

Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Lutheran Church



EASTER

He is not here. He is Risen.

Welcome to

St. John's Lutheran Church



Lamb in Groningen, Netherlands by Ger Bosma. Copyright © 2022 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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Margareth Olsson

Mary Rimer

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THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please stand and face the cross.)

OPENING HYMN ELW 392

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"

We have heard the words of resurrection and are now ready to worship with joy. The opening hymn sounds the keynote of the day.

9:00 AM

Assisting Minister:

Sara Whitehead

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Josie Whitehead

Lector:

Chuck Maland

Communion Assistant:

Ann Rita Ditmore

Ushers:

Cindy Merkel

Darrell Merkel

A/V:

Jeff Welch

11:00 AM

Assisting Minister:

Valerie Taylor

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Kayleigh Brownlee

Lector:

Benny Smith

Communion Assistant:

TBD

Ushers:

Angela Long

Brad Long

A/V:

Matt Whitehead

Altar Guild:

Before:

Clarke Hinkle

Between:

Linda Welch

Jeff Welch

After:

Brad Long

Angela Long



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

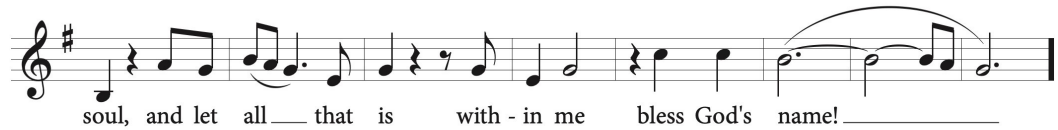
P: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”

Refrain:



2 From the good - ness of God, the bless - ings of hea - ven are yours. _____



Lift - ing your soul, fill - ing your spi - rit un - til _____ it soars. _____

(Repeat Refrain)



(Repeat Refrain)

This prayer concerns the theme of the day and prepares us for hearing the readings from scripture.

*In the First lesson:
Peter and John had been
arrested the previous day
because they were
proclaiming the news of
the resurrection to the
people. In today's
reading, Peter is filled
with the Holy Spirit so
that he can proclaim
salvation in Jesus' name
to the religious
authorities.*

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their 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 questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*In the Second lesson:
Jesus' death on our
behalf is the clearest
demonstration of divine
love. This is the very love
we share with others, not
just through our words
but especially through
our deeds. In sharing
such love we fulfill God's
commandments.*

THE SECOND LESSON

I JOHN 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOD'S INVITATION: "Let the Children Come..."

Matthew 19:14

(Please stand.)

GOSPEL VERSE

“Jesus Is Our King”

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O - pen - ing our hearts to Him, sing - ing
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is our king!
 I. Cre - ate in us, o God a hum - ble heart that
 sets us free to pro - claim the won - drous
 ma - jes - ty of our Fa - ther in hea - ven.

We stand while the Gospel is read and speak acclamations after the reading because we believe Christ is present to us in the reading.

In the gospel lesson: In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

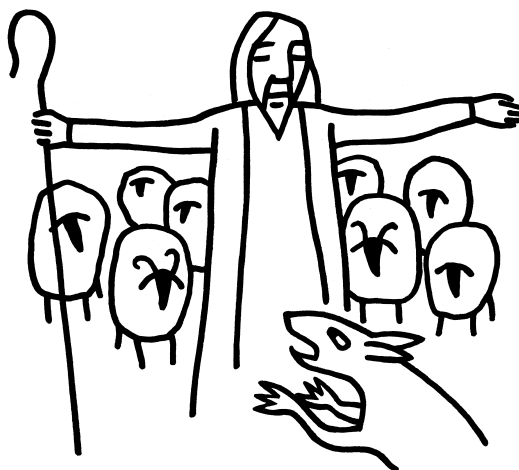
HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to 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 in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The meditation interprets the meaning of God's word for our lives today.

We sing this principal hymn in response to the Word which has been proclaimed to us.

This reference to the holy catholic church is to the church universal.

(Please be seated.)
MEDITATION

Rev. John Tirro

(Please stand.)
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 502

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



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; 6 And so, through all the length of days,
thine unction grace bestoweth; thy goodness faileth never.
and, oh, what transport of delight Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
from thy pure chalice floweth! within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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APOSTLES' CREED ELW p. 127

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

With this prayer, we express our concern for the whole Church, for the nations of the world, for people in their various needs, and for our own congregation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: 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.

