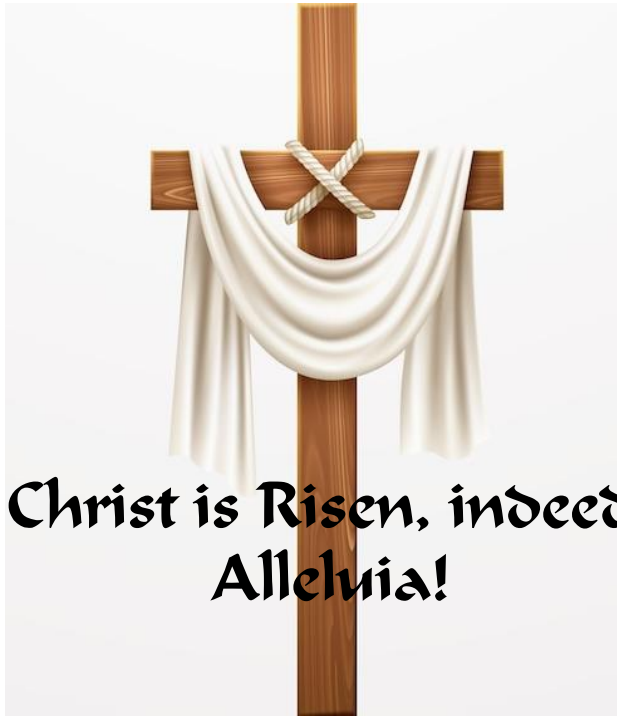


*W*elcome to *W*orship
St. Luke's **E**vangelical
Lutheran **C**hurch



**Christ is Risen, indeed!
Alleluia!**

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*

Ushers: *Jace McCartney, Guy McCartney*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



The Altar flowers are given by Bob Kelley in celebration of Easter.



EASTER LILIES

Lois & Russel Heilman to the Gory of God
Karen & Lynn Krauss in loving memory of Mary Krauss
Karen & Lynn Krauss in loving memory of Gene Hosley
Karen & Lynn Krauss in honor of Rose Marie Hosley
Arica & Matt Matthes in memory of Matt's father, Carl Matthes
Tom & Tiffany Mika..... in thanksgiving
The Dwight Patterson Family to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving
Dee and John Stewart in loving memory of Bill Stewart
Dee and John Stewart in loving memory of Grandma Betty
Dee and John Stewart in loving memory of Jim Heinze
Carol Williams to the Glory of God
Nancy & Jim Wymer in loving memory of Helen & Gail Claybaugh
Nancy & Jim Wymer in loving memory of Lelia & Jim Wymer
Nancy & Jim Wymer in loving memory of Skip McCartney

Order of Worship

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ has risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

ALL: We rejoice and are glad in it! Alleluia!

Leader: To God be the glory forever and ever!

ALL: We worship and praise the risen Lord! Alleluia!

*GATHERING HYMN #367 NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we confess our sins.

Please take a moment for personal confession.

Leader: God of the Empty Tomb, God of Resurrection,

ALL: we turn from your presence and because of our sin become empty within. Fill us with your forgiving grace and new life, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***KYRIE HYMN #151**

1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

***CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: You are precious in God’s sight! In the name of the Risen Lord Jesus, I declare: God ✠ is forgiving your sins. **ALL: Amen!**

***GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God. heav-en - ly King. al - might-y God and Fa - ther. we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

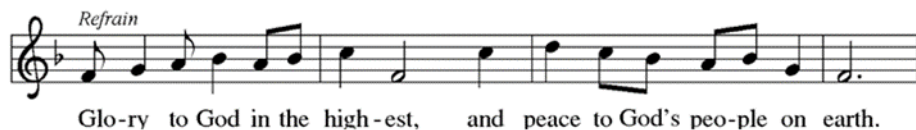


God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

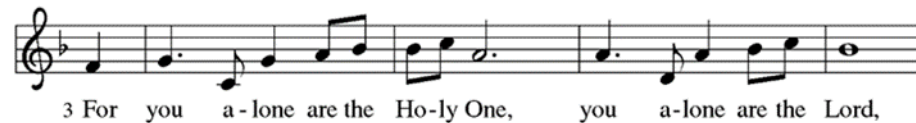


seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

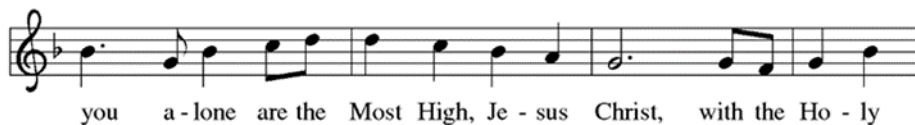
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us prayer together,

ALL: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:6-9

Reader: On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

AN EASTER ALLELUIA!

