



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn  
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 12, 2026  
10:15 AM**



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Doyle Dahmann  
Glenn Foster  
Delwin Gaskamp  
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Acolyte

Michael Hinze

Greeter

Billie Weidemann

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 151-166

Pre-Service Music



## April Bible Verse

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

*John 17:17*

## Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of "closed" communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ's words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason, we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service.* Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

## *Ringling of the Church Bell*

### OPENING HYMN

*Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*

LSB 490



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -  
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is  
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus  
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall  
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -



pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,  
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,  
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell  
mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath



From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er  
 Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is  
 Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
 Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will  
 When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall



scenes will then com - mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the ✠ Cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

INVOCATION

*LSB 151*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*LSB 151*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

*Psalm 105:1-5,8; antiphon:1 Peter 2:2-3*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

**if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

**make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

**tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name;

**let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Seek the LORD and his strength;

**seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**

He remembers his covenant forever,

**the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

**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.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

**if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

KYRIE

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*This Is the Feast*

LSB 155



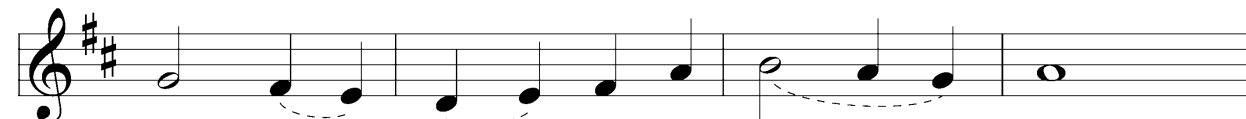
**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## GRADUAL

*adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.  
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
he has put all things under his feet.

## EPISTLE

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## COMMON ALLELUIA

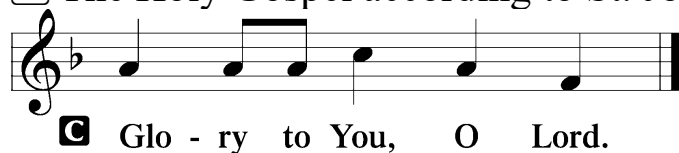
*LSB 156*


**C** 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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 20:19-31*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus

said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

NICENE CREED

*LSB 159*

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

**and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead.**

*Sit*



HYMN OF THE DAY

O Sons and Daughters of the King

LSB 471



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



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,

2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,

3 An an - gel clad in white they see,



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the

The faith - ful wom - en went their way To seek the

Who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will

*The Refrain is repeated after st. 9.*



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!

tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!

go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

4 That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, "My peace be with you  
here."

Alleluia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.

Alleluia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be."

Alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia! Refrain

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Echoes

John 20:19-31

Stand



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Sit*

OFFERING

*Stand**Marriage Banns*

**P** On April 25th, Henry Kettler and Allison Hand desire to enter the holy estate of matrimony according to the Lord's Word. They desire our prayers so that they may begin their marriage in God's name and with His blessing. If you can show just cause why these two persons should not be joined together in holy matrimony, you are to declare it before the wedding. May God grant them His blessing.

**P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You established matrimony and desire that we keep it holy. Behold with Your favor Henry Kettler and Allison Hand, who intend to have their union blessed by Your Word. Grant them Your grace so that they may begin their wedded life in You, live according to Your Word, and rejoice in Your strong love and enduring blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH  
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so 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 Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB 162*

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

**C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily  
bread;  
and forgive us our  
trespasses**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the  
glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*LSB 162*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

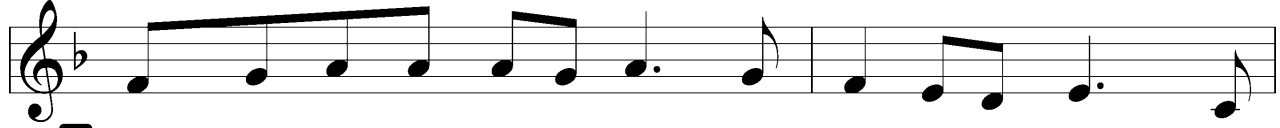
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

