



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

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Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

(8:00) Prelude:

I Believe

B. Schwierkart

(10:30) Prelude:

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

John Barr

(10:30) Bell Choir

The Day of Resurrection

K. McChesney

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering is given so children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

***Invitation to Worship**

P: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

C: Amen

P: Blessed is the Lord

C: for he has heard the voice of our prayer

P: Therefore, our hearts dance for joy

C: and in our song will we praise our God.

P: Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator and redeemer of all;
To you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos, you drew forth the world and in your great love fashioned us in your image. Now, through the deep waters of death, you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Blessed be God for ever.

P: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, Set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Above liturgy from "Unfolding The Living Work" by Jim Cotter)

***(8:00) Gathering Song:** *Shine, Jesus Shine* **TBOB 204**

***(10:30) Gathering Song:** *The Day of Resurrection!* **ELW 361**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:**Acts 5:27-32**

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

R: A reading from Acts, the fifth chapter.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:**Psalm 118:14-29**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ **Hosanna! O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ **The LORD is God and has given us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

²⁸ You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.**

Second Reading:

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

R: A reading from Revelation, the 1st chapter.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

*Sermon Hymn:

We Walk by Faith

ELW 635

*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**

R: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

R: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons, pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

R: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *We Walk By Faith* M. Hill, arr. M. McDonald

***Offertory** *We Are an Offering*

We lift our voices,

We lift our hands.

We lift our lives up to You,

We are an offering, we are an offering

***Offering Prayer**

P: Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: 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.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: 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.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: 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.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: 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, blessed and
holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

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

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

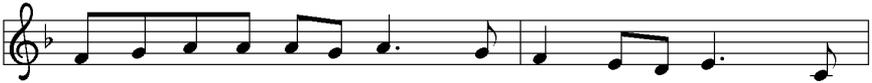
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

(8:00) Flute Solo: *What Wonderous Love Is This*
 William Walker's Southern Harmony arr. Marty Parks

(10:30) ELW 389 *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

(10:30) ELW 385 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C: Amen.

(8:00) Bell Choir *The Day of Resurrection* K. McChesney

***(8:00) Sending Song:** *Peace Be Yours* TBOB 183

***(10:30) Sending Song:** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* ELW 384

***Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

***(8:00) Postlude:** *Peace Be Yours* Blair A'Hearn

***(10:30) Postlude:** *Christ Is Alive* Carson P. Cooman

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Song *Shine, Jesus Shine*, 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.). Song, *We Are an Offering*, 1984 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.). Song *Lord, Be Glorified*, 1978 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.). Song *Peace Be Yours*, 1997 A'Hearn, Blair. Song *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*, Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company Music: Public Domain. Song *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*, Words: 1958. Renewed 1986 Hope Publishing Company Music: Public Domain. Song *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*, Words: 1987 Choristers Guild Music: 1987 Choristers Guild. Permission was gained thru CCLI License #1176607 for streaming and recording. Song *The Day of Resurrection*, Words and Music - ©1960 H.T. FitzSimons Company Contributors: St. John of Damascus, Thomas Matthews. Song *We Walk by Faith*, Text: CM; Henry Alford, alt., 1810-1871. Music: attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727. Permission was gained thru One License #A-739669 for streaming and recording. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

AFTER CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, the disciples demonstrate many responses: not only faith and joy but also doubt and confusion. Welcome to worship — no matter where you are on your faith journey.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP SERVICES with more musical talent. If anyone would like to share their talents, especially any of our youth, please let us know.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the High School/College class for helping set-up, serve, and provide smiling faces during the Easter breakfast. Uncooperative cooking conditions unfortunately delayed food service while a back-up plan was put in place. The kids handled the “hiccup” well and I am so proud of their poise under pressure. A special thank you to Jackie and Caleb Seibert for jumping in to help with the Bell Choir song during the service. Also to Jackie, Ann Waggoner, Mike Fought, Heidi Tooman, Dave Kocsis, Niki and Rachel Wasserman, Kim Smith and Marie Reiselt for their help throughout the morning. Thank you! Annie Gazdecki.

