



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Prelude: *My Redeemer Liveth (with strains of Handel's Messiah)*

E. Lorenz

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

***Opening Hymn:** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW 367

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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

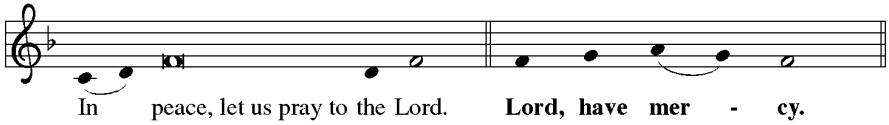
P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

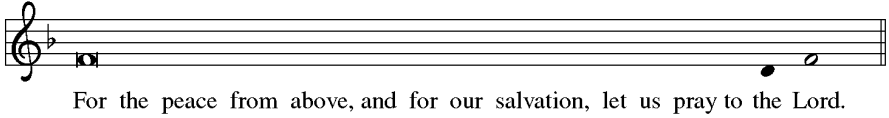
P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

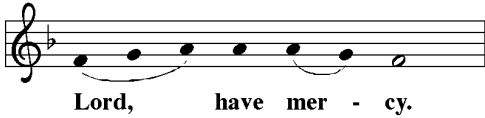
*Kyrie



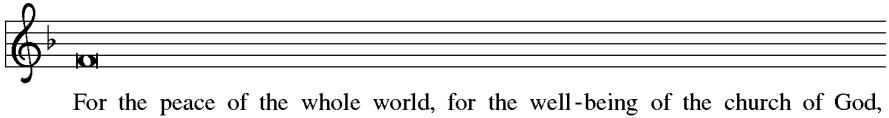
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



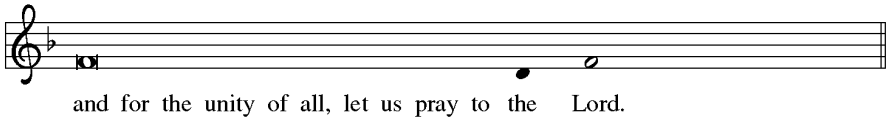
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



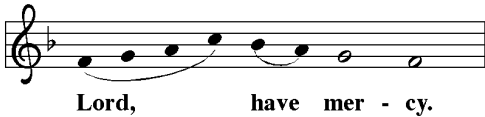
Lord, have mer - cy.



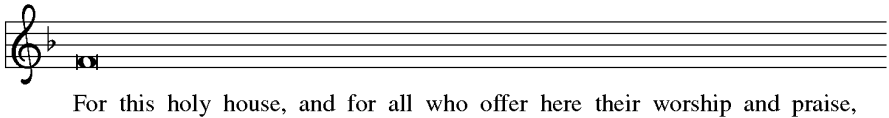
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*Canticle of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

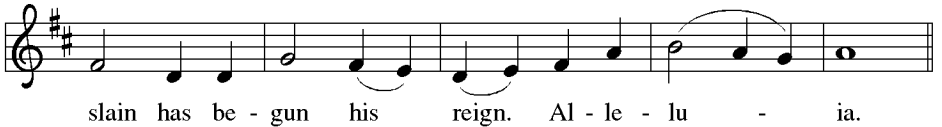
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

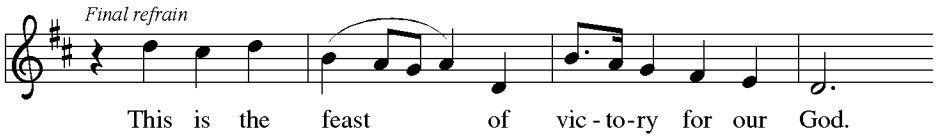


al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and 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 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

R: A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to
judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading:

1 John 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping
God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military
might but through love and faith.*

R: A reading from 1 John, the fifth chapter.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know
that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his
commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his
commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for
whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory
that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not
with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is
the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel**

John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:**

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

***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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

R: Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. *We pray especially for those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named).*

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

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: *For Where Love Is, There Is God* **D. Wagner**

Offering *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Offering Prayer

P: Risen One,

you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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,

