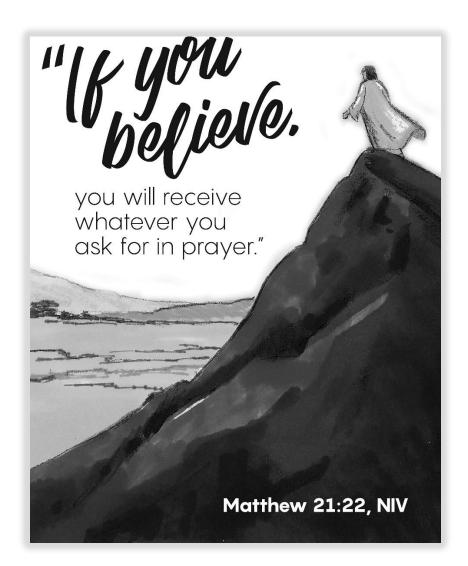
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 25, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ.

THEME: BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)

THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 203)

THE PREPARATION

We prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our sins and humbly turning to our God who alone is able to forgive our sins. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." (II Corinthians 5:17)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A REMINDER: Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER

It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The nonfestival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. And Lydia is an example of a new Christian, ready to help. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there. In the meantime, there's no time to lose. "Ask," Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). You see, even now He is with us. What would you like to ask Him?

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

The TOLLING OF THE BELLS





(Please stand) OPENING HYMN

- 1. God Himself is present: let us now adore Him and with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple; all within keep silence; humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence. He alone on His throne is our God and Savior; praise His name forever!
- 2. God Himself is present: hear the harps resounding; see the hosts the throne surrounding."Holy, holy, holy!" hear the hymn ascending, songs of saints and angels blending. Bow Your ear to us here: hear, O Christ, the praises that Your Church now raises.
- 3. Fount of ev'ry blessing, purify my spirit, trusting only in Your merit. Like the holy angels, worshiping before You, may I ceaselessly adore You. Let Your will ever still rule Your Church terrestrial as the hosts celestial.

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835, alt.; tr. John Miller, 1756–90, alt. Text: Public domain

The sign of the cross T may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b [18:20]

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Revelation 21:9–10, 23; John 16:24

- P Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.
- C He showed me the holy city Jerusalem.
- P The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
- C for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- P Ask, and you will receive,
- C that your joy may be full.

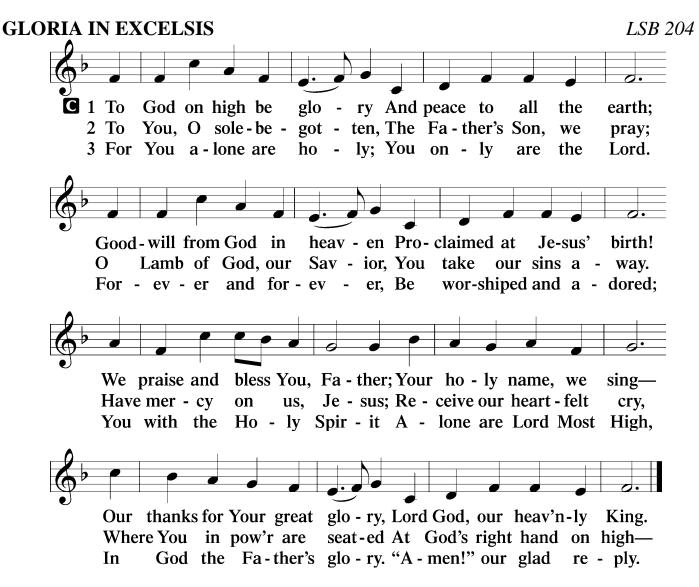
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us ask God for forgiveness and guidance.

Silence for reflection and examination.

John 16:33

- P O Gracious Lord,
- C ...at times it feels like You have left us and gone into heaven, leaving us to fend for ourselves. We confess that we fail to remember Your word of promise about Your presence with us and Your love for us. 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 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 God has not left us alone. Christ is with us, and He has broken every barrier between us and the promised Jerusalem awaiting us. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.O God, the giver of all that is good,
- C by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 16:9–15

(God guided Paul and his companions in unexpected directions. Our plans in general, and in particular our plans for the spread of the Gospel, do not always proceed as we hope. Yet, God directs us as His messengers to the people and places He would have us go. His grace is not bounded by our weakness but serves His good purposes in Christ. • Heavenly Father, continue to send workers into Your harvest field. Enable missionaries, evangelists, and pastors to always see their ministry as a calling from You. Amen.)

⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the

Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



"If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home."

Acts 16:15, NRSV

EPISTLE

Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

(John continues his description of the glorified Church by focusing upon the splendor of the city in which God's people will dwell eternally. On the one hand, the incredible beauty of the heavenly Jerusalem stretches our imaginations beyond what they can comprehend; on the other hand, the stern warnings about the impure, false, and detestable seem all too familiar. Yet God will overcome all evil, including that in our lives, for He who has written our names in the Book of Life will Himself see us home. • Christ Jesus, Bridegroom of the Church, help us to watch for the end of days and prepare for our reception into the new heaven and earth, where the great wedding feast never ends. Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen.)

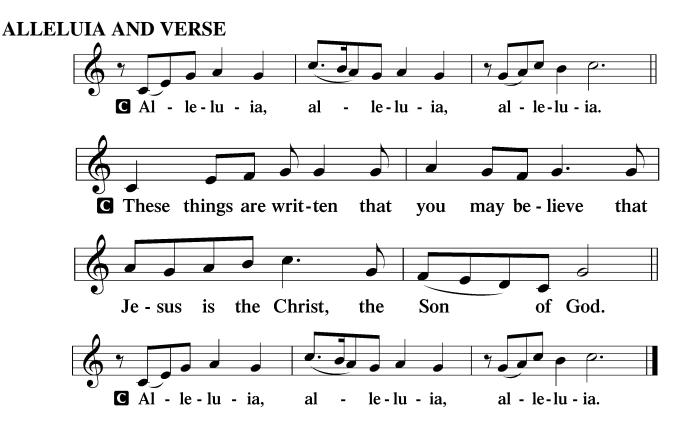
⁹Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

²¹And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.





HOLY GOSPEL

John 16:23–33

(The disciples confidently claim they understand Jesus' parting words, but Jesus utters the sober prediction that they will soon abandon Him. Those boasting about spiritual maturity stand in danger of succumbing to human pride and unbelief. When we face temptation and trouble in this world, we can take heart that Christ has overcome the world for our sake. • O Christ, in crisis situations, give me the peace only You can give. Amen.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

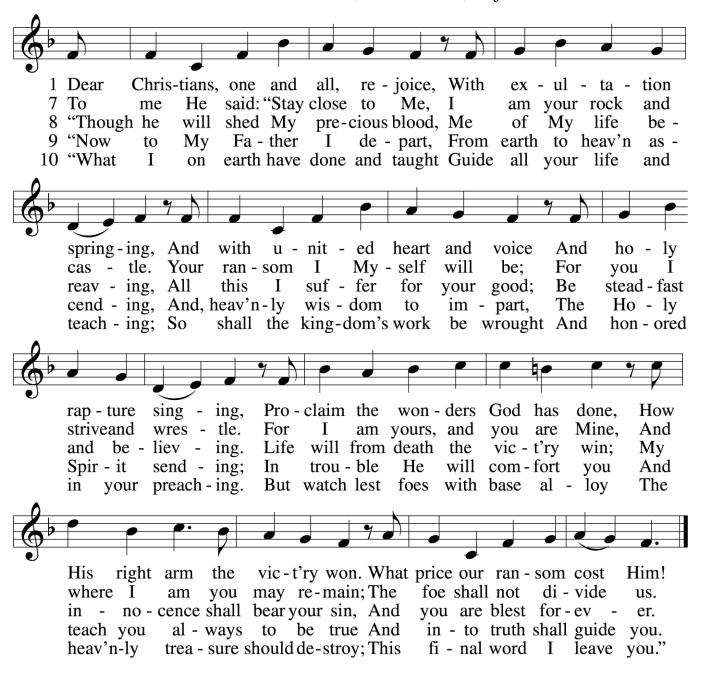
²³[Jesus said:] "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be seated) HYMN OF THE DAY Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice LSB 556 sts. 1, 7–10



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Text: Public domain

SERMON

Here Comes the Bride

(Please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

- And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we ask this in Jesus' name: Visit and relieve those many people who are denied what they need in food, clothing, or shelter. Grant relief to those languishing because of injustice or oppression. Surround the poor, sick, and dying with people to care for their various needs. Open doors of opportunity for faith-filled brothers and sisters in Christ that they may care for the physical, social, and spiritual needs of people around them with Your protection and guidance.
- C Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.
- P Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we are as children, only asking for what You deem best. Listen to our deep longings, our unspoken yearning, and the circumstances of our own lives. In Your mercy and love, assure us of Your presence despite whatever ills we might have. Be with those near and dear to us who call out for healing, strength, and comfort, [*especially*... *The family of Andrew Biermann (friend of LCC), The Kasch Family, Brain Kennedy (friend of Cherie Usowicz), Donna Leach, Newman Longwell (brother of Bea Butler), Tracy Shattuck (brother of Meredith Kecken), Larry Woodruff*]. Assure them of Your presence even now.
- C Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.

