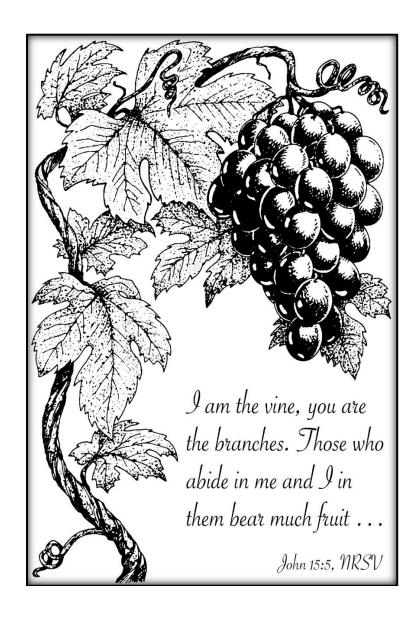
# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**April 28, 2024** 



## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ.

## JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

#### THE ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 151)

#### 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 the event of any safety emergency, please call 911. More phone calls received by law enforcement will help ensure a prompt and accurate response.
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

#### AS WE GATHER

When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

## **OPENING HYMN**

## O Holy Spirit, Enter In

LSB 913



Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

#### **EASTER GREETING**

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

#### **INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

Psalm 66:1–4, 8–9; 40:5

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- C sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!
- P Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!
- C All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."
- P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,
- C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
- P You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!
- C I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

(*Please be seated*)

RITE OF BAPTISM (10:30am)

Millie Mae Bittner

#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

- 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.

  1 John 1:8-9

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

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

  [John 20:19-23]
- C Amen.
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## T Service of the Word T

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (7:30am)

LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 156

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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 8:26–40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

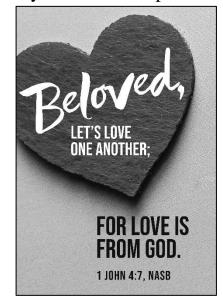
- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** 1 John 4:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit

of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In



this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

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

(Be seated)

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB 830 sts. 1-4

- 1. Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word; Ev'rywhere His creatures call To His heav'nly banquet hall.
- 2. Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still, How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
- 3. Tell of our Redeemer's grace, Who, to save our human race And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.
- 4. Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n, Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite
Text: Public domain

**SERMON** 

Rev. Jerry Menk

(Please stand)

**APOSTLES' CREED** 

(7:30am)

LSB 159

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.

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

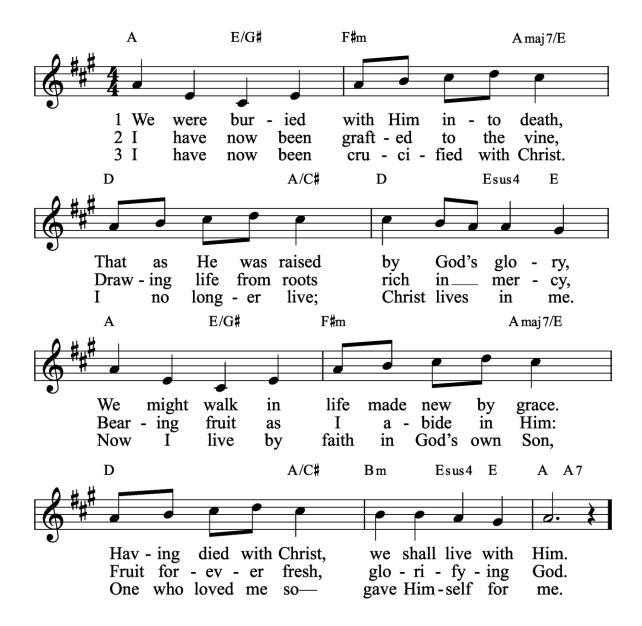
[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [Ron Acosta (friend of LCC), Bea Butler, Dee Maris] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

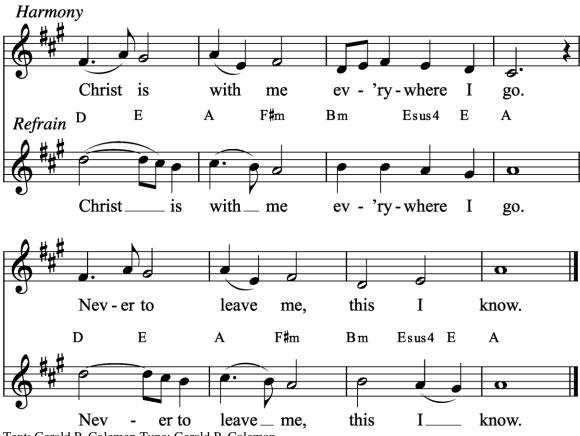
#### **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING HYMN** Christ Is With Me