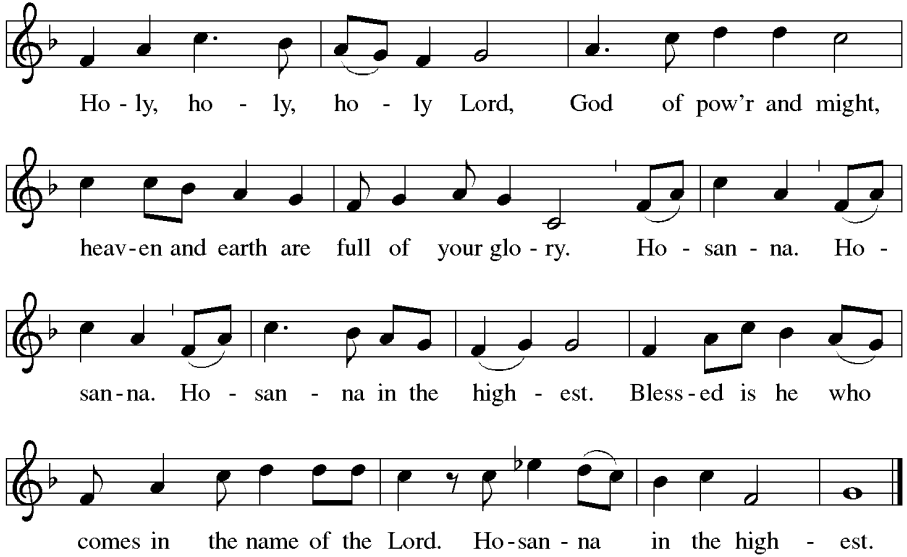
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

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.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***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: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

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 Pastor Tim know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 595 *Jesus Loves Me!*

ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*

***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: Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* ELW 836

***Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***Postlude:** *The Call of the Trumpets* H. Purcell, arr. F. Ritter

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AS SPRING BLOOMS EVER MORE BRIGHTLY, it seems the earth is making a joyful noise to the Lord, breaking into songs of praise! (See Psalm 98:4.)

THE SCHEDULES FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES are in the office on the shelf. Please consider attending and supporting our youth. Thanks.



ALLISON GAZDECKI, daughter of Bruce & Annie Gazdecki and granddaughter of Jim & Kim Smith will be graduating from Fremont Ross High School and Vanguard Tech Center. She will attend Terra State Community College to study digital media.

HUNTER KAMINSKI, son of Jane and Robert Kaminski, is graduating from the University of Florida with a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering. He has accepted a job in Coral Springs, FL in Waste Water Management. He is the grandson of Parm Boyer.

MORGAN BOYER, daughter of Gary and Amy Boyer, is graduating from Heidelberg University with a Bachelor's Degree in History. She plans to attend graduate school in the area of archaeology. She is the granddaughter of Parm Boyer.

TYLER LOZANO, son of Suzanne and John Lozano and grandson of Anne Gerner, will graduate May 27, 2024 from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's Degree with a major in Accounting! Tyler has accepted a position in Chicago as an Accountant beginning in October.

ALYSSA LOZANO, daughter of Suzanne and John Lozano and granddaughter of Anne Gerner, will graduate June 27, 2024 from Western Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree with a major in Human Resources. Alyssa has accepted a position near Kalamazoo where she previously interned in the Human Resource Department.

GRANT FAHLE, will graduate from Tecumseh High School this spring with plans to attend Adrian College in the fall and major in business. Grant is the grandson of Den and Deb Fahle.

GRADUATES: Please let the church office know of any upcoming graduates. We'd like to keep them in our prayers and send them words of congratulations and encouragement. Office Number is 419-332-6820 or send an email to faithchurch@amplex.net

THE NEXT ENDOWMENT MEETING will be Tuesday, May 14th, at 7:00 p.m. There will be Croghan Colonial Bank Representatives at this meeting.



WE ARE ASKING FOR A CARD SHOWER FOR:

Former Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Pastor Robert Barber for his 93rd Birthday, June 23, 2024. I am sure he would be very happy to receive cards from our congregation members. Cards may be sent to Good Shepherd Community Church, 12600 NW 4th Avenue, N. Miami, FL 33168. Thank you!

