by His Word and nurturing our faith by His Sacraments. Make us attentive to their voice that we may be kept from danger and secured in the truth so that nothing can snatch us from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Father, we have seen Your goodness in the still quiet waters and rich green pastures You daily and richly provide. Give us wise and grateful hearts that we may receive Your grace with thanksgiving and treasure them in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.



- P Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for *names...[Nancy Bord, Barbara Kraning (daughter in law of Rosemary Kraning), Arthy Turtotte (friend of LCC)]* and all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. Hear us that they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your shepherding care. Bring us at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

OFFERING

<u>For those worshiping online</u>, please visit <u>www.lccross.org</u> 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 <u>https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6</u>

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



		• • •	
2 "Wor - thy the L	oin our cheer - amb that died," wor - thy to a - tion join	they cry, "To	on - or and
	0		
round the alt - ed pow'r di - sa - cred	thus!" "Wor - thy	ss - ings more	- sand our than up -
		0	0
e) are their tongues, lips re - ply, we can give on the throne	But all their "For He was Be, Lord, for - And to a -	joys are slain for ev - er dore the	one. us!" Thine. Lamb.
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662			

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

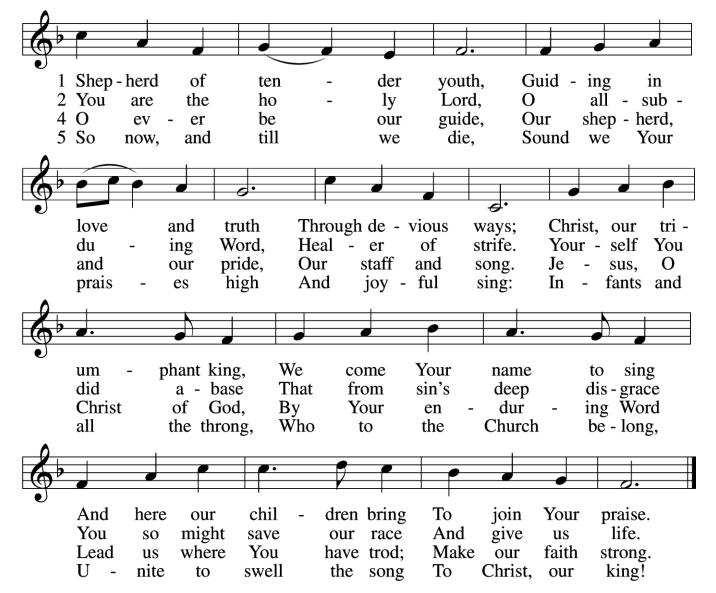
Numbers 6:24-26

LSB 212

CLOSING HYMN

Shepherd of Tender Youth

LSB 864 sts. 1-2, 4-5

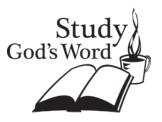


Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt. Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



PEOPLE'S SIGNIFICANCE TO GOD: "what is man that you are



mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?"

Psalm 8:4 ESV

People enjoy a special relationship with God. He made them in His image and enables them to live life in faith, trust and obedience.

We Are a Stephen Minister Church! For more information on our Stephen MinisterProgram, or to scheduled a meeting with a Stephen Leader, please contact David Gruntman, or the church office today!

Acknowledgments

Scripture notes from Engelbrecht, Edward A. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731332.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk Guest Organist: Sarah Stolarczyk ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

May 11, 2025

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by The LCC Altar Guild in remembrance of our sainted friend ~ Joyce Schankin. The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by Rosalie Miller in loving memory of Phil Miller.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers	Cheryl Domingo, Luke Stolarczyk
Lay Reader	Brian Daily, Ron Scheff
Elders on Duty	David Aiken, Wayn Nelson
Greeters/Ushers	Dorothy Christman, Gary Fleming
Altar Servers	Nancy Bird, Pam Specht
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Gloria Cvelbar, Kay Helgerson, Wayn Nelson

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Bob Bartelson, Fran Boatwright, George & Dee Buono, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Betty Golembieski, Hedi Heinrich, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Val Korman, Millie Tyczka

Strength, Healing, Guidance: * Elliana & Katie Nancy Bird Lisa Anne Denofrio Sam Jackson Bruce Kirkland Chris Sabin Carol Scheff Ken & Mary Werring Debbie Zienert

