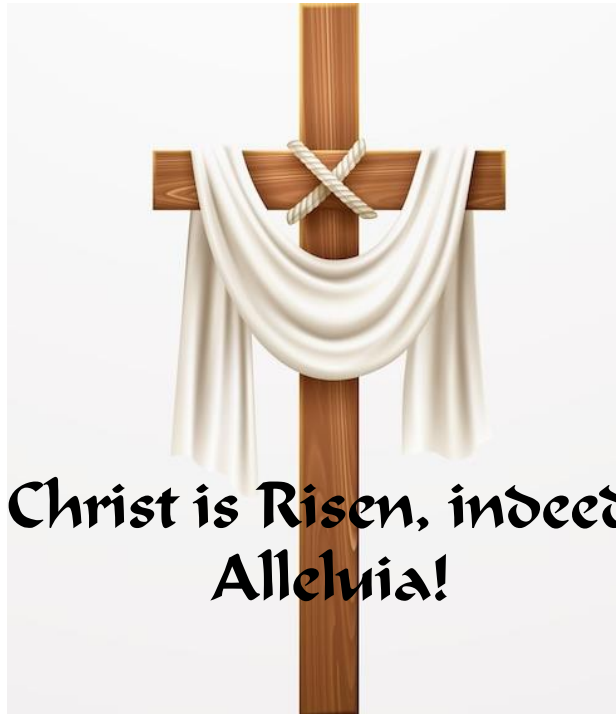


*W*elcome to *W*orship  
St. Luke's **E**vangelical  
**L**utheran **C**hurch



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

*Second Sunday of Easter*  
*April 7, 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](mailto: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: *Janet Goldner*  
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
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 April** requested donations include: dish soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please help.



# Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter, April 7, 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.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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: To the Lord Jesus who loves us, who freed us from our sins by his blood, making us to be a kingdom, and priests serving our God and Father.

**ALL: To him be the glory and dominion forever and ever.**

Leader: The Father is calling us out of darkness into Christ's marvelous light!

**ALL: The Sprit is claiming us as ones who belong to God!**

Leader: To Christ be praise and glory!

**ALL: This is the Savior who makes all things new.**

Leader: Rejoice, for life bursts through death.

**ALL: Jesus Christ is alive for evermore!**

Leader: To God be the glory forever and ever!

**ALL: Let us worship and praise the risen Lord!**

## \*GATHERING HYMN #836

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

## \*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

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

*Please take a moment for personal confession.*

Leader: Faithful and just God,

**ALL: we confess our doubts and the sin that leads to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy, give us deeper faith, change our lives, and make us new, that we may know abundant life in Jesus Christ, our risen 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. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, I announce that God is forgiving your sins. Rejoice! God gives you new life in Christ. **ALL: Amen.**

# \*GLORY TO GOD

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121



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.