AGNUS DEI

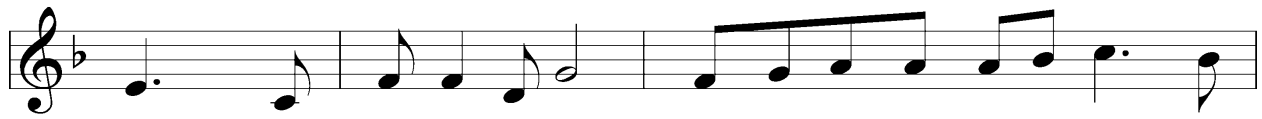
LSB 163



**C** 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.

*Sit*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

LSB 472



1 These things did Thom - as count as real: The  
 2 The vi - sion of his skep - tic mind Was  
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied That  
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve And



warmth of blood, the chill of steel, The grain of wood, the  
 keen e-nough to make him blind To an - y un - ex -  
 one could live when one had died, Un - til his fin - gers  
 thus the ris - en Christ re - ceive, Whose raw im - print - ed



heft of stone, The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.  
 pect - ed act Too large for his small world of fact.  
 read like braille The mark - ings of the spear and nail.  
 palms reached out And beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.



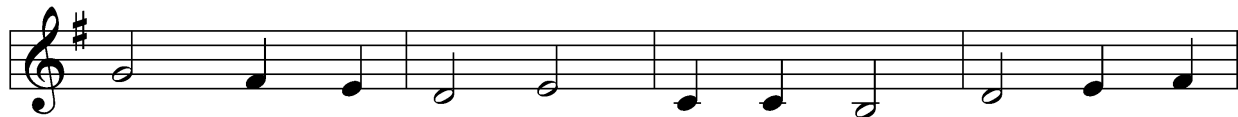
1 Lord Je - sus Christ, You have pre - pared This feast for  
 2 Al - though You did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel  
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, You are not con - fined To an - y  
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious



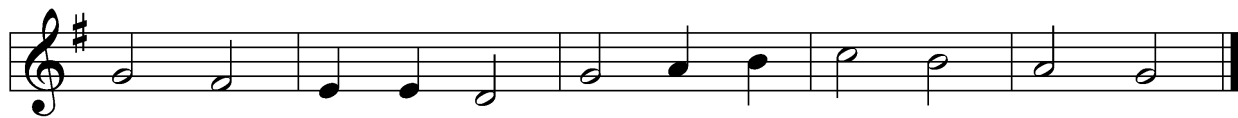
our sal - va - tion; It is Your bod - y  
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in Your pres - ence  
 hab - i - ta - tion; But You are pres - ent  
 Word be - liev - ing That Your true bod - y



and Your blood, And at Your in - vi - ta - tion  
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,  
 e - ven now Here with Your con - gre - ga - tion.  
 and Your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to  
 And though Your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by  
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, All things are



You for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.  
 and Your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,  
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.  
 pos - si - ble with You, For You are Lord Al - might - y.

5 Though reason cannot understand,

Yet faith this truth embraces:

Your body, Lord, is even now

At once in many places.

I leave to You how this can be;

Your Word alone suffices me;

I trust its truth unfailing.

6 Lord, I believe what You have said;

Help me when doubts assail me.

Remember that I am but dust,

And let my faith not fail me.

Your supper in this vale of tears

Refreshes me and stills my fears

And is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive

Your supper, Lord, our Savior,

And, truly grieving for our sins,

May prove by our behavior

That we are thankful for Your race

And day by day may run our race,

In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,

Be praised throughout all ages!

Preserve it, for in ev'ry place

The world against it rages.

Grant that this sacrament may be

A blessèd comfort unto me

When living and when dying.

*If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death*

LSB 486



1 If Christ had not been raised from death Our faith would be in vain,  
2 If Christ still lay with - in the tomb Then death would be the end,  
3 If Christ had not been tru - ly raised His Church would live a lie;



Our preach - ing but a waste of breath, Our sin and guilt re - main.  
And we should face our fi - nal doom With nei - ther guide nor friend.  
His name should nev - er - more be praised, His words de - serve to die.



