

Sunday, May 18, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Lutheran Church



EASTER

He is not here. He is Risen.

Welcome to

St. John's Lutheran Church



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Ministry Staff

Senior Pastor

Amy C. Figg Ley—amy@sjlcknox.org

Pastor of Worship

John Tirro—john@sjlcknox.org

Minister of Music

Deborah Dunne-Sousa—
sousa@esknoxville.org

Senior Administrative Assistant

Toni Denton—toni@sjlcknox.org

Children, Youth, and Family Faith

Formation Director

Sara Whitehead—sara@sjlcknox.org

Sexton

Avery Green—facility@sjlcknox.org

Nursery Attendants

Mary Elizabeth Peterson

Lisa Minton

Kate Higgins Tirro

Church Council

Chris Brooks

cbrookstn40@gmail.com

Linda Godden

lgodden09@comcast.net

Scott Griswold

jscottgriswold@gmail.com

Lisa Jimenez

splack@verizon.net

Jason McLemore

j.r.mclemore@gmail.com

Cindy Merkel

dcmerk1973@gmail.com

Darrell Murrell

cherml818@gmail.com

Kelly Parman

kellyparman@msn.com

Heather Wallace

heatherbpwallace@yahoo.com

Chris Wise

wisect@tds.net

Ron Wollard

rdw57ord@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry

Beth Buehler

Mari Brooks

Amy Figg Ley (Stephen Leader)

amy@sjlcknox.org

Nancy Friedrich

Alice Garrison

Bari Gerbig

Scott Griswold

Clarke Hinkle

Michael Holtz (Stephen Leader)

michael@michaelholtzonline.com

Debby Jones

Nicki Nye

Margareth Olsson

Mary Rimer

Valerie Taylor

Chris Wise

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please stand and face the cross)

OPENING HYMN ELW 424

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

The opening hymn sounds
the keynote of the day.

9:00 AM

Assisting Minister:

Nancy Friedrich

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Anna Kate McLemore

Lector:

Dennis Ruck

Communion Assistant:

Debbie Sweany

Lois Ruck

Ushers:

Clarke Hinkle

Dave Sweany

A/V:

Matt Whitehead

11:00 AM

Assisting Minister:

Valerie Taylor

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Choir Member

Lector:

Kelly Parman

Communion Assistants:

Kelly Parman

Ray Collins

Ushers:

Garry Menendez

Lynn Menendez

A/V:

Dresden Ley

Altar Guild:

Before:

Clarke Hinkle

Between:

Cindy Merkel

After:

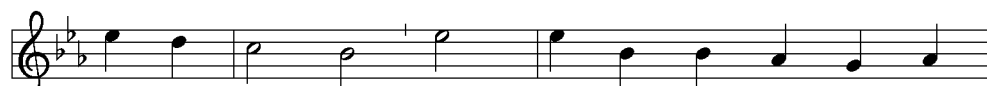
Alice Garrison



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



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



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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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.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE ACS 955

“Come to the Water of Life”

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has four measures, each with a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff has four measures, with the first measure being a whole note and the others being eighth notes. The third staff has four measures, with the first measure being a whole note and the others being eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures.

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

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*In the First Lesson:
In defense of his earlier
baptism of non-Jewish
believers, Peter
demonstrates to the
members of the
Jerusalem church that
God's intention to love
Gentiles as well as Jews
is revealed in Jesus'
testimony. In this way the
mission to the Gentiles is
officially authorized.*

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST LESSON

ACTS 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*In the Second Lesson:
John's vision shows us
that in the resurrection
the new age has dawned;
God dwells with us
already. Yet we wait for
the time when the tears
that cloud our vision will
be wiped away. Then we
will see the new heaven,
new earth, and new
Jerusalem.*

THE SECOND LESSON

REVELATION 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

“Nothing in All Creation”



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

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: After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

(Please be seated.)

MEDITATION

Pastor Amy Figg Ley

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

(Please stand.)

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1038

“God, We Gather as Your People”



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son, to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Refrain
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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.**

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

*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

A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Please kneel. Following each petition, respond with "Your mercy is great".)

A: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

A: Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

A: Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

A: Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

A: We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

A: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

*Michael Adams, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts,
Al Gill, John Jessel, Dick Krogmann, Don McWilliams,
Nancy O'Callaghan, Norma Peterson, Don Ray, Frances Ratliff,
Clarence Scott, Pam Shealy, Keith Solt,
Maxine Whistler, Ann Williams, Bill Wing,
our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlynne Fox, and Joe Ley,
the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school,
synod partners in Guatemala, and all those affected
by the devastation of Hurricane Helene*

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF THE PEW REGISTER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(Please stand.)