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



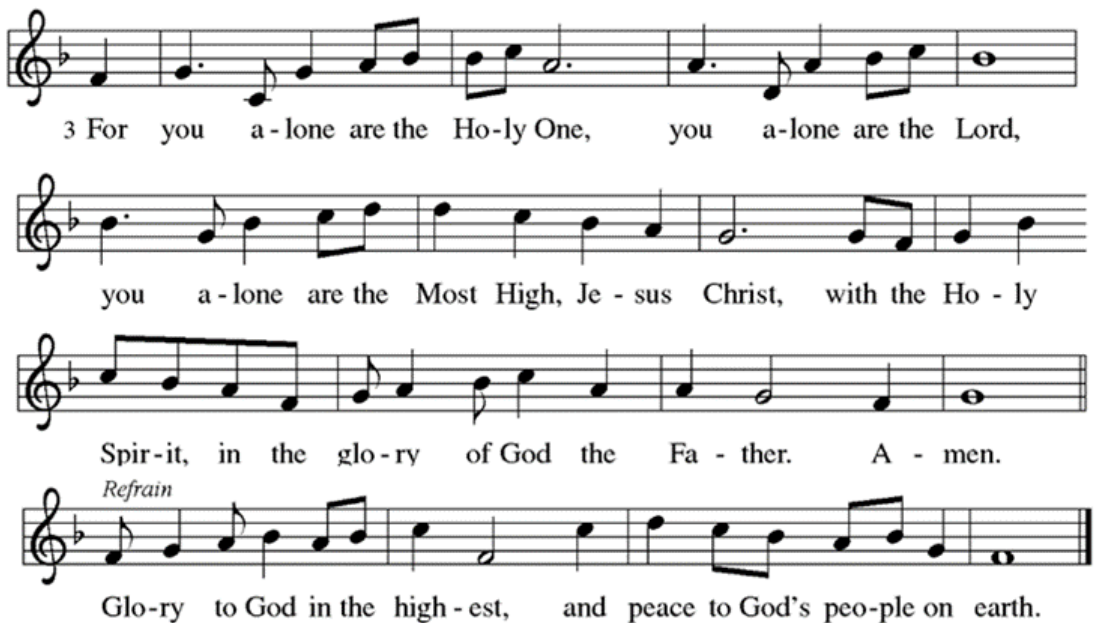
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



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



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:** Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.


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

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# GOD SPEAKS TO US

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## FIRST READING

ACTS 4:32-35

Reader: Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

## PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

PSALM 133

Reader: How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

**ALL: It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

Reader: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

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

## SECOND READING

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

Reader: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and

truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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 20:19.31

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to 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: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #379**

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

### **\*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, Jennifer, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Gus, Donniss, 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: Please join me in prayer,

**ALL: Holy God, you open the doors of heaven, giving us every generous and perfect gift from above. Lift our eyes from the food that perishes, and nourish us now with the food that endures for eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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# **GOD NOURISHES US**

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### **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The God of grace and glory 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.**

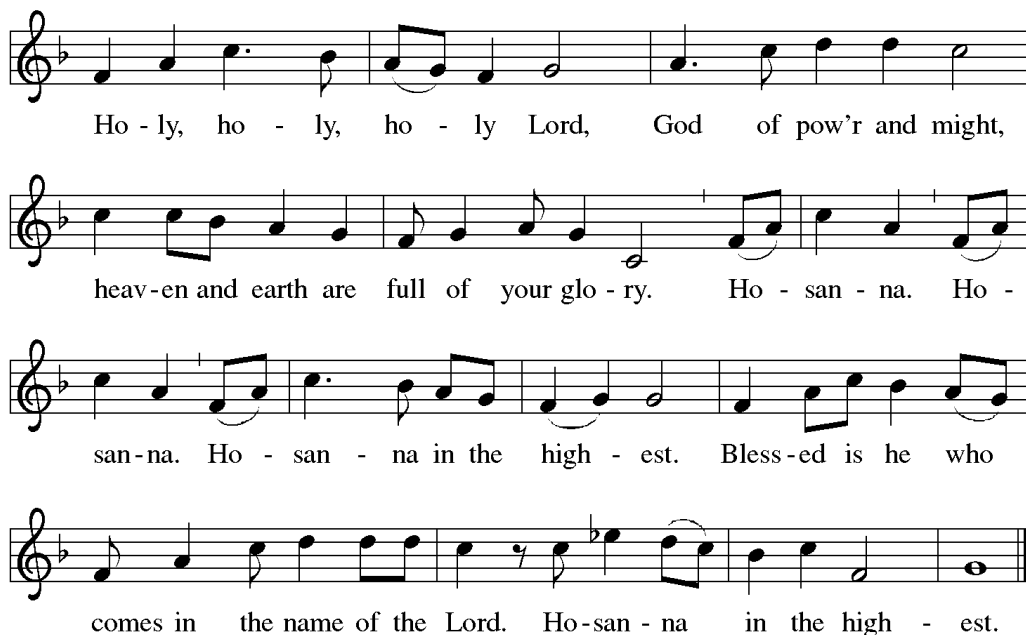
Leader: We bring our praise to the One who calls us the beloved.