But now the Lord is ris'n in - deed; He rules in earth and heav'n:  
But now the Sav - ior is raised up, So when a Chris - tian dies  
But now our great Re - deem - er lives; Through Him we are re - stored;



His Gos - pel meets a world of need— In Christ we are for - giv'n.  
We mourn, yet look to God in hope— In Christ the saints a - rise!  
His Word en - dures, His Church re - vives In Christ, our ris - en Lord.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938. Tune: Phillip Magness, 1963. Text: © 1985 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013. Tune: © 2003 Phillip Magness. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

*Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior*

LSB 640



1 Thee we a - dore, O hid - den Sav - ior, Thee,  
2 In this me - mo - rial of Thy death, O Lord,  
3 Thou, like the pel - i - can to feed her brood,  
4 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God:  
5 O Christ, whom now be - neath a veil we see,



Who in Thy Sac - ra - ment art pleased to be;  
Thou dost Thy bod - y and Thy blood af - ford:  
Didst pierce Thy - self to give us liv - ing food;  
Cleanse us, un - clean, with Thy most cleans - ing blood;  
May what we thirst for soon our por - tion be:



Both flesh and spir - it in Thy pres - ence fail,  
 Oh, may our souls for - ev - er feed on Thee,  
 Thy blood, O Lord, one drop has pow'r to win  
 In - crease our faith and love, that we may know  
 To gaze on Thee un - veiled and see Thy face,



Yet here Thy pres - ence we de - vout - ly hail.  
 And Thou, O Christ, for - ev - er pre - cious be.  
 For - give - ness for our world and all its sin.  
 The hope and peace which from Thy pres - ence flow.  
 The vi - sion of Thy glo - ry, and Thy grace. A - men.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, c. 1225–1274; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. James R. Woodford, 1820–85, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Processionale, 1697, Paris, mode V Text (sts. 2–3): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Text (sts. 1, 4–5) and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thank the Lord*

*LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, since You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us unto Yourself, grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the Good News of Your salvation that all who hear may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **C** Amen.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

CLOSING HYMN

*This Joyful Eastertide*

LSB 482



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:  
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:  
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!



## POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.*



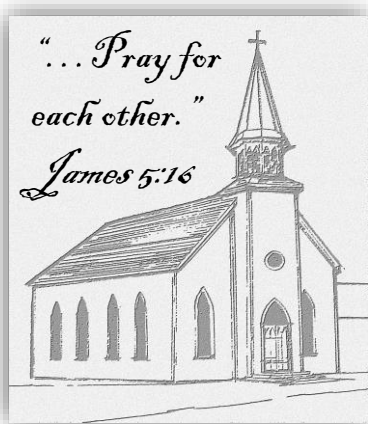
**Congregation:** for Brian and Lindsay Kimmel for the birth of their second son, Lachlan Reed Kimmel on April 7<sup>th</sup>; health and healing for David Boenker, health and healing for Jerry Kohring; health and healing for

Tim Garner (brother-in-law of Dorcas Schroeder); healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; healing for Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

**Community:** blessings on William and Skylar Killinger as he prepares for his Holy Ministry; for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

**World:** for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries.

## Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

*Please remember these families in your prayers this week:*

- Dieterich – Eric and Larissa
- Fisher – Laura
- Kettler – Pauline
- Kettler – Matt, Ashley, Caleb, Lyla, Amelia, Lily, Elijah, Theodore
- Schroeder – Scott, Kandance, Tanner
- Schroeder – Collin, Amy, Henry, Ruth

*May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**This Week's Schedule**

**April 12 – April 19**



**Today:** ***Second Sunday of Easter***  
**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Michael Hinze  
Greeter: Billie Weidemann  
Ushers: Doyle Dahmann Glenn Foster  
Delwin Gaskamp Kevin Harrington



**Monday:**  
**6:00 PM** New Members Class



**Thursday:**  
**6:30 PM** Ladies Bible Study



**Next Sunday:** ***Third Sunday of Easter***  
**9:00 AM** Sunday School & Adult Bible Class  
**10:15 AM** Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion  
Acolyte: Norman Krieg  
Greeter: Judy Baichtal  
Ushers: Kevin Goessler Connor Gresham  
Ryan Gresham Stanley Haferkamp

