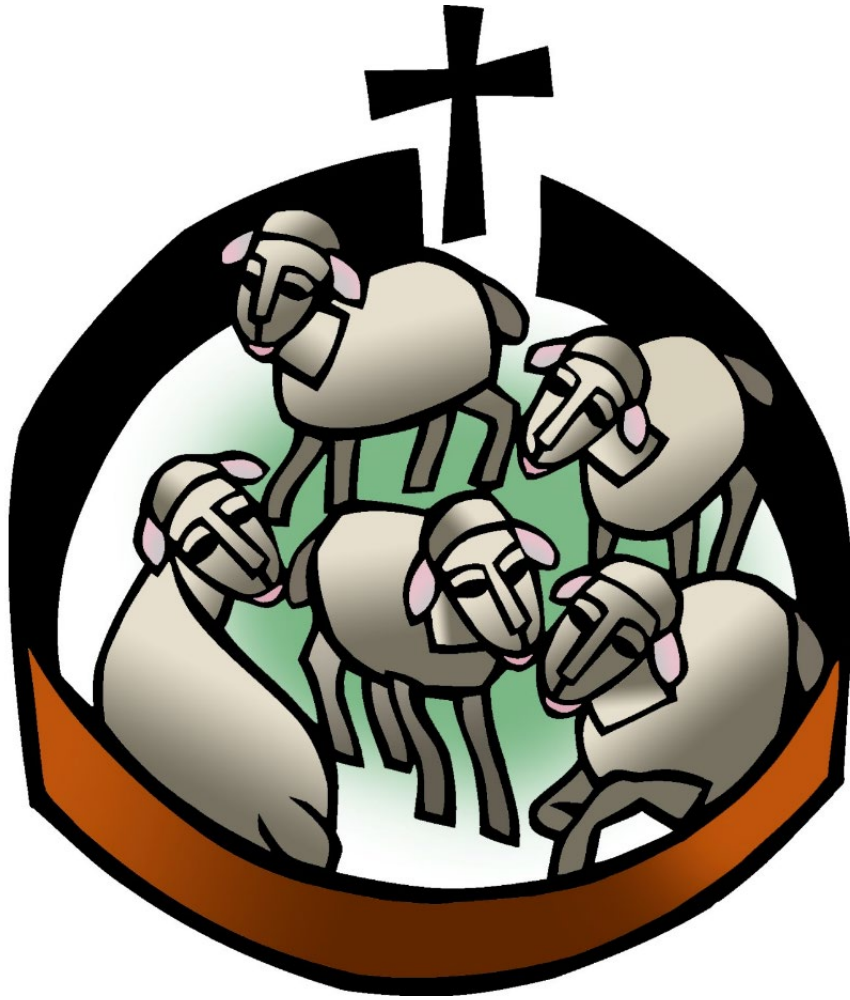


4th Sunday of Easter



Sermon Series: Belong + Believe

April 21st 2024

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome!

There is a place for you here.
Just as you are.

We extend welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated”. We love families, no matter how you define them.



We are glad you are here whether you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You are welcome here if you know the bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what he is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian”. We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecideds. If you cheer for the right team, or don’t like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we.

We embrace children! We are used to the joyful sounds and wiggles of our youngest siblings in Christ and gladly welcome them in worship. We have a kids area with quiet toys and activities along with activity bags near the main entrance to the sanctuary to help keep restless hands busy. A family room is also available in the back and is equipped with a large window facing the sanctuary and a speaker to hear what is being said.

Today's Introduction:

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.



+ WE GATHER TOGETHER +

The Spirit calls us together as God's beloved people

Welcome to worship this morning! Everything you will need is in this bulletin or the red hymnal book beside your seat. During worship, words in **bold** are said by the assembly in response.

We practice an open table meaning that all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of Joy or any other church. Jesus welcomes all to the feast! Kids of all ages are welcome to receive but we leave this decision to parents. If you prefer your child receive a blessing, please place your hand over your child's hands when the pastor comes to you.

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn: #532 "Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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!**

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Congregation:



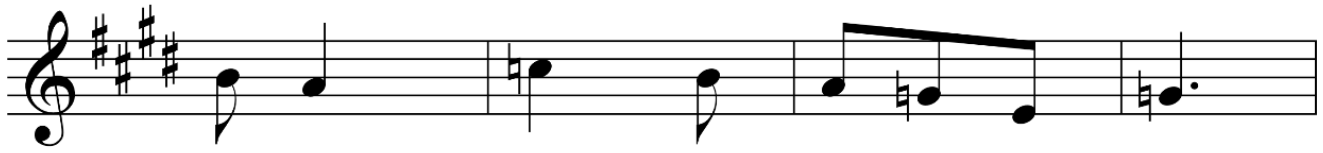
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



