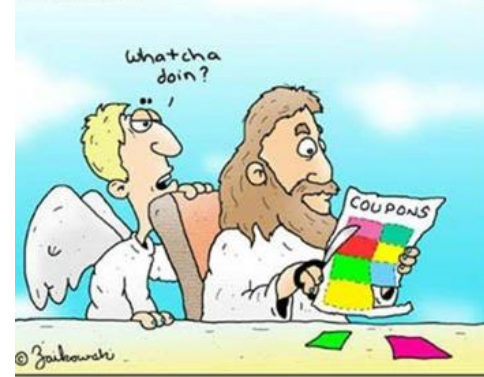


St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

B.Z. Toons
www.bztoons.com

by Brian Zaikowski

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humor Sunday



Jesus Saves

PRELUDE

Many American churches are resurrecting and old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity – “Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, “bright Sunday” was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis – The Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

Jesus loves a good party!

He performed His first miracle at a wedding reception in Cana, turning water into wine. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us that the overjoyed father threw a big party for his returning son. “We are going to have a feast, a celebration,” the father declared, “because this son of mine was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” (Luke 15:23-24)

P: Christ is Risen!

C: **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: O Great Laughing God,

we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.

These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us

and for all the earth.

May we find that in giving up to laughter

there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit

to renew our worship and our living.

C: **Amen.**

Pastor: “Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu.”

People: “When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too.”

Pastor: “I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin.”

People: “When he smiled I realized I’d passed it on to him.”

Pastor: "I thought about that smile. Then I realized its worth."

People: "a single smile just like mine could travel the whole earth."

Pastor: "So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected."

People: "Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!"

GATHERING SONG *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (ELW 384)

1 That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
th'apostles saw their risen Lord!

2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,
with constant love our hearts possess;
to you our lips will ever raise
the tribute of our grateful praise.

3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all
in this our Easter festival,
for you will be our strength and shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give
to you, once dead, but now alive!
To God the Father equal praise,
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Knock. Knock.

C: Who's there?

P: Lettuce

C: Lettuce who?

P: Lettuce pray.

C: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts.

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 133 read responsively

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

A reading from 1 John.

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess

our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Women stand and sing “Hallelu” then sit, Men stand and sing “Praise Ye the Lord” then sit.)

Repeat twice:

(W) Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halleluiah – (M) Praise Ye the Lord

(W) Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halle-lu, Halleluiah – (M) Praise Ye the Lord

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah!

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah!

(M) Praise ye the Lord – (W) Halleluiah! (M) Praise ye the Lord!

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for meditation

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Happiness Is*

Happiness is to know the Savior Living a life within His favor,
Having a change in my behavior Happiness is the Lord

Happiness is a new creation “Je-sus in me” in close relation
Having a part in His salvation
Happiness is the Lord
Real joy is mine No matter if tear-drops start,
I've found the secret --It's Jesus in my heart!

Happiness is to be forgiven Living the life that worth the livin'
Taking a trip that leads to heaven
Happiness is the Lord, Happiness is the Lord
Happiness is the Lord!

CREED

We believe in God, who made us in His image.

C: We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

C: He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.

C: Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

C: Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A: You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others (*specific needs may be named*).

Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (*name*). Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy (*especially*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Our Offerings

“Tithes if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk”

CHOIR ANTHEM *He’s Still Working on Me*

OFFERTORY

Offertory Hymn: Create in Me (ELW 186)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.

Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.

Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

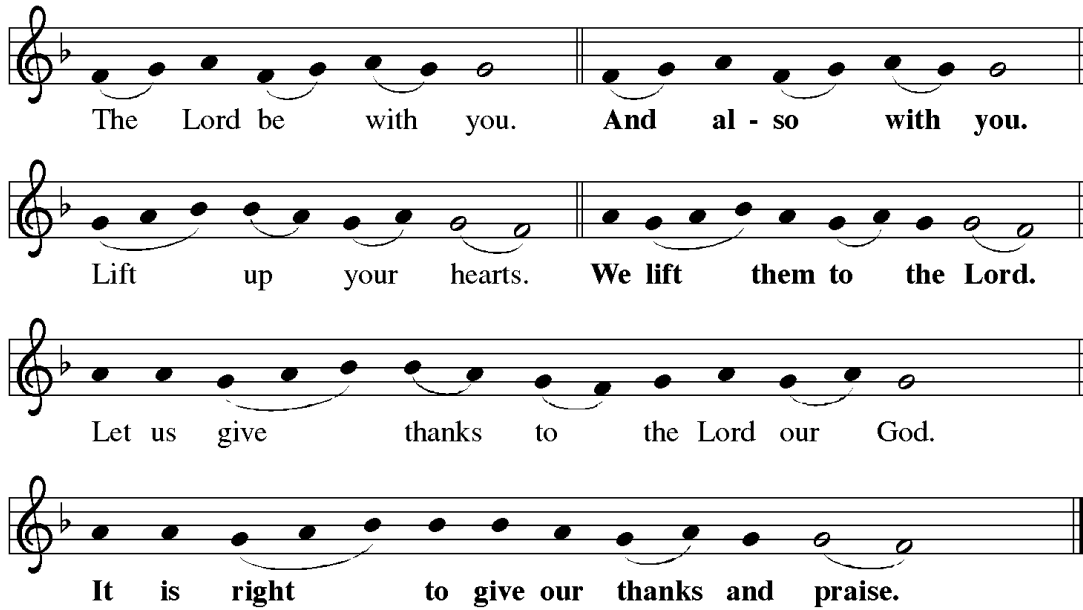
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

