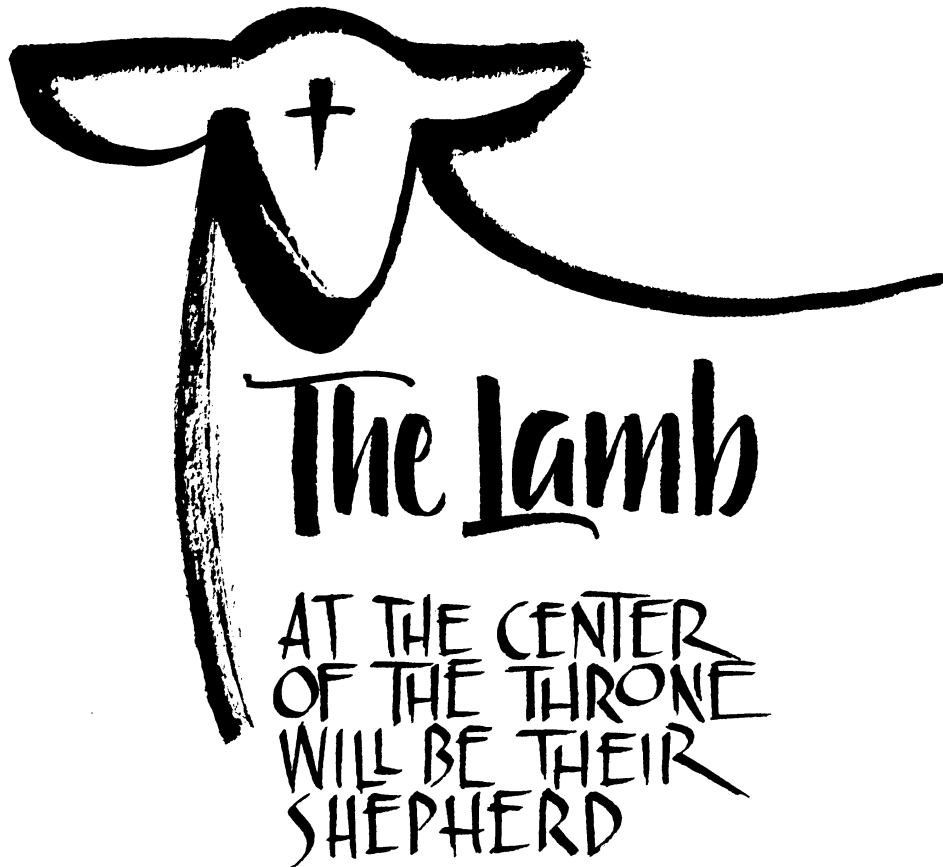


SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
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FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



REVELATION 7:17

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022

May 8, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (all verses)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
- 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
- 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

MAJESTY

Maj - es - ty, wor-ship his maj - es - ty: un - to

Je - sus be all glo - ry, hon - or, and praise.

Maj - es - ty, king - dom au - thor - i - ty

flows from his throne un - to his own; his an - them

raise. So ex - alt, lift up on high the name of

Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri -

fy Christ Je - sus, the king.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are several triplets marked with a '3' and a bracket. Chord symbols are present above some notes: 'Am G/D' above the third staff, and 'G/B' above the fourth staff. The score ends with a final chord of D major.

Maj - es - ty, wor - ship his maj - es - ty:

Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all

kings; Je - sus who died, now glo - ri - fied,

King of all kings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

A reading from Acts.

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

(Sung responsively between women & men, beginning with the women)



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹The LORD[|] is my shepherd;
I shall not[|] be in want.
- ²**The LORD makes me lie down[|] in green pastures
and leads me be-[|] side 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.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before

the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY (all verses)

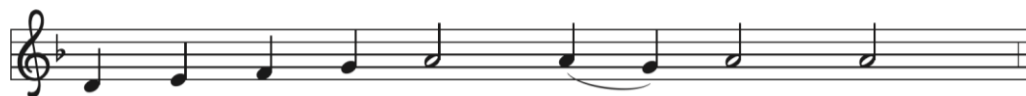
You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



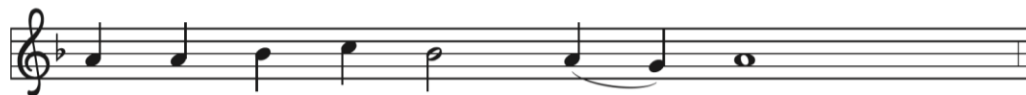
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



