



*Evangelical Lutheran
Church of the Holy Trinity*

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of Holy Communion

Significance of the Day: The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Gathering

Prelude Variations on Psalm 23 Hymn Tunes (compiled by Held)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
 into this community, and throughout all creation.
 Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
 Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn during Asperges

We Know That Christ is Raised

(The Cantor will sing the Hymn. The words are for your reflection.)



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Opening Hymn

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

(Stanzas 1 and 2 will be sung by the Cantor, assembly joins on stanza 3.)



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Easter Dialogue

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

We are illumined by the brightness of his rising.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Death has no more dominion over us.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

A reading from Acts:

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. 11 This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(Saturday psalm will be spoken responsively, Sunday psalm will be sung by Cantor.)

- 1 The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- 2 The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- 3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John:

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

**Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me.**

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

Jesus said, 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

Hymn of the Day

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

(Stanzas 1 – 3 will be sung by the Cantor, assembly joins on stanza 4.)

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Nicene Creed

**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 Intercession

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love, responding, “Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.”

(Brief silence)

A: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, council members, committees and all others who serve in your name. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. We pray for those who tend your creation: park rangers, ecologists, farmers and farm laborers, environmentalists, weather forecasters, scientists. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. We pray for our elected leaders, Joe, our president; Tom, our governor; our local school and municipal leaders. We pray for those who work in government jobs to tend our roads and bridges and administer programs that help with feeding and educating and providing healthcare. We pray for those who work on writing public policy. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you, especially Margaret, Dottie and Betty. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God,

C: **your mercy is great.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared

Interlude

(Murray)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of
milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine,
 that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Music during communion

Appointed hymns

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

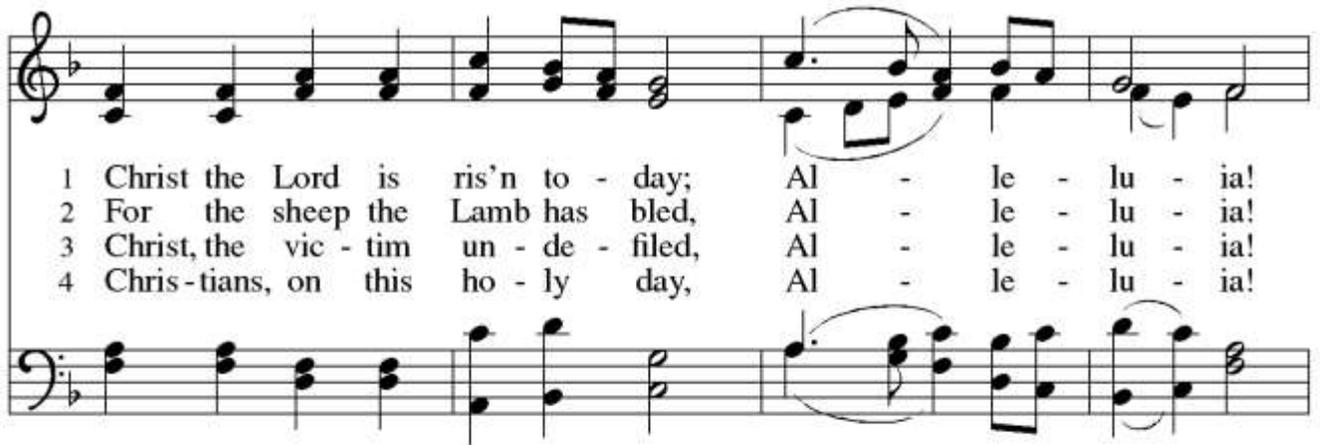
May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

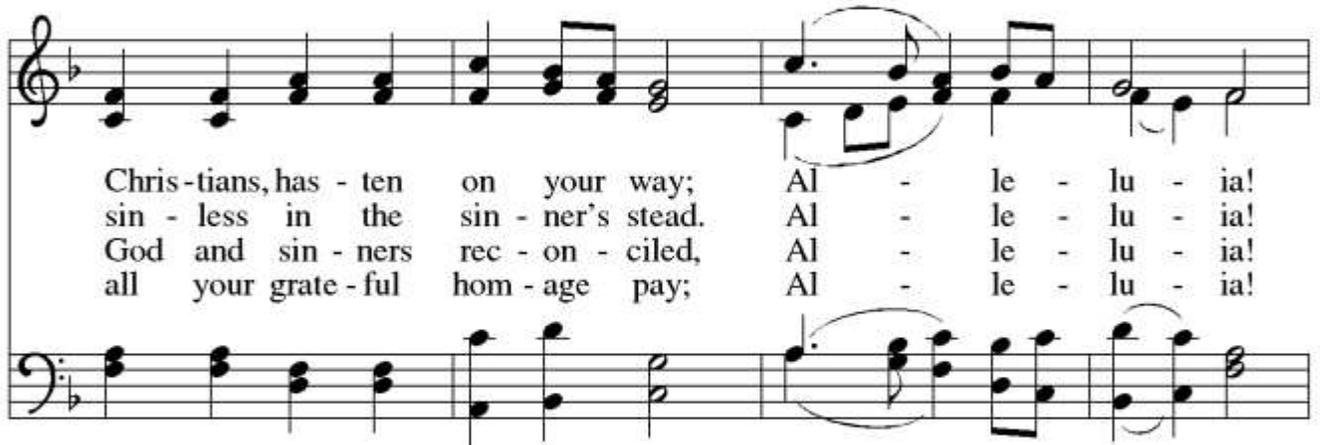
Sending Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

