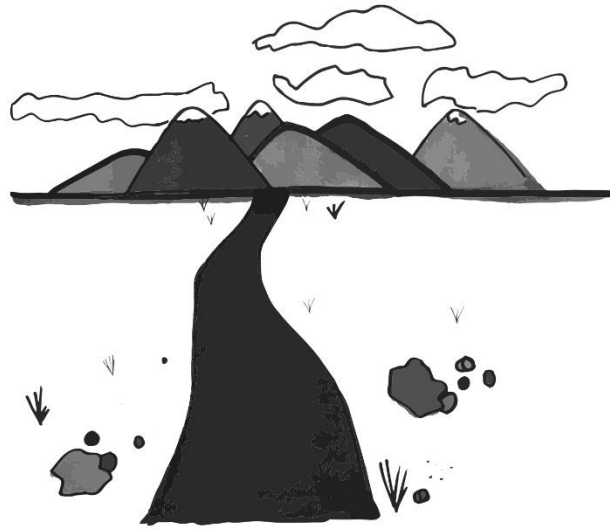




# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MADISON, ALABAMA

## May 3, 2026 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*



*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

### ***Good Morning and Welcome!***

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

**ORDER OF WORSHIP FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting Eight*

PRELUDE "Come, Thou Fount" (Young)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism...

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**\*GATHERING SONG "Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

ELW 671

***Refrain***

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

***Verse 1***

Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

***Verse 2***

As we gaze on your kingly brightness

So our faces display your likeness

Ever changing from glory to glory

Mirrored here may our lives tell your story


Shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

**\*GREETING**


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**

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"**

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the  
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**FIRST READING**

Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

**PSALM**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## GOSPEL FANFARE

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL**

John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Kris Schroeder

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY "What Wondrous Love Is This"**

ELW 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.  
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (11:00)

### \*CREED

2025-2026 Confirmation Class

**We believe in God, who created all there is and ever will be.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was created by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was made to suffer, hung on a cross, died and was buried. Jesus descended to the dead. Rose on the third day, ascended into heaven and is now at the Father's right hand where he will judge all humans past and present. We believe that through Jesus we are saved.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the worldwide church, that our sins are forgiven, and that we have been promised that we will live in God's kingdom forever. Amen.**

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

### \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### OFFERING

Anthem (8:30): "Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God" (Young)

Choir

Piano Solo (11:00): "Terra Beata" (Mark Hayes)

Melanie Payne

**\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”**

ELW 181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a final cadence on a whole note.

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a final cadence on a whole note.



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN "Amazing Grace"

ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

HYMN “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

WOV 767

*Refrain*

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,  
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,  
4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

*Refrain*

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.  
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.  
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.  
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.  
Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

HYMN “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

ELW 860

1 I’m so glad I’m so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me. I’m so glad Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,

sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

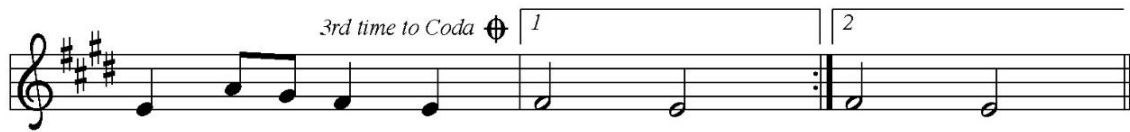
**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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**\*BLESSING**

**\*SENDING SONG "We Are Marching in the Light"**

ELW 866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

*nyen'kwen-khos'.*                      *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen-khos',*  
light of God.                      We are march - ing in the light of God,

*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Si - ya - ham - ba*                      (*ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba*) OO  
We are march - ing                      (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Si - ya - ham - ba*                      (*ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba*) OO  
We are march - ing                      (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO

*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen'kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*  
We are dancing ...  
We are praying ...  
We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984  
Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional  
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **We will! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE “Hymn to Joy” (Thomas Keesicker)

## WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth  
Don & Lizzie Palmer  
Lindsey & the Porter Family  
Kevin  
Leighann  
Connie Stanger  
Victoria Zutter

Larry  
Brittany  
Stephen  
Rich  
David, Bryant & Sharon  
David  
Beth

Kathi  
Paulette McNamara  
Anita deJong  
Jerry Baker  
Teresa Bacon

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE** with 3 young men of Messiah; Miles Bennett, Thomas Seitz and Henry Zomkowski as they affirm their faith through Confirmation. Please be sure to encourage them on their journey of faith.