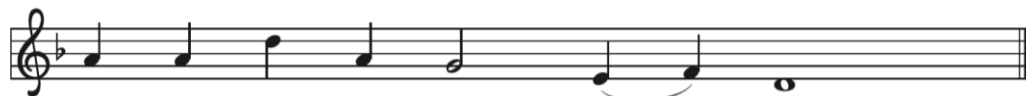
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: God, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat. Please notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar. The Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

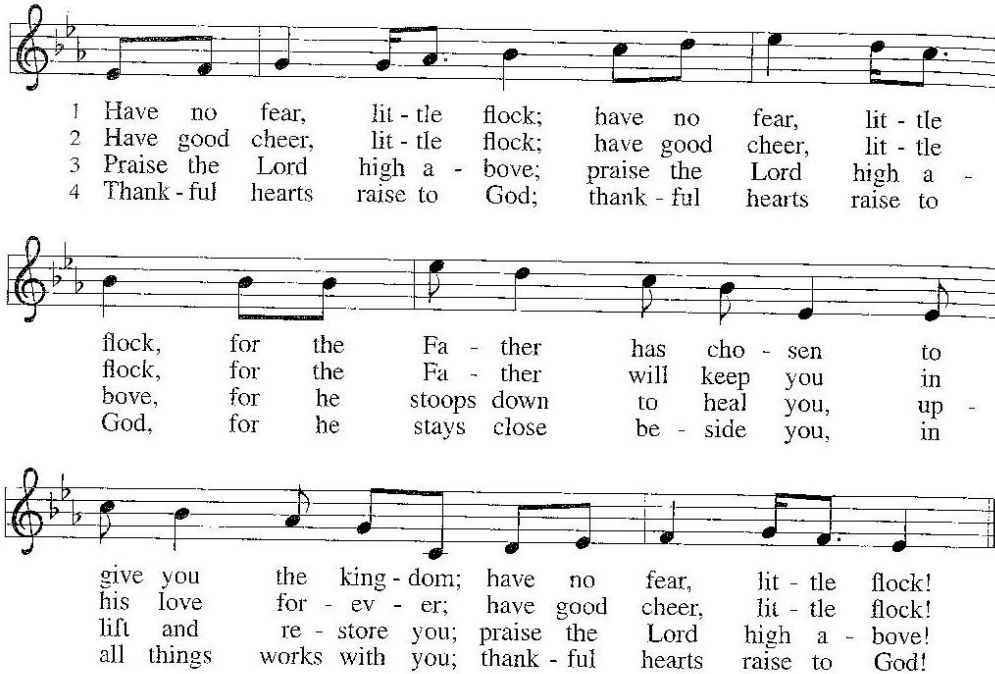
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG (all verses)

764

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

LITTLE FLOCK
6 6 7 6 6

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry
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Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte	Rebekah Aldrich
Lector.....	Patricia Yetter
Securing Offering.....	Becky Mull & Larry Socks
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky & Sam Mull
Communion Clean-Up	Judy Johnson & Patricia Yetter
Bread Cubes	Margie Dale
Communion Assist	Sam Mull
Attendance last Sunday	63

Stewardship Thought - May 8, 2022 (Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C) Acts 9:36 – Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference in our church and the world. Tabitha touched people with good works, including making clothes for others. How are you using your God-given talents for the sake of others?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of Don Wishard given by Rose and Family.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following *Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Kristen Hardman, Sister Barbara Barry, Becky Pecha, Patricia Yetter, Baby Warren Baker, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World, Carol Locke, Aurora Shultz and her parents David & Brittany, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Darrell Veilleux*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Maranatha Ministries are very grateful for the abundance of paper products that were donated by Solomon's. Thanks to all who contribute to this ministry.

The May edition of the Living Lutheran are available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

Help is needed to serve a luncheon on May 11, 2022. Please see sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room.

Monumental VBS 2022: Monday June 20th – Friday June 24th; 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Ages: 3yrs – 6th Grade. Celebration Sunday: June 26th at 10:15 am. See Barbara Aldrich or Janice McEntire for registrations forms.

