

*I am the
good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11





The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 20, 2024 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, April 21, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 SONG "The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing"

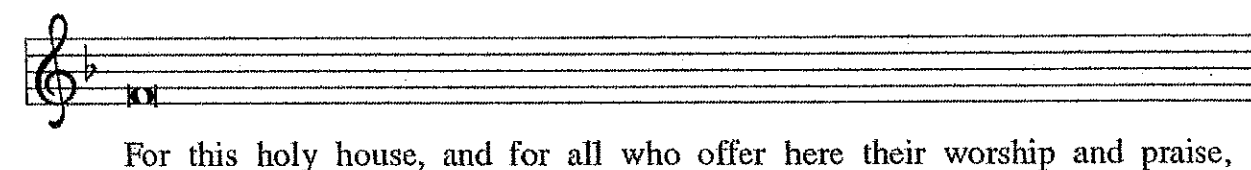
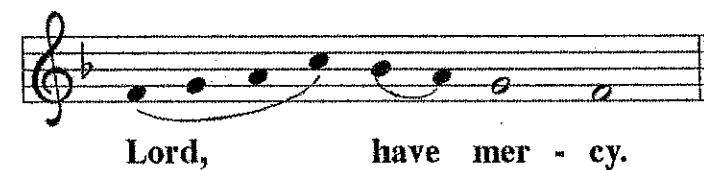
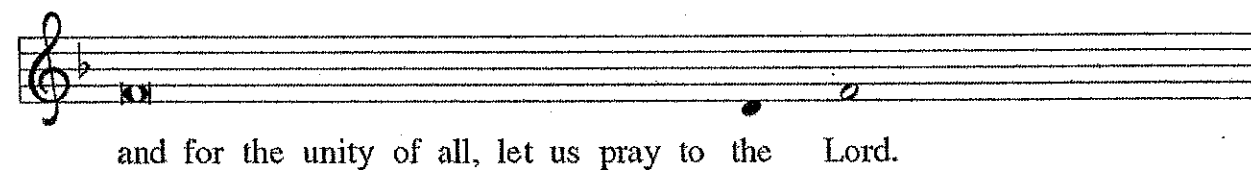
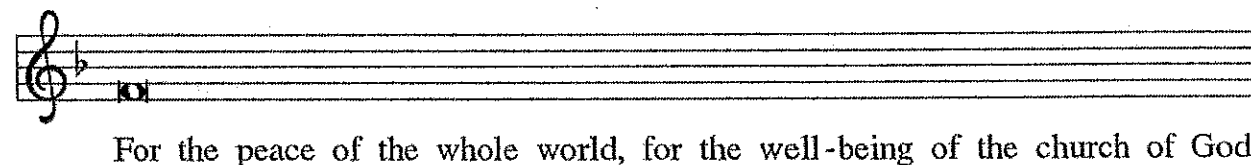
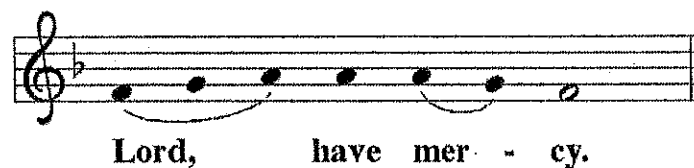
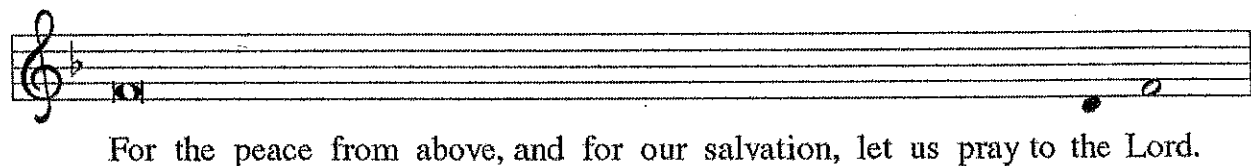
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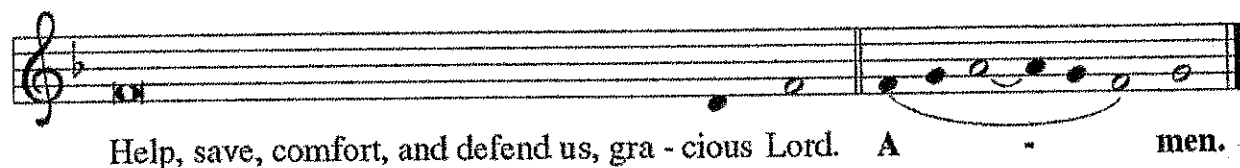
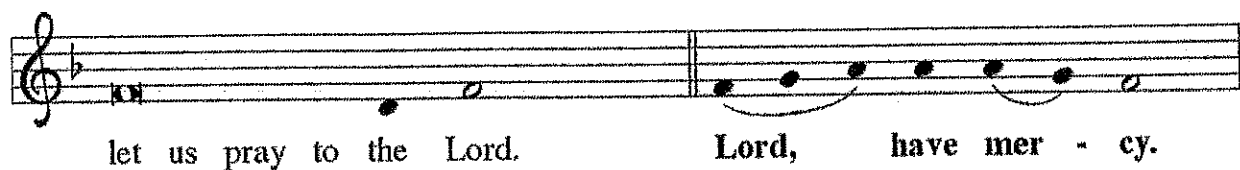
GREETING

