

Closed Communion

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.

Visitors

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.

The Resurrection of Our Lord

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.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
MISERICORDIAS DOMINI
Thursday, May 1, 2025 – 6:30 PM
Sunday, May 4, 2025 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

Opening Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia* LSB 463

Divine Service Setting One LSB 151

Introit *Psalm 33:1, 18-20; antiphon: vv. 5b, 6a*
Congregation chants versus in **bold**

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. Alle- | luia.*
By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you | righteous!*

Praise befits the | upright.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who | fear him,*
on those who hope in his | steadfast love,
that he may deliver their | soul from death*
and keep them alive in | famine.

Our soul waits | for the Lord;*
he is our help | and our shield.

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.

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. Alle- | luia.*
By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

Kyrie LSB 152

Hymn of Praise - *This is the Feast* LSB 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156

Old Testament ReadingEzekiel 34:11-16

¹¹“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and VerseLSB 156

Holy GospelJohn 10:11-16

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the DayThe King of Love My Shepherd IsLSB 709

SermonThe Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Lack!

Nicene CreedLSB 158

Prayer of the ChurchLSB 159

OffertoryLSB 159

Liturgy of Holy CommunionLSB 160

Distribution HymnsLSB 482, 710, 458, 740, 623

Post-Communion Canticle - Thank the LordLSB 164

Post-Communion CollectLSB 166

Benediction

Closing HymnO Little Flock, Fear Not the FoeLSB 666

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday	4/24/25	6:30 p.m.	29
Sunday	4/27/25	8:00 a.m.	104
		10:45 a.m.	28

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), Mike Wang and Barbara Wieting.

FLOWERS are given in celebration of the birthdays of Lyle, Daniel & Anna Burgess.

BULLETINS are given by Carol LaPointe in memory of Karen Paull.

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 today, 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 The Eighth Graders embarked on their class trip to Detroit, and Frankenmuth, MI this week. Among the many planned stops are the Michigan Science Center, Little Caesars Arena, Comerica Park, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and the Henry Ford Museum. They are excited to learn more about "The Great Lakes State." Thank you for your generosity and support of the Class of 2025.

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. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue.

SPRING CONCERT AND ART EXHIBIT The Martin Luther High School Music Department is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship/Fine Arts Center at Martin Luther. The concert, entitled **Showstoppers & Blockbusters** will feature the Jazz Ensemble, Spartan Band, Symphonic Band, Troubadours, Chorus, and Concert Choir. A wide variety of music will be performed by each of the ensembles. In addition to the concert, the Art Department will present a Student Art Exhibit and have ceramic items for sale. Tickets are available at the door or by calling (414) 421-4000 for reserved seating. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for the art exhibit.

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!

SUMMER CHOIRS With the single Sunday Divine Service during the summer months comes more opportunities to *sing*! Summer Music Choir will meet on select Sundays during the summer at 7:45 a.m. in the balcony, to prepare to sing for the 9:00 a.m. service that same day. Singers of all ages are invited to join us (even those who are too young to read). If you have any questions, please ask Stephen Johnson at sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org. (And for bell ringers.....we will be continuing with Handbell Choir throughout the summer. Stay tuned for dates and times.)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	5/4	DIVINE SERVICES	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
		Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
		Scrip Orders Due	
Monday	5/5	5-8 th Grade Soccer Game @ Our Father’s vs. HCL	4:15 p.m.
Tuesday	5/6	Handbell Rehearsal	5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	5/7	CHAPEL SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
		Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
		5-8 th Grade Soccer Game @ Northwest Luth. vs. Zion	5:15 p.m.
Thursday	5/8	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Friday	5/9	Martin Luther Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	5/11	DIVINE SERVICES	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
		Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:30 a.m.

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
MISERICORDIAS DOMINI

“The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Lack!”
May 4 through May 10, 2025

Misericordias Domini literally describes the “compassionate heart of the Lord” or, as the Introit translates it, “the goodness of the Lord.” The Psalmist is not wanting us to look at Creation and confess its goodness, but rather to marvel at the true goodness of the Lord, that is, His compassion and mercy which fill the earth when Christ is preached to the nations of the earth. It is Christ who is the Good Shepherd because in His unlimited love for us He laid down His life. The Shepherd makes Himself known to us in the preaching of the Gospel, that is, the good news that He has died and risen again to rescue us from death. His sheep listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd when the Gospel is preached because He first opened their ears to hear in the waters of Holy Baptism. Here is the definition of the Church which Luther says every seven-year-old should know: those who hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow Him. To hear that voice is to come to hear the Gospel preached every Sunday, receive the Sacrament often, and delight in the absolution. This is the way of those who follow the voice of the Shepherd.

