

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Pastor: *SAM Paul Brooks*
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Yehiel Curry*
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: *Pastor Ken Pollitz*
Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader: *Pam Van Mooy*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

April Altar Candles, Bulletins, & Newsletters: [available for signup](#)
May Altar Candles, Bulletins, & Newsletters: [available for signup](#)

Food Pantry Needs

The **April** requests for the Food Pantry are canned fruits, jellies, and soups. The **May** requests are canned meats, Kleenex, and paper towels, Thank you.

Give thanks!

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026

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.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

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."

THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN #851** WHEN IN OUR MUSIC GOD IS GLORIFIED

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you. **ALL: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **ALL: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **ALL: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

***KYRIE**

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.

***THANKSGIVING RESPONSE**

Leader: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: Please join me in prayer. God of freedom,

ALL: Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations. Amen.

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 97:1-12

Reader: The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

ALL: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Reader: Fire goes before him and consumes his adversaries on every side. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

ALL: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

Reader: The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples behold his glory. All servants of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

ALL: Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments, O God.

Reader: For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the Lord, hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

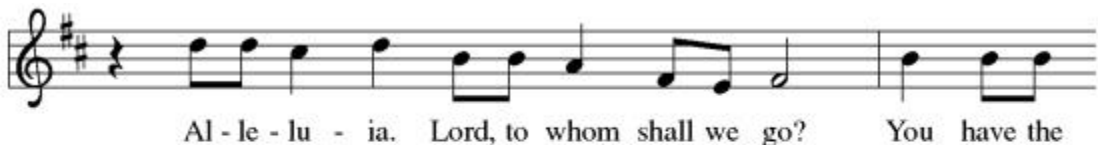
ALL: Light dawns for the righteous and joy for the upright in heart.

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING 3 #142



*NEW TESTAMENT READING

ACTS 16:6-34

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the book of Acts chapter 16. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; ⁸ so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very

much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #709

WHEN OUR SONG SAYS PEACE

*THE NICENE CREED

ALL: 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 THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Prayer Leader: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Merciful God. **ALL:** receive our prayer.

We pray for Ned, Lorraine, Pat, Rut, Ruth, Steve, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Dan, Heather, Howard, Granger, Owen, Mike, Diana, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, Cindy, John, Sue, Carol, David, Betty, LuAnn, Colene, Teri, Eric, Lisa, Kris, Don, Ashley, Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Josh, Linda, and Ellery.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Trusting in the everlasting love and mercy of our Lord, let us give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings to serve the ministry and mission of this congregation, this community, and all of God's world.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Cre-ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God,

ALL: receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL:** And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL:** We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord of God. **ALL:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

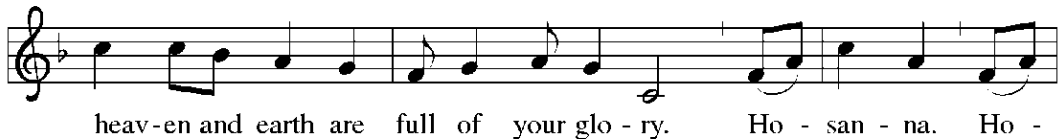
Leader: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 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.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

***THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

DISTRIBUTION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join with me in prayer. Holy One,

ALL: through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #376

THINE IS THE GLORY

VERSE 1)

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

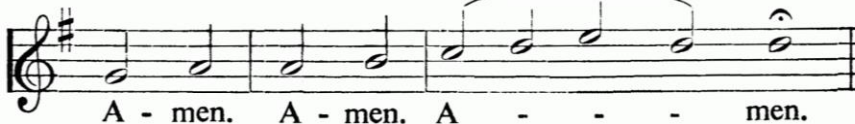
*BLESSING

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 #841

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

As we leave worship each week, we remember the poor around the world by placing loose offerings in the “hunger bowls” on the Information Table in the Narthex. These gifts are then forwarded to the ELCA World Hunger Program.

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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 sunshine and rain, warm summer breezes, colorful flowers and trees, and the fragrance of fresh mown grass. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Ned Slaughterbeck, Lorraine Ferguson, Pat Wheeler, Rut Heilman, Ruth McKee, Steve Pritts, Lisa Claybaugh, Bertha Carter, Eloise Matthes, Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, John Stewart, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl Kruse, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Barb Williams.

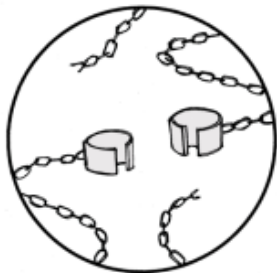
**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Dan Lammers, Dennis Bauer, Heather Wymer, Howard Till, Granger, Owen, Mike Thompson, Diana, Sean Mills, Judy Sowards, Christina Webb, Mike, Riley Guy, Anita Roberts, Amy Stewart, Nickie Whitman, Eli Swartz, Mr. Doherty, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, 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 Yehiel Curry, 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.



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

— Acts 16:31

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*One question to ponder this week as you read: **How does God's word change who you are from the inside out?***

|           |               |                                 |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Acts 16:16-34 | Paul and Silas in Prison        |
| Monday    | Acts 16:35-40 | Paul Released from Jail         |
| Tuesday   | Acts 10:1-23  | Conversion of Cornelius, Part 1 |
| Wednesday | Acts 10:24-33 | Conversion of Cornelius, Part 2 |
| Thursday  | Acts 10:34-48 | Conversion of Cornelius, Part 3 |
| Friday    | Acts 17:1-9   | Paul Goes to Thessalonica       |
| Saturday  | Acts 17:10-15 | Paul Goes to Beroea             |
| Sunday    | Acts 17:16-31 | Paul in Athens                  |

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!*

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

Using a hymnal or online search, find your favorite hymn or praise song. Sing a song of praise, together or solo. Once done, talk together or journal on how singing impacts your mood and energy.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1