

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

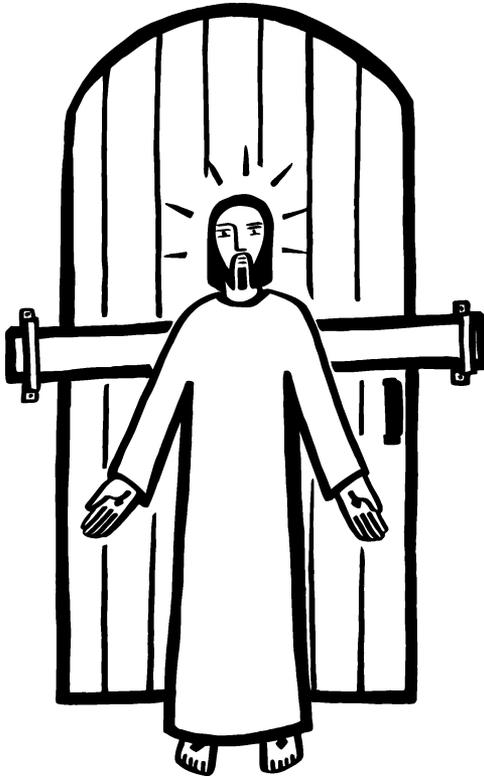
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Sunday, April 8, 2018
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus’ body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!

Ministers:	The people of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church-Crossroads
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Pam Narwold and Paula Rasnick
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Damon Rippetoe Isabelle Westerfeld
Assisting Minister:	Laura Nicholson
Reader:	Darrell Nicholson
Communion Assistant:	Lisa Gausman
Sound System:	Seth Gausman
Offering Counters:	Curt Wehr and Gene Krieger
Altar Committee:	Gary Westerfeld

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:
for water from our tap, for rain and snow,
for our local watershed, all creeks, streams or tributaries
that nourish us and this land.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:
for delivering Noah and his family through the
floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the
sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah
through the time of drought, for guiding your people
across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the
Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,
and for all who gather here;

for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.
We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:

for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of
the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now
and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: **ELW 369**
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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.

KYRIE

ELW p. 203

A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 204

♪ **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

♪ **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

♪ **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

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.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

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.

A reading from the fourth chapter of Acts.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 133

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

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

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.

A reading from the first chapter of 1 John.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

♪ **Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

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

The holy gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

NICENE 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

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn. Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG:

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

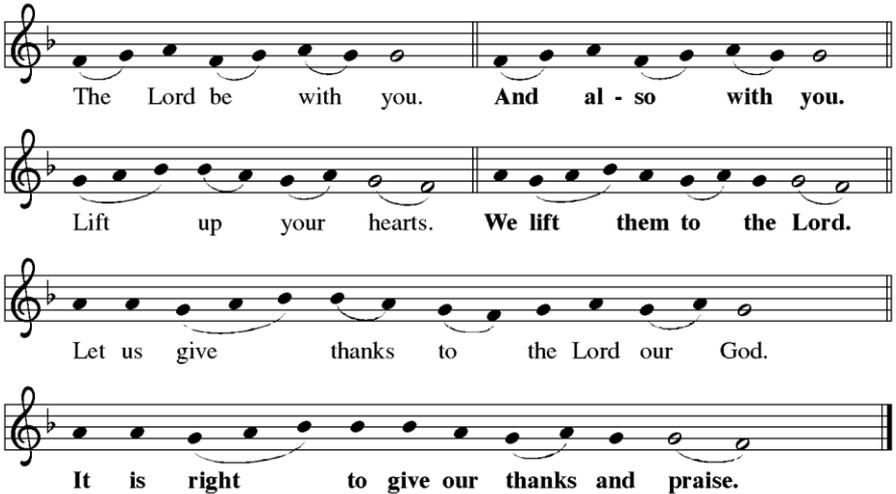
Let us pray together.

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**♪Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the
highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God,
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
So that everyone who believes in him may not perish but
have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to
fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things
for our salvation.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 208

♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.

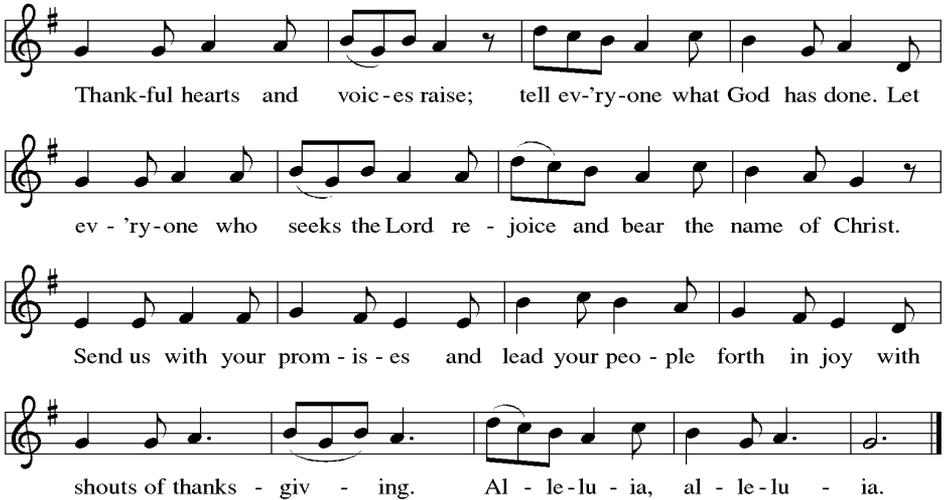
BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

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

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.

