

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

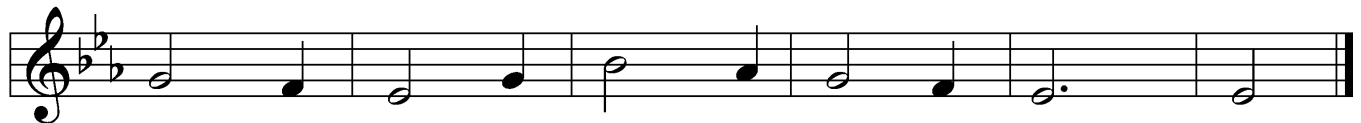
LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy
praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77
Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles

Psalm 118:24; Psalm 113:3; Psalm 84:10; Psalm 25:4; John 17:17

LSB 260

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

- C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C** Teach me Your paths.
- L** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** Your Word is truth.
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticale

Isaiah 12:2b-6 LSB 261

Refrain



C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
 Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
 glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
 earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
 hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
 Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

Psalm 23 (KJV)

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Reading

Acts 4:1-12

L A reading from Acts, chapter 4.

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Reading

1 John 3:16-24

L A reading from 1 John, chapter 3.

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 10:11-18

L A reading from John, chapter 10.

¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Easter

LSB 222

Psalm 96:2; Psalm 29:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:20

- L** Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.
- C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.
- L** Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.
- C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.

Catechism

Ten Commandments

- P** What are the Ten Commandments?
- C** You shall have no other gods.
 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
 Honor your father and your mother.
 You shall not murder.
 You shall not commit adultery.
 You shall not steal.
 You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

P What do you believe according to the Apostles' Creed?

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P How has your Lord taught you 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.

Sit

Announcements

Hymn: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

LSB 666



1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Jacob Fabridius, 1593–1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Rev. Chris Streeper

Offering

Note: Please continue to place your offerings into the plates as you enter or leave church as we will not be passing the plates through the congregation. The offering plates will be brought forward at this time to remind us that our offerings are given in thankfulness to Him for His blessings to each of us.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You alone gather us as Your sheep and send faithful shepherds to us. Call all who have wandered from Your flock, and bless the faithful shepherds who gather them through the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, Your Son has called us to love our brothers. Turn us in love toward the neighbors closest to us, especially within our own homes, that we may daily show our confidence in God by deed and truth, laying down our lives as Christ first did for us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, by the firstfruits of Christ's life from the dead, You secured forgiveness for our troubled consciences. Bless also with temporal health and well-being those who suffer among us [especially _____]. Grant them aid in this moment and, even more so, true, immortal health in the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, our Shepherd, You calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death, and You prepare the holy table of Your Son's testament for us in the presence of our enemies. Grant us repentant and faithful hearts. In every tribulation or besetting sin, lead us to find comfort and strength in Your overflowing mercy given to us here in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd — not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

L Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticale

1 Corinthians 15:20a; 5:7b; Romans 6:9-11 LSB 266



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.



Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.



Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He
lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to
sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.
Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1 LSB 267

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 267

- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

Hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

LSB 477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 △ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
 See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—
 Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group
 Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
 Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522
 Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

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THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Today	9:15 AM	Bible Class
Today	9:15 AM	Sunday School
Today		NO Communion
Monday	6:00 PM	Confirmation
Tuesday	5:00 - 7:00 PM	Communion
Wednesday	10:00 - 11:15 AM	Bible Study
Wednesday	11:30 AM	Quilters
Thursday	11:00 - 1:00 PM	Young Family Fellowship

SUMMER WORSHIP SURVEY If you didn't get a chance to cast your vote last week, please take a moment and complete the survey located at the Welcome Center regarding our summer worship schedule. The Elders want your input on whether to remain with our current schedule or to go to only one service on Sundays during the summer. Please turn in your completed survey to the basket in the Narthex hallway.

2024 GRADUATES Calling all High School, Trade School, College, or Military graduates. Please ring or email the church office by May, 17th your loved one's: Full Name, school they graduated from, next school or adventure they are heading into, or anything else that we may encourage and celebrate. Thank you.

