



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MADISON, ALABAMA

May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting Four

PRELUDE "Ave Maria" (Schubert/Callahan)

Melanie Payne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK Long Range Planning Committee

INTROIT "On Christ the Solid Rock" (Pethel)

Instrumental Ensemble

*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 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ELW 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re-born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

***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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



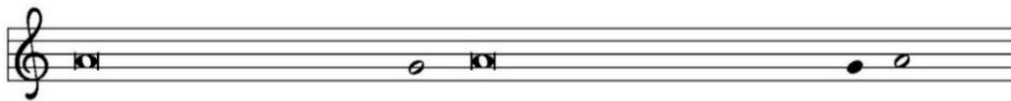
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "This is the Feast"

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

PSALM

Psalms 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows –**

¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your

defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

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.

* GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

*GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Kristine Schroeder

(verse 1: choir; verses 2-4: all)

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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

Organ Solo (8:30): “Lyrisch Stück” (GA Merkel)

Melanie Payne

Anthem (11:00): “Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me” (Scott)

Choir

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

ELW 184

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 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.

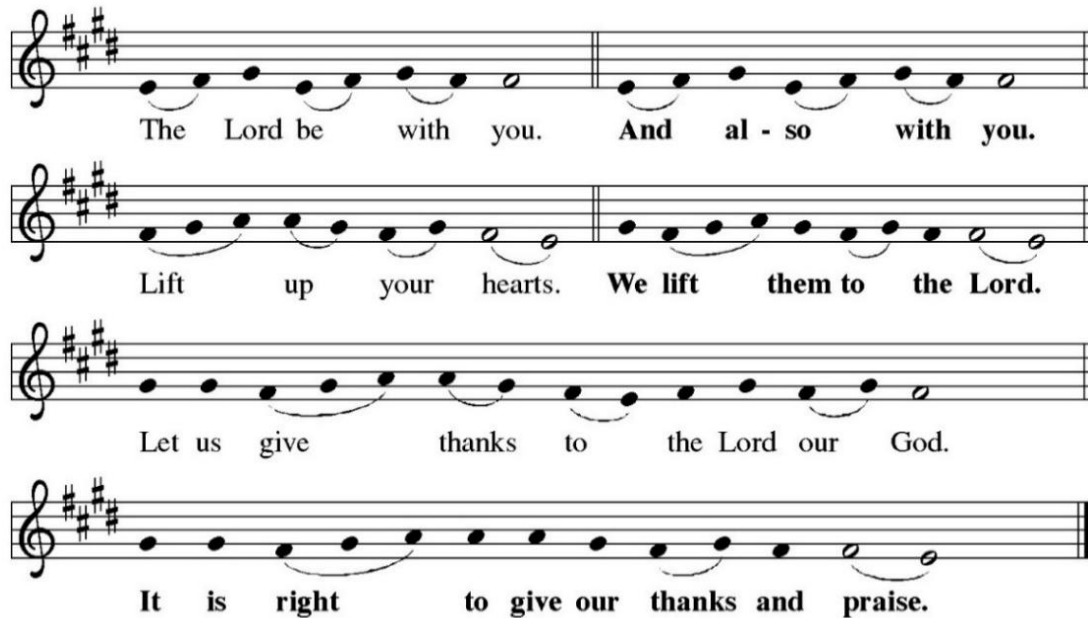
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,

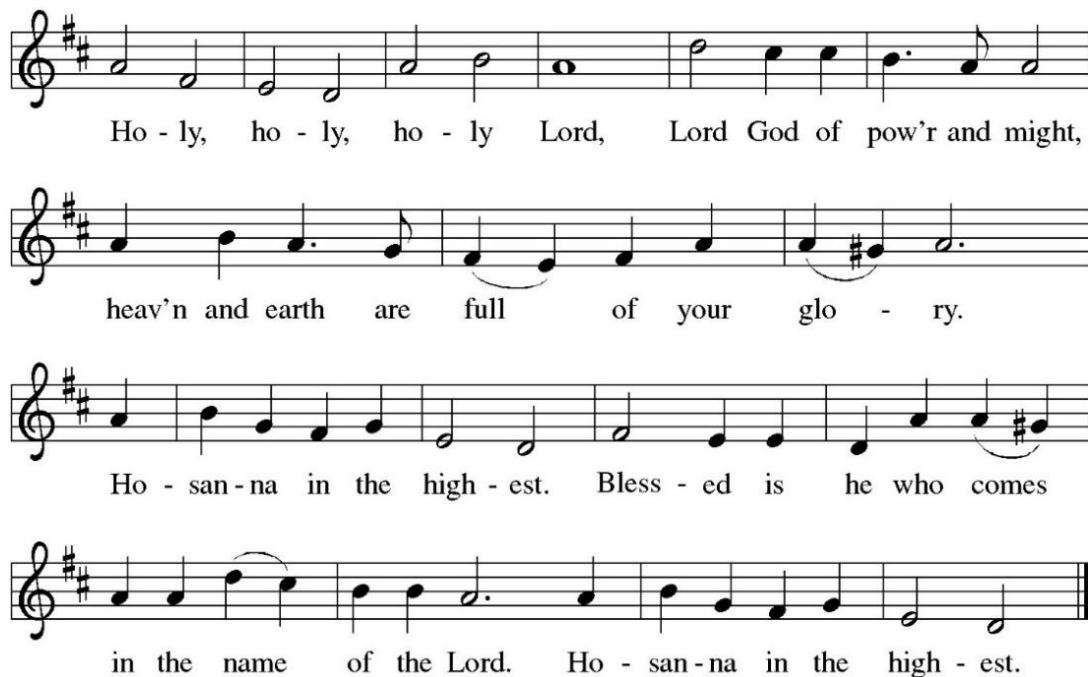
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE**



