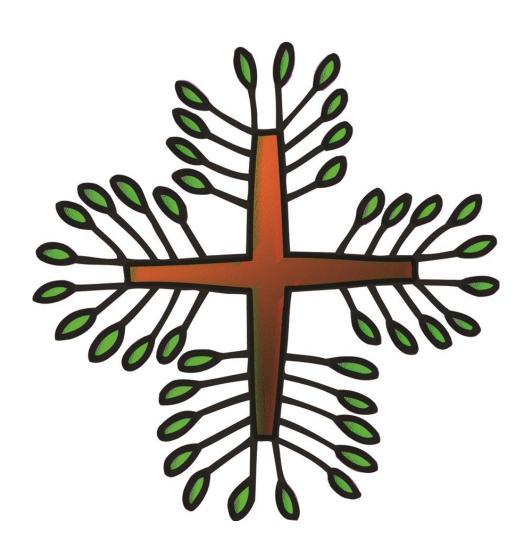
Sharing the Bread of Life

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024 10:30 AM



Worship Leaders for Today:

Presiding Minister: Rev. John Lang

Cantor: Paul Rupprecht

Assisting Minister: Janice Skillen

Technical Specialist: Michael Lindahl

Acolyte: Richard Beck
Introdu the Day

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Gospel: 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.

Friends in Christ, Past and Present

Monday, April 29, 2024

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380;

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Philip and James, Apostles

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

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Fifth Sunday of Easter



WELCOME

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Presiding Minister: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

ALL: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Presiding Minister: Look, here is water!

ALL: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Presiding Minister: Immersed in the promises of baptism,

let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning

your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea

into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

ALL: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Presiding Minister: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John

and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,

freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,

giving all honor and praise to you,

through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Presiding Minister: Look, here is water! ALL: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING HYMN: #377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

Presiding Minister: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Presiding Minister: 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.

ALL: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

ASSISTING MINISTER: A reading from Acts.

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.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31 (The Student Bible - NIV)

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;

before those who fear you will I perform my vows.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

they who seek the Lord will praise him! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

and he rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust will kneel before the Lord.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

future generations shall be told about the Lord.

They will proclaim God's righteousness to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

ASSISTING MINISTER: A reading from 1 John.

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 God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's 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 God's love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the 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 God 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 God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their siblings, are liars; for those who do not love a sibling 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 siblings also.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Word of God, word of life.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: Our Loving Savior's Glorious Name (Text p. 11)

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

PRESIDING MINISTER: The Holy Gospel according to John.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

PRESIDING MINISTER: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

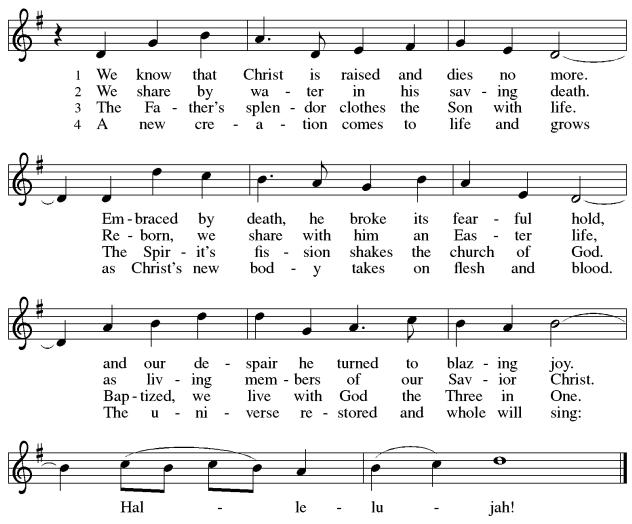
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #449 We Know That Christ is Raised



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text @ John B. Geyer.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ASSISTING MINISTER: Please feel free to unmute yourselves to join in these prayers of the people. 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.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially:

(pause as members of the community name those in need of God's clear presence)

God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: And for what else do the people of God assembled here pray or give thanks?

(pause as members of the community raise thanks and concerns either muted or unmuted)

God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. We remember our loved ones who have died, especially:

(pause as members of the community raise up the names of the blessed dead in whose communion we remain)

Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PEACE

Presiding Minister: May the peace of Christ be with you always.