OFFERTORY REPONSE

Verse One only

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

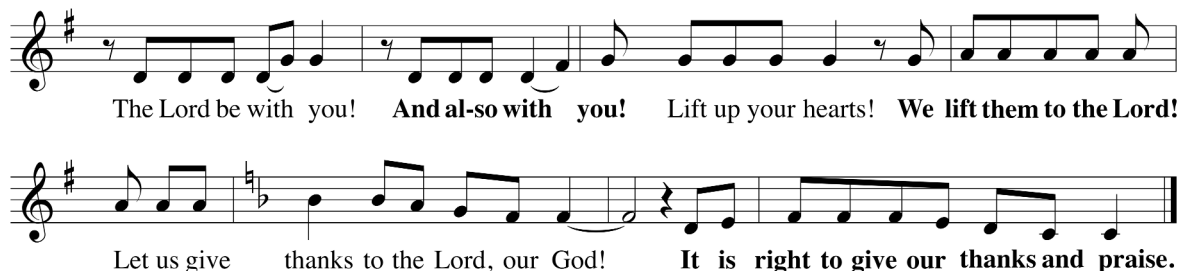
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The offertory prayer reminds us that God is the source of all gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Risen One,
C: you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



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
pyxys, 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."

COMMUNION

Regarding the gift of Holy Communion, all are welcome! This is God's table, and there is a place for each of God's beloved. Gluten-free wafers are in the small silver box on the baptismal font.

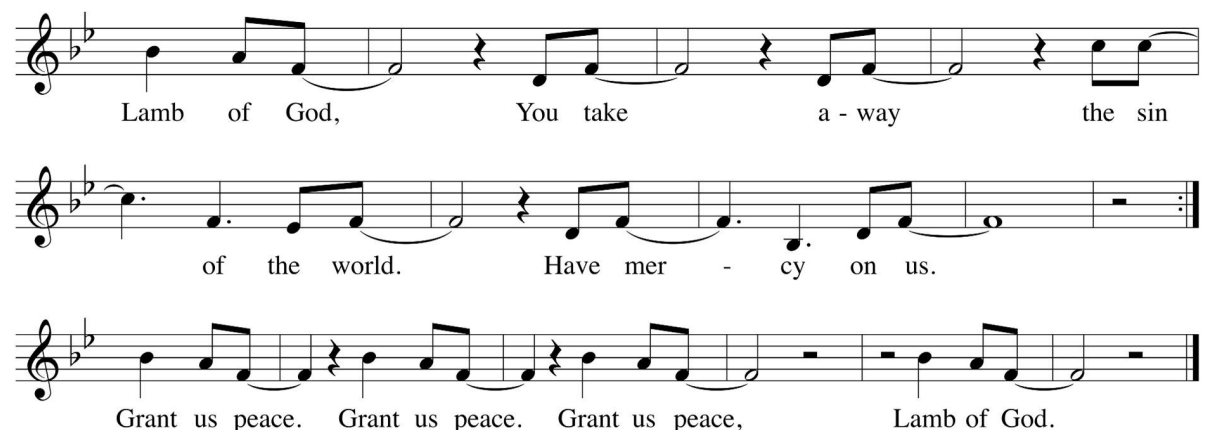
An usher will direct you down the center aisle to the chancel stairs where you may:

- Receive Holy Communion by intinction, taking the bread, dipping it in the wine, and consuming them together
- Receive Holy Communion by the common cup, first eating the bread and then drinking from the silver chalice
- Receive a blessing by placing your hands across your chest and embracing God's love for you

You will return to your seat by the side aisle.

Again, all are welcome at God's table; come and see that the Lord is good.

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.



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

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(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 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest

thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be

thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the nail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war

thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BLESSING FOR THE GUATEMALA DELEGATION (9:00 AM)

Nancy and Jim Friedrich from St. John's

Pastor Mark Cerniglia and Martha MacCabe from Messiah

Pastor Stephen Friedrich, Amy Anderson, Linda McClanahan, Ken Loher, Janet Storm-Barnes, and Tom Barnes from Peace

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!****POSTLUDE****Women's Bible Study**

Kory Graham is going to begin a Women's Bible Study following the plan, "Praying Through the Psalms: 60 Days To Uncomplicate How You Talk To God." The study will be both in a private Facebook Group, as well as a couple of in-person meet ups. It will be a very easy, no pressure or stress format. It is completely acceptable to just observe and not respond in the group! The goal is simply for more fellowship with each other in between Sunday services. Please call/text/email Kory if you are curious to learn more! You can join in on the study at any time! 507-259-7825 mnjerseygirl@gmail.com

The SJLC Minute

May 2025

CALENDAR

May 18 5th Sunday of Easter

Worship
Faith Formation
Graduate Celebration
*Nursery
*Children ... Music,
Lesson, Snack, and Craft
*Youth ... Games and
Spiritual Gains
*Parents ... Coffee and
Conversation
*Adults ... Bible Study
Worship

May 19 Staff Meeting
A Place at the Table
Feeding Ministry

May 20 Church Council Meeting

May 25 5th Sunday of Easter

Worship
Faith Formation
Graduate Celebration
*Nursery
*Children ... Music,
Lesson, Snack, and Craft
*Youth ... Games and
Spiritual Gains
*Parents ... Coffee and
Conversation
*Adults ... Bible Study
Worship

Christian Community Development Association and Flourishing Congregation Initiative

Reconciliation
Redistribution
Relocation
Empowerment
Leadership Development
Church-Based
Listening to the Community
Wholistic Approach

Let's learn more about these principles
this summer during Adult Faith
Formation!