Annual Auxiliary Membership Drive - The annual SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary membership drive will take place during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum contribution of \$1.00. Your support allows the auxiliary to continue to make generous contributions to SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge, including donations to the Inn Endowment Fund and Homecare & Hospice Endowment Fund. These funds are essential to providing continued benevolent care. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact Becky Pecha, your congregational representative.

Volunteer Opportunities - Volunteers are currently needed to assist residential living residents and team members on off-campus outings to restaurants, concerts, theater performances, and educational presentations. Please contact Linda Beaver lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org if you are interested in this or would like to explore other volunteer opportunities at The Village at Luther Ridge. Volunteers play an integral role in providing compassionate care and support to those we serve.

Solomons' Call Committee invites you to attend one of the scheduled meetings to review and discuss the results of the ministry survey for the Ministry Site Profile. Those of you that completed a survey, will be able to see the final calculation of the survey. Those of you that were unable to complete a survey will be able to share your thoughts at the meeting you choose to attend. The first meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11th at 7 PM (Coffee and dessert will be provided). The second meeting will be Sunday, May 15th immediately following Coffee Hour after the worship service. Both meetings will be held in the adult Sunday School room.

The council is forming a media ministry team where all things computer will be cared for under one umbrella. This includes the worship services, office computers, Facebook account, etc. The more people who help, the less work for everyone. Is God calling you to learn new ways of preaching the Good News boldly following the example of Jesus Christ? Wayne Norman has agreed to lead this group. Call him if you feel called to this ministry.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for the rest of the year will be on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

ACS – Relay for Life – SAVE THE DATE! We are hoping to see you on May 21, 2022, at Greencastle Antrim High School, located at 300 S. Ridge Avenue, Greencastle, PA. Relay will start at 10:00 am and additional details will be posted shortly. Don't forget to visit the ACS website to join our team and sign up as a survivor at www.relayforlife.org. Please see Becky Mull for a luminary form or donation. Thank you for your support!

Solomon's Relay for Life Team - Basket Alley: We are looking for donations of Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets to place in our teams Lottery/Flowerpot for the Relay for Life Basket Alley Event to be held during the Relay for Life of Greencastle on Saturday May 21, 2022. Any dollar amount is appreciated. Please give your tickets or cash donations to Becky Mull or Zoe Mummert by Sunday May 8, 2022.

POWER PACK MEALS: School is just about out and there is enough food available to fill the Power Pack Meals for the remainder of the school year. Therefore, we will not be collecting food items until August for the 2022-2023 school year. THANK YOU to everyone who participated this past year. Solomon's members have been very generous.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

MAY 8, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus is our shepherd.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:20-22	Final prayers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:6-11	Encourage God's people
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-7	Helping Christian leaders
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." **John 10:27 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to trust Jesus, our good shepherd, and to faithfully follow him into the world and do your will. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, we thank you for preparing this table and food before us that we may be strengthened in faith and in service to others through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd hold you in eternal care.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you talk with others, who are the voices you trust? Explain.
- Think about or tell a story when you were aware of God's presence in your life.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shepherd Me, O God



DEVOTIONS

Read: John 10:22-30.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally the Good Shepherd Sunday. The most recognized of all the psalms, Psalm 23, reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus identified himself as the good shepherd. As the Messiah, Jesus has followers he refers to as “*my sheep*.” His sheep recognize his voice and follow the good shepherd as the Messiah (a translation of Christ). Today, we, too, serve as the voice of Jesus in the world that others may follow the good shepherd and recognize Jesus as the Christ. 1 Peter 5:4 alludes to this when Jesus is named as the “*chief shepherd*.” Not only pastors but everyone, including parents and other trusted voices, shepherd one another in faith and life. As followers of Jesus, as sheep of the good shepherd, we all carry the voice and message of Jesus into the world.

Shepherding is a way of life for disciples that guides, protects, and serves others that they may hear and recognize Jesus.

Discuss: How has someone helped you hear the voice and message of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Comforting and gracious God, help us to hear and trust the message of Jesus, the good shepherd, that we may care for and shepherd one another in faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you shepherd someone who needs to feel the love of Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today is Mother’s Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have cared for us and others. Reach out to a woman you know with a special thank you card, with a phone call, or a visit. Use this prayer: **Lord God, thank you for (name). May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Bless her this day and each day with your love and care. Amen.**