

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Sixth Sunday Easter

May 14, 2023— Service of the Word

Our Guiding Story and Mission:
The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35
As the Body of Christ, we proclaim the Gospel
by serving and doing God's will in a manner
that meets the needs of our changing world.

Welcome!

We are glad you have joined us today. Visitors please sign the visitor book upon entering the sanctuary.

Guide to abbreviations:

P: spoken by the Pastor **C: Congregation responds**

WOV—With One voice— blue hymnal

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship—green hymnal

* stand as you are able

For more information, please see “News in the Pews” in this bulletin or speak to an usher. On our website, you can find current events and links to our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube.

Direct access to Facebook is at [www.facebook.com/
StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran), or on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/
@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa)

Bulletins are emailed weekly, but are also available at in-person services. We welcome your feedback, recommendations, suggestions, or improvements regarding the current online transmissions. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of livestreaming and all the legwork and support this requires. Please send your feedback or volunteer availability to the Church Office.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness:

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

P. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing LBW 499

Blessing of Mothers and Women Who Nurture Children

L: On this Mother's Day, let us recognize that examples of women mothering children vary. There are those who give birth to children in the usual way, those who adopt, those who assume guardianship, those who foster, and those who nurture children as neighbors, as child care professionals, as well as teachers in our schools and Sunday Schools. May the women please rise that we may thank God for you and ask his continued blessings on you.

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, in love you have given us the gift of women who mother us. Grant to each of them your power and grace. Strengthen them in their mothering with tenderness and understanding, with compassion and joy. Endow them with wisdom and knowledge so that they might teach their and other children how to live and how to love; how to seek and pursue that which is right and true; how to turn away from all that is hurtful and wrong. Deepen their own faith that they might instill in their children a love for you that will sustain and keep them their whole life long. We ask this in Jesus name,

C: Amen



***Apostolic Greeting:**

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

***Prayer of the Day:**

Please see Celebrate insert

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

For all readings, please see *Celebrate* insert

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 66:8-20

Read responsively

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: John 14:15-21**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



The Message

***Hymn of the Day:** Come Down, O Love Divine LBW 464

***Passing the Peace:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share his peace with one another.

Blessing of Soil, Seed, and Water

L: Praise be to God!

C: O give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

L: Bless the seasons of planting and harvesting, O God.

C: We call out to you to hear us.

L: Scatter your blessing upon the face of the earth and its inhabitants,

C: And rain your nurturing goodness upon all creation.

L: Provide favorable weather that our labors may not be hindered nor the fruits of the earth fail.

C: We call out to you to hear us.

L: Bless our hearts, that in thankfulness we may give you praise, and joyfully share with others the blessings of your bounty;

C: that we may walk before you in faith and love all the days of our life.

L: This soil is symbolic of the earth of this community into which the seed is planted. This soil, created by God, contains all that is necessary to nourish the seed, that it may bring forth sturdy plants producing food. This soil will be watered by the rains of God. It will be warmed by the sunshine of God. It will be a home for the seed, that it may develop and burst forth an abundant harvest. This soil is holy earth and shall be cultivated and cared for as a holy gift of God.

This seed is symbolic of the various types of seed that have been or shall be sown and planted in this community. When sown it shall bring forth fruit and food so that all people may be nurtured and nourished, so that the wheels of industry may turn, so that life may be maintained. This seed is holy, for it contains God's holy gift of life.

This water is symbolic of water sent from God in the form of flood and rain. It will help to sustain the soil and grow the seed. This water is holy, for it helps to sustain all that our holy God has gifted with life

P: O Lord our God, author and giver of all good things, you have ordained the earth to bring forth food for all your creatures and human children. Bless the seed, the soil, the rain, and all the resources of the earth given for the good of all people and the furtherance of your creative Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Look with compassion upon us O Lord and bless the labors of the hands of your servants in all occupations; that the fruits of their labors may be the furtherance of the welfare of all humanity, and the furtherance of Christ's way of life in all the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.



