



*Founded 1860*

***Lutheran  
Church  
Missouri  
Synod***

*Worship  
in the  
Sanctuary*

Sunday  
April 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:15 a.m.

Pastor  
Rev. Mark  
Moldenhauer  
(979) 551-2293  
PastorMark  
@Bethlehem  
WmPenn.org

Secretary  
Mrs. Amy  
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Pianist  
Ann Sommer

AV Tech  
Ian Schroeder

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

April 25, 2021



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

Divine Service: Setting One

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Church Bell



At Bethlehem Lutheran Church we teach and confess that **Holy Communion** consists of four different visible elements: the bread, the wine, the body, and the blood. When the Word of God is added to the bread and wine *it* is the body and blood of Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. 11: 23-26. There are many different beliefs concerning Holy

Communion so on the basis of 1 Cor. 11: 27-29 we request that you speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders before receiving Holy Communion.

OPENING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LSB 901



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so  
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,  
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;  
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O  
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing  
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!  
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

KYRIE

LSB 152

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Lord, have mercy.

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

**C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Gloria in Excelsis*

LSB 154

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



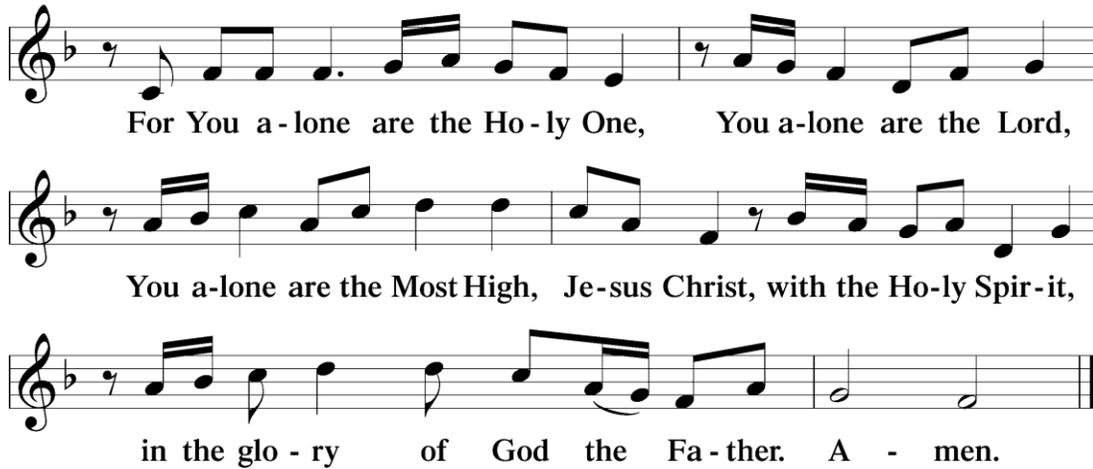
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,  
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

*Acts 4:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

PRAISE HYMN

*Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free*

LSB 473



1 Our Pas - chal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sac - ri - ficed. O keep  
 2 Let all our lives now cel - e - brate The feast; let mal - ice die.  
 3 Let all our deeds, u - nan - i - mous, Con - fess Him as our Lord



The feast of free - dom gal - lant - ly; Let al - le - lu - ias leap:  
 Let love grow strong a - new, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie.  
 Who by the Spir - it lives in us, The Fa - ther's liv - ing Word.

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A -



gain Sing al - le - lu - ia, cry a - loud: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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EPISTLE

*1 John 3:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

*John 10:11–18*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

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

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

SERMON HYMN

*Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain*

LSB 865



1 Lord, help us ev - er to re - tain The Cat - e -  
 2 Help us Your ho - ly Law to learn, To mourn our  
 3 Hear us, dear Fa - ther, when we pray For need - ed  
 4 Lord, when we fall or go a - stray, Ab - solve and



chism's\_\_\_\_ doc-trine plain As Lu - ther taught the  
 sin and from it turn In faith to You and  
 help from day to day That as Your chil - dren  
 lift us up, we pray; And through the Sac - ra -



Word of truth In sim - ple style to ten - der youth.  
 to Your Son And Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One.  
 we may live, Whom You bap - tized and so re - ceived.  
 ment in - crease Our faith till we de - part in peace.

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SERMON

*Confirmation Witness Papers*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*To Know the Shepherd's Voice – John 10:11–18*

APOSTLES' CREED

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 ✠ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living*

LSB 479



1 Christ is ris - en, Christ is liv - ing, Dry your tears, be un - a - fraid!  
2 If the Lord had nev - er ris - en, We'd have noth - ing to be - lieve.  
3 Death has lost its old do - min - ion, Let the world re - joice and shout!



