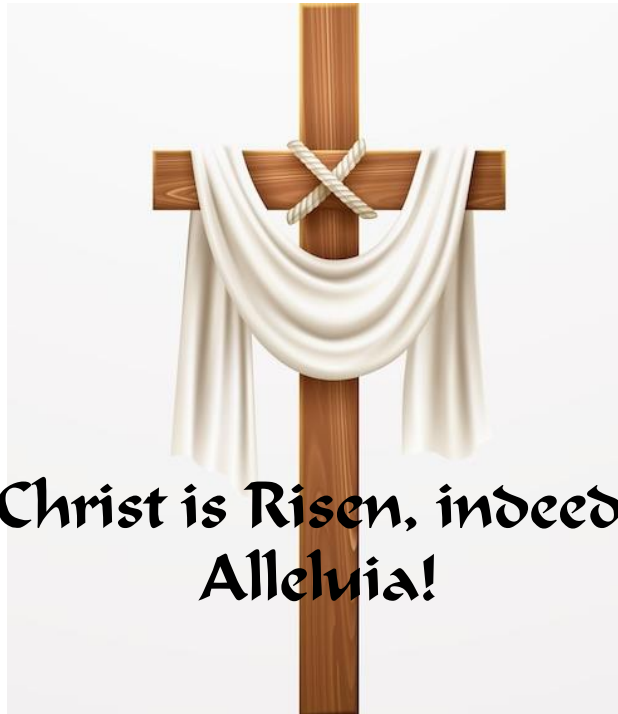


*W*elcome to *W*orship
St. Luke's **E**vangelical
Lutheran **C**hurch



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Pastor:
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>
eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com
Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*
Worship Leader: *SAM Bob Fett*
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

April Candles: *Ruth McKee*
April Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*
April Newsletters: *Laura & Tony Damon*

North Baltimore Food Pantry May requested donations include: peanut butter, jellies and jams. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please give generously.



Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 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, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to do."

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as God's beloved children -

ALL: However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

Leader: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community.

ALL: So, this becomes a place where all are welcome.

Leader: We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with others.

ALL: Let us worship God.

*GATHERING HYMN #641

ALL ARE WELCOME

*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please take a moment for personal confession.

Leader: God of Love, God of Life,

ALL: we confess that we have failed you, our neighbor, and ourselves. Enable us to see each other and ourselves as your beloved children. Help us to abide in your abundant love, so we may bear good fruit in a world starving for love, justice and mercy. Forgive us, in the name of Christ 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.

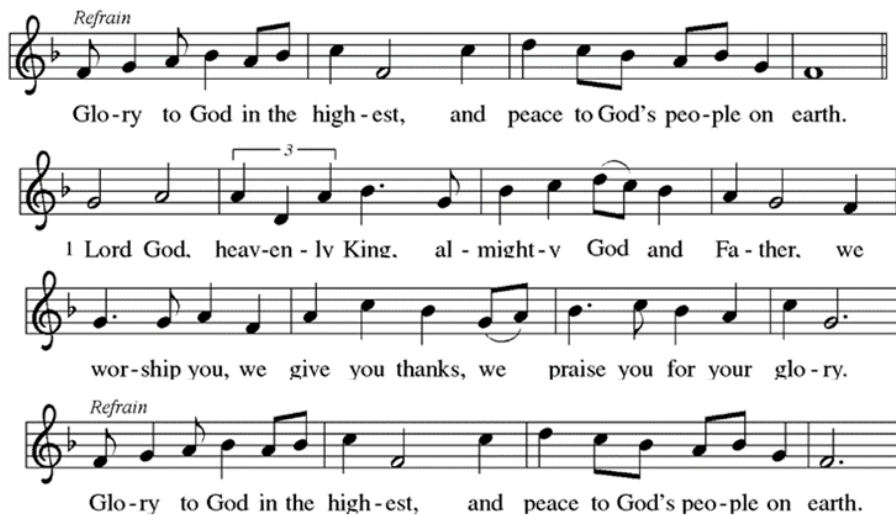
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is love: not that we loved God, but that God first loved us, giving his Son to forgive our sins. I announce that God is forgiving your sins, in the name of Jesus ✠ Christ, our Lord. **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 pray together,

ALL: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

ACTS 8:26-40

Reader: An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

CHRIST IS RISEN

ANNA LAURA PAGE

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 22:25-31

Reader: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

ALL: The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

Reader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

ALL: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Reader: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

ALL: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

Reader: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

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

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 4:7-21

Reader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent

his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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: Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that

bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #790

DAY BY DAY

***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 grace, **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, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Donniss, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Pat, Don, Beth, Ashley, and Pat.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: As we pray daily for peace around the world, let it begin with us. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

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 together,

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.