P: Grant unto us seasonable weather. Cause your sun to shine, and let your rain and dew refresh the ground, that the fruits of the earth may be matured, our gardens and fields may be filled with all good fruits, and that there may be an abundance of food. Grant that we may share the fruits of the earth none of your creatures and children will know hunger. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: We thank you for the seed of faith that you have planted in us, and we ask that, through your church's faithful witness to you in word and sacrament, the seed of faith may be planted in all people. Send your Holy Spirit to water the seed of faith in your people, that it may grow and bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and love of you and our neighbors. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Send your gentle healing rain and warming sun on those who grieve or are ill or dying, that they may be restored to us or drawn into your care as fruits like the first fruit, Jesus raised from the dead, to be eternally with you and your people, especially those we now name in voice or heart...

(pause for speaking of names).

Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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**

SENDING

God sends us boldly into the world to share the good news

Sending to Sow the Gospel/Benediction

P: Let us go into the world in Faith.

C: Trusting God to lead us, trusting people to receive us.

P: Let us go into the world in Hope.

C: With God's presence before us and our dreams to carry us.

P: Let us go into the world in Love.

C: Serving with and loving God and neighbor; loving those in whom Christ lives, and laboring on behalf of and loving those for whom the risen Jesus brings the promise of new life.

P: Let us go into the world.

C: Thanks be to God!

***Closing Hymn:** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky WOV 752

***Sending:**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen one!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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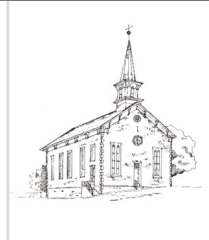
Our worshipping community:

Pastor: Rev. Angela Hammer **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt
Pianist: Dave Deysher

Ministers: The People of St. Luke Church
May Worship Assistant: Donna Rhodes
Lay Reader: Richelle Deysher
Next Sunday's Lay Reader: Donna Moyer
Live Streaming Technician: William Hoffman
Technical Assistant: Beverly Hoffman

*The altar flowers
are given by Anna Mae Grubb in honor
of all mothers.*

Readers for Blessing of Soil, Seed, and Water:
Nicholas Kneller, Samuel Kneller, Steffi Gettler



NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Beer & Bible - A monthly meeting at a local pub for dinner, drinks, and conversation—next meeting is May 25 at St. Paul Penryn.

Bible Study-Thursday morning on Zoom - 10:00 AM online with Pastor Angie to look at the texts for the Sunday lectionary. A ZOOM link will be emailed out the week of each study. Contact the church office to be added to the email invitation. Next Bible study will occur in June.

Book Club: Next meeting is on Thursday, June 1st at 7:00PM in the Chapel. We will be discussing *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. All are welcome, please contact Richelle Deysher for additional information.

Christian Education: Sunday School meets at 9:30 in the chapel. Children's class meets weekly and is led by Faith Thunberg, Richelle Deysher, and Sarah Kneller. Adult class is led by Scott Rights and meets on the first, third, and fifth Sundays.

Coffee Hour: Volunteers are needed for coffee hour, held on the second and fourth Sundays following worship. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex.

Cornhole Tournament: Saturday, May 20 4:00 PM at St. Paul Penryn. \$30 registration per team. Food truck and beer, dogs welcome. 717-665-6093 or stpaulpen@gmail.com to register.

Monthly Ministry Emphasis for May: Lebanon Rescue Mission

Musical Arts at St. Luke: If you are interested in the musical arts at St. Luke, please see Linda Holt. Reminder that choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, May 14—Easter 6

- 8:30 AM Service of the Word
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)
9:30 AM Coffee Hour
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal

Monday, May 15

- 6:30 PM Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

- 10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday, May 17

- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18—Ascension Day

- 10:00 AM Band Together
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal

Saturday, May 20

- 4:00 PM Cornhole Tournament
at St. Paul Penryn

Next Sunday, May 21—Easter 7

- 8:30AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal

The church office will be closed until May 24. Phone messages and emails will be monitored. Please see a member of council if you have any questions.

Save the date: June 4—There will be a Temple Talk regarding new the Articles of Agreement

Prayers for:

Those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:

John Adams, Marilyn Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Henry Fasnacht, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Earl Hehnly, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), Landon Kreider, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, George Pastore, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Landon Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Ashton Zohn.

Those who are serving in the military, especially:

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, Matthew Plummer, Greg Rocker.

Congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, St. Paul's Penryn, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

The St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

Contact the church office if you are in need of pastoral care.

