

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

We welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the () if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is the chief festival of the Church Year. On this day (and throughout the 50 day season) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The etymology of the word Easter is hotly debated. Skeptics assert it comes from the supposed Celtic fertility goddess Oestra, who was perhaps venerated around this time of year. But most likely the word Easter is from an old Nordic word *ausa*, which means “to pour water” (referring either to water pouring freely through Spring rivers OR water poured out in Baptism at the Easter Vigil!). While the word Easter is debated, the details of the holiday (i.e. Jesus’ Resurrection confirmed by many proofs) are not. The date of Easter changes from year to year and is arrived at with the following formula: the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The liturgical color is gold or white, the color of joy, purity, and light. On Easter, all the worship elements that were omitted in Lent return: the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise, and the Gloria Patri.

Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 6:30 PM
Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

Opening Hymn *I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives* Lutheran Service Book 468

Divine Service Setting One LSB 151

Introit *Psalm 81:1, 7a, 10, 16b; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2a*
 Congregation chants versus in **bold**

Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*
long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.

Sing aloud to | God our strength,*
shout for joy to the God of | Jacob!
**In distress you called, and I de- | livered you;*
I answered you in the secret place of | thunder.**

I am the | Lord your God,*
 who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it;*
and with honey from the rock I would sat- | isfy you.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Like newborn infants, Alle- | luia,*
long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alle- | luia.

Kyrie LSB 15

Hymn of Praise - *This is the Feast* LSB 15

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 15

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:4-10

⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son

of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156


Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day	<i>O Sons and Daughters of the King</i> LSB 470
Sermon	<i>Confess “Unless...”!</i>
Nicene Creed	LSB 158
Prayer of the Church	LSB 159
Offertory	LSB 159
Liturgy of Holy Communion	LSB 160
Distribution Hymns	LSB 741, 483, 636, 477, 480
Post-Communion Canticle - <i>Thank the Lord</i>	LSB 164
Post-Communion Collect	LSB 166
Benediction	
Closing Hymn	<i>Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain</i> LSB 487

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Maundy Thursday	4/17/25	4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	38 79
Good Friday	4/18/25	1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	58 90
Easter Sunday	4/20/25	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	162 80

WE PRAY for Mary Ankerberg, Michael Borchardt, Sandy Damms, Tom Domagalski, Daut Gaba, Jerry Garske, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, William Moore (husband of Barbara Moore), Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Tari Umar (granddaughter of Sharon Pfennig) and Barbara Wieting.

FLOWERS are given by Sandy Schopf in memory of her father, Melvin Nelson.

BULLETINS are given in celebration of Bob Cahill’s birthday.

OFLC PASTORAL CALL The voters assembly of Our Father’s Lutheran Church voted to extend a divine call to Pastor Dan Greg, who is currently serving in Elk Grove, Illinois, at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Please keep Pastor Greg in your prayers as he considers the call to serve as our pastor!

SCRIP Orders are due next Sunday, May 4. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

TROJAN HIGHLIGHT Our 7th/8th grade Life Science class welcomed 11 baby chicks to their classroom this week. You may recall that about 3 weeks before Easter, the students began incubating a dozen eggs from a variety of chickens. Eleven of those survived and hatched on Tuesday and Wednesday. Their teacher used the experience to exemplify the orderliness and miracle of God's creation. The students of the school have been enjoying holding the chicks and listening to them peep.

BOILER PROJECT MATCH OPPORTUNITY We have hit our goal for this project, \$126,085. Thank you to all who contributed for your generosity. Any excess will go into the General Fund.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Father’s and Mt. Zion will be hosting a joint Vacation Bible School here at Our Father’s June 23-27 from 9-11:30 a.m. each day. All children ages 3 through 4th grade are encouraged to attend. We are also looking for 5-12th grade student volunteers. Please see the flyer in the narthex to either register your child or volunteer to help. We look forward to a wonderful week!

SERVICE CHANGE The Sunday Divine Service will change to 9:00 a.m. beginning Memorial Day weekend. It will return to 10:45 p.m. after Labor Day weekend. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue.

THANK YOU A huge thank you to Dave and Wendy Felber, and Anne and William Janetzke for cleaning the church in preparation for Easter. We appreciate your help!

THANK YOU to all the brass choir and festival choir members for the beautiful music during Holy Week and Easter. Thanks also to their director, Stephen Johnson for leading this talented group of people to praise the Lord during our services.