**Serving in April: Elder** – Clinton Kettler / **Trustee** – Doyle Dahmann

*If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.*



*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in celebration of the birthdays of Winston Krieg and Giuliana Krieg.*

## *Adopt a* **Seminarian**

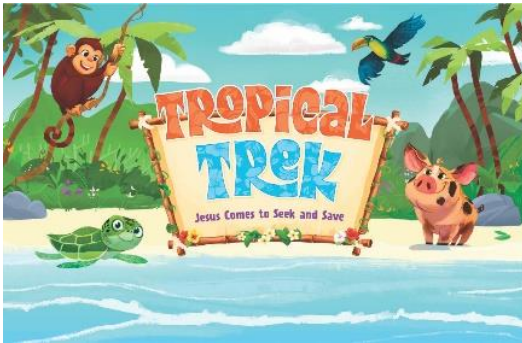
Through our congregation's participation in the Adopt-a-Seminarian program, we have been blessed to be paired with seminarian William Killinger and his wife, Skylar. They recently sent a heartfelt letter of thanks along with photos, which have been posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall for you to enjoy.

As the school year draws to a close in May, we would like to send them a gift as an expression of our encouragement and support for William's studies and their life together. If you would like to contribute, you may simply place your gift in the offering plate and designate it for "Seminarian William Killinger." We plan on sending his gift at the beginning of May, before the end of his academic year. Thank you for keeping William and Skylar in your prayers as they prepare for a life of service in Christ's Church.

*Mark your Calendars for...*

*Tropical Trek VBS - June 16-19*

We need adult volunteers to help lead music, crafts, games, and the kitchen. If you are interested, please reach out to Ann Smitherman or sign up in the parish hall. Also, if you are interested in your child or grandchild taking part in VBS this summer, please sign them up in the parish hall.



The LWML is collecting stuffed animals for First Responders until **April 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please put them in a zip-lock, gallon-sized bag and place in the basket in the Narthex.



The LWML is collecting items for Disaster Relief Healthcare Kits. Please bring any of the items listed below to the Parish Hall and place in the marked basket by **May 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### Health Care Kit

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 bath towel                       | 1 pack of floss                 |
| 1 washcloth                        | 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size) |
| 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)       | 1 comb                          |
| 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)   | 1 deodorant                     |
| 1 toothbrush (individually sealed) | 1 nail clippers                 |

### **FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR**



The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall foyer. There are several openings available in the month of **May**. Please sign up for that special occasion. The church secretary will remind you of your upcoming commitment via email or phone call. The Bethlehem LWML appreciates your support.



### Life with God—New Members Class

*continues tomorrow night, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Our adult information class covers the most important teachings of the Bible as they are believed, taught, and confessed here at Bethlehem. It is designed for anyone considering membership, new members, and any member of the congregation who would like a thorough review of basic Biblical doctrine. Mark your calendar

and plan to join us **every Monday night from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**. Classes run weekly for 10-12 sessions.



There will be a quarterly **Voters' Meeting on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Please refer to the information printed at the end of the bulletin.



**April 12 (Easter 2)** – Jesus sent out His apostles with His Spirit to be His witnesses, bringing His peace to the world through the forgiveness of sins (John 20:21; Acts 5:32). Through their witness and the witness of the believers who followed, we too have been

brought to faith and are therefore blessed even though we have not seen Jesus with our eyes (1Peter 1:8; John 20:29). When we “praise the Lord” (Psalm 148:1) with our Gospel-motivated voices, our neighbors are also brought to see Jesus through us, that they too may believe and “have life in His name” (John 20:31).