Family of Bill & Ronna Trueman; healing Recovery & healing Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; complications Healing & recovery Healing & recovery Healing & recovery Healing & recovery Recovery & healing Dave Diener's sister; peace & comfort

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

Battling Cancer:	Battling Cance	er:
------------------	-----------------------	-----

auning Cancer.	
Adriana	Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma
April	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Ivana	Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer
Jeanette	Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer
Mike	Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer
Rick Bausch	Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer
Dave DeBraccio	Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength
Bill Docherty	Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery
Matt Doctor	Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace
Tom Druin	Friend of Bill & Dorothy Christman; battling cancer
Randy Hornby	Friend of Dorothy Christman; battling cancer
Robert Jeffery	Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia
John Kewn	Son-in-law Davis & Del Rozak; battling cancer
Todd Klietz	Battling cancer
Barbara Kraning	Daughter in law Rosemary Kraning; battling cancer
Emily Reidel	Friend of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; battling cancer
Patricia Ruiz	Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer
Lisa Sayers	Friend of LCC; battling cancer
Tracy Shattuck	Brother Meredith Kecken; battling cancer, healing
Carmen Torres	Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer
Lori Truelove	Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace
Arthy Turtotte	Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Connie Warner Michael Woodruff

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 SrA Riley Latarski Marines Sgt. Jonathan Metz Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell US Army PFC Parker Woodruff Bragg Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma Son of Phil & Mary Woodruff; battling cancer

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

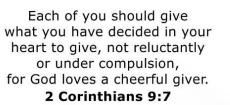
Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in Japan Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in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

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.

<u>LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT</u> <u>& WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025</u>

Week Of: 05/04/2025		
On-Site	We	ekly
Attendance	Contributions	
46 / 76	Income:	\$ 7,044
	Expense:	\$ 11,170





DailyVerses.ne

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Sun-May 11	MOTHERS DAY	
Wed-May 14 3:30pm	Board of Elders Meeting (OFH)	
Thurs-May 15 9:00am	Altar Guild Communion Set Up (Sacristy/Sanctuary)	
10:00am	Lost Books? Bible Study (FMC)	
Tues-May 20 6:00pm	Church Council Meeting (OFH)	
Thurs_May 22 10:00am	Lost Books? Bible Study (FMC)	
Sun-May 25	MILITARY APPECIATION SUNDAY	
Mon-May 26	Church Office Closed ~ Memorial Day	
CORRECTION! The date listed in the 05/04/25 WF was incorrect for our		
upcoming Voter's Meeting – the correct date will be:		
Sun-June 1 11:45am LCC Voter's Meeting (FMC)		

 Our Prayer Chain leader, Cheryl Domingo, will be away May 13th - June 18th. During this time, please direct all prayers to the church office at: <u>secretary@lccross.org</u> or by calling 941-627-6060. Jennifer will be overseeing the chain during Cheryl's travel. We appreciate your understanding and wish Cheryl & Romy safe travels!

† This month we will be celebrating Armed Forces Sunday.

On **Sunday, May 25th** we simply want to give thanks to God in honoring the men and women who faithfully answered the call to serve in our Nation's military. As part of military appreciation month, we will be requesting donations, which we will gather up (together with gifts received in November during our Veterans' Day celebration) and send outward to the active military individuals we pray for each week.

We also will be sending "Appreciation" or "Thank You" cards to them. Please take a card from our table and sign and return them to us unsealed. If you have any other ideas or thoughts on how we can celebrate our troops and all that they sacrifice for us, please feel free to contact:

> Nancy Carter: 863-307-6894 or cartern237@gmail.com Dorothy Christman: 203-417-2770 or djcgolf@att.com Marita Noe: 941-628-2295 or gem_ministry@yahoo.com

• **CFO Mike Barzona will be out of the office from June 6 – June 20**. He will resume office hours on Monday June 23rd. During his time away, emergency financial matters can be directed to the church office.

The **Parish Admin will be on-site the week of June 9** to cover his absence. *If anyone is interested in assisting the office during the week of the 16th, please reach out to Jennifer for more information.*

• Pastor Stolarczyk is attending a Convention in Lake Buena Vista Jun 4 – Jun 7