WALK A THON The 2025 Walk-a-Thon will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Funds raised will be going towards additional stage extensions, (2) Clevertouch boards for new classrooms, and edging and mulch for our playground. Each classroom and team will compete for most money raised. If you would like to create a team, please email Kim Henke at km.m.henke@gmail.com. You can donate by check to Our Father’s Lutheran School, or online by visiting www.ofls.org and clicking the “Donate to our 7th Annual Walk-A-Thon here!” button. Hope to see you there!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	4/27	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Monday	4/28	5-8 th Grade Soccer Game @ Lake Country Luth HS	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	4/29	Handbell Rehearsal	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	4/30	CHAPEL SERVICE Morning Bible Study	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Thursday	5/1	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Friday	5/2	No School	
Saturday	5/3	Ficken/Rohde Wedding	3:00 p.m.
Sunday	5/4	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Scrip Orders Due	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
QUASIMODO GENITI

Confess “Unless...”!
April 27 through May 3, 2025

Quasimodo Geniti means “like newborn babes.” This phrase from 1 Peter 2:2 describes the life of faith. Peter is speaking about the newly baptized who need to drink the sweet milk of the Word of God at the breast of their mother the Church. This sweet milk is administered in the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. It is also fed to the babes in the catechesis of the Church, which is God’s way of teaching through His Holy Scriptures. There the milk of God’s Word is freely poured out that the baptized might be strengthened until they are ready for the solid food of the Lord’s Supper. In baptism, we have been made living stones in Christ’s Church, who are joined firmly to the chief Cornerstone, Christ Jesus Himself. During Easter, we celebrate our own death and resurrection in Holy Baptism and pray that all “newborn babes” (including us) might be raised up to eternal life.

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

THE CREED

VERSE: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord’s resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 81

PSALMODY PRAYER: O Lord, grant that I may learn the lesson of ancient Israel and hear Your Word. Destroy my stubbornness and open my ears to listen and walk in Your ways. Let there be no other gods among Your people. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Luke 7:11-17
Tuesday	Luke 7:18-35
Wednesday	Luke 8:22-25
Thursday	Luke 8:26-39
Friday	Luke 8:40-56
Saturday	John 10:11-16

CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties

To Parents

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. *Ephesians 6:4*

To Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and your mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." *Ephesians 6:1-3*

Luther, On the Resurrection (1530): In so far as you believe, you are like Christ, but at the same time feel sin and death. By faith you are one with Christ and with him you are risen from the dead. On the last day, it will be manifest, but in the meantime, there is no difference between a Christian and any other man. The Christian lives in sin as does another, except that the Christian commits no gross sins, and when he falls does not stay down. Yet a hypocrite often seems better than a true Christian. You will have to leave Christianity and sin together. In the Lord’s Prayer, there is the confession that we need forgiveness. At the death of Christ, the sun was darkened, but at the resurrection, there were not many miracles. This may have been lest we lose ourselves in speculating night and day about the miracles and miss in so doing the true use of the resurrection. See now what Christ had done to the apostles when he died. They had supposed he would be king of the world. When, then, he died, they were desolate and felt as if they were dead themselves. Thus, God desired that the suffering of Christ should be at work in his disciples. Similarly, through the resurrection, the disciples were renewed and lived again. And how did that happen if not by the resurrection? It must be powerful, inasmuch as there can be only death and affliction in the Passion. Paul says, “We are buried with him by baptism” (Romans 6:4) and “for thy sake, we are killed all the day long. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter” (Psalm 44:22). Why must we suffer such things? It is in order that we may be made comfortable to Christ. “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). What does that mean? There Paul speaks of a wonderful war. This victory has come to us through Christ, and if we have the

victory, we can win the war. . . . [Christ] had done many miracles, but on the cross, he was weak. Others he had helped, himself he could not help. He became a sham, and they mocked his words, saying, “He has made himself to be the Son of God.” Then the people turned away from him. He had predicted that he would come again. For that reason, the grave was securely guarded and his enemies supposed that Christ was entirely destroyed, but then arose the goodness of God and confounded the wiles of the devil, for the Divine Majesty could not connive with all this. God summoned the devil. “Satan,” said he, “you have done all the ill you could to me, but I am still alive.” This is the miracle which God showed in the person of Christ. He was eternal life. Blessing and righteousness now fought against curse and death. Temporal death is now nothing against eternal life. It is as if you should try to contain the sea in a little vessel. Paul said not that Christ had overcome sin but that he had swallowed up sin (1 Corinthians 15:55). . . . Just as Christ won the victory only through struggle, so also must we. If his resurrection is to work in us, we, too, cannot escape the struggle with death. . . . I feel sin and death in me. The body delights in sin and fears death, and this war we must carry on so long as we live. The Lord assails us with many sufferings. Death assaults me, but I have Christ who is risen from the dead, as I also shall rise. I will hold to this. . . . Outwardly, I must die as Christ died, but the gospel is a jubilant word, which the flesh hears gladly. Yet it has no effect unless we feel it both inwardly as well as outwardly. (*Martin Luther’s Easter Book*, pp. 98-101)