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

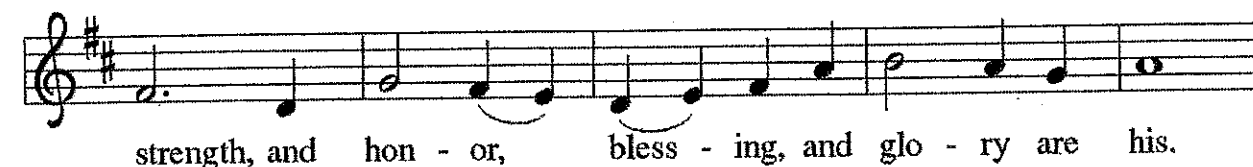
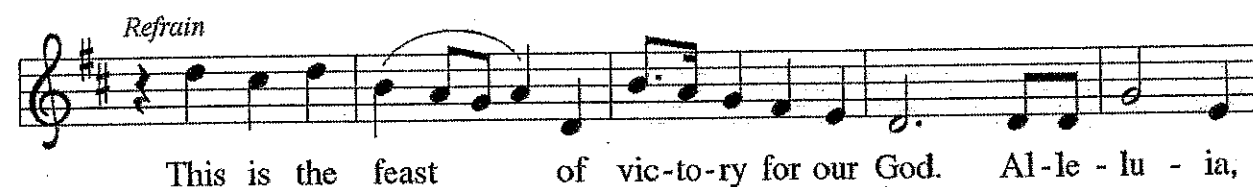
And also with you.

KYRIE



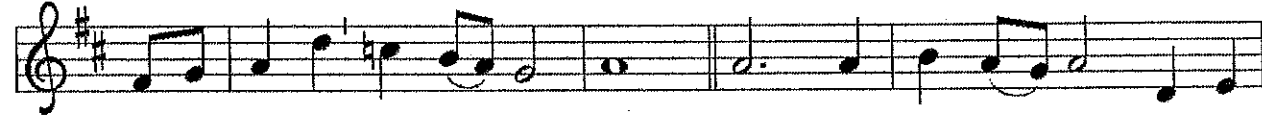


CANTICLE OF PRAISE

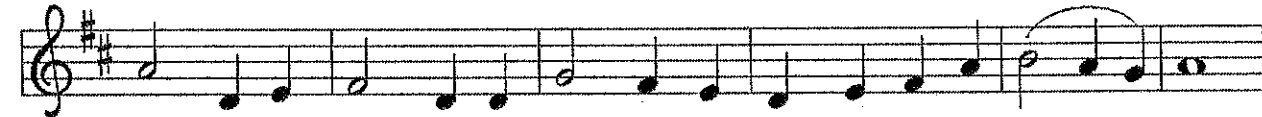


Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of


 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,


 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,


 al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was


 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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


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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

ANTHEM

"Psalm 23"

People of Praise

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

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.

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

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?

