



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

Church: 419-332-6820

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www.faithfremont.org

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunrise Service

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Son of Suffering (An Easter Moment)

By M. Redman, D. Funk, A. Moses, N. Moore

Narration – Pastor Tim

Praise Choir Music – *The Wonder of Your Cross* by R. Mark
(*Congregation may sing along*)

The Wonder of Your Cross

The wonder of Your cross shall be our meditation

To gather in that shadow as the sun went down.

To weep with those who thought that You were leaving

You were leaving, Jesus, the humble king who never wore an earthly crown

To steal away at night when they took down your body.

With love and tears to leave you in a borrowed grave.

To go with Mary to that place they laid you

Where they laid you, Jesus, and in the morning to find the stone was rolled away.

**The cross O the wonderful cross
What glory, what victory I've found.
I'll come to the wonderful cross
And my whole life, I lay down.**

**Were heaven's praises silent in those hours of darkness?
Your Holy Spirit brooding around that empty tomb.
Until the declaration, "He is risen",
You are risen, Jesus, He is not dead; behold, He lives forevermore.**

***Opening Hymn: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* ELW 365**

GATHERING

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

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***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: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

R: A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and

does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

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.

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

R: A reading from Colossians, the third chapter.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. 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 20:1-18

Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple

outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.
The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

RAISE A HALLELUJAH
Adapted by Jacqueline Seibert

Narrators (in order of appearance):

**Peyton Ottney, Parker Wasserman, Faith Ripley, Whitney Norris,
Halle Norris, Kendra Paeth, & Matthew Reiselt**

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

ELW 373

***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: Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named).* Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. 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.**

*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.

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.

Piano:

Easter Medley

Robin Mark

***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.

***Closing Hymn:**

Living Hope

See Insert

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***Postlude:**

Living Hope

Phil Wickham

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CHRIST IS RISEN — HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians. Our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of his forgiving and healing hand. On this glorious Easter Day, let us offer God our highest accolades for raising Christ from his grave and making him our eternal Lord.

FAITH'S MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT FOR ATKINSON SCHOOL



TESTING WEEKS

We are continuing our partnership with Atkinson Elementary this year as the students in grades 3-5 approach state testing. The testing begins the last week in March and extends

through the first week of May. The Faith Mission and Outreach Committee is again asking our congregation to help by purchasing snacks for the students during those testing weeks.

During the school day, many students eat their lunches earlier in the day and then require a snack later in the afternoon. Mr. Ward, the principal, said that the teachers often provide a small snack for the students to eat. Some of the snacks may include **PRETZELS, LANCE PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS, GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT SNACKS, CHEEZ IT CRACKERS, ANIMAL CRACKERS,** and **GRANOLA BARS**. These treats need to be in **single prepackaged units** for sanitary reasons.

A display will be set up in the narthex of our church showing the variety of items needed. A basket for monetary donations is also available if you would like us to do the shopping. Our committee is hoping to make its first delivery of items near the middle week of March.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor to support the staff and students of Atkinson Elementary. Thank you.

In Christian Love, Randy J. Brown/ Project Coordinator

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.



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.

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.

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 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.



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. If you are interested in attending, please call or text Becky Fox at 419-618-6948.



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. Joan Ameling, Sharon Cornado, Mark Hausch, Peyton Heschel, Al & Judi Krumnow, Jackie Mowry, Eric Paul, Laura Shields, Vickie Will.

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

Pianist: Becky Fox

Praise Choir Dir.: Becky Fox

Children's Choir Dir.: Jackie Seibert

Trombonist: Ethan Fox

7:00 a.m.

Greeter: Lillian Harder

Lector: Cheryl Paeth

Acolyte: Jackson Fought

Communion: Karly Paeth & Cheryl Paeth

Counters: Becky Dymond* & Niki Wasserman

Fellowship Time Host: Easter Breakfast

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

Ushers: Steve & Mason Harder

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

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

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

Flautist: Marilyn Ring

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

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – April 5 to April 12

Sunday EASTER SUNDAY

Apr. 5-----7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with H. Communion
 8 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion

Monday

Apr. 6-----10 a.m. Valley View – Worship with Holy Communion
 11 a.m. Prayer & Conversation
 7 p.m. FLCW Board Meeting

Tuesday

Apr. 7-----7 p.m. Christian Worship

Wednesday

Apr. 8-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Thursday

Apr. 9-----3:00 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

Apr. 10-----

Saturday

Apr. 11-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026: ATTENDANCE: 196 – OFFERING: \$4,244.92

LENTEN SERVICE MARCH 25, 2026: ATTENDANCE 41 –

OFFERING \$330.00

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 5, 2026

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY

Strongly Sung Alleluias

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God's love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of "fear and great joy" (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they "took hold of his feet, and worshiped him" (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter "alleluia" was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation" (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God's liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!