

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
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Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Reverend Michael Mathey, Pastor

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

Life Quotes - April 21 "Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Life Thoughts: Easter IV – The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel-good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ's Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are "joy robbers" and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection. *Gracious Savior, fill my words with the comfort and hope of resurrection to everlasting life with You. Amen.*

Divine Service I

Easter Proclamation:

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen

G: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Hymn: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

LSB 524

Confession and Absolution

Invocation and Exhortation (p.151)

Corporate Confession (p.151)

Service of the Word

Psalm 23

Kyrie (p.152)

This Is the Feast (p.155)

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading: *Acts 4:1–12*

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

STJ Chimes: "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Epistle *1 John 3:16–24*

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in

the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (p.156)

Holy Gospel: *John 10:11–18*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (p.158)

Office hymn: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

LSB 709

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offertory (p.159)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.160)
Sanctus (p.161)
The Words of Institution (p.162)
Proclamation of Christ (p.162)

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer (p.162)
Pax Domini
Agnus Dei (p.163)
Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

" Lord Jesus Christ, Life- Giving Bread"	LSB 625
"Shepherd of Tender Youth "	LSB 864
"How Firm a Foundation "	LSB 728

Post Communion Canticle (p. 164)
Post Communion Collect (p.164)
Benediction (p.166)

Hymn: "Our Pascal Lamb, That Sets Us Free" LSB 473

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Our Shut-ins

This Week for Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun. April 21	Voters Meeting 9:15am
STJ:	Sun. April 21	Voters Meeting 11:45am
Beth:	Wed. April 24	Confirmation 6pm

Next Week at Bethlehem and St. John

Beth:	Sun. April 28	Sunday Worship 8:00am Sunday School 9:15am
STJ:	Sun. April 28	Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 9:15am
Beth:	Wed May 1	Confirmation 6pm

St. John Sunday School: Special music will be sung Pre-service by the Sunday School children. Come early and enjoy the music. The Sunday School will also be hosting a Reception/Brunch for our High School Graduates on May 5th 9:30 to 10:15am. Quilts and Devotional Books will be presented to Lillian Pehlke, Ethan Telschow, Natalie Thompson and we share a graduate with Bethlehem Tim Mathey

Annual Thrift Sale Bethlehem and St. John May 1,2,3, 4 from 9 to 5 Please bring items after April 14. No large furniture or electronics. Set up after services on Sunday April 28, Monday & Tuesday April 29 and 30th. For more information and to sign up to help contact Arlette Molthen 715-223-6060 or Janice Brown 715-219-1970

Posters are available to post where ever you wish.

Bethlehem and St. John members will be able to shop after services on Sunday May 6th.

Clean up, pack up and deliver will be done on Monday May 7th at 9:00 A.M. All help appreciated!

STJ: Safety Committee meeting Tuesday April 23rd at 7pm.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19th. The confirmands are Benjamin Hartwig, Delayna Noller, Colin Pehlke and from Bethlehem Evan Strack. Pentecost is also the last day of Sunday School.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Every Sunday morning, God's people gather together to receive the wonderful gifts of salvation. The gifts that our Lord has for us are delivered in different ways. One of these very important ways is the sermon.

Why is the sermon so important?

Some people don't like the sermon. They think it is too long, or maybe it is too boring. Some people even try to think of other things while the pastor is preaching. When we are tempted to think this way, we must remember what the sermon is all about. In the sermon, **the wonderful Gospel message of Christ** and all that He has done for us on the cross is proclaimed. Through the sermon, the pastor brings this great message to people right where they are. Though we see and hear our pastor in the pulpit, The words of the Gospel are spoken to us and all people by Jesus, saving all from their sins. Wow! What a great way to actually hear the voice of our Savior!



Parents: Before church, remind your children that Jesus speaks to them directly during the sermon. Let them know that the message is not just for adults, but for Jesus' little lambs too! Encourage them to sit and listen to Jesus as he tells them the Good News. If they get lost in the sermon, comfort them by, after the service, explaining things that might have been confusing.

