The Second Sunday of Easter April 7, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and



congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. *C:* Amen.
- *P:* Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.
- At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *C:* Amen.



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

*GREETING

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.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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. *C:* **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133 (read responsively)

¹How good and how pleasant it is,

when kindred live together in unity!

- ²It 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.

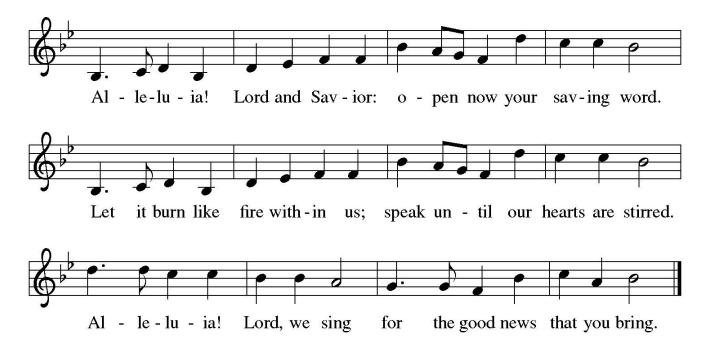
SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



*Gospel: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John.

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The Risen Christ

***NICENE CREED**

- *P*: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.
- *C:* 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.

Pastor Traci

ELW # 390

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- *A:* Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.
- *A:* Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- *A:* Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- *A:* Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- A: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain. God of grace, *C*: hear our prayer.
- *A:* Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- A: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace, *C*: hear our prayer.
- *P:* Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. *C:* **Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray... Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

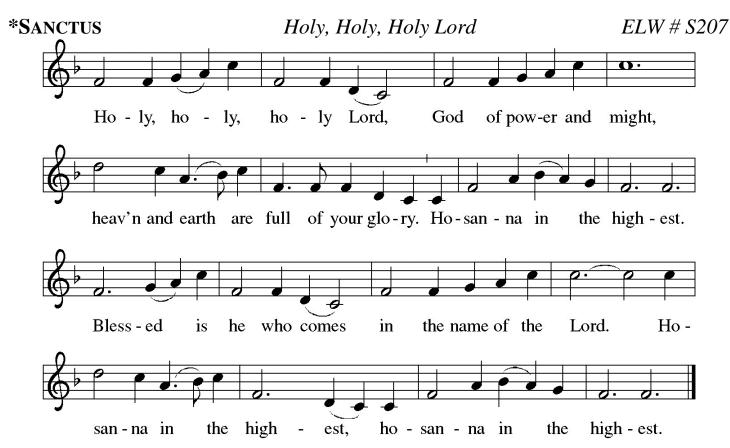
C: And also with you.

- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

- *P*: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
- And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- *P:* Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his con
- And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- *P:* Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
- *C:* Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C: 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

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*THE AGNUS DEI
                                      Lamb of God
                                                                  ELW # S208
                                                       all the world a - way;
       1 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
                                                          the world a - way;
       2 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
                                                       all
                                                       all the world a - way;
       3 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
         you suf-fered death our
                                   lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
                                   guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
                       free
                             from
         you set us
                      peace with
                                   God you made: give us your peace, we pray.
         e - ter-nal
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*INVITATION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

CUVIVIUNIUNIUNIUNII VIN INVVVV VVE JOHN HIV CELEDIGHUON INVVV $# 40$	COMMUNION HYMN	Now We Join in Celebration	<i>ELW</i> # 462
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*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. *C*: Amen.

*SENDING SONG

Thine Is the Glory

ELW # 376

*DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE

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Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in memory of our grandson, Vincent Reimer from Rick and Cindy Snyder.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Assisting Minister – Michael Lamborn Our Lector – Elaine Smith Our Acolyte – Gabby Decker Our Usher – Dennis Smith Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping"

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Jenn – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today –	2 nd Sunday of Easter
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
	Special Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary After Worship
Tuesday –	Council Meeting, Window Room/Zoom 6:30 p.m.
Sunday –	3 rd Sunday of Easter
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Ginny Sell.

Prayer Concerns: Dawn Alexy, Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Tana Byler, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Emily Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting, along with the regular helpers, to distribute items on Thursday, April 18. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.



Following are the most needed items for April: Ravioli, Jello, Instant Oatmeal, Crackers and Cleaning Products



These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

Monetary gifts may be sent to our new mailing address: P.O. Box 310, Martinsburg, PA 16662

> Thank you! *Linda Smith*



The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. The following dates are available: 4/28, 5/26, 7/21, 7/28, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1, 12/22. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024



Our Congregational Council has called a special **Congregational Meeting** for today, **Sunday, April 7**, immediately following the conclusion of worship, in accordance with Section C10.02 of our Constitution.

The sole business to be conducted at that meeting will be a vote regarding a proposal by the Property Committee to contract with **Snowberger Construction LLC** of **Martinsburg** to remove the existing concrete porch, ramp, steps and a portion of the sidewalk at the Maple Street entrance. They will then install a new concrete porch, steps, and ramp. The ramp will be wider with dual railings to bring it into ADA compliance.

The Property Committee solicited five bids for this work, as follows:

- Snowberger Construction LLC. \$10,935.00
- Cordell Construction \$11,600.00
- Valley View Builders \$12,065.00
- Dwayne Smith Construction \$12,475.00
- Ralph J Albarano No Bid

Upon the removal of the worn carpet at the Maple Street entrance for replacement last summer, it was determined that the concrete underneath the carpet was deteriorating and would need replaced. Upon consultation with Russell Dickson of RGD Engineering, the Property Committee made a proposal for the necessary work. **At March's meeting, the Council expressed unanimous support for the Property Committee's proposal.**

If you have any questions before next Sunday's meeting, please contact our Property Committee Chair, Ed Kreider.



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2023 and as a result has \$6,072.30 for distribution in 2024. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 26, 2024. Funds will be distributed in June 2024.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.

2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.

3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.

4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



Use this QR Code to donate or send a check to: Lutheran Campus Ministry 211A Pasquerilla Spiritual Center University Park, PA 16802

Church Messenger

at PENN STATE

The April 2024 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. ***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The Risen Christ

ELW # 390



Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949 Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission. **COMMUNION HYMN**

Now We Join in Celebration



Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress ***SENDING SONG**

Thine Is the Glory



Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759