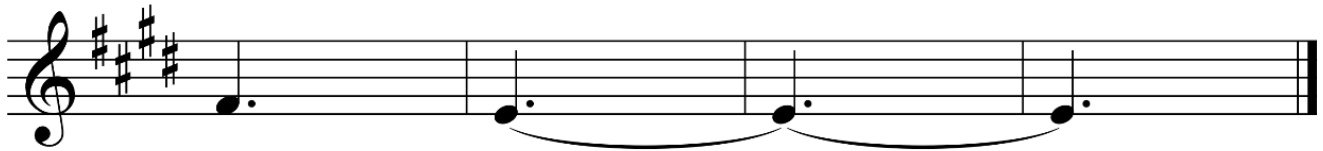
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -



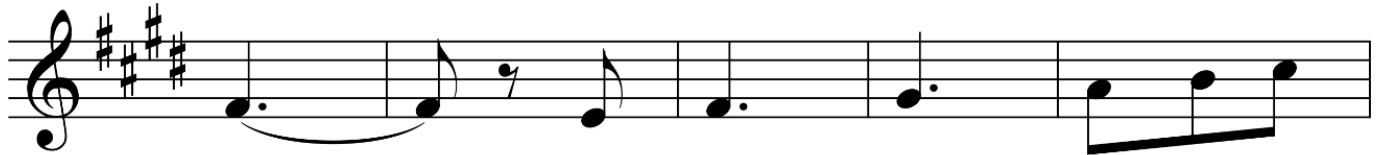
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:



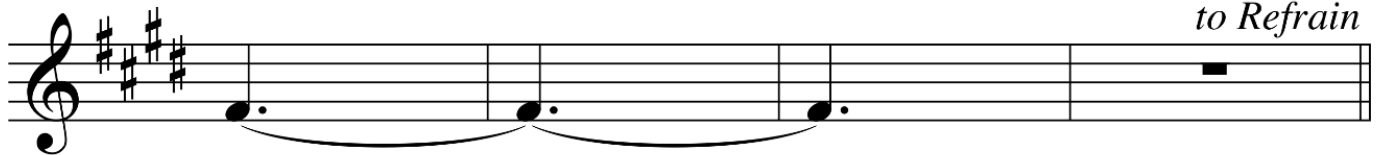
1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once



slain, whose blood has freed and u -



nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of



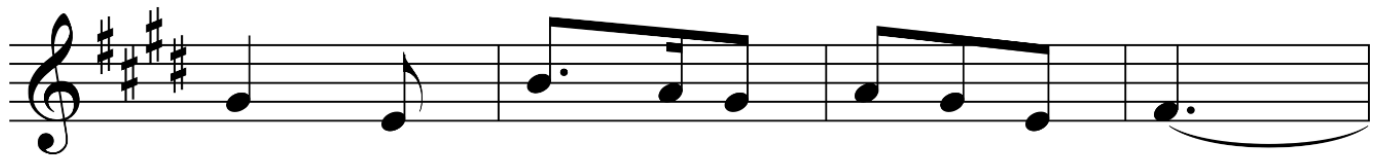
God.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



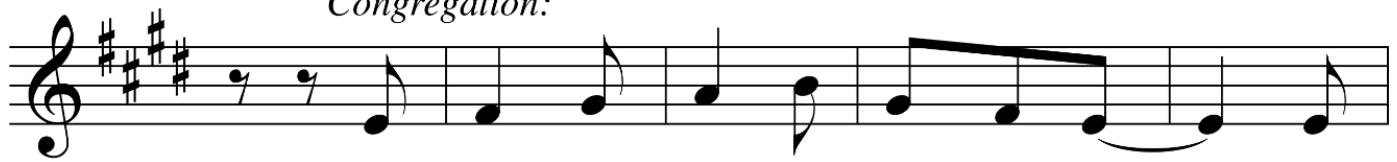
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ



for ev - er.

Verse 3

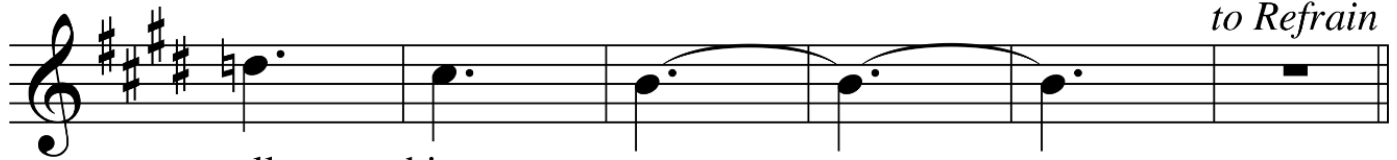
Congregation:



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to



make us peo - ple of God; to make



all things new.

to Refrain

Greeting

Presider:

Congregation:



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, **good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +
God speaks in scripture, preaching, and song

Psalm Reading | Psalm 23 | #780 - *Shepherd Me, O God*

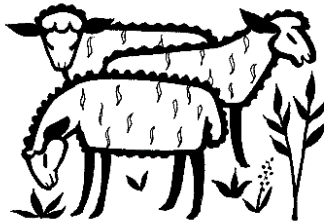
The Psalm will be sung. Cantors will sing the verses while the assembly sings the refrain.