TIMOTHY SHAW

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

ALL: Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

Reader: The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

ALL: Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

Reader: The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

ALL: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Reader: The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

ALL: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

Reader: “This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

ALL: I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

Reader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

ALL: By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Reader: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Reader: Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he

appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING #3 HYMNAL PAGE 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20:1-18

This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: ¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into

the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #365

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Prayer Leader: 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.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: God of the resurrection, **ALL: hear our prayer.**

We pray for Lorraine, Sue, Dave, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Gus, Donnis, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Beth, Ashley, Pat, Pat, and Cali.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace that passes all understanding be with you.

ALL: and also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshipping with you."

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Lord, we stand in awe of your infinite sacrifice. You gave your beloved Son, Jesus, for our salvation. As we give our tithes and offerings, help us remember that our sacrifices, no matter how small, are echoes of your great love for us. We want our giving to reflect the deep impact of your selfless sacrifice.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray,

ALL: 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.

GOD NOURISHES US

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: People of Easter, lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them to the One who raised Jesus from the grave.

Leader: People of Easter, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly good, right.....sing to the God of everlasting love.

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

setting 3, pg. 144



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

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

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

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

Leader: United in the Risen Christ let us pray together,

*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen

*LAMB OF GOD

Setting #2 Hymnal page 135



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.

*THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: Come, feast with the Lord who gives us life!

ALL: I know my Redeemer lives! Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

THE TABLE BLESSING

Leader: Through the body, blood, and spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. This is God's promise to us. May his love and mercy strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen**

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us prayer together,

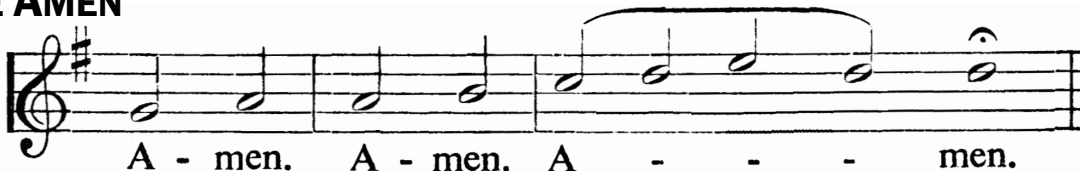
ALL: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made! As we go on our way, God, our light and our salvation, promises to bless us daily. Christ is risen, indeed!

*THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN #376

THINE IS THE GLORY

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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To the Glory of God

March Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

North Baltimore Food Pantry April requested donations include: laundry detergent dish soap, toilet paper. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please help.