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

THE CREED

VERSE: ²⁸ We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.
Romans 3:28

COLLECT FOR THE WEEK: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

PSALM OF THE WEEK: 84

PSALMODY PRAYER: O God, look upon our Shield, our Lord Jesus Christ, and hear our prayers for His sake. Give us a home near Your altar and give us strength for our journey in the wilderness of this sinful world. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Luke 9:10-17
Tuesday	Luke 9:18-27
Wednesday	Luke 9:46-56
Thursday	Luke 10:25-37
Friday	Luke 10:38-42
Saturday	John 16:16-22

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties
To Workers of All Kinds**

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. *Ephesians 6:5-8*

Luther, On Psalm 23:1 (1535): A sheep must live entirely by its shepherd’s help, protection, and care. As soon as it loses him, it is surrounded by all kinds of dangers and must perish, for it is quite unable to help itself. The reason? It is a poor, weak, simple little beast that can neither feed nor rule itself, nor find the right way, nor protect itself against any kind of danger or misfortune. Moreover, it is by nature timid, shy, and likely to go astray. When it does go a bit astray and leaves its shepherd, it is unable to find its way back to him; indeed, it merely runs farther away from him. . . . Still, however weak and small an animal a sheep may be, it nevertheless has this trait about it: it is very careful to stay near its shepherd, take comfort in his help and protection, and follow him however and wherever he may lead it. And if it can only so much as be near him, it worries about nothing, fears no one, and is secure and happy, for it lacks absolutely nothing. It also has this virtue—and this is to be marked well, because Christ praises it especially in His sheep (John 10:4)—that it very carefully and surely hears and knows its shepherd’s voice, is guided by it, does not let itself be turned away from it, but follows it without swerving. . . . Just so it is in spiritual shepherding, that is, in Christendom. As little as a natural sheep can feed, direct, guide itself, or guard and protect itself against danger and misfortune—for it is a weak and quite defenseless little animal—just so little can we poor, weak, miserable people feed and guide ourselves spiritually, walk and remain on the right path, or by our own power protect ourselves against all evil and gain help and comfort for ourselves in anxiety and distress. . . . Let us, therefore, conclude freely: as little as a natural sheep can help itself in even the slightest degree but must simply depend on its shepherd for all

benefits, just so little—and much less—can a man govern himself and find comfort, help, and counsel in himself in the things that pertain to his salvation. He must depend on God, his Shepherd, for all of that. And God is a thousand times more willing and ready to do everything that is to be done for His sheep than is any faithful human shepherd. (LW 25:311-312, St. Louis: Concordia, 1955)

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 461 “*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*” (stanza 7)

- 7
- He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

LOOKING FORWARD TO
THE WEEK OF
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
JUBILATE

May 11, 2025
“*The Joy of New Life*”

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 464, 483, 461, 467, 624, 617, 620, 818

READINGS

Isaiah 40:25-31
1 Peter 2:11-20
John 16:16-22

Easter causes us to consider the way in which joy and sorrow are present in the Christian life. Some in the church want us to focus on the resurrection as a source of power for this life and successful Christian living. Some wonder why we are not always smiling. Paul calls us to a theology of the cross and suffering. Where did he get this idea? Paul gets all of his theology from Jesus, as we see in this text of John. Jesus speaks of His own death and resurrection and then links it to the life of faith. Even as there was sorrow at Christ’s death, so the life of death and the cross haunts us in this world for this is the valley of the shadow of death. We are like a mother who carries her child for forty weeks awaiting the delivery. Christ lives in us as the baptized children of God. We are the Bride of Christ, yet we are not fully revealed as God’s children. Only at death, the sorrow and anguish that far surpasses childbirth, do we finally reach the full joy of the resurrection. It is the hope of the resurrection which gives us joy in the midst of all our earthly struggles and weaknesses. Here we know the deep sorrow of our sinful existence, yet we will soon know the eternal joy that has been prepared for us in Christ. Peter’s words remind us that living by faith in our daily vocations may well bring wrongful suffering in this life, but we are to bear it patiently. As Isaiah says, our strength will be renewed when we wait on the Lord in faith.

May 4, 2025



Easter

About the Cover: Paul fell to the ground, and the Lord raised him up in Baptism. What a reversal! Paul went from persecuting the faith to proclaiming it. What a Lord that He still unites people to His death and resurrection by Baptism. Our Baptism is death to sin and being made “alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11). When we remember our Baptism, we live in this reality by daily repenting and believing the Gospel!

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

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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