



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20
Fremont, Ohio 43420
Pastor Tim Miller

Church: 419-332-6820
faithchurch@amplex.net
www.faithfremont.org

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

(8:00) Prelude:

I Believe

B. Schwierkart

(10:30) Prelude:

Come, Thou Almighty King

Edward W. Beals

(10:30) Bell Choir:

Days of Elijah

R. Mark, Arr. by B. Ingram

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

GATHERING

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

***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)

***Gathering Song: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* ELW 384**

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

R: A reading from Acts, the second chapter.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of

Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are
pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

R: A reading from 1 Peter, the first chapter.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Open Our Eyes

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.
Open our ears. Lord, help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

***Gospel**

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you

may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* **ELW 389**

*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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

R: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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) Senior Choir: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* L. Smith

*Offertory *The Greatest Thing*

The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.

The greatest thing in all my life is serving you.

I want to serve you more; I want to serve you more.

The greatest think in all my life is serving you.

*Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

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 new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Lamb of God



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.

(8:00) Praise Choir: *All Are Welcomed* **Marty Parks**

(10:30) Communion Hymns:

ELW 385 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!*

ELW 380 *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

***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: Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

(8:00) Bell Choir: *Days of Elijah* **R. Mark, Arr. by B. Ingram**

***Sending Song:** *Here I Am, Lord* **ELW 574**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*(8:00) Postlude: *Here I Am, Lord* Daniel L Schutte

*(10:30) Postlude: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Kenneth Logan

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THE GLOW OF EASTER REMAINS! Our risen Lord has promised to be with us always. He welcomes all of us who have come to worship. Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! Help each of us, O Lord, to experience the same joy which the friends of Jesus felt when meeting the risen Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given in loving memory of Dennis Weber by wife, Minnie, and daughter, Jamie Weber.

GAME NIGHT AT FAITH: On Sunday, April 19th, at 5:00 p.m. we will host a Game Night and Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite game(s) and a dish to share and come to play! Beverages provided. We will have a great time! **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER – St. John’s Lutheran Church, 450 N.



Rocky Ridge Rd., Oak Harbor is hosting the dinner on **Sunday, April 12th**, from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. or until sold out. Cost is a Free Will Donation. You may dine-in or carry-out. Menu includes Chicken with gravy and Biscuit, Green Beans and Homemade Desserts. All proceeds will benefit The Light Neighborhood Pantry and Luther Home of

Mercy, Williston. A Thrivent Action Team will help offset expenses. Help support our neighbors, and we’ll do the dishes.



THE STATE OF THE FAITH FILLED TRAVELERS 2026 TRIPS

Greeting to All,
2nd Edition has some changes that all need to note –

Adventures in Columbus – has a change in date. A concert has been booked which canceled us, so our new date is **July 22, 2026**. All 14 travelers who had deposited were able to change to that date. We need **11 more deposits of \$150 per person by May 31, 2026** to make this trip happen.

Gardens and Castles – (June 26, 2026) we currently have **14 deposits** and **need 11 more by May 10, 2026** to make this trip happen.

Days on the St. Lawrence River – (Aug. 9-14, 2026) we currently have **9 deposits** and **need 16 more**. **The date for cancellation is in April.**
Please make your deposits quickly!

Joshua & More (Sight and Sound) – (Oct. 12-15, 2026) we currently have **25!!!!** That means I have already secured all the venues, hotel, tours, restaurants and motorcoach for the trip. We can add more passengers at this time with a **deposit of \$300**.

Please send your deposits ASAP so we can have more trips guaranteed. The 1000 Island trip (Days on the St. Lawrence River) is the next one that is in line for '25 or cancel'. So please get your deposits sent soon.

Until we have 25 deposits for each trip (current numbers above), we cannot reserve the venues, restaurants and driver for these trips. If there are not 25 deposits by the cut-off, the above trips will be canceled, and *deposits will be returned or can be applied to another trip.*

Sincerely, Yvonne Vogel 419-307-1774.

MOM 2 MOM SALE – Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont. Buy, Sell or Trade used Children’s toys and clothing. Admission is \$2.00. Concessions available on site. Sell your stuff indoors or outdoors. Outside = 2 parking spots for \$20; Indoor = 10’ x 10’ space for \$20; Table = \$5. Proceeds to benefit Noah’s Ark PreSchool & Grace Lutheran Youth. For more info contact HeatherRHawn@gmail.com



LIFT COMMUNITY BBQS – Free Food, Games, and Kid’s activities. **Tuesdays at 5 p.m. June 9th – August 11th** in Birchard Park. Menu includes Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Fruit, Cookies, Water and Lemonade. Support the BBQS – Mail checks to LIFT, 705 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420. LIFTchurches.org.