*"Wonder of all wonders, God
loves the lowly...God is near to
lowliness; he loves the lost, the
neglected, the unseemly, the
excluded, the weak and broken."*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Today at 10:10, we'll continue our series of meditations on the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In our reading for Sunday, Bonhoeffer talks about the importance of listening in helping to create community, and we'll spend some time discussing the relative importance of talking and listening. You don't need to have come to other sessions to benefit from our conversations, so don't feel reluctant to join us!

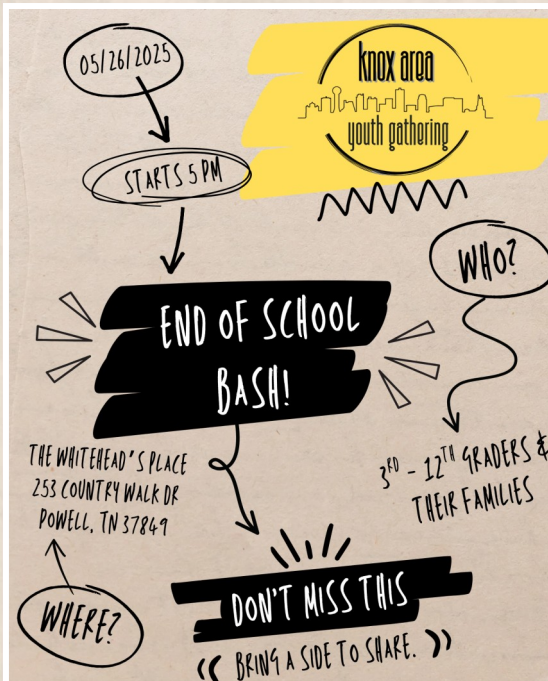
As usual, we'll meet for coffee, food, and good conversation.

Stepping Stones Celebration

Sunday, May 18

At each service, we will honor our high school seniors, followed by a special recognition between services where folks can extend well wishes in the Welcome Center.

Joe Ley graduated this on Friday, May 10, at the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Please join the St. John's family as we prayerfully support his next steps which will include an ordination on Saturday, June 28 at 1:00 PM at SJLC!



CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

All Knox Area Youth Gathering kids and their families are invited to a special end-of-school celebration on **Monday, May 26!**

Before we pause our monthly gatherings for the summer, we'll come together for an afternoon of **food, fellowship, and fun.**

It's a chance to relax, connect, and celebrate the year we've shared.

B.E.E.R. IN MAY

B.E.E.R. (*Brothers Engaged in Enriching Relationships*) will meet on **Tuesday, May 27th 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 mattdwhitehead@gmail.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!



Baby's 1st Book Club

CELEBRATE KATE'S & ANDY'S
LITTLE BOOKWORM WITH US

SATURDAY,
JUNE 7TH

FROM 12:00
TO 2:00 PM

SPARKS FELLOWSHIP HALL
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

RSVP TO RUTH CROWLEY
AT 865-405-3727

networking
engagement independence stepping stone
exceptionally useful personal development decision making training
interpersonal skills communicating confidence
responsibility liaising employability skills initiative cv boost
inspiring experience career plan great opportunity project management team working interview ideas

YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mission Statement: To equip youth with practical skills, spiritual growth, and community engagement experience. The Youth Intern Program seeks to foster leadership, responsibility, and service in young people by involving them in meaningful roles within the Church.

Opportunities: AV Tech Intern
Youth Ministry Intern

Eligibility Criteria: Age...14-18 years old
Availability...5-8 hours a week
Skills...aligned with specific roles

Next Opportunity: June through August

Questions? Contact Sara at sara@sjlcknox.org.

Registry

To find the registry, please scan
the QR code below or visit:

<https://my.babylist.com/uncftwbyq>



If you choose to purchase something from this registry, please go to the item on the website and mark it purchased - to help avoid doubles of gifts!



June 9-13, 2025

9 am - noon

Do Your Kids Like to Sing?!

Messiah Lutheran Church

Rising 2nd – 7th Graders; limit 30 children

Cost: 1 package of cookies and 1 white T-Shirt

Register: Music@MessiahKnoxville.org

Deadline: May 12, 2025

Music, Art, Puppets, Instruments

Serve faithfully ... Grow spiritually ... Love inclusively! Notice anything different?

Church Office

544 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917

865.523.3330

865.524.7895•(fax)

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

Email: INFO@sjlcknox.org • Website: www.sjlcknox.org

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