(A newer song of the church was written by Gerald Coleman, using familiar biblical passages in thoughtful ways. In the first stanza we are reminded of our Baptism and how it binds us to our Lord for time and eternity. We are in Him, and He is with us! In the second stanza, the image of the vine and the branches that is at the heart of today's Gospel becomes the theme, reminding us of our dependence on our gracious Lord for nurture and care. The final stanza declares that daily we live in the resurrection life won by Christ.)



[continued]



Text: Gerald P. Coleman Tune: Gerald P. Coleman

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#### COLLECT FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD

- Ρ O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

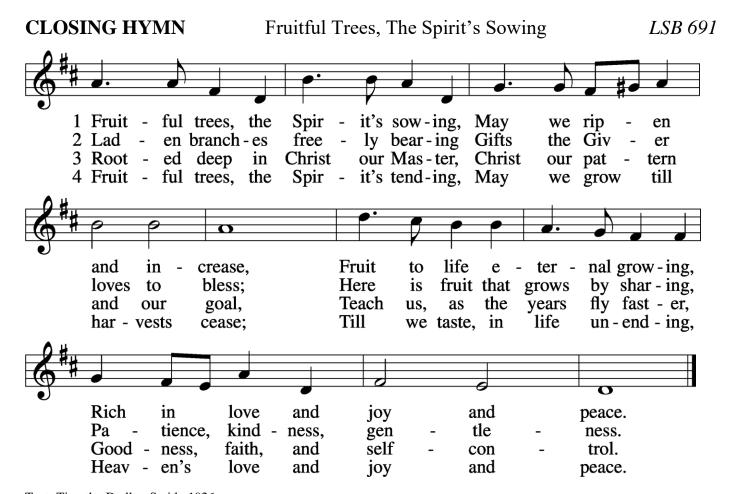
#### PRAYER OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

- O Lord God, merciful and gracious Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have Р bestowed on this congregation, its members, and the Church through the ministry of Your servant Pastor Jerry Menk and Mary Menk. By Your Holy Spirit grant them grace as they journey back north. Support and strengthen them that by Your Word Your Church may be built and increased and if it is Your will, grant them a safe return to us in the fall; through Your Son, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen. C

## **SOLO** "The Lord's Prayer"

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers* 6:24-26

- 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.



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

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#### SILENT PRAYER

#### PARTING ANNOUNCEMENTS & POSTLUDE

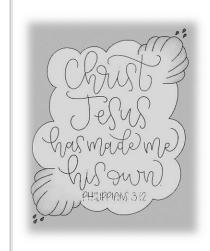
You have been a blessing to us! Please use this time to "check-in" with your Christian brothers and sisters around you. Coffee and donuts are being served for fellowship at 9:00am in the Fellowship & Ministry Center along with our Adult Bible Class and Youth Sunday School. Please stop by and enjoy.



#### Acknowledgments

\_andscape

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## THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS!

Millie Mae Bittner was born into this world on April 29, 2023.

Her parents are Chunyi and Lacey Bittner. Her sponsors are

Gibson Bittner and Mckenzie Redmon.

Today, Millie is inducted into the heavenly Kingdom by the promises of Holy Baptism.



Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> a round black travel pill container was found on the floor of the Lectern Side of the Sanctuary following the 7:30am service. If this should belong to you, please contact the church office.

The <u>L</u>andscape <u>L</u>oving <u>C</u>are Day is meeting to complete their work from their previous February work day. They are looking for volunteers to do some:

Light Trimming ~ Weeding ~ Fertilizing ~ Clean up of Bushes ~ Mulch Look for the sign up sheet on the cubbies and then bring your favorite garden tools and gloves on <u>SATURDAY ~ May 18th from 9:00am to Noon!</u> Any questions please contact Sue Heim @ 941-575-8612

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk Guest Organist: Sarah Stolarczyk ~ Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman ~ Flute: Raymond Stolarczyk Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

## April 28, 2024

## Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** is provided to the Glory of God by Nikki Chouinard in memory of her sainted mother's birthday and her parents anniversary.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar for are provided to the Glory of God by Barb Powell in celebration of Chuck's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday (04/29).