### *Sunday School Corner*



In our Spring unit, we conclude our study of the New Testament, beginning with the appearance of the resurrected Christ and continuing through the growth of the Early Church. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “A Centurion Converts – Peter and Cornelius.” A faithful and generous centurion named Cornelius has a vision of God’s angel telling him to bring Peter to Caesarea. In Joppa, Peter sees a vision of

a sheet descending from the sky, filled with all kinds of animals. The instruction to “kill and eat” confuses Peter since many of the animals on the sheet are considered unclean. The Spirit tells Peter to go to Caesarea. At Cornelius’s home, the Holy Spirit descends on the Gentiles as Peter preaches the Gospel to them. Peter commands the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: In Peter’s time, Jews didn’t associate with non-Jews. Other groups didn’t associate with each other either. But Jesus came for all people. This was a very new idea at the time and one that sometimes people had a hard time understanding. Today, different groups of people still sometimes have a hard time getting along. How can we share the love of Jesus with all people? The Jews considered the Romans who were ruling Israel to be their sworn enemies. The fact

that Cornelius was so well accepted by the people was very unusual. Cornelius's interest in the Jewish faith was fairly uncommon for a Roman centurion. What does God's Word tell us about how we should deal with our enemies? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

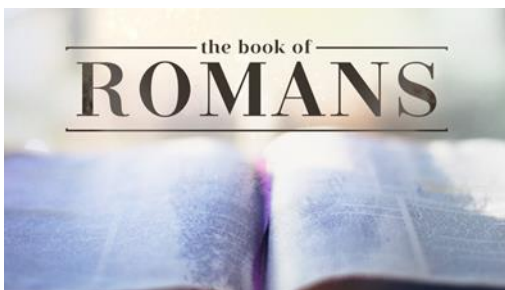
## *High School Lesson*

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture's most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God's mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God's Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even "master criminals" reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Lesson 15 – A Stone's Throw Away (John 8:1–11)**

In this week's lesson, our High School Sunday School class studied the account of the woman caught in adultery. Students considered how the crowd was quick to condemn while ignoring their own sin, and how the Law rightly exposes guilt in every heart. Yet in this moment, Jesus speaks both truth and mercy. He does not excuse sin, but He also does not condemn the sinner. We discussed how Christ alone stands without sin, yet chooses not to cast the stone; instead, He goes to the cross to bear the judgment we deserve. In Him, we see the fullness of God's justice and mercy, as forgiveness is given and new life begins.

## *Adult Sunday School Lesson*



St. Paul's letter to the Romans is often called the "chief part of the New Testament." Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the freedom of the Gospel. Whether you've been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God's Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during

the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God’s Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the “Give” tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

**Last Week at Bethlehem**

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
April 2	Holy Thursday Worship Service	87	\$1,863.70 Edith Erwin Memorial \$50.00 Lathel Norris Memorial \$800.00 Easter Lilies \$52.00
April 3	Good Friday Tenebrae	63	\$355.00
April 5	Easter Sunrise Worship Service	143	\$2,956.48
April 5	Sunday School Adult Bible Class	12 22	\$65.40
April 5	Easter Celebration Worship Service	75	\$4,501.60

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TREASURER'S REPORT - OPERATING FUNDS**

January - March 2026

**CASH RECEIPTS**

	Building	General	Total
Contributions	\$ 5,869.49	\$ 52,849.22	\$ 58,718.71
Thrivent - Building Fund	\$ 3,431.00	\$ -	\$ 3,431.00
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL INFLOW</b>	<b>\$ 9,300.49</b>	<b>\$ 52,849.22</b>	<b>\$ 62,149.71</b>