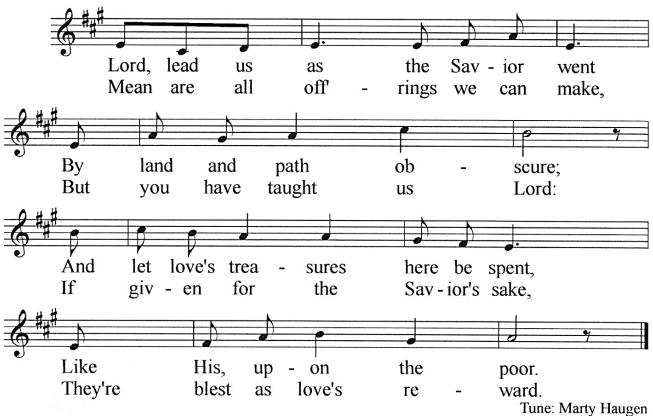
ALL: And also with you.

OFFERING

In thanksgiving for all God has given us we offer the first fruits of our labors for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. In addition to giving in our offering plate, you are welcome to give in one of two ways: 1) By mailing your gift to St. Timothy's at 9000 Kildare Ave, Skokie, IL 60076; or 2) By giving online via the QR code in the back of the bulletin or the link on our website: sttimothyskokie.org.

Presiding Minister: We worship God with our offering.

OFFERING SONG: Lord, Lead Us



Text: Wm. Crosswell, 1831, ed.

OFFERING PRAYER

PRESIDING MINISTER: 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.

ALL: Amen.

EUCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRESIDING MINISTER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PRESIDING MINISTER: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Presiding Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

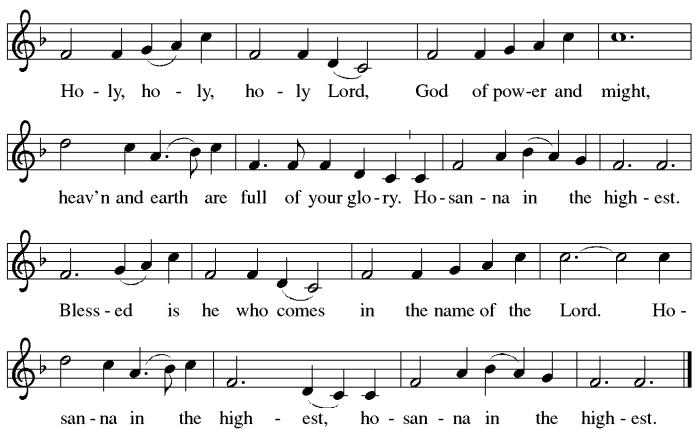
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



PRESIDING MINISTER: Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

For 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,

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

And for this we pray: Come, Lord Jesus!

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus!

Presiding Minister: Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. And for this we pray: Come, Holy Spirit!

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit!

Presiding Minister: Through our Savior Jesus, all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Presiding Minister: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRESIDING MINISTER: The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

TABLE DISMISSAL

PRESIDING MINISTER: And now may the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep

you in God's grace.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDING MINISTER: 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.

ALL: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit.

BLESSING

PRESIDING MINISTER: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Presiding Minister: The God of resurrection power,

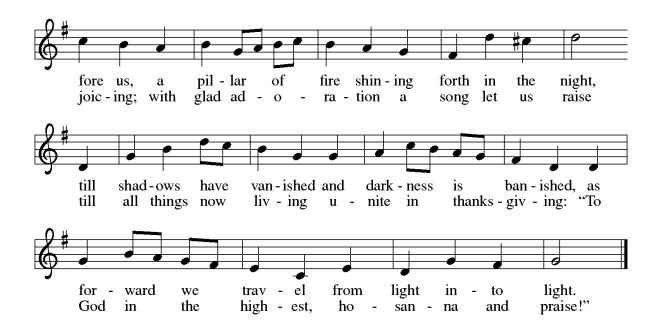
the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

+ bless you now and always.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: #881 Let All Things Now Living





Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

CHOIR ANTHEM TEXT: Our loving Savior's glorious name

Our loving Savior's glorious name Inspires this sacred song; Oh, may his love, a burning flame, Be sung from heart and tongue.

His love no human thought can reach, No likeness here portray, In all our insufficient speech Our best words fade away.