## **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Bell Tollers Luke Stolarczyk, Bill Trueman Elders on Duty Ron McCormick, Chris Trapp

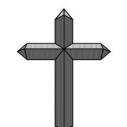
Greeters/Ushers Kay Helgerson

Altar Servers Nancy Bird, Suzanne Fadely,

Cathy McCabe, Joyce Spier

Safety Team David Aiken, Mark Keck

Streaming Team Nat Fiordimondo, Wayn Nelson, Luke Stolarczyk



#### **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

Pastor Menk: Cell: 941-327-9453

## IN OUR PRAYERS

#### **Homebound Care:**

John & Lois Arens, Ann Curley-LaFave, Marvin & Lillian Fitzwater, Bruce & Connie Frilstad, Cris & Linda Kelly

### **Strength, Healing, Guidance: \***

Doris & Jim Family of Carolyn Lawson; testing & strength Joe, Kim, Caitlyn & Ben Friends of LCC; strength, healing & faith

Ron Acosta Friend of LCC; hospitalized

Chuck Anderson Recovery & healing

Fran Boatwright Recovery

Bea Butler Strength & healing

Jan Krauss Mother of Greg Krauss; recovery & healing

Val Korman Hospice Care

Phil Miller Recovery & healing
Rev. Michael Mueller Schedule for surgery
Chris Sabin Strength & healing
Dale Sawicki Healing & comfort

Family of Samuel Vazquez Son of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; strength & healing

Ken Werring Recovery & healing

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

## **Battling Cancer:**

Ivana Friend of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; battling cancer

Karen Daughter Ann LaFave; battling cancer Holly Beyer Cousin Ron McCormick; battling cancer

Cate Bocassi Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Lynn Clawson Friend of LCC; battling cancer, testing
Dave DeBraccio Battling with Leukemia, healing & strength

Lisa Anne Denofrio Daughter Tom & Krystyna Johnson; palliative care Matt Doctor Brother-in-law of Diane Barton; battling cancer Diana Fiordimondo Sis-in-Law of Nat & Melinda Fiordimondo; cancer

Steve Kirkland Brother of Bruce Kirkland; battling cancer

Todd Klietz Battling cancer

Patricia Ruiz Family of Fadely/Maestas family; battling cancer

Kathy Sanders Friend of LCC; battling cancer

Carmen Torres Sister in law of Augusto & Isabel Vazquez; cancer Lori Truelove Niece Joyce Schankin; cancer battle; strength, peace

Military:

US Army SSG. Paul Behling
USAF TSGT David Cope Jr.

US Army CSM Matt Hopkins

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

USAF Sr. Airman Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in FL Shawn Golembieski US Navy ENS Joe Golembieski Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; in VA Grandson of Stan & Betty Golembieski; Seabound US Navy Seaman Nick Golembieski **USCG SCPO Robert Kecken** Son Jerry & Meredith Kecken; stationed in CA USAF A1C Riley Latarski Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman in ND Marines LCPL Jonathan Metz Grandson of Jerry & Joyce Metz; in MD Marines LCPL Kyle Spilker Grandson in law Chuck Anderson; in CA USAF TSGT Kalin Verardi Granddaughter Bill & Dorothy Christman; in MA US Army PFC Parker Woodruff Grandson of Larry & Delila Woodruff; in Fort Bragg

**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.

## LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT:

## LCC WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2024

Week:	04/21/2024
Weekly Income:	\$ 5,757
Weekly Expense:	\$ 13,846

## **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**

<u>Thursday, May 2</u>: Altar Guild Communion Set Up @ 9:00am (Sacristy/Sanctuary)

Wednesday, May 8: Board of Elders meeting @ 3:30pm (FMC)

**Thursday, May 9**: Shepherding Leaders Meeting @ 9:00am (FMC)

The Chosen Bible Study Begins @ 10:00am (FMC ONLY)

Saturday, May 11: Stephen Ministry Supervision @ 11:00am (FMC)

Saturday, May 18: Landscape Loving Care Day @ 9:00am (Outdoor FMC/Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 19: Final Sunday for Youth Sunday School (FMC)
Tuesday, May 21: Church Council Meeting @ 7:00pm (FMC)

Monday, May 27: Church Office Closed ~ Memorial Day