ST. PAUL - AMHERST has an opening for the Director of the Preschool Ministry. They are looking for a Christian who is organized, has good communication skills, and finds great joy in sharing Jesus' love with preschool age children and their families. This is a part-time position, and hours are somewhat flexible. Some benefits included. For more info and to apply by May 1, 2024, go to: stpaulamherst.com/preschool/

YOUTH GROUP Grades 6-12 meet every other Wednesday here at SPVC at 6:30 PM.
NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1st. Questions? Please contact Pastor Chris Streeper at 330-441-0502.

VETERAN ITEM COLLECTION In April and May, the LWML is sponsoring donations for homeless veterans in the Cleveland/Medina area. We will be working with both the Medina County Veterans Service Office and Lutheran Metropolitan Men's Ministry in Cleveland. A collection box is in the Narthex for donations of disposable razors, shaving cream, skin care products, new bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant and socks. Both travel sizes and regular sizes are needed. Our goal is to collect 175 items in honor of St. Paul's 175th anniversary. All items are appreciated and will be collected and delivered after Memorial Day to those in need. Thank you.

VBS is scheduled for June 17-21, 2024. Teachers, kitchen helpers, and youth are needed! Please consider this calling and see Beth Bremke if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Attend in-person or watch the stream live and on-demand.

YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP Join us on Thursdays as we will meet in the church basement from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM for light lunch and playtime for kids! (Please bring your own lunch.) Kids of all ages are welcome. There is potential for this group to blossom into a homeschooling group, as we have several homeschooling families at St. Paul! If you are interested in this or have any other questions, contact Sarah Moser.

COMMUNION OPPORTUNITIES Pastor is providing individual communion opportunity for the foreseeable future. Check the posted times for “walk-in” communion below.

“Walk-In” times at Church: Sundays, 12pm - 2pm & Tuesdays, 5pm - 7pm

Scheduling an appointment for communion at church or in your home:

To schedule a time other than the walk-in times you may call Pastor Zielinski at 440-458-0189 or, visit www.spvc.org and click “Book with Pastor” to see available times for appointments.

TITHES & OFFERINGS are needed; our Lord still provides for us and we return to Him a portion of His generosity. You have several ways to continue contributing:

1. In-person Worship on Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 AM
2. Mail your contributions to the church.
3. Talk to your bank about “bill-pay” options. They can likely send a check directly to the church on a scheduled basis.
4. Visit www.spvc.org and click on “Give Online” - you’ll be taken to our secure online giving site where you can make a one-time or on-going contribution.

HEARING AIDS? Do you wear hearing aids? If they’re able to connect to your phone we have an app to help you hear the spoken-word parts of the worship service (readings, prayers, sermon, etc.). Download the “Audiofetch” app then connect to the “Audiofetch” wifi here at church. See Rev. Streeper if you need help getting set up.

PRAYER REQUESTS can be sent to prayer@spvc.org (also, email there to join the prayer chain and receive all the updates) ... or ... you may fill out the back side of the attendance slip.

RECYCLING BULLETINS You are welcome to take home your bulletin, otherwise, you may place it in the blue plastic tub in the Narthex Hallway. **We do recycle the black combs** for the Large Print bulletins.

IN-PERSON SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS watch LIVE or On-Demand just like our worship services (YouTube, Facebook, or www.spvc.org) on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS meet in the sanctuary at 9:15-9:30 AM for Welcoming/Object Lesson and music before going to the individual classrooms. Sunday School students will be learning and singing various songs during selected church services. The first scheduled program will be Palm Sunday, March 24th, then May 19th, and October 20th. Details will be available closer to those dates.

WATCH LIVE OR ON-DEMAND 8:00 AM on Sundays, or on-demand at YouTube, Facebook, or www.spvc.org – on the homepage is a viewer for the livestream (when active) and for the most recent service. Bulletins are available via the link. Select the bulletin for the date of the service you are watching.