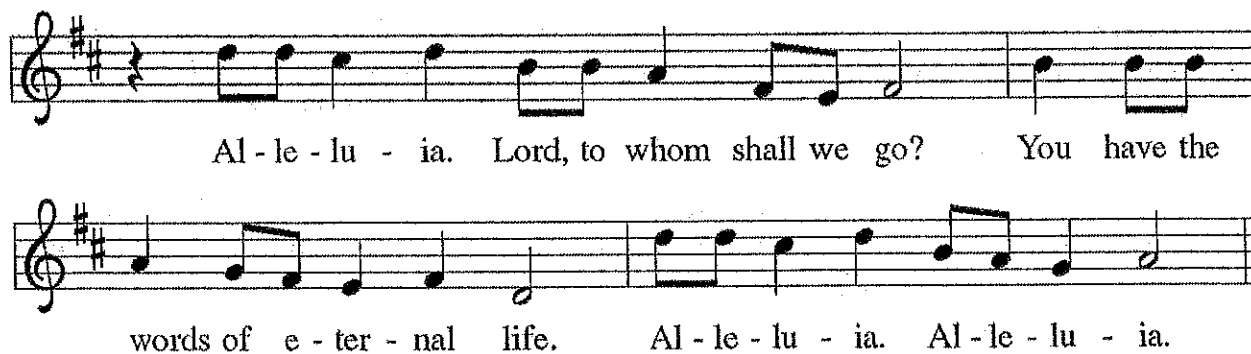
¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

ELW #764

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.

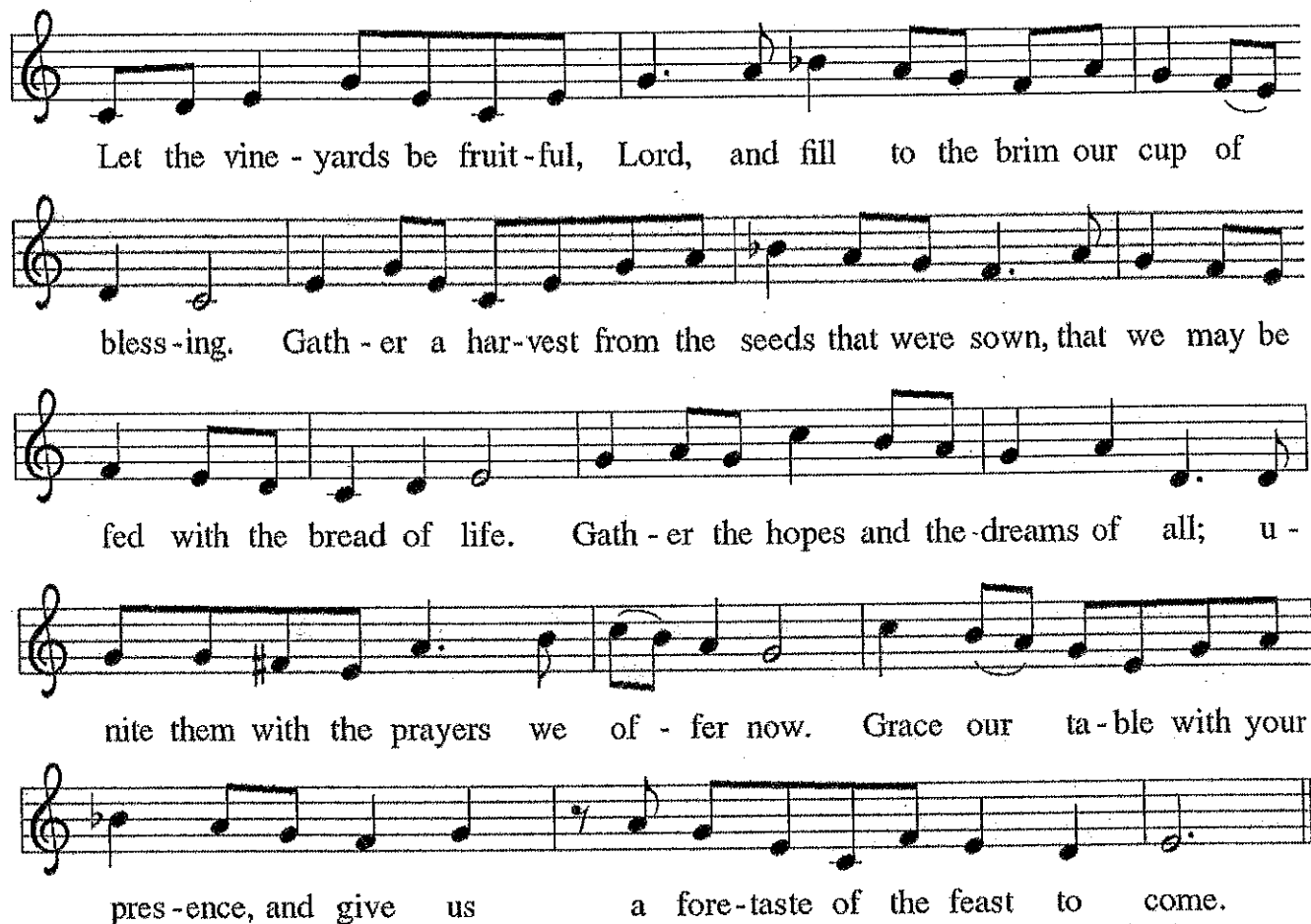
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG



