

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9 am



**Saint John Lutheran Church
Fairfield, Pennsylvania**

**Rev. Scott Zimmerer, Interim Pastor
Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director**

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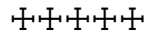
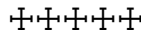
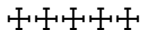
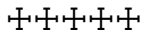
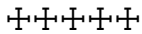
Office Hours
Monday 8:30am-12:00pm
Wednesday- 8:30am-12:00pm
Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

Our Mission is to make Christ known.

We welcome all guests this morning.
We are very pleased to have you worship with us.
All are welcome to receive communion.

Sunday School for all ages meets 10:15.
Everyone is welcome! Grab some refreshments and join us!

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Arr. Tornquist

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: *Holy One, source of our renewal,*

C: We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news; by God's endless grace our sins are forgiven, and we are free- free from all that holds us back and free to live in the peaceful realm of God.

May we be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... 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.**

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An 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.

*The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God.***

HYMN *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

ELW 631

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, 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.

The Word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke... Glory to you O Lord

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 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."

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen. C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Jesus Loves Me, What a Mighty God We Serve

Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Carol Garman, Stacey Haynes

HYMN *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359

STORY *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein David Thomas, Reader

HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* ELW 881

APOSTLES CREED (inside back of hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

***PEACE**

***OFFERING**

DOXOLOGY *Praise God from whom all blessings flow* ELW 885

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above you heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***OFFERING PRAYER**

C: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen

SENDING

***BLESSING**

P: : May God the Creator strengthen you; Jesus the Beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the Comforter ✚ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* ELW 677

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
 this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine...
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine...

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE *Morning Has Broken* Arr. Smith

April 28, 2024 Announcements

Hike at Strawberry Hill- join us for a hike at Strawberry Hill on Sunday, May 5th at 3pm. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area. We will meet at Strawberry Hill for the hike. See Stacey for more details.

Camp Nawakwa- summer is approaching! Lots of activities and opportunities happening at camp! Too much to put in the bulletin. See the ushers stand or Stacey Haynes for a flyer with some of their upcoming fundraisers/events!

Mother's Day Dinner- the family ministry group is putting on a Mother's Day dinner Thursday, May 9th at 6pm. Please RSVP by Sunday, May 5th so we can get a head count for food. Questions? See Stacey Haynes.

Vacation Bible Fun Week- Vacation Fun Week will be June 24-28th, 6-8PM. More info to come.

Wednesday Study and Discussion- All are invited to join us Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 in the social hall as we study "The Six Key Events of the Old Testament". Coffee and goodies provided.

Foreign Exchange Program, The SHARE High School Foreign Exchange Program is looking for host families for the school year 2024-25. If you feel this is something that might interest you, please give me a call and check out our website. You are able to pick your student that would match your family's interest and from the country of your choice. It is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity. Sandy, 717-476-5884. www.sharenortheast.org

Volunteers Needed- There are a few opportunities to volunteer for a discipleship. The following are needed...

Flower Sponsors (\$40) (May 19, June 9,23,&30) plus more

Offering Counters (May- December)

Ushers (May – December)

Bread Sponsor (June, July, August, & October)

Bulletin Sponsors (\$45) (September – November)

Signup sheets are in the gathering area.

Those for Whom We Pray- Hazel, Milly, Deb, John, Jeff, Linda, Craig, Deb, Barb, Judy, Christine, Ashley, Justin, Bob, Jim, Charlie, Essie, Audrey, Jim, Jim & Mary Lou, Charles, Savannah, Garnetta. **Help us keep the prayer list updated. Please let the office know of any names that should be added or that can be removed. Names will stay on the list for 30 days.**

Birthdates- 28th Mary Eversole

Flowers- The flowers today are given to the glory of God by the flower fund.

	4-28-2024	5-5-2024
Lector	Josh Haynes	Milly Weatherly
Liturgists	Julie Falk David Thomas	<i>Not Needed</i>
Communion Asst.	<i>Not Needed</i>	Sue Hull
Usher	Roger & Linn	Volunteer
Flower Sponsor	Volunteer	David Thomas
Offering Counters	Chris & Dawn Cool	Volunteer
Altar Guild	Milly Weatherly	Ruthie Fitzgerald
Bread Sponsor	<i>Not Needed</i>	Chris & Dawn Cool
Bulletin Sponsor	Melanie Brown	Ed & Margie Hartzell

Happening this week at St. John Lutheran Church...		
Today	28	9am Service of Holy Communion 10:15 Sunday School
Monday	29	
Tuesday	30	
Wednesday	1	9:30am Bible Study 6:45pm WOV Choir 7:30pm Handbells
Thursday	2	3:45 Kids Club
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	

Vital Statistics	4-21-2024
Offering Received	\$1,535.00
Offering Needed	\$2,464.00
Attendance	78 + 1 Lamb