

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2984

www.flcnorthwood.org

THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024

9:00 am

Pastor Becky Sogge

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Blanshan

Special Music: Senior Choir

Usher: Severson family, Petznick family, Stu Anderson

Greeter: Skellenger family

Lay Reader: Laure Buehrer

Counters: Randy & Laure Buehrer, Steph Perkins

Sound/Video: Camden Trenhaile, Mark Willand

Prelude

-Brenda Blanshan

Welcome – Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn *Thine Is the Glory* ELW 376

Greeting **p. 138**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Children's Sermon

Special Music

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 22:25-31

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation... Alleluia **p. 142**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **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."

The word of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Becky

Hymn of the Day..... *We Know That Christ Is Raised* ELW 449

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Offering

Offering is received in the pews, or electronically through Vanco.

Offering Prayer

Lord's Prayer

p. 145

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* ELW 452

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

-Brenda Blanshan

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020622. Used by permission.

Mission Project for April
Meals on Wheels, Manna Food Bank,
and Share Shoppe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, we are glad you are here!

Join us for coffee in the Fireside room after worship.

Join us on Wednesday, May 1st at 6:15pm for our last Inspire Service until we resume in the Fall.

We will be having an end of Sunday School party for the children on May 5th.

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 12th, as we will be recognizing our Senior graduates.

First Lutheran Church offers a scholarship to those seniors who are going to a Lutheran College. Applications are in the office.

Plan ahead! Day Camp will be from 9:00am until noon June 3rd -7th. The morning will include lots of activities and finish up at the elementary school for the kids to take part in the feeding program available this summer.

Sunday Attendance and Giving		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
April 21	83	\$1,446
April 14	56	\$880
April 7	44	\$5,430
March 31	228	\$5,019

Weekly Calendar		
Sunday, April 28	9:00 am	Service with N.O.
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	DCV
	6:30 pm	J.H. Youth
Tuesday, April 30	11:00 am	Staff Mtng
	7:00 pm	AA-AI-Anon Mtng.
Wednesday, May 1	4:30 pm	Confirmation
	6:15 pm	Inspire
	7:00 pm	S.H. Youth
Thursday, May 2	8:30 am	Quilting
	9:00 pm	Prayer Group
	6:30 pm	Taekwondo
Sunday, May 5	9:00 am	Service with H.C.
	10:10 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	DCV
	6:30 pm	J.H. Youth

Lenten Attendance	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
April 24	
April 17	36
April 10	22
March 28	118

Electronic Income	
<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
\$3,449.30	\$6,908.35