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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

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



THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. The ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward to receive a blessing. There are baskets at the end of the front pews where you can deposit your cups as you return to your seat. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

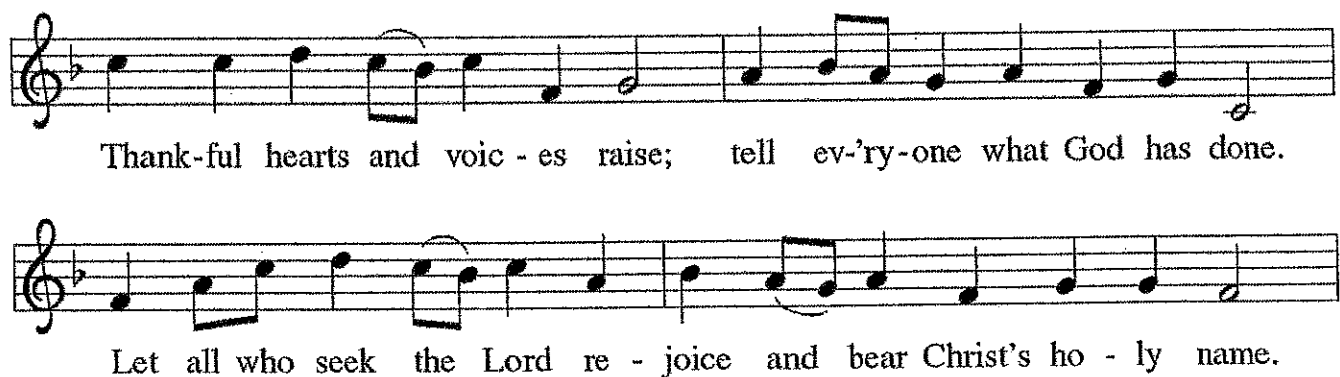
COMMUNION HYMNS "Shepherd Me, O God"

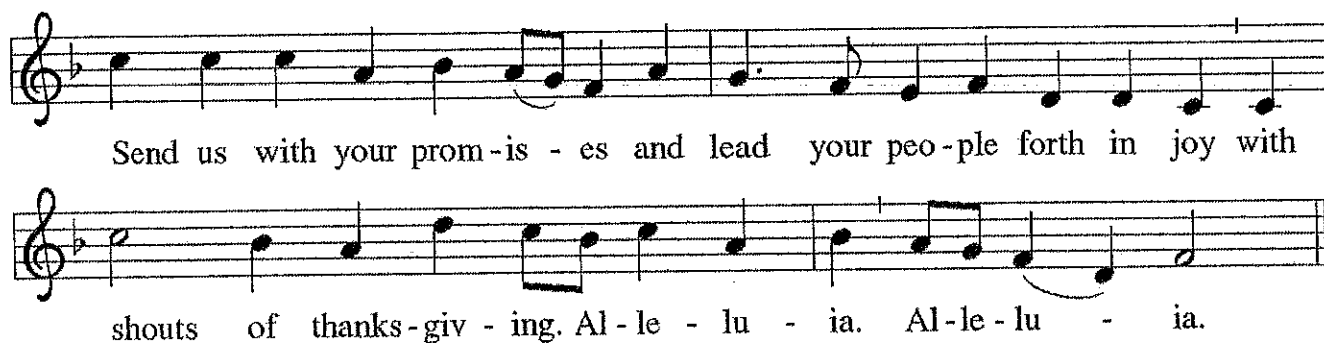
ELW #780

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 SONG "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