(Please kneel. Following each petition, respond with "hear our prayer".)

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

A: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

A: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

A: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

A: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

P: 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.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

Michael Adams, Anna Brownlee, Renee Busse, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts, Hugh Denton, Laura Domitz, Al Gill, Sharon Graves, Michael Holtz, Jean Keener, Dick & Pat Krogmann, Annie Lefler, Don McWilliams, Nancy O'Callaghan, Don Ray, Pam Shealy, Rebecca Vath, Tom Wainner, Dave & Brenda Wayland, Maxine Whistler, Bill Wing, Ron & Jeanette Woodward, our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlynne Fox, and Joe Ley, the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school, and those affected by political unrest, especially our partners in Guatemala

Completed Life

Ginnie Sorenson, Christine Rolik's mother

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Lord is My Shepherd”
-Goodall

(Please stand.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Every Word and Every Breath”

We respond to God's
Word by giving our
offerings for God's work
in the world.

Offering plates will be
placed by the font, for
people to make an
offering on their way in
or out of the service.



1 Ev-'ry word___ and ev-'ry breath;___ all the signs of grace you gave;
2 Ev-'ry tool___ of war we make___ forged a - gain___ to plow the land;
3 Ev-'ry sin___ that you for - give;___ ev - 'ry heart that you re - store;



by your life___ and by your death;___ by your ris - ing from the grave:
all we build___ and all we break___ new - ly pur - posed by your hand:
ev - 'ry soul___ re - deemed to live___ o - pens wid - er heav - en's door.



Lamb of God___ you bring sal - va - tion, mak - ing us___ your new cre - a - tion.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Adam M. L. Tice

Tune: Mark A. Miller

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The offertory prayer reminds us that God is the source of all gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Risen One,
C: 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.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you! And al-so with you! Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord!
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Text: *The Book of Common Prayer*
Tune: John Tirro
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The words Jesus used in instituting the Lord's Supper remind us of God's wonderful works, invite us to receive the sacrament, and ask for the Holy Spirit to bless us.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night He was be-trayed, He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
"Take and eat. This is my bo-dy, gi-ven for you. Take and eat. This is my bo-dy,
gi-ven for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."
On the night He was be-trayed He took the cup, gave thanks, and raised it up:
"Take and drink. This is my blood, poured out for you. Take and drink. This is my blood,
poured out for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."

Text: *1 Corinthians 11:22-25, Matthew 26:27*, adapt. John Tirro
Tune: John Tirro
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This prayer is based on
Matthew 6:9-13 and
Luke 11:24.

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-lo-wed be Thy name. Thy
king-dom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this
day our dai-ly bread, and for - give us as we for-give our debt-ors; and
lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de - li-ver us from e - vil; for
Thine is the king-dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry, for - e - ver. A - men.

Earlier in the service,
the Gospel was
proclaimed to the entire
congregation; now it is
given to each person
individually as each
receives the body and
blood of our crucified
and risen Lord.

Pyx (PIX; Middle
English from Latin
pyxis, a little box). A
receptacle designed to
hold the bread of the
Holy Communion.

As the ministers give the
bread and wine, they say
these words to each
communicant: "The body
of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed
for you." The
communicant may
say: "Amen."

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION

Regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion, all those who are baptized and profess Jesus Christ as Lord are encouraged to commune.