The Lord be with you. 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.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

***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 world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

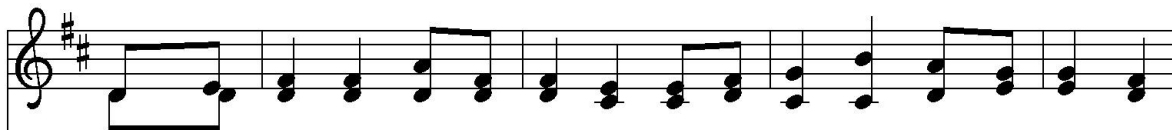


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär-nan ej på him-la - fäs - tet, få-geln ej i kän-da näs - tet.
 nest-ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

ELW 398

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
 5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;

breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
 kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
 by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
 speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
 be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892
 Music: SONG 13, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625



- 1 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thy maj - es - ty how bright!
- 2 How won - der - ful, how beau - ti - ful the sight of thee must be—
- 3 No earth - ly fa - ther loves like thee; no moth - er, e'er so mild,
- 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, al - might - y as thou art,
- 5 My God, how won - der - ful thou art, thou ev - er - last - ing friend!



How beau - ti - ful thy mer - cy seat in depths of burn - ing light!
 thine end - less wis - dom, bound - less pow'r, and awe - some pu - ri - ty!
 bears and for - bears as thou hast done with me, thy sin - ful child.
 for thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.
 On thee I stay my trust - ing heart till faith in vi - sion end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863

Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE "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 - jice 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

Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

***BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"**

ELW 392



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE Fantasia on "Forest Green" (Lani Smith)

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
 Jonathan

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Marc Neely in celebration of Debbie Neely’s birthday, the expectant birth (any day now!) of their newest granddaughter – their daughter, Heather’s, child and in celebration of Mother’s everywhere!

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.

TODAY IS LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR MUSIC CAMP. Be sure to register your child and let anyone who’s interested know that registration ends today. Register and Volunteer with the QR codes provided. Contacts: Bonnie Flower, Laura Peterson.



CELEBRATE OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES -- OLIVIA SULLIVAN AND RYAN FEDRICK! Let’s 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 through May 17. Some great basket fillers are towels, detergent, gift cards, and office supplies. Baskets will be presented on May 17th at the 11:00 a.m. worship for the graduate blessing.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – MADISON HOSPITAL DONATIVE DRIVE. In support of Life Scout, Anjana Raman’s pursuit of an Eagle Scout ranking, we are collecting items that will be used to make Unit Resource Kits for Madison Hospital healthcare staff and their patients. Anjana is a member of Troop 404 that meets at our church. Check out the collection box in the Narthex and details of what items are needed. Be generous and of good heart!

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

8:30 Worship	
Cantor	Emily Reed
Lector	Greg Kilby
Greeter	Rick and LeeLinda Baggett
Usher	Glen Long, Owen Wasmoen
Altar Guild	Joanne Weber, Janet Smith
Stream Team	Glen Long, Lee Seitz
Flower Guild	Bev Berry

11:00 Worship	
Cantor	Jackson Bennett
Lector	Laura Peterson
Usher	Bill Holbrook, Paul Arnold
Altar Guild	Karen Arnold
Stream Team	Miles Bennett
Flower Guild	Bev Berry

CHURCH CALENDAR*

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
- 6:30 p.m. – Notabella Rehearsal

Monday, May 11

- 6:00 p.m. – Dinner Theatre Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 13

- 9:00 a.m. – Comforters
- 11:00 a.m. – Worship and Music Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

- 7:00 p.m. – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

- 6:30 p.m. – Kit Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Friday, May 15

- 4:30 p.m. – Contemporary Worship Set Up

Saturday, May 16

- 10:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

Sunday, May 17

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

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 19 – Comforters Last Meeting before summer
break
- May 24 – One 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship for
Summer Month Starts
- May 25 – Memorial Day, Office Closed
- May 27 – No Choir Rehearsal, break for summer
- June 1 - 7 – Music Camp
- July 11 – ArtReach Workshop

June 22 – 25 - Joint Vacation Bible School at St.
Matthews

ATTENDANCE

April 26 Online: 78
May 3: 8:30 – 80

11:00 – 67

Pastor
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist

Kristine Schroeder
Randall Fields
Melanie Payne

Interim Youth Leader
Communications Director
Office Manager

Connor Campbell
Jan Morrison
Jill Casey