ELW #536

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mark & Chris Copley
Reader	Christine Copley
Communion Assistant	Christine Copley
Counters	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Diane Krebs & Jared Penning
Reader	Kelly Penning
Communion Assistant	Ashley Huffman
Counters	Kristy Looney & Kelly Penning

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowsi and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich



Always Room for One More

When Jesus says “I am” in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today’s reading, when Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd,” we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It’s reassuring to hear that we aren’t alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd’s role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That’s what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

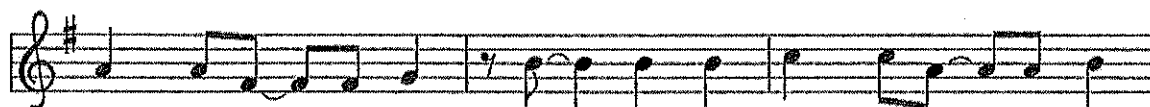
When we hear Jesus’ promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren’t yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus’ voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God’s mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus’ flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine,
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



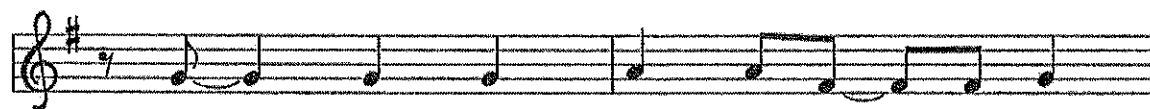
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



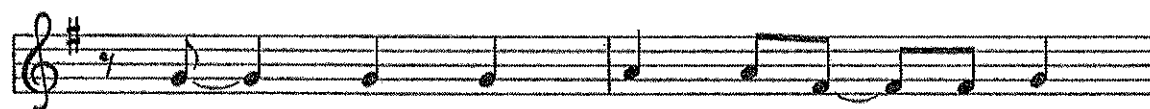
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

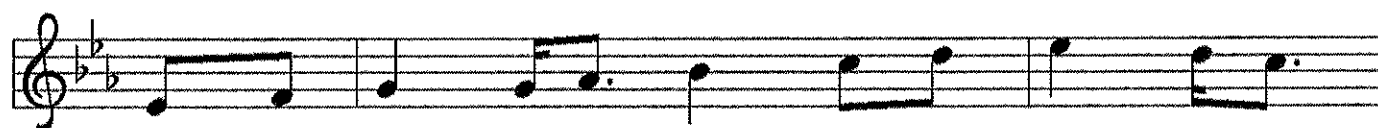


The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

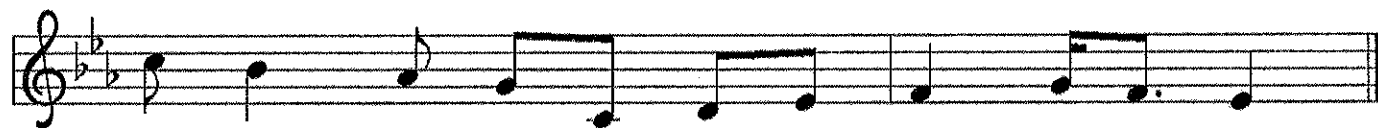
Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4

Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930

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Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain

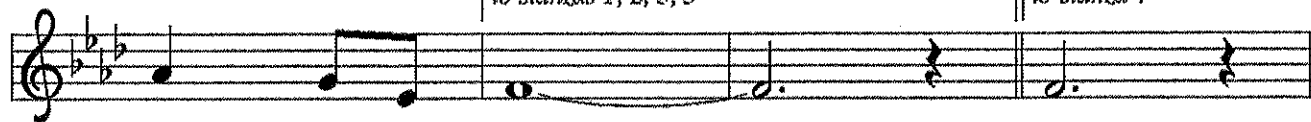
All



Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5

to stanza 4



death in - to life.

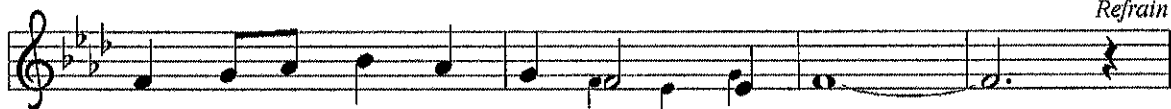
life.