TO PASTOR TIM, CHURCH COUNCIL, MEMBERS AND PEOPLE OF GOD AT FAITH. I want to personally thank you for your gracious hospitality at the Affirmation of Vows service. I heard so many positive comments. Thank you! Bishop Daniel Beaudoin.

THE YOUTH & GROWTH COMMITTEE is in need of a Sunday School Teacher for the 1st thru 3rd grade class. Thank you.

THE CHOSEN, SEASON 3

- The viewing of *The Chosen, Season 3* is being shown in the **Faith Lutheran Church Sanctuary** Wednesday, April 30th.

CHRIST CARE NEWS

God longs for us to hear, so God invites us to listen. Our Saturday Christ Care group welcomes you to join us for our new study, The Year of Listening Bible Study, that comes to us through our Northwest Ohio Synod. “Incline your ear to me; listen, so that you may live” (Isaiah 55:3a) will be our guiding Scripture for this 8-week section. During our time together, we will be looking at four types of listening: listening to God, listening to ourselves, listening to each other and listening to our community. We are excited about this Bible Study and are looking forward to the impact it can have on us. **We begin our study on Saturday, May 10.** Join us in the lounge at 9:15 a.m. See Noelle Leutenegger for more information and let me know if you will be part of our group so we can get copies of the studies ready for you.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM IN ACTION

Our Saturday Christ Care group recently had a \$250 grant proposal approved and invite anyone interested to join us in making no-sew fleece quilts for children who find themselves in foster care. During what can be an uncertain, scary time for youngsters we hope that we can offer them a little love and comfort, and a little coziness in which they can curl up on. Attached to each quilt will be a tag that reads, "As you wrap yourself in this 'fleecy' we pray that you will also feel wrapped in God's love". We'll be purchasing the fleece at a huge discount through Joann Fabrics and will be able to make approximately 40 quilts. Needless to say, your help would be greatly appreciated. See Noelle Leutenegger if you are interested in this ministry of love.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!! COME JOIN US: May 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Come with us to the home of President Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes. We will take a tour through the beautiful home and grounds. We will learn about the home and the 1700 trees. Some of the trees date back to before President Hayes time on the property. Hear about George Washington's tulip poplar seed and many more interesting facts. Touring the home is \$7 and the tour of the trees is \$10. Afterwards, we will go to lunch at a surprise destination. We look forward to seeing you on our adventure. There is a sign-up sheet on the Women's bulletin board, if you plan to come, please let us know. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School, Road Trip on the Go with God, will be **June 23-26, 2025** at Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church, 1441 Fangboner Rd., Fremont. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and VBS at 6 p.m. Go to myvbs.org/LIFTFremont for more information.

ON TUESDAY, MAY 6 AT 6PM, you are invited to come and learn about important **end-of-life planning** and things that you can do now, to ensure your family doesn't have to make those difficult decisions on one of the hardest days of their lives. Information will be shared by **Kari Arnold with Herman Funeral Homes** on several important subjects with a question-and-answer session to follow. You will learn about advanced funeral planning and why it is so necessary for creating a healing and meaningful celebration of life. With the knowledge gained, you can make a decision you will feel good about today, and your family will be comforted in the future. **Please sign-up** on the sheet in the coatroom if you plan to attend.

SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE – Join us on **April 30th, 2025 from 6-7 p.m.** at the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, 1245 Napoleon Street, Fremont, hosted by Croghan Colonial Bank Trust & Investment Management. The speaker will be David Theiss, CPA, CFP, VP, Senior Wealth Management Advisor & Financial Planner. This informative session will help community members understand the recent Social Security changes for this year and the impact the passing of the Social Security Fairness Act will have on teachers, firefighters, and police officers. Following the presentation, Croghan's wealth management experts will be available to answer your specific questions on Social Security. We encourage attendees to bring questions to discuss, as experts can speak one-on-one or schedule appointments if a deeper discussion is needed.

OHIO SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT – Save the date: **June 29th-July 2nd, 2025**. This year, there is going to be a statewide youth summer retreat at **Hopewood Pines**, in Marengo, OH, which is about 1 1/2 hours south of us. This will include youth from all three synods. If you have a child that will be entering 6th grade through 12th grade next school year, they are eligible to attend.

