

Immanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Worship Service May 4, 2025

Welcome! We're glad that you are here, and we hope this service of worship will be a blessing to you. Welcome packets are available in the entryway.

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre-packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.



Assisted Listening: The Hearing Loop system in place for the hearing impaired will allow hearing aids equipped with a telecoil to serve as wireless loudspeakers, delivering sound right inside the ear. By activating a switch on your hearing aid, the sound is transmitted directly to your ears.

MISSION: To inspire members to grow in loving devotion to Jesus Christ, caring concern for one another, welcoming outreach, and loving service to our neighbors.

VISION STATEMENT: Immanuel Lutheran Church will be known for welcoming hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity.

Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting 1

Third Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

SHARING TIME

PASSING THE PEACE

CANDLE LIGHTING

TRANSITION SONG: Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this Place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace;
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this Place.

**(Please Stand as you are able)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

A: The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: Make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your Church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: Make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: Make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" LBW 352 Green Hymnal

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



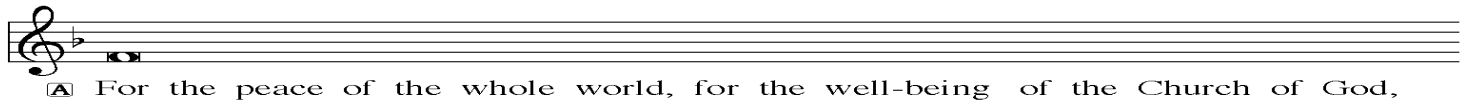
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



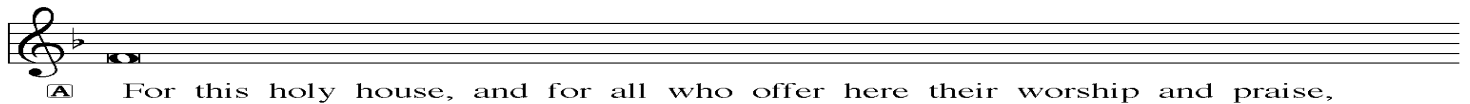
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



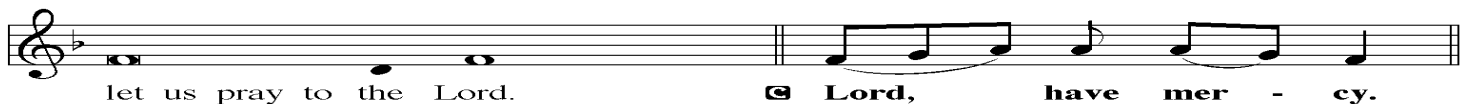
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A 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.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

**(Please be seated)*

HYMN OF PRAISE

I This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, 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.

I This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **II** Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

I This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **I** 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.

I This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **II** For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

I This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30

(We sing the Psalm)



You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,
and you restored | me to health.

³ You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful;
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance.

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

⁶ While I felt se- | cure, I said,
"I shall never | be disturbed.

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

⁸ I cried to | you, O LORD;
I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,

⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;
O LORD, | be my helper."

¹¹ You have turned my wailing | into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

¹² Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**(Please Stand as you are able)*

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 21st chapter, vss. 1-19

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P: Gospel: John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

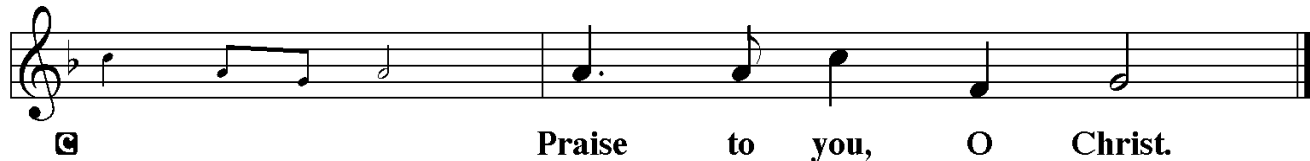
⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the

other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



**(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Dan Ward

**(Please stand as you are able)*

HYMN OF THE DAY “What Wonderful Love is This” LBW 385 Green Hymnal

NICENE CREED

P: With the whole church let us confess our faith:

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**(Please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response following each petition:

A: Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

**(Please stand as you are able)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may
live as your risen body in the world.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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. 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.

CONSECRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

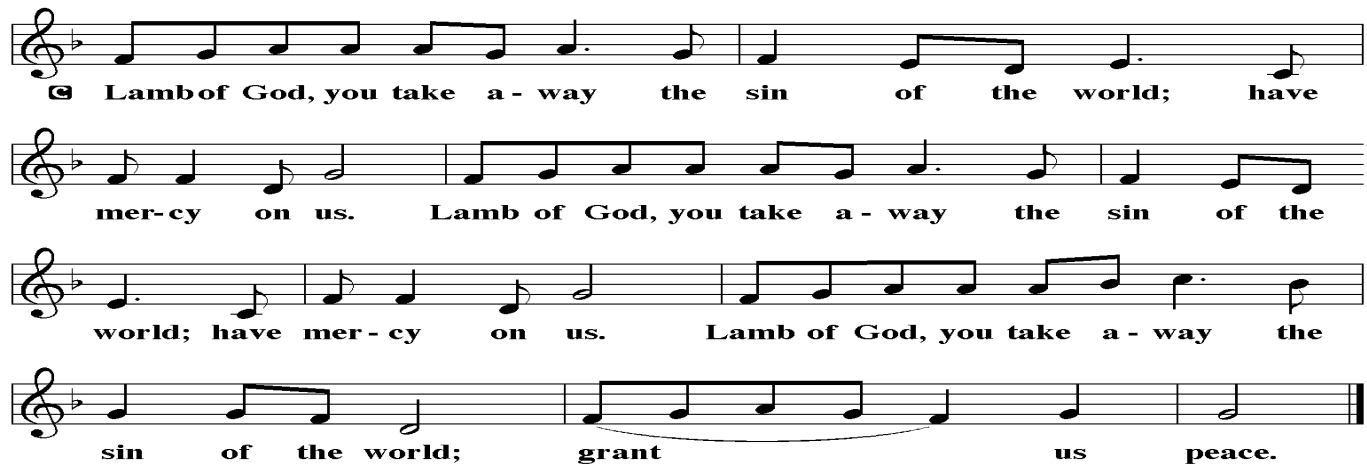
C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**(Please be seated)*

COMMUNION

In the ELCA we welcome all believers to receive the Holy Communion. Communion elements include this morning: Pre packaged wafers (they are also gluten free), individual cup of wine or grape juice.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN “What A Friend We Have in Jesus” LBW 439 Green Hymnal

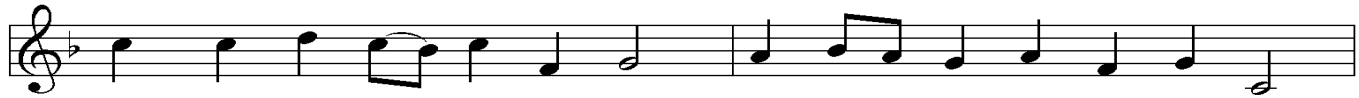
**(Please Stand as you are able)*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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 PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "You Servants of God" LBW 252 Green Hymnal

PRAYER

A: Let us pray together Immanuel's Opening Doors prayer.

C: Dear Lord, we thank and praise you for your everlasting love and enduring mercy. Continue to send your holy spirit: to bless us, to watch over us and to guide us in all that we do so that we grow in: our love for you, our love for each other and our love for those in our community.

Grant us the courage to be bold in opening doors by inviting and welcoming others in our community to God's church. Give us strength: to trust in you and to have faith and hope in your plans for God's church. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship hour will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship service. (on 3rd Sunday of the month, cake will be served for all birthdays celebrated in the month.)

SERVING IN SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Musician: **Janet Mallett**

Altar Duty: **Carol Zimmerman & Phyllis Cousineau**

Presiding Minister: **Pastor Dan Ward**

Worship Assistant: **Nedra Neumann**

Cantor: **Vicky Scott**

Greeter: **Phyllis Lindsey**

Usher: **Cindi Neumann**

Reader: **Steve Neumann**

Sound technician: **Darrell Corrie**

Live Streaming: **David Scott / Troy Lindsey**

The congregation and ministries of this church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. We encourage you to continue your tithing to Immanuel. You may mail them to Immanuel at 726 Fuller Ave. Big Rapids, MI. Thank you to everyone who has been sending in your offerings. ~Stewardship committee

Birthdays this week – Joyce Conley (5/5), Jeremy Scott (5/8), Tom Manor (5/10)

Anniversaries this week – None to report.

Altar Flowers For the Honor and Glory of God

Upcoming In Person Meetings: Office Staff Meeting **Tues 5/6 at 10:30 am**

Readings for Sunday May 11th – 4th Sunday of Easter:

Acts 9: 36-43

Revelations 7: 9-17

Psalm 23

John 10: 22-30



HELPFUL HINTS from Parish Nurse Phyllis Lindsey – MAY 4th

May is National Melanoma/Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Skin cancer is uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells. It occurs when too much ultraviolet radioactivity from sunlight or tanning beds trigger mutations in the skin cells causing them to grow rapidly and form malignant cells. Protect skin: 1) Seek shade between 10-4 p.m., 2) Do not burn, 3) Avoid tanning beds, 4) Cover with sunscreen before going out in the sun and then every two hours, 6) Use 2 tablespoons of the above sunscreen every two hours while swimming, 7) check your skin periodically for unusual growths, 8) See your dermatologist yearly or as needed.



SHEPHERD'S HOOKS & NEEDLES now meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The next session is **Tues. May 20th at Noon.**

MAY 15th MOVIE:

“Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” 1939 – with Jimmy Stewart and Jean Arthur

This is one of the best films of the greatest year in Hollywood history – 1939!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Containers for Manna Pantry, Project Starburst, 3rd Avenue Pantry and Grade School Kids are in the Narthex, signs indicating what is to be collected monthly. Social Concerns welcomes new members!

Manna Pantry

May: Canned Pasta

June: Pork-n-Beans/Black Beans

Project Starburst

May: Spaghetti Sauce

June: Vegetables – any canned

Grade Schools

Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, soap, underwear, sweatpants (neutral colors), socks. Sizes for children to fifth grade. Also hats, mittens, scarves, sweatshirts.

Dump & Run starts this week (May 2 – 10)!

Volunteers are still needed for prep work, sorting and final clean up. Please contact Carol at carolwj2014@gmail.com to participate.