



Communion Notice Today we celebrate Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's own body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because we believe that participation in this sacrament is also a public confession of unity in the faith we invite communicant members of congregations in fellowship with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to receive the sacrament.

We welcome our fellow Christians who wish to come forward but do not share all our beliefs to fold their arms in front of them and receive a blessing. We pray that our common baptism and the continued work of the Holy Spirit will draw us closer to one another and dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that as we are led into all truth from God's Word such divisions will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Let us all express in our hearts a prayerful desire for such unity of faith to be achieved.

General Announcements:

Welcome to our guests. We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out a yellow attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor. If you would like information on becoming a member at St. John's, please mark the yellow card accordingly, and we will contact you.

ETERNAL CANDLE The eternal candle glows to the glory of God from Lucille Perley.

ALTAR FLOWERS The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar are from Lucille Perley.

PASTORAL CALL UPDATE At a special voter's assembly on April 12th, the members of St. John's voted unanimously to extend a call to Rev. Peter Deberny from Grace Lutheran Church in New York. Please keep Rev. Deberny and his congregation in your prayers as he deliberates our call.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS 1 Peter 1:18-19 – "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." Christ ransomed us and bought us back from the slavery into which we were born. We do not belong to ourselves, to the devil or to the world. We belong to Jesus. Therefore, we live our lives not in accordance with our own wisdom, but in line with God's Word.

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you haven't already picked up your 2026 envelopes, please do so! Also, if you no longer wish to have assigned envelopes, please let the Office know.

USHERS NEEDED If you are willing and able to assist with Usher duties on Sundays, please contact Glen McMillin (309.314.2419). You do not have to commit to a full month at a time. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

DIRECTOR OF PARISH MUSIC APPRECIATION April is a full month of celebration — both in our Risen Lord and in the work that He still accomplishes through His church. We recognize and give thanks to God for the many volunteers who keep our congregations running smoothly. We also give thanks for our Directors of Parish Music (DPMs) who fill our churches with beautiful music and song. Visit lcms.org/workerwellness for more details.

BAKE SALE Zion Lutheran Church in Hampton is hoping to start a food pantry and community garden— and they would like your help. All are invited to a bake sale, also featuring a silent auction and raffle. Come to Zion Lutheran on Saturday, April 25th from 1-5pm and help our community!

EASTER LILIES Thank you to everyone that purchased lilies to beautify the sanctuary for Easter! Please take them home now. Any lilies still left on the table at the end of April will be given away.

BIBLE TRIVIA According to Paul, how many people saw Jesus after His resurrection?

- A) one
- B) 12
- C) 27
- D) more than 500

*April 18th and 19th, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
Divine Service Setting IV*

Prelude
Preparation
"Alleluia, Alleluia..." 477
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Holy Gospel (*See Cream Insert*)
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"With High Delight..." 483
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(Sat.) Pastor Astrowski
(Sun.) Pastor Anderson "In the Breaking of Bread"
Prayers 207

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Distribution
Heavenly Ringers- "The Church's One Foundation" by: Wesley, arr. by McKlveen
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"Awake, My Heart..." 467

Nunc Dimittis 211
Collect — Benediction 212

"Thine the Amen..." 680

Postlude

The Lord's Week

Sunday, April 19th

9:00am– Worship w/Communion
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school
10:15am– Confirmation instruction

Monday, April 20th

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes
6:00pm– Cherub Chimers rehearsal
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

Tuesday, April 21st

10:00am– Food Pantry
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

Wednesday, April 22nd

10:00am– Women's Bible study
1:30pm– Activities room-dominoes

Saturday, April 25th

8:00am– Men's Bible study
5:00pm– Worship
(Pastor Mueller)

Sunday, April 26th

9:00am– Worship
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school
10:15am– Confirmation instruction

Serving the Lord this Week:

Organist: Christine Engebrecht

Greeters: *(Sat.)* Chuck Brokaw
(Sun.)

Ushers: *(Sat.)* Greg Burke, Bill Johnson, Todd Miller
& Larry Ripka

(Sun.) Evan Antolik & Family

Communion Assistants: Glen McMillin & Jonathan Schmidt

Acolyte: Nolan Johnson

Altar Guild: Kathy Ahrens & Diana Lackey

Bible Study Opportunities

Sundays, 10:15am

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship- we are studying the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

Holy Land Geography, Customs & History

Join Clark Stojan in the Keyl room, as he leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

Coffee with Christ– Myth or Faith? There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

Wednesdays, 10am- Women's Bible study

Great Women of the Bible In this Bible study series, we will look at the lives of only the most familiar women in God's Word. From Eve, the first woman, to those women who helped Jesus' apostles, participants will see God's grace in action as He calls and leads these women in their daily lives. Through their God-given faith and their faith-filled deeds, you will be inspired by these great women of the Bible.