Tables Available

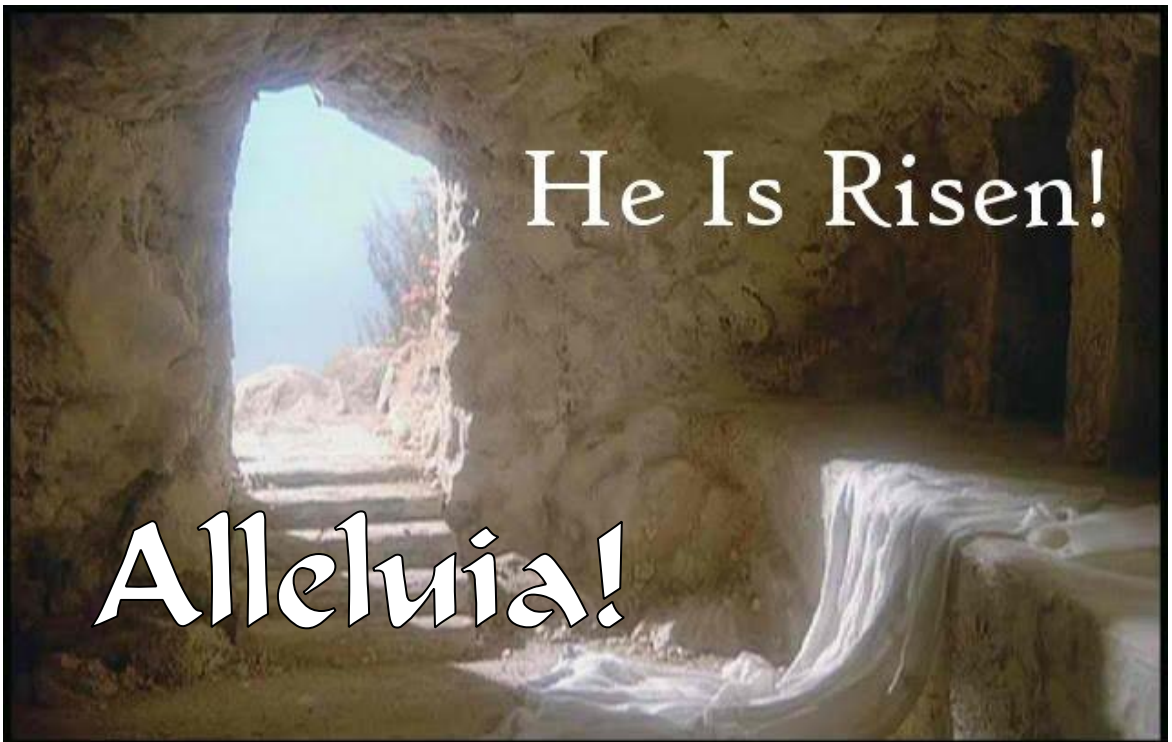
The Church Council is offering the brown 8' tables for members of the congregation. If you are interested in them, please contact Bryant Matthes at 419-601-4350. Donations are welcome.

Congregational Meeting Called

The Church Council has called for a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, April 14, immediately following worship, for the purpose of discussing and deciding on the proposal below. Your input will be greatly appreciated.

The Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCA) would like to use our building for senior luncheons in the near future (Monday thru Friday, 10-2, except holidays and funerals), however some things would need to be changed/done before this can begin, which would be paid for by WCCA.

- St. Luke's would receive \$500/per month from WCCA for using our church.
- WCCA would need to install/provide the following: 3-compartment sink, grease trap, freezer, refrigerator and steam table.
- There will need to be a Health Department inspection.



Spring Gathering 2024



R.S.V.P. by 4 p.m.
on April 4 to Kyra
at 419-422-2641.

Light breakfast and
lunch are free.

In-kind donations
of non-perishable
food items for TLC
Food Pantry will
be accepted.

Saturday, April 20
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
Findlay

**“Every Day Should be
Earth Day”**

**Jane McCleary will our guest
speaker**

Trinity Lutheran Church
935 West Bigelow Ave
Findlay OH 45840-2815
419-422-2641

A free-will offering will be received to be divided between
the Synod Women, the Central Conference Women, and the
Blanchard River Watershed Partnership.



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

WE GIVE THANKS: for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Lorraine Ferguson, Sue & Dave Ebersole, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline

Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

MILITARY: for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

COMPANION CHURCH: Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

THE WORLD: for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another.

**A.S.A.P.**
always say a prayer

Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

Middle of the Story

Literarily and theologically, Mark's gospel ends awkwardly at 16:8. The women are astonished and afraid, and what most scholars consider the original ending of Mark seems more like the middle of the story than its end. What about appearances of the risen Christ? What about the joyful proclamation that death



has not had the last word? Mark's gospel is problematic for those anticipating the more complete story of resurrection recounted by other gospels. For some circumstances, however, Mark's ending hits just the right note—especially for those who aren't sure about resurrection themselves, or whose own lives are in an awkward, unresolved

limbo.

In Mark's version, all we have to depend on are Jesus' earlier words, the realization that the women must have shared their experience eventually, and the intriguing possibility of the empty tomb. Somehow the women's fear must have eventually become courage, but Mark leaves it up to his readers to wonder how. Still, Mark's "ending" contains hope: even in times of uncertainty and fear, we can *live* the story of resurrection, depending on Jesus' words, the church's testimony, and the intriguing possibility of new life in Christ.

As we too are still in the middle of our life stories, Mark's gospel is a good companion. Most of the time we live with an awkward, unresolved mix of fears and possibilities, in which resurrection is hinted at rather than completed. This is true for the church as well; this story may appear to be the end, but it's really just the middle. The story of the risen Jesus continues in the mission of the church, Christ's body. The possibility of resurrection draws us into a community that lives out the middle of its story in the hope and witness of Christ's new life.

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419-257-3253

StLukesNB@gmail.com

[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)