CAMP FIRE SANDUSKY COUNTY WILL HOST THEIR FIRST CHILDREN’S BUSINESS FAIR on Saturday, **May 23, 2026 from 9-2 p.m.** at 2100 Baker Rd., Fremont, (Misty Meadows Camp Glen). This is a free opportunity for youth ages 6-17 to create, launch and run their own small business for the day, everything from crafts to baked goods and more. This event is all about giving kids a chance to step forward, try something new and share their talents with the community. Come out and enjoy Kid-Run Booths! Fun and shopping! Visit us at www.campfiresc.org to register or call 419-332-8641. Thank you for supporting youth in our community! Danielle Wagner, Program/Camp Director.



HEARTBEAT HOPE MEDICAL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER 5K RUN/WALK FOR LIFE - We would be honored to invite your church to join us for this year’s **5K / Walk for Life on May 9, 2026 at 9 am.** Day of registration opens at 8 a.m. To register online go to: <https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/?e=31566> For more information go to

www.friendsofheartbeat.org/events Every step taken and every person invited helps extend this life-saving work. Thank you for your heart for this mission and for considering how your church can be part of it. With appreciation, Micella Blymyer, Event Coordinator.



A GRIEF GROUP WILL BE MEETING on Thursday nights starting April 9 from 7:00-8:00 in the lounge. The group will meet for 6 weeks through May 14th. If you are interested in attending, please call or text Becky Fox at 419-618-6948.

CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you're passionate about making a difference and helping children reach their full potential, we need YOU! CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children) is having a training orientation on **April 21, 2026 at 5 p.m.** at 21 Court St., Tiffin, OH. For more information, visit www.casaofssw.org or call 419-448-1442. Every child deserves to feel seen, heard, and supported.



PRAYING DAILY

For healing and hope: Joan Bolen, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Pat Forsyth, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Laurie Krynock, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Betty Nielsen, Gary Overmyer,

Sharon Peña, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Janet Tressler, Minnie Weber, Linda Woessner. Sharon Cornado, Bruce T. Gazdecki, Mark Hausch, Peyton Heschel, Al & Judi Krumnow, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Laura Shields, Vickie Will.

For the Family of: Joan Ameling

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

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Yehiel Curry, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

Ushers Needed



USHERS NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS –

I would like to appeal to those of you interested in being ushers to please sign up on the clipboards in the coat room area. Thank you very much! Mike Fought, Deacon.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox
Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Choir Accompanist:** Amy Wagner
Praise Choir Director: Becky Fox **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring
Bell Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Braelyn Weiker Brielle Weiker
Lector: Kendra Paeth Amy Wagner
Acolyte: Brielle Weiker

Communion: K. Smith / A. Gazdecki A. Wagner / R. Koch

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Scott Miarer

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Sarah Wilson, Annie, Allison & Lauren Gazdecki

Ushers: (8:00) Dave Ring (10:30) Robert Tebeau

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Jackie Seibert

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Choir Accompanist:** Amy Wagner

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Noah Seibert Cindy Zorn
Lector: Jim Seibert Ken Walker, Jr.
Acolyte: Karly Paeth Eric McBride

Communion: A. Miller / M. Fought R. Brown / G. Walker

Counters: Ann Waggoner* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Sarah Wilson, Annie, Allison & Lauren Gazdecki

Ushers: (8:00) Jim & Caleb Seibert

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – April 12 to April 19

Sunday

Apr. 12-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 2:30-5 p.m. Hall Reserved – 4-H – Jackie Seibert

Monday

Apr. 13-----8 a.m. Men’s Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View – Tea Time with God
 11:30 a.m. FLCW Visitation at Bob Evans

Tuesday

Apr. 14-----

Wednesday

Apr. 15-----7:30 p.m. Praise Choir

Thursday

Apr. 16-----9-3 p.m. Fellowship & Sew Day
 3 p.m. Christ Care
 6 p.m. Bell Choir
 7-8 p.m. Grief Support Group
 7:15 p.m. Sr. Choir

Friday

Apr. 17-----

Saturday

Apr. 18-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday

Apr. 19-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 5 p.m. Game Night & Potluck in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026: ATTENDANCE: 227 – OFFERING: \$4,126.52
MAUNDY THURSDAY: ATTENDANCE: 58 – OFFERING \$265.00
GOOD FRIDAY: ATTENDANCE: 76

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 12, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.