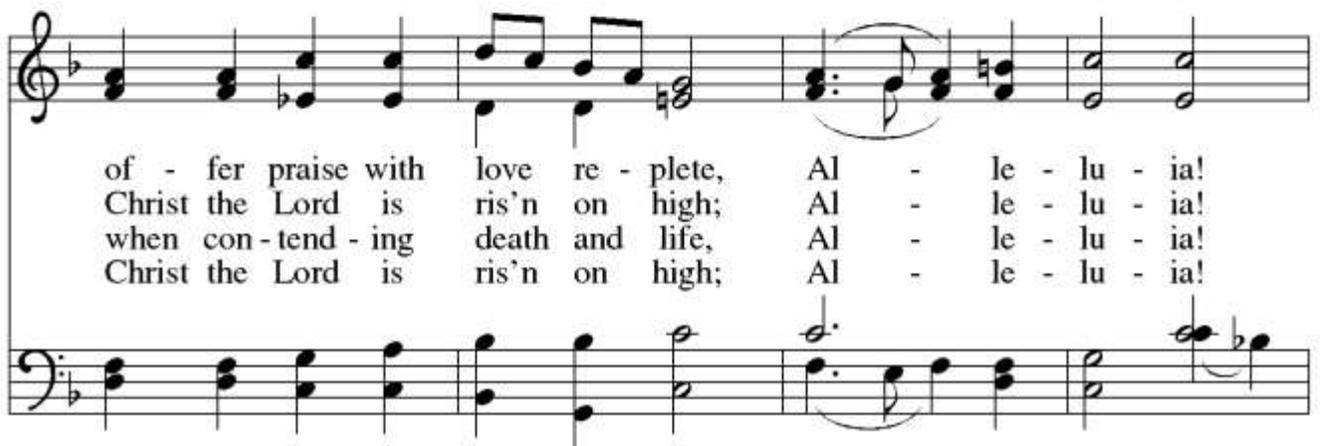
(The assembly will sing the entire hymn.)



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Easter Finale

(Rawesthorne)

+ + + + + + + + + +

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Pianist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Linda Armstrong

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Cantor Billie Hollenbaugh
Liturgical Deacon Jane McCall
Communion Assistant Catherine Snyder
Lector Carol McQueen
Acolyte Max Hildebrand
Head Usher Chuck Lanning
Altar Guild The Richardson family

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Martin Roth, Pastor Emeritus, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Attendance at the Saturday, April 17, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Service: 24. Attendance at the Sunday, April 18, 2021, 9:30 a.m. Service: 50. Total: 74.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar have been given to the Glory of God and in memory of Herbert and Janet Gebert by their family.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, April 25, 2021, *4th Sunday of Easter*

- 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
- 1:00 p.m. Reformed: Always Reforming
- 7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Weekday Communion

Thursday, April 29, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion
- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour

Saturday, May 1, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 2, 2021, *5th Sunday of Easter*

- 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Property Committee

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Weekday Communion

Thursday, May 6, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion
- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour

Saturday, May 8, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion

Ascension Day Worship

A Service of Holy Communion in observance and celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord will be on **Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

Good Shepherd Community Meal

On Monday, May 24, Holy Trinity will be hosting the Monday night community dinner at Good Shepherd. If you are able to assist in cooking, serving, delivery of dinners, or clean-up duties please call **Mike Bradley at 724-962-3238 or 724-699-7122.**

You're invited to Join Celebrate another Year of Sunday School!

On Pentecost, **Sunday, May 23**, after worship, we plan to gather in-person for our annual Sunday School Closing. We will assemble to socialize, to thank and recognize our teachers, and to have some snacks. EVERYONE is invited, whether you are a part of a school-aged family or not! See the May Messenger for more details.

Pentecost Flowers/Gifts

Orders for red geraniums may now be placed for Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Optional gifts to the ELCA Disaster Response Fund may also be given. All plants and gifts may be designated in memory or in honor of loved ones or in celebration of a special event. **Flower order/gift forms are available in the May Messenger and in the narthex. Deadline is Sunday, May 15.**

Good Shepherd April Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **April is canned vegetables.** Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

Second Mile Giving For April –Focus On ELCA Youth Gathering

Youth Gathering gathers about 30,000 of our youth from around the country every three years for a week of worship, learning and service opportunities. The Gathering in 2022 will be held in Minneapolis.

Because Youth Gathering involves significant preparation in advance – the teens spend a lot of time together and the congregation would help with fund-raising – we will lift up Youth Gathering as a repeated emphasis in Second Mile Giving.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

Aaron (friend of Dave and Judy Leary)	Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)
Bruce (brother-in-law of Mary Reames)	Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)
Irlean (mother of Billie Hollenbaugh)	Jim
Paul (nephew of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)
Jeff (nephew of Judi Moinet)	John L (father of Catherine Mott)
Donnie (friend of Wayne and Darla Swift)	Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)
Marie (sister-in-law of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Carl
Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin)	Paul
Lori McCann	Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)
Betty K.	Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Betty Good
John Winschel (friend of Bonnie Long)
Margaret Callen
Dorothy "Dottie" Spence

In Military Service

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Fredericksburg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)