- P Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, as our nation commemorates Memorial Day and for those who have gone before us. We give You thanks for those who worked and strove, who fought and died, that we might live in peace and liberty. Make us worthy of our heritage, great God; help us to remember that freedom is never without cost.
- C Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.
- P We give thanks, heavenly Father, for the faith Your Holy Spirit has placed within us. We know the promise of heaven and long for the new Jerusalem. We, like John, look forward to that new Jerusalem, and like Lydia, have heard the Good News of our Savior and rejoice. We are confident that Your ears are open to our requests for ourselves, our circle of friends and family, and all the faithful who gather with us. Answer our prayers as fits Your plans for us, the church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.
- C Hear our prayer and answer, that our joy may be full.
- P We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C Amen.

OFFERING

<u>For those worshiping online</u>, please visit <u>www.lccross.org</u> to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6



For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card. They can be placed at the altar as you leave the service.

OFFERING HYMN

(Tune: Eternal Father, Strong to Save - LSB 717)

In God we trust! Oh, may it be Throughout this land of liberty! Lord, turn our hearts from guilt and shame To bear with joy your sacred name. In ev'ry need, as well they must, Our hearts cry out, "In God we trust!"

In God we trust! For we have heard The news of your forgiving Word, The peace for which our Savior died, The Spirit's favors multiplied. For ev'ry blessing, true and just, Thankful we cry, "In God we trust!"

In God we trust! Oh, give us grace In you our confidence to place, To set our hearts on things above, To live as agents of your love, To conquer death, to rise from dust, To cry anew, "In God we trust!"

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen	LSB 474 sts. 1–2, 4–5
Splendor, the Lamb Heaven forever!	ding in glorious light! o, cle God has in sight! <i>Refrain</i>	
Refrain Jesus is risen and Give God the glor		
Breaking our bread Giving us glory:	to open our eyes;	(continued)

Matthew 6:9-13

Numbers 6:24-26

LSB 212

Weeping, be gone;
Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing:
"O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

Refrain

4

Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

5 City of God,
Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life,
Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000907

SILENT PRAYER (Sung to TAPS)

God of love, from above, Shine your face; may your grace Still increase. Stretch your hand o'er our land; Grant us peace.

POSTLUDE & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

You have been a blessing to us! Please use this time to "check-in" with your Christian brothers and sisters around you. Coffee and donuts are being served for fellowship at 9:00am in the Fellowship & Ministry Center along with our Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School. Please stop by and enjoy.



Acknowledgments

Scripture notes from Engelbrecht, Edward A. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-731332.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk Guest Pastor: Rev. David Barber Organist: Stephen Kopp III ~ Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman

Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

May 25, 2025

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

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The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by The LCC Altar Guild in remembrance of our sainted friend ~ Joyce Schankin. The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by The LCC Military Appreciation Team in honor of all those serving in our Armed Forces.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Judy Daily, Barb Powell
David Aiken, Wayn Nelson
Dorothy Christman, Robin Dym
Nancy Bird, Pam Specht
David Aiken, Mark Keck
Kay Helgerson, Marita Noe, Wayn Nelson

OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm (941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467 By email: secretary@lccross.org Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator	Jennifer Strefling:	941-627-6060
Head Elder	Jim McCabe:	847-471-1421
In case of Emergency you may reach	Pastor Stolarczyk: Pastor Menk:	<u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u> <u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound Care:

John & Lois Arens, Bob Bartelson, Fran Boatwright, George & Dee Buono, Laura Cox, Millie Cox, Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, Marv & Lil Fitzwater, Aida Florit, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Betty Golembieski, Hedi Heinrich, Janet Jackson, Cris & Linda Kelly, Val Korman, Millie Tyczka

Strength, Healing, Guidance: * Elliana & Katie The family of Andrew Biermann Nancy Bird The Kasch family Todd Klietz & family Sam Jackson Brian Kennedy Donna Leach Newman Longwell Chris Sabin Carol Scheff **Tracy Shattuck** Ken & Mary Werring Larry Woodruff **Debbie Zienert**

Family of Bill & Ronna Trueman; healing Friend of LCC; peace & understanding Recovery & healing Peace & faith Hospice Care Healing & recovery Friend of LCC; strength & healing Healing & recovery Brother of Bea Butler; hospitalized, healing Healing & recovery Healing & recovery Brother Meredith Kecken; thanksgiving Recovery & healing Recovery & healing Dave Diener's sister; peace & comfort

*Prayers will run for four consecutive weeks unless otherwise notified.