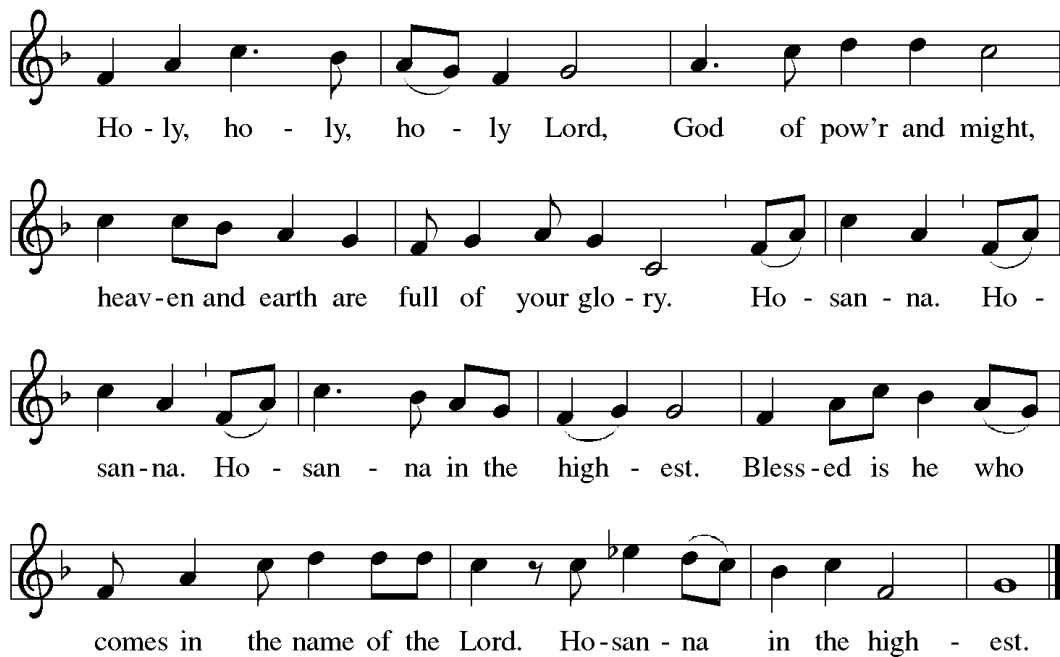
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE by Pastor

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
Come to this meal and be fed.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God (Baby Shark Mass)

$\text{♩} = 112$

1. Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of
2. way sins do do do do do do, Take a - way sins, do do do do do do, Take a -

3. God do do do do do do, Lamb of God. 2. Take a God. 3. Grant us
way sins do do do do do do, Lamb of

6. peace do do do do do do, Grant us peace do do do do do do, Grant us
4. God do do do do do do, Lamb of God do do do do do do, Lamb of

8. peace do do do do do do Grant us peace, 4. Lamb of
God do do do do do do, Lamb of God.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp)

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, shout "Amen" (Amen)

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it
If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, Amen)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

People: "Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please give me the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment, looking neither to the past with regret, nor to the future with apprehension. Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer."

Pastor: "Go in laughter, go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face."

SENDING SONG: *I Got the Joy, Joy Joy*

- 1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
- 2 I've got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
- 3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Betty and Jim Allen, Luke Antolick, Connie Barker, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Linda and Ralph Lehman, Sara Leighow, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Ben Saar, Jane Shaffer, Jean Ann Snyder, John Truax, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Everyone affected by the fires on the West Coast; Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lectors – Theresa Levins; Assisting Ministers - Bill Ely, Jr. and Ken Dougherty; Acolyte –Riley Welshans; Head Usher -Jim Ely; Teller-Shane Snyder; Bulletin sponsor -Jim and Lisa Ely; Bread Sponsor –.

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers -Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Acolyte – OceAnn Green; Head Usher -Jim Ely; Teller-Shane Snyder; Bulletin sponsor -Jim and Lisa Ely; Bread Sponsor –.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Dittmar Family

The Lutheran Church **Women’s Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Giving Plus+

Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone.

Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

Christian Education Meeting

There will be a Christian Education meeting on Monday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m. Anyone is interested in joining our committee is encouragd to join us in the church office.

Youth Ministry

“Grab-a-Tab”

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



Summer Camp

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Holy Humor Sunday

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

10:00 a.m. Conference Clergy
7:00 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

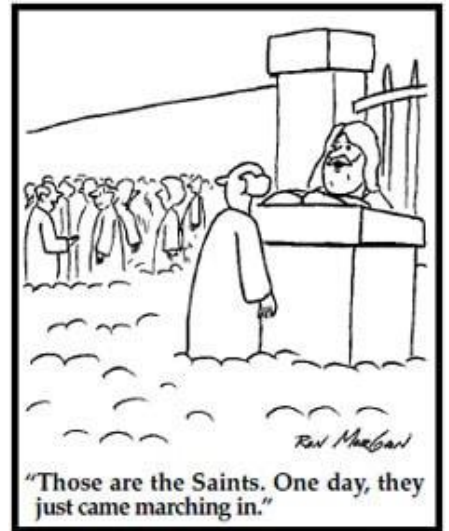
Sunday, April 18, 2021

Gary Johnson Preaching

9:30 a.m. Easter Service
2:00 p.m. Catechism

Second Sunday of Easter

Third Sunday of Easter



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Pastor Aucker away on vacation April 12- 21.
For pastoral emergencies call Pastor Runser at 570-725-2155.