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, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting, who in the multitude of your saints did surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore, people of Easter, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life and 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: We gather for this divine feast, seeking to hear and understand God's word, we proclaim the mystery of faith;

ALL: Christ died, so that sin could not hold onto us.

Christ was raised, so that death could not hold onto him.

Christ will return, to forever hold us in eternal love.

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: Let us feast and become satisfied. The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Alleluia! 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 pray together,

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

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

*THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN #537

ON OUR WAY REJOICING

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Graduation Day is coming (May 19) and we want to recognize our graduates on **May 12**. Please give the church office names of family members who **are graduating or have graduated from high school and institutions of higher learning** (since last May). Please submit information right away. Thank you.

The Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly is Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9am-6pm, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. St. Luke's Church member allows us 2 lay voting members and 1 youth or young adult voting member. Carol Williams is registered. **We would like 1 man and 1 youth to register also.** The cost is \$100.00 until April 30 and \$200.00 from May 1–May 31. If you are interested in attending but might need some financial assistance, please call the church office. For more information go to <https://nwosassembly.org/>



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

September Service Day

This year our Congregational Service Day is in September. Lutheran Congregations are asked to find a project to help others in their community. An idea was made to

collect items for “Birthday Bags” that will be given to our local Food Pantry for families. When food is limited often the extra things like a birthday cake are skipped. The Birthday Bags include all the items needed to prepare a birthday cake for someone in the family, usually a child. We would like to set a goal to make 25 bags. Please watch for your May Good News Letter for full details. Thank you.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been meeting and has now completed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which was approved by both church councils in late March. The document, along with several additional documents were uploaded to the ELCA website and approved by the Bishop. Now we wait. See the May issue The Good News Letter for more details.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 2, 2024



JOIN US TO PRAY
FOR NEIGHBOR AND
NATION

This year we will gather at the **Bridge Fellowship at 12 Noon** for a time of Prayer lifting up the Needs of our Nation.

123 East Broadway / North
Baltimore / 419.857.8177 /
thebridgeub@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

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

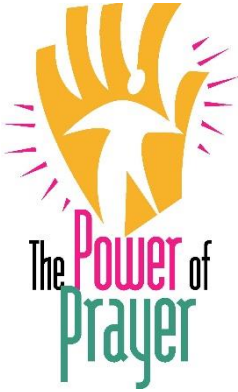
1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



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

WE GIVE THANKS: our Choir under the direction of Janet Goldner. 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: Jennifer Dochod, Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

GRIEVING: Bertha and Jen Carter following the death of son-in-law and brother-in-law, **Kent Thompson**, on April 12. **Janet Goldner** following the death of her cousin, **John Roller**, on April 9.

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.

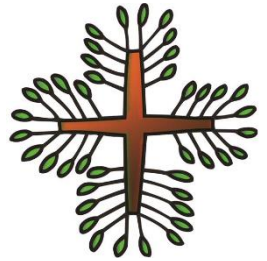
WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the ELCA (**E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (**N**orth**w**estern **O**hio **S**ynod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

THE WORLD: for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

Connected for Life

A parent stands at the bus stop on the first day of school with a kindergarten student. Another parent lingers in the doorway of a first-year dorm after unloading the final box from the car. These parents are entering new times they will not be present to help their children make some important life choices, and words of advice slip from their lips—eat your sandwich before your dessert, share with others, don't drink and drive, remember who you are. After years of preparation, their children step toward greater independence.

Jesus lingers with the disciples before his death and prepares them for the time when he will no longer be present day to day to help them make their way in the world. Words slip from his mouth: “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). These are difficult words as the disciples try to make sense of Jesus’ impending death and the promise of his continued presence.



“Apart from me you can do nothing” may also be a difficult word for a self-reliant, individualistic culture such as our own, focused on personal achievement and success. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine, and we the branches, who, separated from the life-giving vine, can do nothing.

Yet, these are gracious, gospel words from Jesus. He’s been preparing his disciples for years to take this step. These are words that point not toward individualistic, self-reliant independence but toward dependence on the one whose life defies death and whose perfect love casts out all fear. Connected to the vine, these branches are given a death-defying life free from fear. These are gracious, gospel words from Jesus that point to a community nourished by this life-giving vine and bearing fruit for the sake of the world.

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