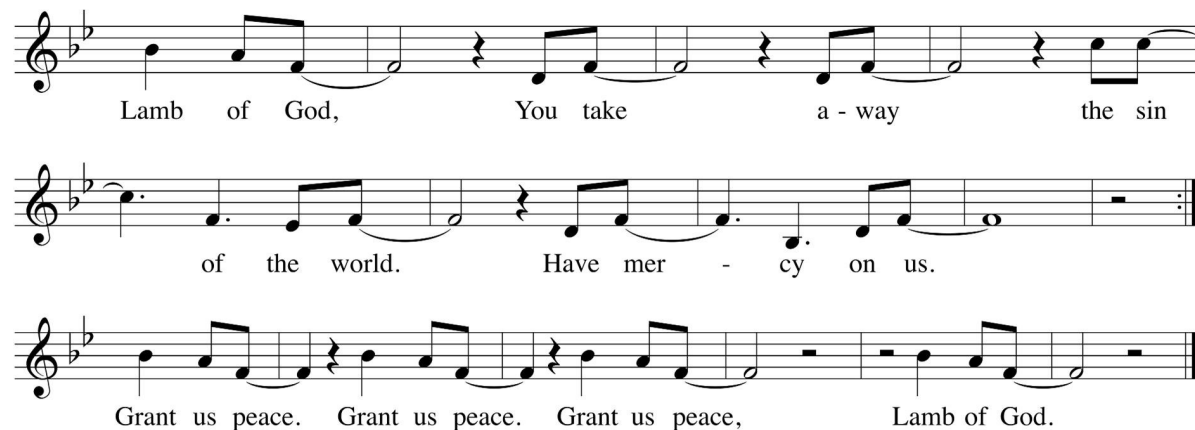
For those who need gluten free wafers, they are available at the baptismal font, in the silver pyx.

Those who prefer, may receive only the wafer.

Additionally, there are individual communion sets in a basket on both front pews.

If you are unable to come forward for any reason, alert an usher. Those who do not yet commune may come forward to receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin
of the world. Have mer - cy on us.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Text:
Marty Haugen
Music b., 1950,
based on
Psalm 23
Music:
Shepherd Me,
Marty Haugen

Refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 *to stanza 4*

death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I

2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you

3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I

lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my

fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.

spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.

rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

(Please stand.)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

The SJLC

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2024

Minut

TODAY, at 10:10, we'll continue our study of Paul's letter the Galatians, which was written "in the heat of controversy," because Paul thought some in the community were pushing false teachings that violated his understanding of the essence of Christianity. We'll continue our discussion of Chapter One, "What Happens to People Pleasers?" (pp. 1-12); for those who have the booklet, you might focus especially on the sections on Luther's response to Galatians and the question of the chapter—what happens to people pleasers? No need to have read that, though, to participate. We'll focus on Galatians 1:6-24, which you can read ahead of time if you wish.



CHURCH EVENTS

- April 21** 4th Sunday of Easter
Nursery
Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, Craft
Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
Adults ... Galatians Bible Study
Family Eco Fair
- April 22** A Place at the Table
Feeding Ministry
- April 23** Team Night
- April 25** Highways & Byways
Feeding Ministry
Via de Cristo Retreat*
(April 18-April 21)
- April 28** 5th Sunday of Easter
Nursery
Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, Craft
Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
Adults ... Galatians Bible Study
Inquirer's Gathering
- April 29** A Place at the Table
Feeding Ministry



St. John's Lutheran Church

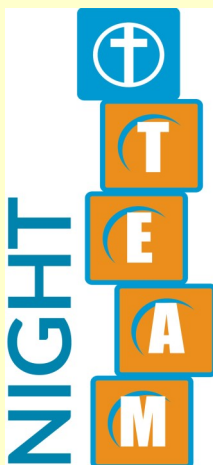
FAMILY ECO FAIR



All are welcome to join in an afternoon of crafts, snack making, chats, and activities centered around the theme of being good stewards of our Earth.



APRIL 21, 2-5 PM
544 N. BROADWAY DR



TEAMS NIGHT THIS TUESDAY, April 23

- 5:45 Light Appetizers
- 6:15 Devotion
- 6:30 Session 1
- 7:00 Session 2

(for those who need to split time between teams)
7:30 Reporting Out for Collaboration

This is an incredible opportunity to develop team members, make summer plans, discuss budget needs, and collaborate!

He is risen, indeed!

As a reminder of the Resurrection, we invite you to participate in the Savior Search which will go through the Easter Season. That's right, there are 100 risen Jesuses hidden all throughout SJLC!



Inquirers' Gathering
Sunday, April 28 at 12:15 pm



Interested in learning more about life as a Lutheran?

Want to know more about the ministries of St. John's?

Curious about the ways you might plug into this diverse downtown family of faith?

Please plan to participate in our **Inquirers' Gathering Sunday, April 28 at 12:15 pm in the Sparks Fellowship Hall.** Lunch will be served, so

please RSVP to Toni at toni@sjlcknox.org.