May the strength of God pilot us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us.

May the way of God direct us.

May the shield of God defend us.

May the host of God guard us against all evil and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with you, Christ before you,

Christ in you, Christ over you.

May Almighty God, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Thine Is the Glory*

ELW 376

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Marilyn Gausman Noah Mack

Mikayla Siebert Todd Siebert

Macy Young

Art and Karen Salvitti Marlin and Julia Siebert

Dan and Sarajane Wilson

Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)

Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)

Louise Eads (Michelle Wehr's grandmother)

Garrett (Aaron Nicholson's friend)

Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)

Ruth Hunger (Ellen Siebert's mother)

Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)

George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)

Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)

Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)

Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)

Carol Rayve and Ron Price (Karen Salvitti's mother and friend)

Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)

Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)

Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)

Louis Scheele (John and Kathy W.'s neighbor)

Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)

Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)

John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)

Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)

Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence

all who serve in the military

Tuesday –

SEIC Clergy meeting 10:00 AM

Wednesday –

1st year confirmation class 6:30 -8:00 PM

Choir practice 7:30 PM

Saturday –

I-K Synod Stewardfest 8:30 AM -3:30 PM

Sunday –

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

The **Margarita Moms** are collecting toilet paper, canned potatoes, laundry soap, and Hamburger Helper for Safe Passage. Please leave them in the containers in the education hallway. Thank you to all who continue to donate.

The **I-K Synod Stewardfest** will be held Sat. April 14th at St. John Lutheran, Hubbles Corner. Registration begins at 8:30, and the day will conclude at 3:30. There will be a variety of workshops available to attend. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Paul Gausman will be celebrating his 90th birthday on April 14th. His family is hosting an open house from 1:00 to 4:00 at Andy Gausman's home that day to honor him. All members are invited to attend.

Semi-Annual Meeting is May 13 following worship.

With Springs arrival also comes the possibility of severe weather. In the event of a Tornado Warning, while meeting at the church, everyone is advised to seek shelter within the inner rooms and hallway of the education wing away from all windows and doors. Please do not seek shelter in the church basement as the danger of masonry failure could lead to a heightened risk of bodily injury.

The **DLYO** is wrapping up their fundraising for the Houston trip this summer. In April we would like to invite you to join us to **Cookies and Canvas!** Enjoy some yummy cookies and become an artist on Sunday April 15th from 1:30 to 3:30! The cost is \$30 per person. Please see a DLYO leader or youth to purchase a ticket between March 25th and April 8th. A picture of the painting is on the bulletin board. Thank you!

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8



Fundraisers - Houston 2018:

Gas2Go: (DLYO)

Drop your spare change into the gas can on the table by the water fountain. All monies will be used for transportation.

Sponsor a Mile: (DLYO)

It's 2106 miles to Houston and back. We have estimated \$2.05 per mile. Sponsor some miles for the group. So far, we've raised 15 MILES!!

We are also **selling stock in our youth**. You can purchase shares at \$10 per share. Please see any DLYO member for an order form!

Wounded Resurrection Power Restores Community

Jesus' resurrection confronts the sadness and loneliness of Thomas's doubt. Many people in congregations left last Sunday's celebration of the resurrection with feelings similar to those of Thomas. Somehow, Thomas was not in the right place at the right time to see Jesus show up in the flesh. No doubt, people in the pews can relate to Thomas's missed opportunity. Perhaps they were unable to attend a family Easter gathering. Maybe a bunch of friends had box seats to the hottest game in town, and they were not able to afford one. Maybe a chemo treatment interrupted an opportunity for career advancement. Human beings are endlessly plagued with feelings of not fully belonging to the group, and they desire a savior to use magical power to restore perfection.

Time and again, the disciples seek a messiah who overwhelms them and the world with crushing military might and magical cures. Today, the power of the resurrection is most realized in the real, deep wounds of Jesus' own body. Without those wounds and the real sacrifice that God made on the cross, Thomas's faith would always be hobbled by his overwhelming doubt. Yet people still ask: how can God's reality of overflowing love and life confront and transform our parched world and wounded bodies?

Jesus makes faith happen today by breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and blessing them with peace. He shows Thomas and all God's people that the

life-changing resurrection embraces the wounds all people carry. God the Creator's peace, Jesus' wounds, and the breath of the Holy Spirit lead Thomas to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Then, Thomas trusts God to care for his body and his life. Just like Jesus' ministry prior to the cross, Jesus reaches for the outsider and restores Thomas to his place in the community.

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