HEALTH & SAFETY There is a black First Aid bag hung in the vestibule containing emergency supplies. Some of the contents include bandages, instant glucose, breathing barriers, and blood pressure equipment. Please see Beth Bremke if you would like training in the use of these supplies.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES offers a wonderful daily devotion with Scriptures & Reflection Questions. Go to www.lhm.org and click on Today's Devotion.

ONLINE DIRECTORY UPDATE If your mobile app needs updated and it's asking for an "online code" please use "SPVC" and that should reconnect the app.

PASTORAL CARE Should you desire pastoral care, please contact the church office 330.483.3883, or 330.483.4119 and leave a message for Pastor.

PORTALS OF PRAYER the 2024 April-June devotion booklets are available on the Welcome Table and in the Narthex hallway, please take a copy home today.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, ISRAEL & FOREIGN MISSIONS We continue to take offerings to provide relief to Lutheran church partners who suffer calamity in these areas. Thank you to everyone who has shown their generosity.

WIGGLE BAGS Please help yourself to these goody bags that hold activities kids may engage and participate in the worship service. Hopefully this will help alleviate stress for parents who are worried about their child making it through the whole service, but more importantly, they help teach kids that "big church" is for them too. Please take a moment to collect all the contents of the Wiggle Bags and return it to the "Used Wiggle Bag" plastic bin after the Worship Service. We continue to be thankful for Sandy Turner and Jean Wadle who are keeping-up with providing clean Wiggle Bags each week. Donated supplies may be given directly to Sandy Turner or Jean Wadle. Thank you.

April 2024

	SERVICE	April 7 SUNDAY	April 14 SUNDAY	April 21 SUNDAY	April 28 SUNDAY
		Communion	Communion	No Communion	Communion
ELDER	8am	Steve Kato	Tim Wadle	Chris Duran	Steve Kato
	10:30am	Jim Jackson	Dave Hesketh	Sam Jakabcic	Jim Jackson
USHERS	8am	Mike Scahel	Jim Sherry	Steve Kato	Mark Gordon
	10:30am	Brian Dearth	Erich Gottl	Rich Proeschel	Joe Bennet
GREETERS	8am	Heinrich & Irmgard Cordes	Dean & Beth Bremke	Pam McGuire	David & Mackenzie Duran
	10:30am	Rich & Jenny Proeschel	Joe Bennet	Barb Pijor	Rich & Jenny Proeschel
ELDER INFO	Stephen Kato 330-242-7183	Tim Wadle 216-214-7109	Jim Jackson 330-391-6393	Sam Jakabcic 216-789-1076	Chris Duran David Hesketh 216-577-5164 330-410-6150

LWML
International Potluck Luncheon
Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 12:00PM
Faith Lutheran Church Avon



**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise,
 Missionary and Director of
 Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 (LHF)**

***Bring a Dish/Dessert from your
 Heritage to Share**

**Donation gathered for LHF
 Bring friends and relatives**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man. (Psalm 33:12-13).

RSVP by texting Carla Russell at 203-520-1573

"The Lord of the Nations", is the theme. This year will be a new twist! To celebrate our various cultural heritages and our Lord, we are encouraging all women (who are able) to bring a dish or dessert from their heritage. Bring the recipe to share. You will also be invited to wear an outfit which represents that culture! LWML will supply a large salad and beverages! Be sure to bring friends and relatives. *Please RSVP by texting Carla Russell at 203-520-1573.*

As speaker for the event, Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, a missionary and presently the Director of The Lutheran Heritage Foundation, (and Carla Russell's cousin), will speak about his work, present and past. We will also do a servant event to help this LCMS mission.

Pastor Heise has so much to share that he will be the guest preacher here at Faith on Sunday May 5th at both our 8am Traditional & 10:30am Contemporary Services. He will also make another presentation during our 9:15am bible study hour.

**Join us for this special weekend of events here at
 Faith Lutheran Church - 2265 Garden Drive, Avon OH. 44011**

Prayers for Worship

On entering a church

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Before worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

After worship

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Before confession and absolution

Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Before communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

For blessing on the Word

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.