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**Worship & Holy Communion**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
Sunday, April 7, 2024 9:30 a.m.

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The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

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***In God's Service***

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Ron Lundblad
Ushers	Ron & Becky Lundblad

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## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

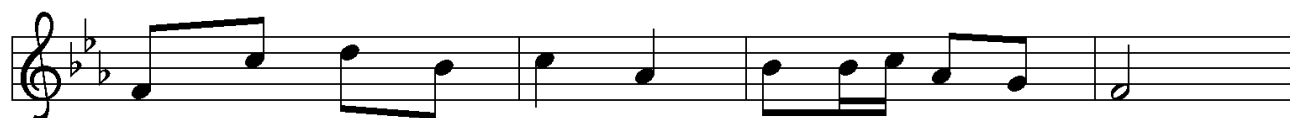
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

***Now the Green Blade Rises***

**ELW 379**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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## **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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Beautiful Savior*

*ELW 838*

*vs 1*

Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

**Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Acts 4:32-35**

The believers' common life

**Psalm 133**

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

**1 John 1:1--2:2**

Walking in the light

**John 20:19-31**

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

A reading from Acts:

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: (PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY.)**

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,

**when kindred live together in unity!**

<sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
**upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

**For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.**

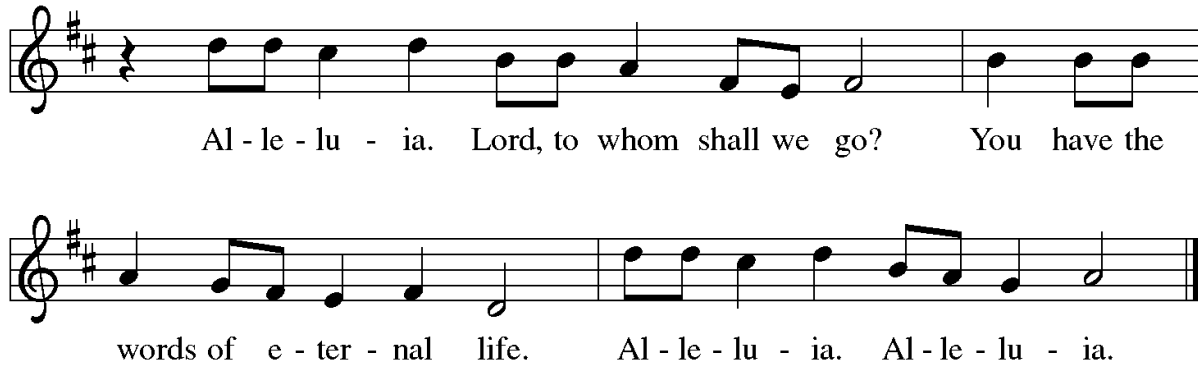
A reading from 1 John:

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. <sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



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.

## **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>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 any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed

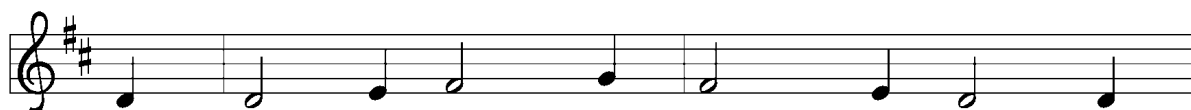
because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* ELW 384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!



## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)**

**P:** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. ***A brief silence.*** Your church cries out, O God, and you listen

**C:** **As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love.**

**P:** Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen.

**C:** **Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.**

**P:** Your world cries out, O God, and you listen.

**C:** **Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear.**

**P:** Your children cry out, O God, and you listen.

**C:** **Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain**

**P:** Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen.

**C:** **Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve.**

**P:** Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you.

**C:** **Grant us your peace amid our fears.**

**P:** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY****Come Ye Thankful People Come****ELW 693****Vs 1**

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

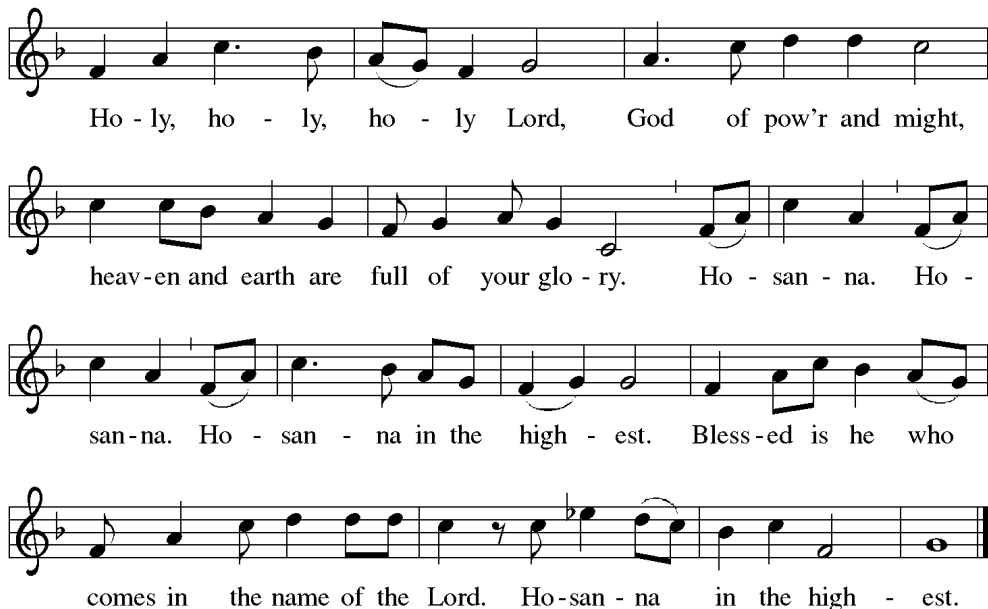
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **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.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Accompanist Choice*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *The assembly stands.*

Let us pray.