The retreat will be from Sunday June 29 to Wednesday July 2. Check in is June 29 from 2:30-4:30 and check out is Wednesday July 2 at 1pm. There will be programming, worship, and campfires. And the youth will be able to sign up for activities like kayaking, low ropes, archery, climbing wall, hiking, ziplining, etc.

We would need at least 1 adult per every 10 kids, and it would be great to have 1 male and 1 female leader, but that's not an absolute. Each adult will need to have an updated background check done. The kids will be grouped together in cabins. I'm guessing by age but I do not have that information yet. **The deadline to register is tentatively set for May 31** but since the camp can only accommodate so many people at a time, the sooner we can register, the better. The cost is \$150 per youth and will be paid for by Faith Lutheran Church. Adult chaperones are free. If this is something your child would be interested in doing, or if you would be interested in being an adult chaperone for this, please let Pastor Tim know ASAP.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Bob & Sandie Reed Kathy McClain & Pat Forsyth

Lector: Marie Reiselt Ken Walker, Jr.

Acolyte: Rachel Wasserman

Communion: S. Reed/M. Reiselt G. Walker & C. Trick

Counters: Marie Reiselt* & Nicole Weiker

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Sandie Reed & Sarah Wilson

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Mike & Brenda Tooman Phil & Carol Trick

Lector: Annie Gazdecki Rachel Wasserman.

Acolyte: Easton Root Rachel Wasserman

Communion: B. Fox & A. Gazdecki. C. Trick & Randy Koch

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill

Fellowship Time Host: Adult II Sunday School Class

Altar Guild: Margie Roach and Marie Reiselt

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Mary Ann Diekman, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Janet Tressler, Willis Weber, Linda Woessner. Crew Dearth, Beverly Fowler, Bob Methney.

For the Family of: Carnetta Weber, Charlotte Rosebrock, Patsy Copley.

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – April 27 to May 4

Sunday

Apr. 27-----8 & 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 6-8 p.m. Hall Reserved – 4-H Brianne Harder

Monday

Apr.28----- 8 a.m. Men’s Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View Tea Time with God

Tuesday

Apr. 29-----

Wednesday

Apr. 30-----5:00 p.m. The Chosen – Season 3
 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Thursday

May 1-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

May 2-----

Saturday

May 3----- 10 a.m. FLCW Outing to tour Hayes House and Trees

Sunday

May 4-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 237 – OFFERING: \$4,180.52

MAUNDAY THURSDAY SERVICE, APRIL 17, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 57 –

OFFERING: \$275.00: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 18, 2025:

ATTENDANCE: 73 – NO OFFERING

GOSPEL MESSAGE
April 27, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Scar Stories

Do you know a person without any scars? It is hard to imagine anyone getting through the years without a few cuts and scrapes, or worse. Some scars we regard with a sense of humor, even pride. These tend to be the marks of superficial injuries that we describe in stories with mostly happy endings. But other scars lay bare deeper physical and emotional pain—the scars of trauma, heartbreak, loss. These are precisely the wounds that benefit most from the attentiveness of others but may be harder to talk about.

If you were to guess what physical form the risen Jesus would take on Easter evening, would you imagine that any sign of suffering and shame would remain? And yet, his scars are intact. What remarkable continuity between the Jesus the disciples have known and the Jesus they encounter in resurrection.

Even more remarkable is Jesus' readiness to draw attention to his scars. "Peace be with you," he greets them (John 20:19). Then he immediately shows them his hands and his side, as if to say, "See my scars? These are the signs of my suffering. They will always be part of me, even though I've overcome them."

In this way, Jesus models courageous vulnerability. If he can tell his scar story, defying the shame of the cross, then maybe his friends can tell theirs too. Rather than locking their pain away, the disciples have permission to throw open the doors. They can own their grief instead of letting it own them.

Easter does not erase Good Friday. Risen life incorporates our scars. But by acknowledging our pain and the pain of others, we bear one another's burdens in the spirit of Christ. This mutual caring engenders trust and closeness. And together we can tell our scar stories with confidence, making way for healing and new life.