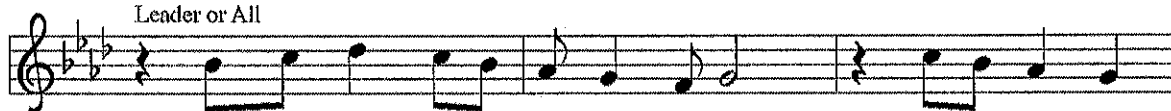
1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



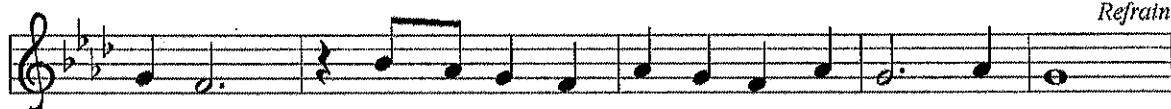
rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your



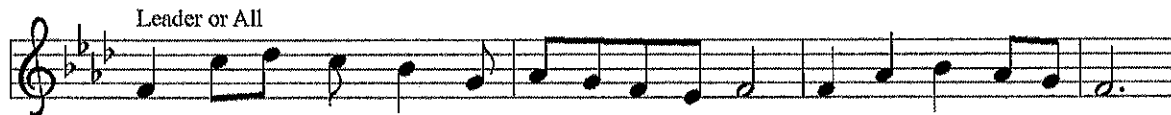
walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.



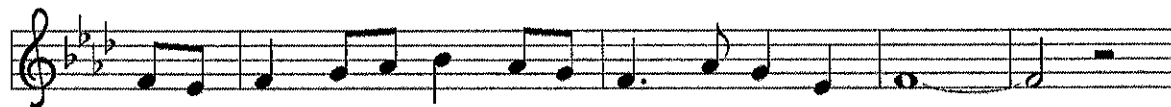
4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.



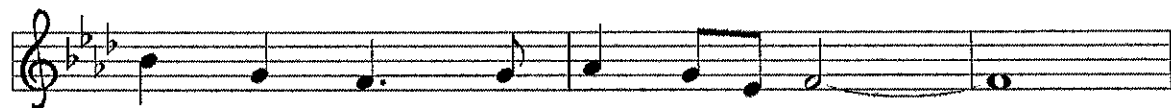
5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev-er - more.