**CASH DISBURSMENTS**

<b>Pastor's Expenses</b>			
Salary		\$ 12,446.25	\$ 12,446.25
Federal Withholding		\$ 3,172.50	\$ 3,172.50
403b		\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00
Cell Phone		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Travel Expenses		\$ 464.73	\$ 464.73
Retirement		\$ 2,229.45	\$ 2,229.45
Health Savings Acct		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Health		\$ 8,699.46	\$ 8,699.46
Disability		\$ 364.62	\$ 364.62
Accident		\$ 23.40	\$ 23.40
Life		\$ 63.00	\$ 63.00
Continuing Education		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Subtotal		\$ 30,613.41	\$ 30,613.41
<b>Property:</b>			
Property Insurance	\$ 4,264.00		\$ 4,264.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,495.30		\$ 2,495.30
Cleaning		\$ 1,435.00	\$ 1,435.00
Mowing - Church		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Utilities - Sanctuary		\$ 2,680.88	\$ 2,680.88
Utilities - Parsonage		\$ 896.90	\$ 896.90
<b>Office:</b>			
Accounting		\$ 2,460.00	\$ 2,460.00
A/V staff payroll		\$ 678.77	\$ 678.77
Secretary Salary		\$ 2,655.30	\$ 2,655.30
Payroll taxes		\$ 552.37	\$ 552.37
Copier		\$ 1,815.00	\$ 1,815.00
Office Supplies		\$ 1,225.58	\$ 1,225.58
Board of Missions		\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00
District Convention/Assessment		\$ 843.28	\$ 843.28
Lutheran Witness		\$ 222.75	\$ 222.75
Missions - Tx District		\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625.00
Missions - Local		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Organist		\$ 2,565.00	\$ 2,565.00
Sunday School & VBS		\$ 724.07	\$ 724.07
Worship Supplies		\$ 1,284.75	\$ 1,284.75
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$ 6,759.30</b>	<b>\$ 54,643.06</b>	<b>\$ 61,402.36</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>\$ 2,541.19</b>	<b>\$ (1,793.84)</b>	<b>\$ 747.35</b>
1/1/2026 Balance	\$ 28,870.07	\$ 153,416.04	\$ 182,286.11
<b>3/31/2026 Balance</b>	<b>\$ 31,411.26</b>	<b>\$ 151,622.20</b>	<b>\$ 183,033.46</b>

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Treasurer's Report - Special Fund  
January - March 2026**

	Balance 1/1/2026	Gifts Received	Transfers Out	Balance 3/31/2026
Cemetery Fund	\$ 17,675.21	\$ 245.00	\$ (600.00)	\$ 17,320.21
Cemetery Road repair donation	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,160.00
Easter Lilies	\$ -	\$ 221.00	\$ -	\$ 221.00
Flags & Stands	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Interest	\$ 413.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 413.10
LYL	\$ -	\$ 1,390.00	\$ (1,390.00)	\$ -
Memorials	\$ 23,967.66	\$ 980.00	\$ (1,012.01)	\$ 23,935.65
Miscellaneous -PH/Member Caller	\$ -	\$ 940.00	\$ (940.00)	\$ -
Missions	\$ 320.00	\$ -	\$ (320.00)	\$ -
New Pew Project	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00
Pancake Supper	\$ 12,823.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,823.81
Paraments	\$ 2,572.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,572.81
Security	\$ 825.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 825.00
Shepherd's Helping Hands	\$ 4,504.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,504.77
Veteran's Plaque	\$ 572.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572.70
<b>Special Fund Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$ 66,385.06</b>	<b>\$ 3,776.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,262.01)</b>	<b>\$ 65,899.05</b>

**3/31/2026**

<b>General Checking Acct:</b>			
Operating Fund	\$	151,522.20	
Building Fund	\$	31,511.26	\$ 183,033.46
<b>Special Checking Acct:</b>			
Specific Funds	\$	41,963.40	
Unspecified Memorials	\$	23,935.65	\$ 65,899.05
<b>3/31/2026</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>248,932.51</b>	

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Voter's Agenda  
Second Quarterly Meeting  
April 8, 2026**

**Call to Order**

**Devotion**

**Roll Call**

**Reception of New Members**

**Justin, Rylee, and Jaxon Elliott from Grace Lutheran, Brenham**

**Kerry Kriudo and Tracy O'Neil - New Member Class**

**Release of Members**

**Mike and Susan Dietrich to Trinity Lutheran, Reisel, Texas**

**Naomi Hayden Brocksmith and Castiel Marshall to Holy Cross  
Lutheran, College Station**

**Minutes**

**Pastor's Message and Report**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Board of Elders**

**Board of Trustees**

**Board of Education**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- 1. The repair of one stained glass window, estimated cost to be \$8,000.00 by Freebirds of Cypress, Texas**
- 2. Approval for a laptop for streaming the worship services, estimated cost \$1,500.00**

**Announcements**

**Potato Pancake Supper on June 5th.**

**Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer**