

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Introduction to the day**

*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.*

**P:** This is the day that the Lord has made.

**C:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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

**P:** Gracious God,

**C:** have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

**P:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C:** Amen

**GATHERING SONG: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (ELW 385)**

**GREETINGS**

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.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



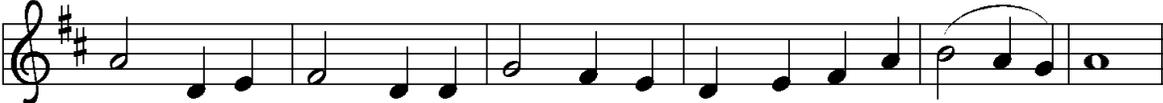
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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. Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

L: A reading from Acts.

*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.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let 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. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 23 read responsively

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**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: 1 John 3:16-24

L: A reading from 1 John.

*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.*

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How 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?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And 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. <sup>24</sup>All 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I 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. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No 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: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Question 1: What has God pruned out of your life in the last five years and what new fruit has Jesus produced in your life during that time?

Question 2: What in your life needs pruning out now – what keeps Jesus from producing new fruit in your life today?

*Silence for meditation*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW 502)**

## **CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need (*especially*). Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. 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

*This is our response to God's grace.*

*This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here.*

## CHOIR ANTHEM - *The Lord Will Be My Shepherd*

## 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

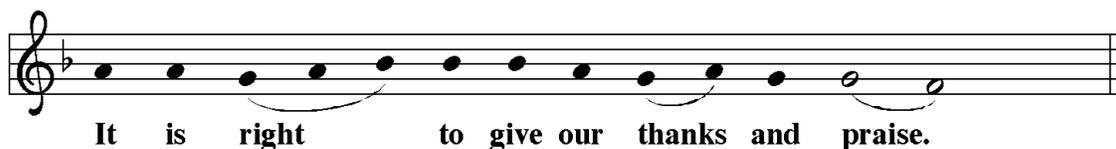
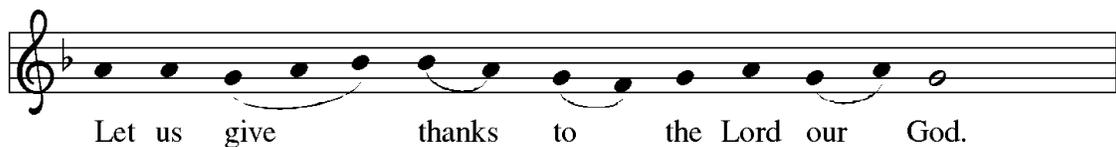
A: Let us pray.

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



## PREFACE

## 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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

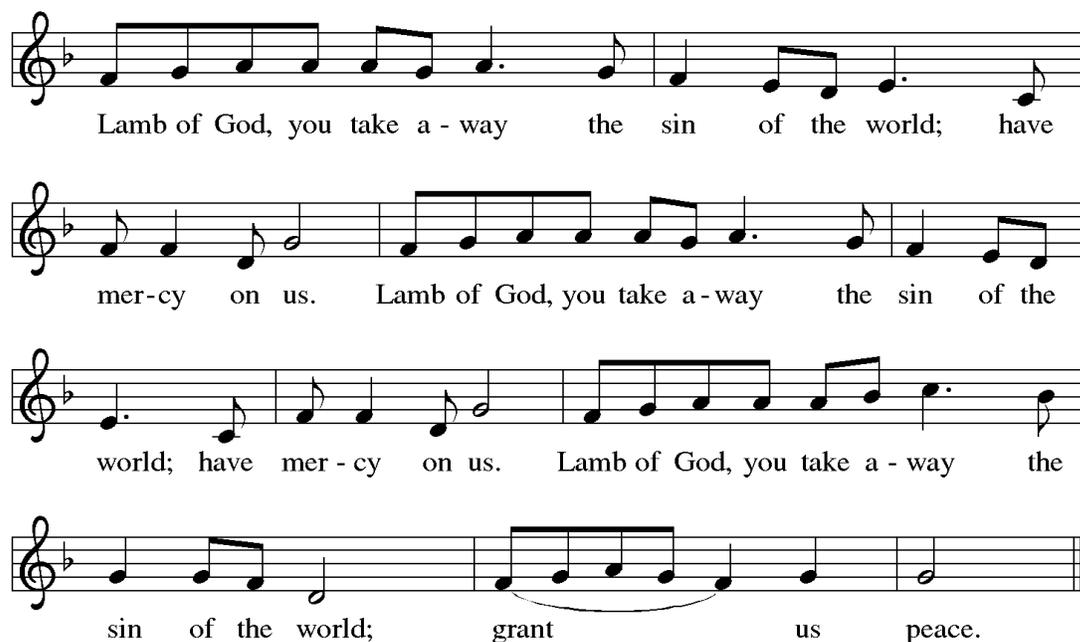
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

*{Repeat} Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord -----*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word ---.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (ELW 789)

**DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: 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 – Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers - Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Acolyte – Max Dincher; Head Usher -Jim Ely; Teller-Shane Snyder; Bulletin sponsor -Jim and Lisa Ely; Bread Sponsor –.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers -Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Acolyte –Harlee Kastner; Head Usher -Shane Snyder; Teller-Shane Snyder and Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor -Jim and Lisa Ely; Bread Sponsor –.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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.

### **Women of the Church Meeting**

There will be a Women of the Church meeting following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 2. The women will be discussing a fundraiser to benefit the Summer Rec Program.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS SCHEDULED FOR FALL

If your marriage has had some struggles during the Coronavirus, you are not alone! The virus has put a great deal of stress on a lot of marriages, and others just need some time away to just be a couple; so now is the perfect time to sign up to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend designed to renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether you have been married a year or 60+ years.

The registration fee has been waived for this year, so you pay only the amount specified on the website for 2 nights in your group-rate hotel room and 5 meals for each of you. Also, scholarship funds are available for anyone in need. Simply e-mail or call us at the information below before you register.

October 1-3, 2021 -- Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA--Famous for its Robin Hood-inspired restaurant, Loxleys

October 15-17, 2021 -- Hyatt Place, Pittsburgh/Cranberry--spacious modern decor guestrooms with couches--an hour north of Pittsburgh

Should complications arise, your payment is refundable up to a month before the Weekend. Weekends begin at 8 PM on Friday night and end at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED, so sign up NOW while there are still openings. Simply go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org), find your chosen Weekend, fill out the form, and pay the amount specified with a credit card, or print the form and mail with a check. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or call: 724-325-3166.

## 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 25, 2021

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Conference Assembly Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Monday, April 26, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion Trinity
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, May 2, 2021

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

- 9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service
- Women of the Church meeting
- 7:00 p.m. NA meeting