PRAYER: Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD’S PRAYER

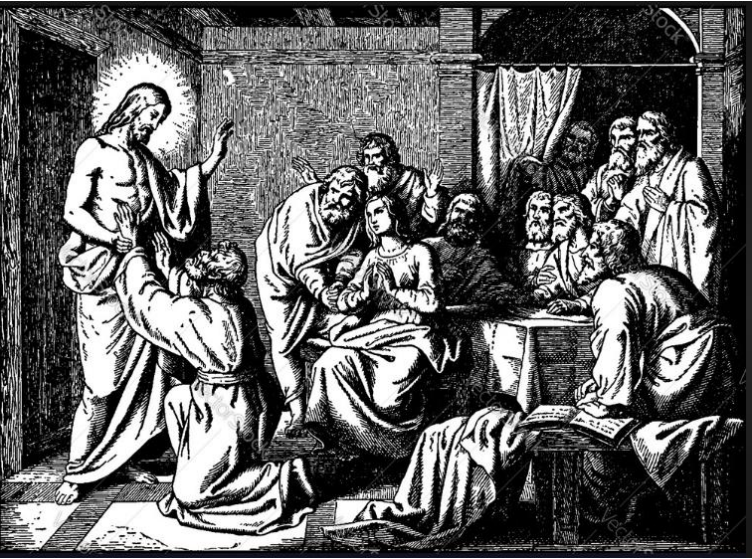
LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB 482 *This Joyful Eastertide* (stanza 1)

- 1 This joyful Eastertide
 Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
 Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain
- ref Had Christ, who once was slain,
 Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
 But now has Christ arisen,
 arisen, arisen;
 But now has Christ arisen!



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER MISERICORDIAS DOMINI

May 4, 2025

“The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Lack”

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 463, 709, 482, 710, 740, 628, 623, 666

READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16

1 Peter 2:21-25

John 10:11-16

There is only One who is the Good Shepherd because there is only One who laid down His life for sheep who love to wander, that is, us. Throughout the Old Testament, God raised up one shepherd after another to lead His people, but each shepherd was limited by his sinful flesh. The Good Shepherd has purchased the flock with His own blood and marked His flock with the sign of His holy cross in the waters of Holy Baptism. The Good Shepherd has instituted the Office of the Holy Ministry to be the shepherds of His Church on earth. Pastors are not hirelings, that is, they are not employees of a congregation. Pastors are shepherds who have been called to be the voice of the Good Shepherd, that is, to proclaim the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, to teach young and old the Holy Scriptures, to baptize the nations, to bring the Gospel to the sick sheep, to call wandering sheep back to the sheepfold, and to feed the sheep with the body and blood of Christ. Pastors are called to stand fast against the wolves, that is, those who seek to devour the sheep with false and misleading teachings. The wolves come dressed as pious sheep seeking to devour the sheep, but they are known by what they teach. The sheep are always to listen to the preaching and teaching of their pastors and judge it by the teaching of Christ. Anyone who does not proclaim the Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep is not a good shepherd, but a wolf. Those who deny that baptism saves or that the Lord's Supper is the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins are wolves, for they seek to take away the certainty of the forgiveness of sins from the sheep. Those who want us to follow Jesus as an example are wolves seeking to lead us away from the confidence that Jesus has completed the work of salvation to a need for us to finish that work. Pray for your pastors that they remain faithful shepherds, not hirelings or wolves.



April 27, 2025



Easter

About the Cover: Jesus stood among His disciples to show them His hands and side. The marks of the nails showed that the Jesus who was crucified is the very same Jesus who has been raised and lives. Thomas was not there the first time Jesus appeared among His followers, but he wanted to verify with his own eyes and hands that Jesus lives. Jesus' hands still bear the marks of His love for us through His sacrifice upon the cross.

Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Childcare

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

www.ofls.org

Rev. Brennick Christiansen
Vacancy Pastor

Church (414) 282-8220

Mr. Bob Cahill
Principal

School (414) 282-7500

Mrs. Amanda McGraw
Mrs. Michelle Sroka
Childcare Co-Directors

Childcare (414) 282-9057

Stephen Johnson
Ben Culli
Organists

sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org