Battling Cancer: Adriana April Ivana Jeanette Mike **Rick Bausch** Dave DeBraccio **Bill Docherty** Matt Doctor Lisa Anne Denofrio Tom Druin Randy Hornby **Robert Jeffery** John Kewn **Barbara Kraning Emily Reidel**

Family Noel & Linda Hyde; diagnosed lymphoma Friend of LCC; battling cancer Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer Sister of Augusto Vazquez; battling cancer Son of Phil Woodruff; battling cancer Son Barbara Durst; battling cancer Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength Brother-in-law Joy Hougan; battling cancer, surgery Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; strength & peace Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; battling cancer Friend of Bill & Dorothy Christman; battling cancer Friend of Dorothy Christman; battling cancer Brother of Jean Wrightsman; battling leukemia Son-in-law Davis & Del Rozak; battling cancer Daughter in law Rosemary Kraning; battling cancer Friend of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; battling cancer

Patricia Ruiz Lisa Sayers Carmen Torres Lori Truelove Arthy Turtotte Connie Warner Michael Woodruff

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling USAF TSGT David Cope Jr. US Army CSM Matt Hopkins USAF Sr. Airman Shawn Golembieski US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski USCG SCPO Robert Kecken USAF SrA Riley Latarski Marines Sgt. Jonathan Metz Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker USAF TSGT Kalin McDonnell US Army PFC Parker Woodruff Bragg Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer Friend of LCC; battling cancer Sister-in-law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace Friend of LCC; battling cancer Friend of Mary Woodruff; diagnosed lymphoma Son of Phil & Mary Woodruff; battling cancer

Son of Ron & Cohleen Nottingham; stationed FL Son of David and Shelly Cope stationed in NM Grandson of Dave & Gayle DeBraccio; in Kuwait Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL

Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in Japan Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort

Family Prayer: We remember all our families during times of personal and family trial and tribulation.

If you know of someone needing church prayers, please contact the church office at 941-627-6060. Be sure to have the name, relationship to the church family and what is the need for the prayer.



<u>LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT</u> <u>& WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE</u> <u>REPORT 2025</u>

Week Of: 05/18/2025					
On-Site		Weekly			
Attendance		Contributions			
32 / 123		Income:	\$ 6,947		
	-	Expense:	\$ 11,170		

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

OFH = Old Fellowship Hall

Sun-May 25MILITARY APPECIATION SUNDAYMon-May 26Church Office Closed ~ Memorial DaySun-June 111:45amLCC Voter's Meeting (Sanctuary)

✤ CFO Mike Barzona will be out of the office from June 6 – June 20. He will resume office hours on Monday June 23rd.

The Parish Admin will be on-site the week of June 9 to cover his absence. If anyone is interested in assisting the office during the week of the <u>16th</u>, please reach out to Jennifer for more information.

Pastor Stolarczyk is attending a Convention in Lake Buena Vista Jun 4-Jun 7



The Church's Master Calendar of Scheduled Events will end with July! The process of setting up the 2025 / 2026 LCC Church Calendar will begin soon. Now is the time to begin thinking about those events we may want to focus ministry attention on for the next year and what might be needed to begin the initial planning of these events!

In our best efforts to do this – LCC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS to make these events happen! Not only for our special events, but for our weekly year-round church services & needs also!

Churches rely on volunteers for a multitude of reasons, including spiritual growth, building fellowship, fulfilling ministry needs, and making a meaningful impact on their communities. Volunteers help churches run smoothly, offer various support roles, and enable them to address

community needs effectively. A solid volunteer experience can change lives, not just of the recipient of the effort, but of the one delivering the service as well. Please prayerfully consider how some of your time and talents could be used to serve the LCC church and it's ministry. We have volunteer serving opportunities that are a variety of commitments: one-offs, short term, or near term. While prayerfully considering



If you have an idea of an event that you might like to see LCC consider, please contact our Parish Administrator, Jennifer, to discuss your thoughts!