**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Calendar**

### **This Week:**

Sunday, Apr. 7

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

10:30 am Joint Council Meeting

Monday, Apr. 8

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

5:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Wednesday, Apr. 10

9:30 am M & M's

9:00 am Community Kitchen OS

6:30 pm Bible Study OS

Saturday, Apr. 13

8:30 am WELCA Cluster Meeting

### **Next Week:**

Sunday, Apr. 14

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS

10:30 am Sunday School in

Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, Apr. 15

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

Mon.-Fri. 15-19

10:45 am Meals on Wheels OS

5:00 pm Bell Choir SP

Wednesday, Apr. 17

9:30 am M&M's SP

6:30 pm Bible Study OS



Thursday, Apr. 18

4:00 pm Community Kitchen

## **Announcements**

**Thank you** to everyone that made our Easter Sunday so special. To our wonderful musicians in the Bell Choir, Dennis Marsh, Diana Black, Linda Koopman, and Joe Chodur. Thank you to everyone that baked, decorated, served and helped clean up at that delicious breakfast. It was said multiple times that many hands make light work.

Joe Chodur has donated jars of all natural raspberry preserves and all money donated will support the mission of Freedom Inn His Grace. Get a jar while you still can.

A big thank you to the church ladies for having mom for her birthday meal. Also to those who sent birthday wishes etc From: Lori Angell

**Meals on Wheels** - Our Saviour's is delivering Meals on Wheels April 15 -19 (Route #1). Delivery begins at 10:45 am. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

**Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**-Our Saviour's will be gathering items for personal care kits thru May 12.

Most needed items:

**Adult toothbrushes**

**Bars of soap**(4oz is best, or 3 oz)

**Bath towels** (no larger than 27x52")

**Money donations** to help pay for items.

Contact Marilyn Martell 641-425-9048 for any help needed.

**THANK YOU to all** who have been so generous with donations for the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits. A special THANK YOU to the WELCA gals who has been lovingly making the quilts every

Monday at both churches! St. Paul will be assembling kits. They just need to be packed into boxes, blessed and taken to Albert Lea. (From there they are taken by semi to the huge LWR warehouse in Minneapolis.) Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to make a donation, of any size, to help with shipping costs. You may use the small envelopes (on the inside/center aisle) to help ship both of these items all over the world. LWR says it costs about \$1.50 for them to ship each **kit** and \$2.80 for each **quilt** to get it to its final destination. If you would like to make a donation by check, simply write it to the appropriate church and indicate it is for shipping. (Please check out the large map on the west wall in the St. Paul Fellowship Hall, by the coffee pots to show where these greatly needed items went in 2023.) God has blessed the United States with so much and others have nothing.

**Living Waters Cluster -Spring Salad Luncheon**, is Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Our Saviour's Lutheran beginning with coffee at 8:30 am. The speaker is Nancy Jewell from Freedom Inn His Grace - Low barrier warming shelter. She will share the ministry to help adult men and women who need a warming shelter and overnight accommodations. Invite a friend and be blessed with an enlightening vision of what can be accomplished together in our community.

Bible Study will resume this week! We will meet at Our Saviour's on Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30 pm. The study will be on "The Chosen" series and Season Two: "Blessed Are the Chosen." The study book will not be necessary, but you can purchase it personally if you want - more information will be provided about that on Wednesday evening. Confirmation students - come if you are able to attend - this fulfills most of the requirements for the New Testament portion of confirmation. See Pastor Jane for questions.

Planning has begun for the Band Festival Food Stand to be held on Saturday, May 25. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of pop, cookies, bars and money for hot dogs is needed. There is an additional sheet for those able to help on that day. This is always a fun event and you have a perfect seat to watch the parade,

**Say "CHEESE!"** Get ready to smile! Picture taking for our new church pictorial directory has been set for this coming June 11-12. Photo sessions will take place in the afternoons and evenings those two days. These will be professional photos provided by Universal Church Directories. The photo sessions are free and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo, with an option to purchase more photos if you wish. More information will be coming in the near future.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

**Reminder:** the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com) if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

Please be sure to sign friendship registers located at end of pews.

There are sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. Please help where you can.

If you would like to celebrate a special occasion or memorial, please consider placing fresh flowers by the altar on Sunday morning. You can take the vase liners to your flower shop, and they can deliver them on Friday morning. Please let Valerie in the office know how you would like them noted in the bulletin. Questions? Give the office a call at 641-423-7749

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