Death and dark - ness could not hold Him, Nor the tomb in which He lay.  
But His prom - ise can be trust - ed: "You will live, be - cause I live."  
Christ, the first - born of the liv - ing, Gives us life and leads us out.



Do not look a - mong the dead for One who lives for - ev - er - more;  
As we share the death of Ad - am, So in Christ we live a - gain;  
Let us thank our God, who caus - es Hope to spring up from the ground;



Tell the world that Christ is ris - en, Make it known He goes be - fore.  
Death has lost its sting and ter - ror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.  
Christ is ris - en, Christ is giv - ing Life e - ter - nal, life pro - found.

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RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*The pastor addresses the catechumens.*

**P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But

whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

**P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

**R** *Yes, I do.*

**P** Do you renounce the devil?

**R** *Yes, I renounce him.*

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

**R** *Yes, I believe 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.*

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R** *Yes, 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 everlasting.*

**P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord’s Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

**P** *Kaden*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*Exodus 14:14*

“The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

**P** *Kayla*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*Romans 12:12*

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

**P** *Rachel*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

**P** *Amber*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

*Luke 10:27*

“And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’”

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ’s Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord’s Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Peace ✠ be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### TABLE PREPARATION

#### AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### DISTRIBUTION

#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thank the Lord*

LSB 164

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.  
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



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

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

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

**C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

LSB 549



1 All hail the pow'r of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall;  
2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al-tar call;  
3 Ye seed of Is-rael's cho-sen race, Ye ran-somed from the fall,  
4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da-vid's line, Whom Da-vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex-tol the stem of Jes-se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in-car-nate, man di-vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Ex-tol the stem of Jes-se's rod And crown Him Lord of all.  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.  
The God in-car-nate, man di-vine, And crown Him Lord of all.

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet  
And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,  
On this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all.

To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all.

- 7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
And crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Text and tune: Public domain



#### POSTLUDE

*Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the One who was, who is and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you celebrate with us today.*

#### April Bible Verse

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.  
*1 Corinthians 12:27*

#### Our Mission Statement

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Most events are temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.  
Updates will be provided through the MemberCaller phone system  
and our website: [www.bethlehemwmpenn.org](http://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org).*

#### This Week's Schedule

**April 25 – May 2**

- Today:** *Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*Confirmation Sunday*  
**10:15 AM**      Worship in the Sanctuary
- Monday:**      **10:00 AM**      Worship Online  
                  **5:00 PM**      Catechism Connection with the Family
- Wednesday:**      **7:30 PM**      Voters' Meeting
- Next Sunday:**      *Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
                  **8:30 AM**      Worship on the Field  
                  **9:30 AM**      Youth League Meeting  
                  **10:15 AM**      Worship in the Sanctuary

**Serving in April: Elder – Daryl Dahman / Trustee – Delwin Gaskamp**

**Serving in May: Elder – Mike Schroeder / Trustee – Billy Ashorn**

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



**Our Church Members:** Deloris Griffin, Amy Murphy, Lathel Norris, all affected by COVID-19, all recovering from various illnesses, and the Lord's blessing for rain

**Our Shut-ins:** Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Mary McCoy, James Schoenemann, Lorine Schroeder

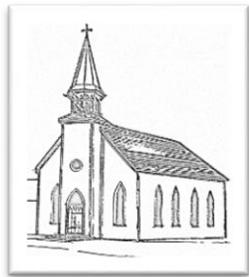
**Friends of the Congregation** are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



Please note that there is a **regularly** scheduled quarterly **Voters' Meeting** *THIS* Wednesday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>** at **7:30 PM**. See inserts for agenda and treasurer's report.

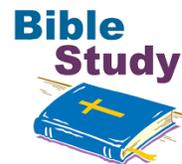
**Youth League**

You have a *meeting next Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>* between the two services at *9:30am*. Hope to see you there!



**Beginning Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** you are invited to worship in the sanctuary at **10:15am**. Online Worship will be Mondays at 10:00am. Distanced seating will be available in the Parish Hall. *We thank the Lord for His faithfulness to us through this season!*

**Adult Bible Study** will begin again on **May 16**. The theme of the study is *The Face of God*.



**Sunday School** will begin Sunday, **June 6 at 9:00am**.

### **Last Week at Bethlehem**

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL</b>
04-18 Worship on the Field	72	General Fund: \$3,369.00
04-18 Worship in the Sanctuary	28	Building Fund: \$70.00. Ed Hardin Memorial: \$60.00

**About the Cover:** With patient and loving care, Christ looks upon each and every sheep in His flock. Such care above all else is demonstrated in that He laid down His life for us and took it up again three days later. Since He was willing to die for us upon the cross and lives today, surely He daily cares and tends to our needs as our shepherd in order to guide us into life everlasting.