Questions? Please e-mail Pastor Amy at amy@sjlcknox.org.

"Saved by grace, through faith, apart from works of the Law!"

B.E.E.R. in April

We had such a nice turnout last month, and now, it's time to look forward to our next gathering. B.E.E.R.



(Brothers Engaged in Enriching Relationships) will meet on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 at Barrelhouse for some friendly conversation and to catch up. Barrelhouse also serves non-alcoholic drinks and some pretty tasty food. If you've been on the fence about hopping in, we encourage you to do so! Free first pint to any newcomers!

Contact Garry Menendez menendez@utk.edu or Matt Whitehead mattwhitehead@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

SAM (Senior Adult Ministry)

Wednesday, May 1 at 11:30 am

Lunch: Catered by Salsarita's Fresh Cantina

Your Cost: \$5

RSVP: Mary Cole at memeccole@comcast.net or 865-370-3132 (cell)

Birthday Celebration: We will have cupcakes and sing Happy Birthday honoring everyone's birthday throughout the year.

Blessing Basket: Please bring paper towels and/or toilet paper.

Program: Mary Sophia Hawks, Parish Nurse from Messiah Lutheran Church, will share Five Suggestions for Healthy Living for Seniors. In addition, I have asked her to sing a few songs accompanied by Pastor John. Mary Sophia has a beautiful voice, and I know you will enjoy her music.

May is our last meeting until September. I hope to see all of you at this gathering. Please RSVP for lunch.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. I'll see you in church.

God's peace and love, Mary



Congregational Potluck
Sunday, May 5 at 12:00 Noon
Sparks Fellowship Hall

Cole's incredible BBQ is our entrée!

By last name, please bring:

A - H Salads or fruit

J - P Vegetables or Sides

Q - Z Dessert

Please join us for this delicious gathering!

Two Save-The-Dates!

May 19 Open Streets Celebration from 2:00 to 6:00 PM on Emory Place

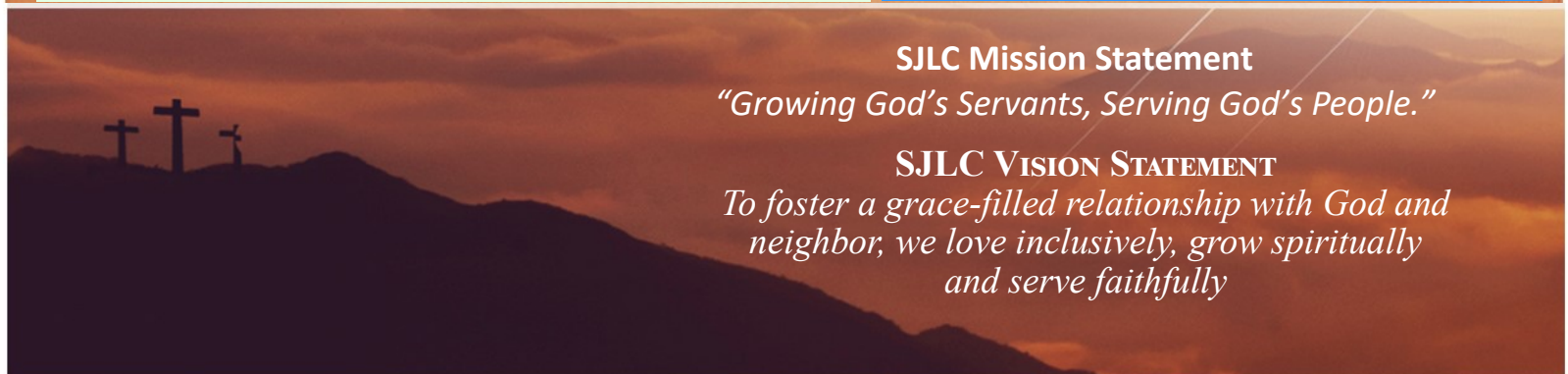
June 3-7 Lutheridge Day Camp at Messiah Lutheran Church

SJLC Mission Statement

"Growing God's Servants, Serving God's People."

SJLC VISION STATEMENT

To foster a grace-filled relationship with God and neighbor, we love inclusively, grow spiritually and serve faithfully



Church Office

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865.523.3330

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Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am - 4:30 pm |

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