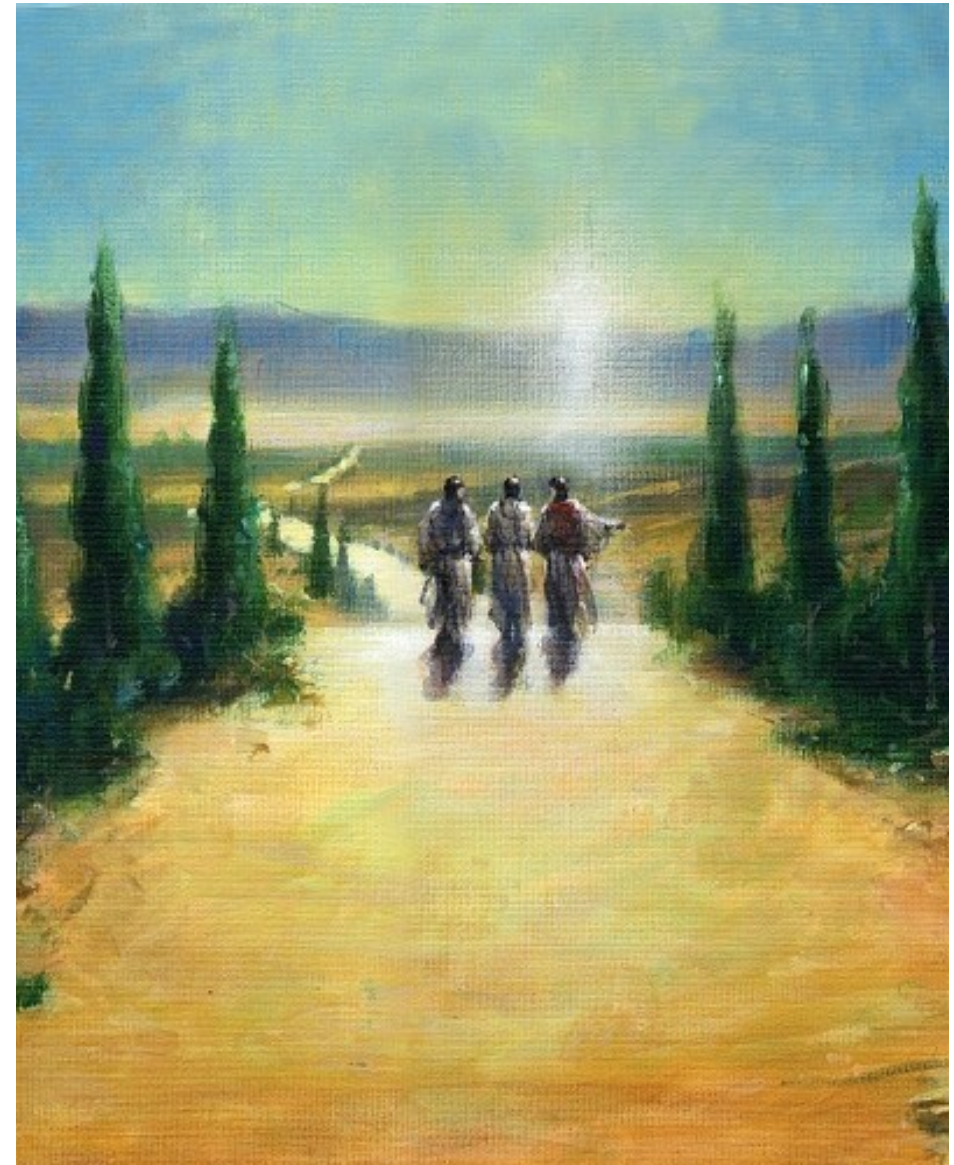
Saturdays, 8am- Men's Bible study We are doing a chronological study of the Gospel.

Weekly Memory Verse:

Mark 12:29–31

Jesus answered, "The most important [commandment] is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Trivia answer: D



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Introit

P Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

C **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

J **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Readings

P The first reading is from Acts, the second chapter.

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . . Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (*Acts 2:14a,36-41*)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Epistle reading is from 1 Peter, the first chapter.

If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (*1 Peter 1:17-25*)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (*Luke 24:13-35*)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CARD

April 18th & 19th, 2026

Please remember the following in your prayers this week...

Anniversaries:

James & Carole Vrban (51)

Sister Congregation

Rev. Stephen Mueller
Concordia Lutheran
Geneseo, IL

Members

Dennis & Marsha Boarts
Fred & Nancy Bonow
Lori Borkgren

Missionaries Serving

Rev. Jason & AnnaMarie
Steffenson- Italy

Military Chaplains

CPT David Wurdeman
CPT Michael Kearney

Ill & Hospitalized

Hillary Ekin- surgery
Craig Johanson
Sarah Schofield- surgery

Military Deployment

Elijah Medina- Iran

Prolonged Illness &

Special Needs:

Joan Britton
Bev Brokaw
Chuck Brokaw
Hoa Cooper (Lucille's daughter
- cancer)
Steve Fors
Duane Gosa
Nancy Gosa
Jerry Hill
Dale Johnson
Merle Loete
Reid McDonald
RaeJean Murphy
Tom Nielsen
Robin Passman
Brenda Roggendorf
Earl Schaefer
Karen Schmidt
Kathleen Schmidt
David Sountris
Ken Weidenbach
Cora Whipple

Peg Heitzman
Kathy Herron
Christopher Higgins
Ingrid Hodshire
Lori Hopkins
Mary McGee
Nancy Smart
Terry Tipsword
Barbara Veskauf

Homebound Members:

Nancy Bonow
Ann Bowman
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass
Darlene Dopson
Mary Ann Eckert
Rick & Sylvia Fauser
Angie Fischer