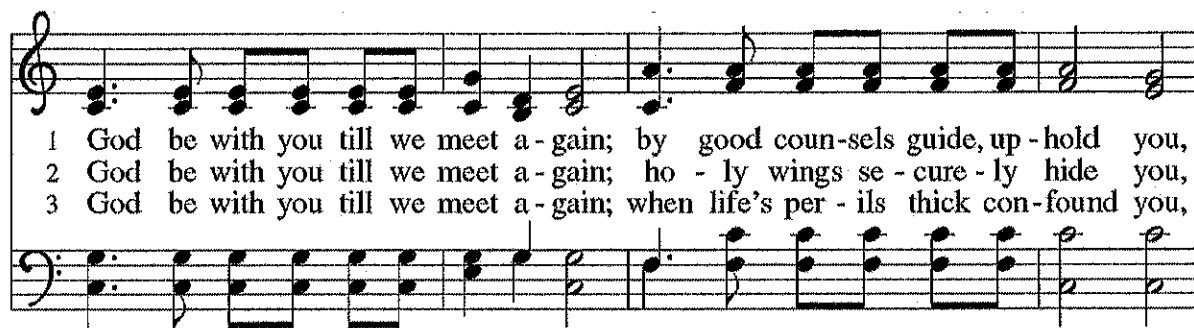


Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

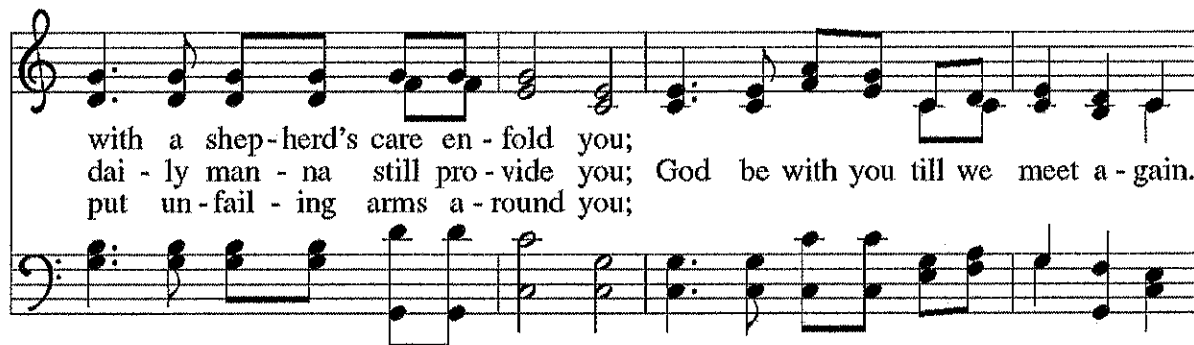


yond my fears, from death in - to life.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

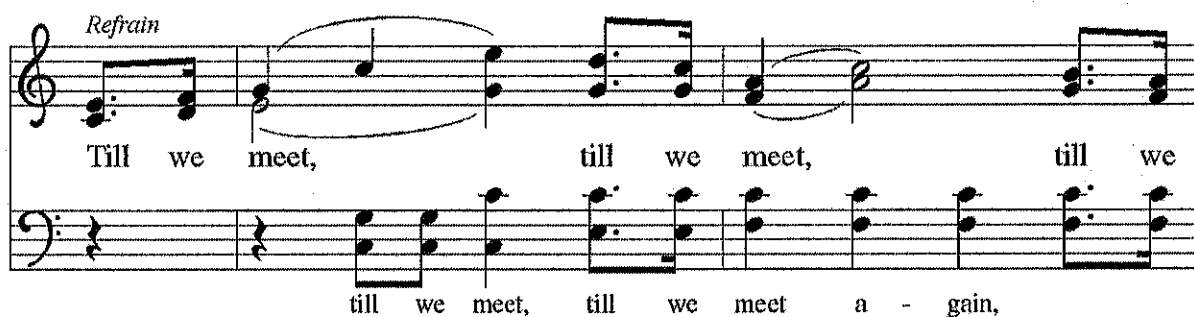


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

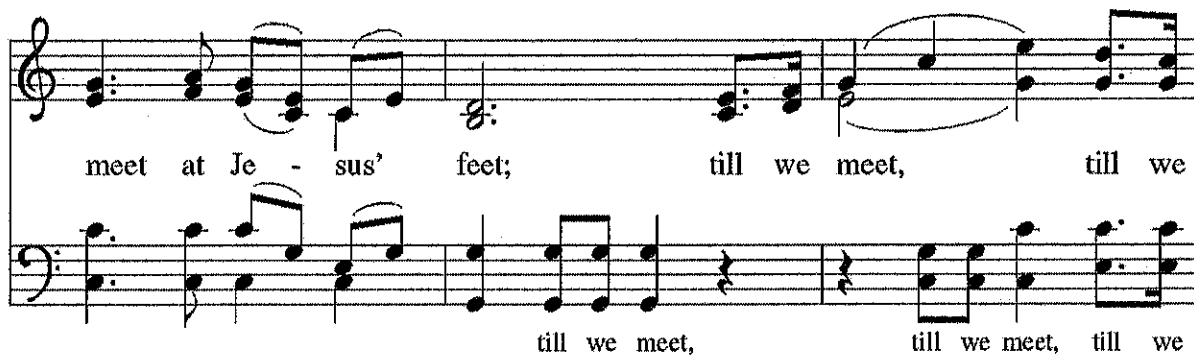


with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,



meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we



meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 20 & 21, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheranelldridge.com



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Jim Schneider	Barb Conklen	Shawn
Ann Kuehl	Ed Stoltz	Jacki Caugherty	Don
Janet Bowman	Judy Knoer	Jim Peters	Tim
Kathy Stoltz	Melissa Alden	Kathy Schultz	Joyce
Steve Mixdorf	Sue Vogel	Blake Hamann	Roger
Duane Miller	Andrew Arp	Ed Precht	Barb
Henry Storjohann	Kim Pierce	Marilyn	Mike
Dan Anderson	Bill Lind	Glen	
Maisie Knutsen	Pam Lueder	Kelly	



Our Special Easter Offering will be split evenly between Humble Dwellings and ELCA Disaster Response where needed most. Please have these special offerings in by the end of April so that we can send the donations to these organizations in a timely manner. Thank you!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



We are excited to have 11 youth and 4 adults going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July:

We have one final fundraiser for this year, which is our Shareholder Fundraiser. Sales of the \$25 Shares will begin on April 21 and will continue through May. More information is in the Ambassador, and will be forthcoming in these announcements.