WOMEN'S TEA PARTY – HOSTED BY SHORELINE CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Join us Saturday, May 18th at 9:30 a.m. at 769 N. Locust Street, Oak Harbor, Ohio. The sweet sound of live music will be played along with the service of specialty Teas, Savory and Sweet Treats and Special Prizes. All women are welcome – Invite family and friends! Dressing up and wearing hats are encouraged. Please RSVP with name and contact number before Wednesday, May 8th, by calling 419-898-6700 or by email to: Jeanette@theshorelinechurch.net



WANTED: Dave Ring is looking for more volunteers to learn how to run the camera and tape the services for Facebook. There is a need for both Sunday services. Youth are welcome as well. We really need more help and would love to teach you the ropes. Either talk to Dave or call him at 419-334-4145. There is a sign-up sheet in the coat room area. Please prayerfully consider giving it a try! Thank you!

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Darla Brown

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Bob & Sandie Reed Gil & Amy Wagner

Lector: Sandie Reed Amy Wagner

Acolyte: Mason Harder Julia Norris

Communion: A. Gazdecki/S. Reed Angi Miller & Amy Wagner

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill

Fellowship Time Host: Adult II Sunday School Class

Altar Guild: Margie Roach & Marie Reiselt

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Darla Brown **Pianist:** Becky Fox

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

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Mike & Brenda Tooman Pat Forsyth & Kathleen McClain

Lector: Jackie Seibert Evan McBride

Acolyte: Caleb Seibert Evan McBride

Communion: J. Seibert/K. Smith A. Gazdecki & R. Brown

Counters: Annie Gazdecki* & Anne Gerner

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Margie Roach & Marie Reiselt

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Pat Copley, Connie Diekman, Mary Ann Diekman, Roger Goehring, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Bob Schneider, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Ray Vogel, Carnetta Weber. Emili Egbert, Shelly Leggett, Rick & Brenda

Myer, Olivia & Evelyn Perry.

For the Family of: Sandy Vollmar, Cinda Jones, Larry Aldrich

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Daniel Linder, Katie Olmstead, 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 – May 5 to May 12

Sunday

May 5-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time
 1-3:30 p.m. Hall Reserved for 4-H, Jackie Seibert

Monday

May 6-----6 a.m. Bus Trip People Report to Hall
 8 a.m. Prayer and Conversation at Raevia’s
 10 a.m. Valley View Worship & Holy Communion
 6 p.m. Christian Mission & Outreach

Tuesday

May 7-----

Wednesday

May 8-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday

May 9-----3 p.m. Christ Care
 6-8:30 p.m. Painting Fundraiser with Angi Miller

Friday

May 10-----

Saturday

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

Sunday **HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!**

May 12-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024: ATTENDANCE: 160 – OFFERING \$3,588.00

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 5, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Unconditional Love of Disciple-Friends

Friend requests are a common feature of Facebook and similar digital platforms. When it comes to social media, “friends” are just a click away. But there is no automatic guarantee of accountability, warmth, relationship, or true belonging in a virtual community. In stark contrast, Jesus invites the disciples to become part of a community where selfless, sacrificial, unconditional *agape* love is the core criterion. The kingdom, or “kin-dom,” of God is present wherever God’s people are affirmed as children of God and siblings in Christ. But Jesus gives his disciples an additional identity: that of “friends.”

In the new status Jesus confers on his disciples, the single most important criterion is love, including the readiness to lay down one’s life for another. Jesus has just taught this lesson by example when he washed the feet of his disciples, including Judas Iscariot. The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us summarizes the whole of the gospel mandate. It is not an easy commandment by any human standards, but it is possible because Jesus himself showed us the way and forgives us when we fall short. The status of “disciple-friends” is not a request for the church, but a faith mandate.

How can we live as disciple-friends of Jesus in this world? When we believe, trust, obey, and follow the word, and the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, a real new community is born. When we learn to embrace the other—those who are marginalized and “othered”—we partner with God in enabling the image of God to blossom to its fullest.