**THE FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God by Andrew King in celebration of Susan King's birthday tomorrow 🍰

**ALL ARE INVITED** to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

**A NURSERY** staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT 12:15 P.M. TODAY.** Please plan to attend so that we reach quorum. The annual reports will be reviewed and our church council nominees will be voted on.

**MUSIC CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10<sup>th</sup>.** Register and Volunteer with the QR codes provided. Contacts: Bonnie Flower, Laura Peterson.



**HIP HIP HOORAY FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES -- OLIVIA SULLIVAN**

**AND RYAN FEDRICK!** Our Messiah family is invited to send them out into the world with plenty of love and supplies for the next phase of their lives. Baskets will be in the Narthex starting today, May 3 through May 17. Some great basket fillers are towels, detergent, gift cards, and office supplies. Baskets will be presented on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 a.m. worship for the graduate blessing.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN COLLABORATION WITH ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** takes place June 22-25 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**ARTREACH PRESENTS CHRISTMAS IN JULY: A GREETING CARD UPCYCLE WORKSHOP, JULY 11.**

Sign up for this fun workshop on reusing Christmas greeting cards for unique holiday cards and gifts. This is a free event open to the community. Light refreshments provided. Workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to noon. Please contact Meredith Kilby, meredith.kilby@gmail.com, to pre-register, spots are limited.

**MESSIAH NAME TAGS.** If you did not receive your name tag or if you missed the deadline and would like to place an order, please let the office or Laura Peterson know.

**KIT MINISTRY – 4 oz. Bars of Soap**

**FOOD PANTRY – Shampoo / Deodorant**

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**THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH FOR LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

and to their families and our youth leaders for their support this past week,  
preparing and practicing!

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**\*CHURCH CALENDAR\*\***

**Sunday, May 3 - Youth Sunday, Confirmation, Congregational Meeting**

- 8:30 a.m. – \*Service of Worship ELW Setting Eight with the Lord’s Supper
- 9:00 a.m. - Spring Pop Up Handmade Market
- 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. – Service of Worship ELW Setting Eight with the Lord’s Supper / Confirmation
- 12:15 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

**Monday, May 4**

- 6:00 p.m - Dinner Theatre Rehearsal

**Tuesday, May 5**

- 9:00 a.m. - Comforters
- 6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology

**Wednesday, May 6**

- 7:00 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 7**

- 11:00 a.m. - ArtReach
- 6:30 p.m. - Kit Ministry

**Sunday, May 10**

- 8:30 a.m. – \*Service of Worship ELW Setting Four with the Lord’s Supper
- 9:45 a.m. – Adult Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. – Service of Worship ELW Setting Four with the Lord’s Supper
- 12:15 p.m. - Instrumental Ensemble
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| May 17 - Final Sunday School Class<br>End of Year Party<br>Graduate Recognition Sunday | May 25 - Memorial Day, Office Closed                       |
| May 19 - Comforters Last Meeting before summer break.                                  | May 27 - No Choir Rehearsal, break for summer              |
| May 24 - One 9:30 a.m. Sunday<br>Worship for Summer Months Starts                      | June 1 - 7 - Music Camp                                    |
|  | July 11 - ArtReach Workshop                                |
|  | June 22 – 25 - Joint Vacation Bible School at St. Matthews |

8:30 Worship	
Altar Guild	Linda Peirce
Stream Team	Meredith Kilby, Timothy Pitchko
Flower Guild	Jutta DeMarsh

11:00 Worship	
Altar Guild	Debbie Neely
Stream Team	Stephen Strand
Flower Guild	Jutta DeMarsh

**ATTENDANCE**      April 19 Online: 94                      April 26: 8:30 – 88                      11:00 – 54

Pastor	Kristine Schroeder	Interim Youth Leader	Connor Campbell
Director of Music	Randall Fields	Communications Director	Jan Morrison
Organist/Accompanist	Melanie Payne	Office Manager	Jill Casey