

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
MISERICORDIAS DOMINI**

May 1, 2022

Service Notes: **Divine Service Setting Three, page 184**
 Hymns: 463, 709, 458, 710, 740, 628, 623, 666
 Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16
 Epistle: 1 Peter 2:21-25
 Holy Gospel: John 10:11-16
 Sermon: "The Good Shepherd" John 10:11-16

8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services - Our Father's Lutheran Elementary School Band
 "How Shall I Follow Him I Serve?" - arr. from Beethoven
 "Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old" - A. A. Wild
 "Rex Regum" - Sir John Stainer

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday	04/21	6:30 p.m.	28
Sunday	04/24	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	97 39

FLOWERS are given by Anna Farkas in memory of Margaret Jacob.

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.

EARLY COMMUNION Henry Michael Nieznanski will receive the rite of admission to early communion in the 8:00 a.m. service.

THANK YOU to the Our Father's Lutheran Elementary School Band and their director, Mr. Ken Wiele, for their participation in both Sunday services.

FAREWELL SERMON & BANQUET Pastor Fabrizio has determined his final sermon date, which will also be the date we celebrate his retirement with a farewell banquet. His last sermon will be preached at Our Father's Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at the 10:00 a.m. service. There will be a celebration banquet immediately following the church service in the school gymnasium. Details will continue to be provided as the Banquet Committee meets and works on the arrangements for the celebration. Stay tuned for further information.

HANDBELLS rehearse again on Tuesday, May 3, as we prepare to ring on Sunday, May 22. New ringers are welcome to join us. If you are interested, please contact Stephen Johnson (steveo236@gmail.com) for more information.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday	05/01	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Scrip Orders Due	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday	05/03	Handbell Choir Practice (<i>in the balcony</i>)	5:45 p.m.
Thursday	05/05	DIVINE SERVICE	6:30 p.m.
Sunday	05/08	DIVINE SERVICES Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	8:00 & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

WE PRAY for Karen Awe, Barbara Blue, Bill Blue, Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Judy Hanson, Jessica Hetts (niece of Virginia Scholz), Elaine Howe, Elaine Jenson, Jackie Johnson (mother of Don Johnson), Michelle Johnson, Ken Letto, Shirley Nelson, Konnie Otto, Ruth Pelican (sister of Virginia Scholz), Angeline Pence, Robert Schneider, Virginia Scholz, and Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski).

SPRING CONCERT AND ART EXHIBIT The Martin Luther High School Music Department is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert on Friday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym at Martin Luther. The concert, entitled **Spring has Sprung**, will feature the Jazz Ensemble, Spartan Band, Varsity 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. 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 school will be holding their 4th annual Walk-a-thon on Sunday, **May 15**, with a goal of raising \$20,000. The funds will be used to help pay for an extra-tall, double-section split slide! See the forms in the church narthex to either sign up or make a pledge. There is also an online giving option on our website, www.ofls.org, to donate.

SCRIP Orders are due today, **May 1**. The next order due date is Sunday, June 5. A Scrip order box, order forms, and envelopes are located in the narthex and church/school office. Place your order and check made out to Our Father's in one of the boxes, *OR* you may order online with the Presto Pay Plan at www.shopwithscrip.com. The website has a list of participating retailers. All profits are used to help pay staff health insurance. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

WOODMAN'S GIFT CARDS are available to purchase in the church/school office. All profits go to the Our Father's Scholarship Fund. Call Linda Hojnacki with any questions at (414) 427-5949.

**THE READINGS AND PSALMODY FOR
MISERICORDIAS DOMINI**

May 1, 2022

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16 (ESV)

¹¹ "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

¹² As 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.

¹³ And 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.

¹⁴ I 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.

¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.

¹⁶ I 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.**

THE EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2:21-25 (ESV)

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

²³ When 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.

²⁴ He 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.

²⁵ For 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.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-16 (ESV)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² He 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.

¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶ And 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.**

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)

¹ A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

INTROIT

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.

Psalm 33:1, 18-20; antiphon: vv. 5b, 6a

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER
FOR THE WEEK OF
MISERICORDIAS DOMINI**

“The Good Shepherd”

May 1 through May 7, 2022

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 (ESV)

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)

LOOKING FORWARD TO JUBILATE

May 8, 2022

“Abiding Joy”

HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 464, 482, 461, 617, 620, 467, 624, 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.

Financial Clarification

In the budget that passed the Voters' assembly for the 21-22 Fiscal Year, a church giving of \$604,400 was approved. The numbers that are reported weekly in the bulletin are a record of how we are trending weekly toward meeting that number (\$604,400) by the end of the fiscal year (June 30). Receiving \$604,400 in offerings by June 30th does not mean that our budget will be balanced. There are still School and Childcare revenue targets that have to be met, and obviously there are expenses for all three entities. Unfortunately, this year our expenses have gone up in many areas due to rising costs of goods and services. In some cases, prices have risen over 10% this year alone.

At the May 22 Voters' Meeting, I hope to provide a clear picture to the congregation of where we are financially and what we need to accomplish in the coming years in terms of debt and strategic planning.

For the remainder of this fiscal year, it is important that we not continue to draw on the line of credit. In order to do that, I ask that you prayerfully consider your giving over the next two months. In the meantime, if you have any questions about our financial state, please feel free to come and speak with me.

In Christ,

Nathan M. Wingfield, Principal

Finances

Positives: We continue to make positive progress, albeit slow, on our long-term debt (mortgage). By June 2023, we will likely be below \$1,000,000 owed for the first time in some years.

Challenges: Our long-term debt continues to drain approximately \$103,000 from our annual budget. While continuously moving this liability to an asset is good, it is obviously not an asset that we can use to assist with the costs of our daily operations. Whenever projects like the new heating units in the school come up (we saved almost \$100,000 on the project by finding an alternative to the boiler replacement), we need to complete those, but our cash flow is greatly impacted and puts us in very tight situations, particularly during the summer months.

What can members do: Continue to pray for our church, school, and childcare. The Lord has richly provided for us for many years. Prayerfully consider your giving. Speak with Mr. Wingfield if you have any questions regarding our finances. Attend the Voters' meeting on May 22. Despite our many challenges, let us ultimately remain focused on hearing God's Word and receiving His gifts.

***OUR FATHER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE CENTER***

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