



## ***The Resurrection of Our Lord:***

***Easter Sunday***

**April 17, 2022**

8:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

*We give thanks for improving local conditions regarding Covid-19: fewer folks in our area are testing positive, being hospitalized, or dying from the virus. In light of these changes, and out of consideration for our members who remain medically vulnerable or care for those who are, we are inviting members at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday and Lenten Wednesday services to choose whether or not to wear a mask, except while singing when we ask everyone to mask. We ask that members continue to wear a mask throughout the whole 8:30 a.m. Sunday service, and we recommend the 8:30 a.m. service for those who want to attend in person but who are at higher risk. Please continue to test if you have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, and please participate in worship from home by livestream if you feel ill, are awaiting test results, or have recently tested positive. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect and care for one another.*

***Everyone Is Invited to Sing All the Hymns While Remaining Masked***

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

**P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**

**C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## 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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

### CHOIR ANTHEM

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 65:17-25

<sup>17</sup>I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. <sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup>They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. <sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD

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

**PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24** (*To be read responsively.*)

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### \*Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

<sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

\*HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ELW # 363



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion  
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.  
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

## **BAPTISMAL LITURGY**

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Maddox Andrew Meck baptized into Christ?

***Response: We do.***

P As you bring Maddox to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

***Response: We do.***

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Maddox in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

***Response: We do.***

P People of God, do you promise to support Maddox and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C We do.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***Response: I renounce them.***

P Do you believe in God the Father?

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P Maddox Andrew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P *Let us pray...* We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.



P Sustain Maddox with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P Maddox, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C Amen.**

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **YOUTH CHIME CHOIR**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

P Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, **C receive our prayer.**

P We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy. **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:

### SANCTUS

### Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE AGNUS DEI

### *O Lamb of God*

ELW # S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### **INVITATION**

P The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

### **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**

P We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **C Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

P God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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## DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**C Thanks be to God.**

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**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or  
live-streamed on social media.**

### Church Messenger

The April 2022 *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.

### Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursday, April 21. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.

**Following is the “Wish List” for April:** Sunny D (medium size) bottles, Ravioli, Pineapple, Pasta Sides and Cleaning Supplies.

*Linda Smith*

**Welcome to the family of St. Matthew** through Holy Baptism Maddox Andrew Meck. Maddox is the son of Brandon Meck and Alexcia Acosta of Martinsburg. Grandparents are Darin and Heather Meck and Great Grandmother is Linda Smith.

**Annual Directories** are done and in a box on the table in the Narthex. Please take your copy home with you. If you know a sick or shut-in please take their copy to them. If I happened to miss providing you with a copy please put your name on the tablet and one will be there the following Sunday.

## **Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolytes – Jeffrey Hoenstine, Max & Mace Baker

Our Lector – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild – Tina Harclerode, Tonya Walter

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Youth & Camping*”**

### **Office Hours This Week:**

Pastor Traci –Wed. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Office Hours – Tues.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Lori Tremmel

### **This Week Events**

**Today –** Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

May Messenger Article Deadline

**Monday –** Worship & Music Meeting via Zoom 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday -** Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

Yoga, Fellowship Hall 4:45 p.m.

**Saturday -** Sequanota 5K

**Sunday –** Worship in Sanctuary 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our parents, children and grandchildren from Steve and Kim Oswalt.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Bill Stahl, Norm Tremmel, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Betty Helsel, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreuzer, Carrie Lively, Mike Lovell, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Elaine Ormsby, Pastor Drahos Oslikova, Deb Peters, Linda Piper, Jensine Reese, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Don Smith, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Jean White, Pete Williams, Jim Zeek, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

**Those Serving in the Army Overseas:** Nathan Smith (Germany)

### **The Knotty Ladies are back!!**

For those who may have forgotten our mission, or for new members not familiar with this group of ladies, we are St. Matthew's blanket group. We make knotted blankets that we send to New Windsor, MD. From there they are distributed around the world.

We meet in the basement (Quilt Room) from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday and the fifth Tuesday if there is one, starting on April 26. During that time we knot the blankets. There is also opportunity at other times to help with preparations of materials used in the blankets and final binding.

Come join us for this time of service and fellowship. **All are welcome!**

### **Events at Sequanota**

**April 22-24: 5K Benefit Weekend**

Grab a sponsor sheet and get family and friends to sponsor you (\$1/km - \$5 donation). Run at home or choose one of two marked courses at Sequanota. Cabins will be available for reservations? Watch the website and Facebook page for more information.



**Saturday, May 14: Intergenerational Day at Camp Sequanota**

**9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. - "God's Great Creation"**

For All Ages—Youth and Youth Groups Welcome with Chaperones. *Register at [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com). \$8/Person, ages 5 and Under—Free*  
(Optional Overnight Accommodations Friday Night—\$20/person)



## **Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)**

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2021 and as a result has \$5,705 for distribution in 2022. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting David Lehman, chairperson, or committee members Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, Beth Garner or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 29, 2022. Funds will be distributed in June 2022.

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 annuity 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.

# Alleluia!

## CHRIST IS RISEN

Easter 2022

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

We say those words with gusto on Easter Sunday. For weeks in Lent we have been refraining from using the word alleluia and have been focused on repentance and mending our sinful ways. When we get to Easter Sunday, we are more than ready to shout, Alleluia! and celebrate with joy the risen life of Jesus.

When we finally get to Easter, I always enjoy the hymn *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia* (ELW 364). I don't know if it's the catchy tune or the words that have meant so much to me. It is one of those hymns that could have you tapping your foot—yes, even in church! Perhaps that is part of the reason I love the hymn. Too often, we find ourselves being stoic or reserved in church. We seem to forget the true joy of the story we have been invited into.

The refrain of the hymn says: "Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!"

Friends, Jesus IS living—in you and in me. That is a reason to celebrate. I pray you will find endless joy in the great love poured out for you on the cross; and that your celebration of that love is contagious.

May your celebration of Easter joy last throughout the year.

Alleluia!

+Bishop Paula

# *I know that my Redeemer lives*

This Easter, many of us will be able to gather in person for glorious celebrations of our Lord's resurrection. But the first Easter was in a cemetery, surrounded by tombstones. The women and then the men disciples came to see what had happened to their Lord. They expected to find a dead body, but instead they found God's defiant answer to death.

As St. Paul writes in Corinthians, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Oh, death, where is your victory? Oh, death, where is your sting?"

I know now that we're entering the third year of this pandemic, and we see the signs of stress and incivility, even the signs of war and disease in Ethiopia and Sudan, in Europe. It might seem like death still has sway, but we can declare confidently on this Easter and all times what Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh, I shall see God."

Centuries ago, the Russian Orthodox developed this beautiful poem, the Kontakion of the Departed. It's often used at gravesites. "Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind, and we are mortal, formed of the earth and to the earth shall we return. For so you did ordain when you created a thing. You are dust and to dust you shall return. All of us go down to the dust. Yet even at the grave we make our song. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

*Blessed Easter, dear church.*

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