He left his radiant throne on high, Left realms of heavenly bliss, And came to Earth to bleed and die: Was e'er a love like this? (e'er = ever)

Dear loving Lord, as we now pay Our thanks on bended knee, May every heart with gladness say, "My Savior died for me!"

⁻ Anne Steele 1780 / PR 2024

MUSIC NOTES:

Steele, Anne, born in 1716, was the daughter of Mr. Wm. Steele, a timber merchant, and pastor, without salary, of the Baptist Church at Broughton, in Hampshire. At an early age, she showed a taste for literature, and would often entertain her friends by her poetical compositions. But it was not until 1760 that she could be prevailed upon to publish. In that year, two volumes appeared under the title of *Poems on Subjects chiefly Devotional*, by Theodosia. After her death, which occurred in November, 1778, a new edition was published with an additional volume and a Preface by the Rev. Dr. Caleb Evans, of Bristol (Bristol, 1780). In the three volumes are 144 hymns, 34 Psalms in verse, and about 30 short poems. They have been reprinted in one vol. by D. Sedgwick, 1863. A large number of Miss Steele's hymns are in common use, the larger proportion being in American hymnbooks. - *The Hymnary* PR selected four verses of Steele's hymn for today and modernized the more quaint and ancient vocabulary. The melody is by Isaac Smith, ca. 1770.

IN OUR PRAYERS

You are invited to pray for those listed throughout the week using this or another prayer:

Living God, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing, especially (*speak names here*). When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday

Lauren Presburg, Caitlin Presburg, John and Nancy Lang, Phillip DeRosa, Louise Nygard, Brian and Jackson Siegel, The Family of Inez Johnson, The Family of Christopher Kozem, Susan Prichodko, Bill Yeager, Jim and Laurel Nelson, Virginia McLaughlin, Jennifer Kinsella

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Esther Hildner	Janet Johnson	Elaine Morgan
Marci Stanley	Susan Jensen	John Fergus
John Stanton	Jennie Ramirez	Michael Halliwell
Robert Skillen	Linda and Paul Wold	Marlene Hawkins
Russan and Gloria Brown	John Kueter	Phil and family
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Christine Haeberlin	Jim Henderson	Liam Hansen
Jan Karp	David Householder	Sheila McDiarmid
Maisa	Bennett	Joseph and Burgunde Pucher
The Family of Rosita Cueva	Tom Toyra	Bill Maki
	Ursula Sihocky	Dick and Joan Nelson

NOTE: We are happy to include friends and loved ones. Please contact the church office to renew or add a prayer request, or to let us know it is time for a prayer of thanksgiving.

Rev. Hannah Hawkinson, Pastor (847) 676-1300 9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie, IL 60076 www.sttimothyskokie.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. TIMOTHY'S, APRIL 28TH TO MAY 4TH

Sunday 10:30am Worship (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

11:30am Fellowship

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday 7:00pm Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday 7:00pm Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday

Saturday 2:00-6:30pm LCMNU Showcase at Northwestern University

Assisting Minister Janice Skillen

NEXT WEEK AT ST. TIMOTHY'S, MAY 5^{TH} TO MAY 11^{TH}

Sunday	10:30am	Worship (Sixth Sunday of Easter)
	11:30am	Fellowship
Monday		
Tuesday	7:00pm	Book Group – Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places by
		Kaitlin Curtice (Zoom)
Wednesday	5:30pm	Discernment Conversation with Pastor Kathy Nolte (Hybrid)
Thursday	7:00pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Friday		
Saturday		

Assisting Minister Joanne Haeberlin

SAVE THE DATE

Discernment Conversations

As we continue to discern our next steps as a congregation, we hope you will join us in person or on Zoom on **Wednesday, May 8th** for our next conversation with Pastor Kathy Nolte from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. During this discussion, Pastor Kathy will help us to continue to explore our options moving forward. For those attending in person, dinner will be served at **5:30 pm**. Our conversation will begin at **6:00 pm**.

LCMNU Showcase

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern (LCMNU) invites any and all to join them for their annual Showcase Event on Saturday, May 4th from 2:00-6:30 pm! This special event will feature student talks, musical entertainment, and delicious food, and all proceeds go towards LCMNU's vital work in our community!

LINK FOR ONLINE GIVING

To give online, follow the QR code below, or visit our website: sttimothyskokie.org.



Thank you for your generosity!