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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: 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: Remembering the life our Lord gave for us, this is a foretaste of the great and promised feast.

**ALL: Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus!**

## 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: 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. Amen.**

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# GOD SENDS US

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## \*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 #376

THINE IS THE GLORY

## \*DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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## 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.

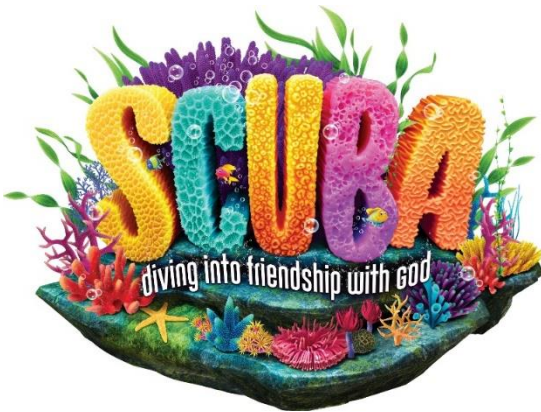
- St. Luke's would receive \$500/per month from WCCA for using our church.
  - WCCA would need to install/provide the following: 3-compartment sink, grease trap, freezer, refrigerator and steam table.
  - There will need to be a Health Department inspection.
- 

**Church Office Hours** – the office will be closed on Monday, April 8. On Wednesday, April 10, the office will be open from 1p.m.-5 p.m.

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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.

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Vacation Bible School  
July 21-25, 2024,  
here at  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Keep watch for opportunities on how you can participate this summer. You can begin right now with prayers for those who are organizing the SCUBA Adventure, and prayerfully considering where you will fit in.





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:** Jennifer Dochod, 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. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

  
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.

# God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, “God’s work. Our hands.”

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate 50 years of ELCA World Hunger. In commemoration of this milestone, consider including ministries focused on alleviating hunger and poverty in your plans for **“God’s work. Our hands.”** Or make it a season of service! Expand your volunteer opportunities, advocacy efforts or food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 8, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. **ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day.** This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.

Be sure to save the date and check [ELCA.org/DayOfService](https://www.elca.org/DayOfService) for updated resources soon.

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Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

## Wounded Resurrection Power Restores Community

Jesus' resurrection confronts the sadness and loneliness of Thomas's doubt. Many people in congregations left last Sunday's celebration of the resurrection with feelings similar to those of Thomas. Somehow, Thomas was not in the right place at the right time to see Jesus show up in the flesh. No doubt, people in the pews can relate to Thomas's missed opportunity. Perhaps they were unable to



attend a family Easter gathering. Maybe a bunch of friends had box seats to the hottest game in town, and they were not able to afford one. Maybe a chemo treatment interrupted an opportunity for career advancement. Human beings are endlessly plagued with feelings of not fully belonging to the group, and they desire a savior to use magical power to restore perfection.

Time and again, the disciples seek a messiah who overwhelms them and the world with crushing military might and magical cures. Today, the power of the resurrection is most realized in the real, deep wounds of Jesus' own body. Without those wounds and the real sacrifice that God made on the cross, Thomas's faith would always be hobbled by his overwhelming doubt. Yet people still ask: how can God's reality of overflowing love and life confront and transform our parched world and wounded bodies?

Jesus makes faith happen today by breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and blessing them with peace. He shows Thomas and all God's people that the life-changing resurrection embraces the wounds all people carry. God the Creator's peace, Jesus' wounds, and the breath of the Holy Spirit lead Thomas to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Then, Thomas trusts God to care for his body and his life. Just like Jesus' ministry prior to the cross, Jesus reaches for the outsider and restores Thomas to his place in the community.

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