Thank you for your financial and prayer support for our youth as they prepare for this amazing faith experience.

In partnership with Augustana College and the William F. Freistat Center, St. Paul is delighted to welcome Dr. Jim O'Connell, M.D. to speak on **Sunday, April 21, 4 p.m. in the St. Paul Sanctuary**. Dr. O'Connell, a Harvard-educated physician, has devoted 40 years of his life to serving Boston's homeless population. Dr. O'Connell will share his experiences and stories with St. Paul and the Quad Cities community. The event is free and open to the public.



FELLOWSHIP EVENT

If you pre-ordered tickets for the Lancer Productions Spring Musical, Beauty and the Beast, please see Pastor Carrie before **Friday, April 26th** to pay for and to obtain your tickets. We look forward to the evening of fellowship and fun!



April 13 & 14: 5:00 pm: 47, 9:00 am:105 Online: 30 Total: 182

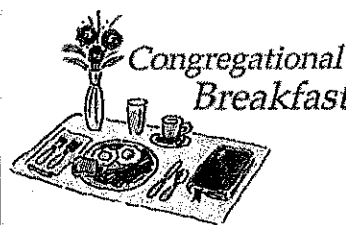


CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 28, at the 9:00 worship service, eight of our youth will be celebrating their Confirmation as they affirm their baptism in worship. Those who will be confirmed Peyton Cline, Bryce Flenker, Drake Huffmann, Christian Keppy, Marshall Mess, Ethan Mueller-White, Natalie O'Flahrity, and Addyson Yanke.

On the day of confirmation, there will be tables set up on the east side of Fellowship Hall with the names of the confirmands where you can leave cards and other well wishes for these youth.

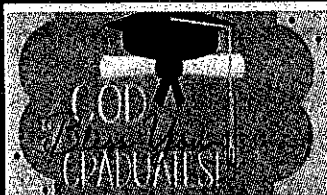
There will also be a cupcake reception following worship to honor the confirmands. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone with these youth!



Join us on Sunday, April 28, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



The Women of Faith are looking for donations of perennial plants for the Eldridge City Wide Garage Sales on May 18th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you need pots for splitting plants or have extra 9" pots, please call Joni Schneider (285-5829). You can also sell your household items in the church parking lot on May 18th. Come join the fun!



Congratulations to all of our graduates—High School, Trade School, Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral candidates! Blessings to each of you as you begin this next chapter in your lives. We will celebrate our 2024 High School graduates during worship on Sunday, May 19, at 9:00 am. A cupcake reception will follow worship.

Note: Seniors, please send your plans for next year as well as a picture (between wallet and 5"x7") for the Senior Recognition Board by Wednesday, May 15. You can mail them, drop them off in the office between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm Tuesday through Friday, or email them to faitheldridge@netins.net.

Saturday, April 20	2:00 pm	Directory Photos (Until 4:00pm)
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, April 21	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary
	10:15 am	Fellowship Hour & Sunday School

Monday, April 22	<i>Office Closed</i>	
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Tuesday, April 23	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:15 pm	Resounding Joy
	5:30 pm	Food Pantry

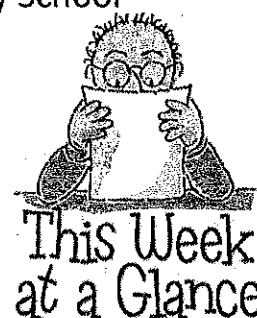
Wednesday, April 24	6:00 pm	People of Praise
	6:30 pm	Confirmation Dinner
	7:00 pm	High School Youth

Thursday, April 25	9:00 am	Ambassador Folding
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Friday, April 26	9:30 am	Food Pantry
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Saturday, April 27	<i>Noisy Offering Weekend</i>	
	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, April 28	<i>Noisy Offering Weekend</i>	
	9:00 am	Worship In Sanctuary w/Confirmation
	10:15 am	Congregational Breakfast
	12:00 pm	Girl Scouts



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies**, please contact **Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.**