Epistle Reading | Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Children's Message



Gospel Acclamation (*sung twice*)

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

Gospel Reading | John 10:11-18

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Sermon | Pastor Sean Avery

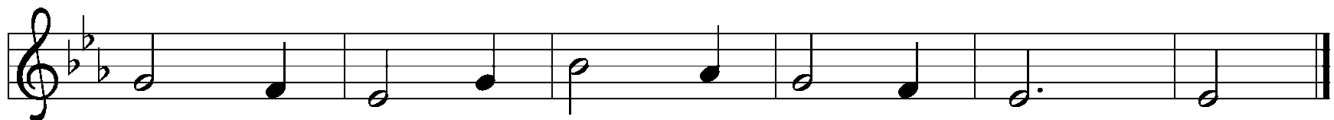
Hymn of the Day: #502 “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; 6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thine unction grace bestoweth; thy goodness faileth never.
 and, oh, what transport of delight Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 from thy pure chalice floweth! within thy house forever.

We Pray for All God's Creation

Each prayer petition ends with the following prompt and response.

Hear us O God,
Your mercy is great.

We Share Signs of Peace with Each Other

All may respond with open arms in response to the presiding minister.

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

All share signs of peace with each other, saying "Peace" or "Peace be with you" or similar words.

+ WE SHARE IN THE LORD'S MEAL +
We partake in Holy Communion

Offering & Offertory Response

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

to Refrain

We Pray for God to Use the Gifts We Offer

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: *Congregation:*
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

The presiding minister continues singing:

”It is our duty and delight....and join their unending hymn...”

The assembly joins in singing “Holy, Holy, Holy...”

Holy, Holy, Holy

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

The 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

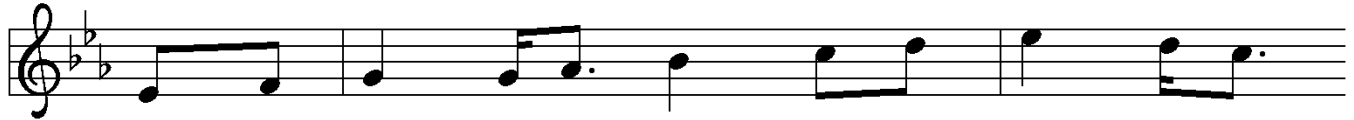
All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of Joy Lutheran Church or any other church. Jesus welcomes you and you have a place here. We believe Jesus is truly present in bread and wine and in this meal, we receive God's gift of forgiveness, kindness, and love.

The ushers will guide you forward. You may either stand or kneel at the communion rail. If you require a gluten-free option, keep your hands folded to receive a gluten-free wafer.

Following communion, all are welcome to light a prayer candle along the west wall of the sanctuary. Prayer requests may be written on paper slips and placed in the wooden hands.

Communion Hymn: #483 "*Here is Bread*"
(*please use hymnal*)

Communion Hymn: #764 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in his grace.

Amen.

+ WE ARE SENT OUT +
God blesses us for the ministry of our daily lives

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 Hymn: #361 *"The Day of Resurrection"*



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!

Dismissal

Kids are invited to join Pastor Sean in the back to say the dismissal.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

Join us for coffee, snacks, and conversation after worship in the narthex!

Want to learn more about our faith community?

Visit **joy-lutheran.com** and sign-up for our weekly digital newsletter *Notes of Joy*. You can also send us a message on our homepage!



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Please pray for those listed below:

To add someone to this list, please send an email to joylutheran@gmail.com

- + Hegna Family (as they grieve the loss of Jonny).
- + Pr. Sean, Becky & family (as they grieve the loss of Sean's mom)
- + Julie Meyer (facing the uncertainty after suffering a stroke)
- + Justin Dailey (Chris Dailey's brother, for comfort for the family and a successful surgery)
- + Bob & Candy Allen (for successful back surgery for Bob and comfort for Candy)
- + Tom & Debbie Bird (as they grieve the loss of Skip Lange)
- + Bentson family (as they grieve the loss of Al Bentson)
- + Eric & Margie Hall & family (as they grieve the loss of Eric's dad John)
- + Reimer & Oistad family (as they grieve the loss of Gary)
- + LaiMing Reimer (as she recovers from a successful kidney transplant)
- + Diana Flaherty (for pain and healing)
- + Trudi (for healing, wisdom for doctors)
- + Lisa Lind (healing, friend of Kristi Swain)
- + Dick Prien and family (as they mourn the passing of Sharon)

- + Stella Scamman (Kristi Swain’s aunt)
- + Layli (Trudi’s granddaughter, for peace and guidance)
- + Margie H. (for healing and recovery)
- + Harvey P. (for strength and healing)
- + Family of Anton Erickson (Margie and Eric’s nephew)
- + The Fredeen Family (as they mourn Wayne and Amy)
- + Brittany Mumma (seizures)
- + Jennifer Huntington (health and healing)
- + Corrine Finnie (healing)
- + The McConell Family (as they mourn the loss of their mother and wife, Mary)
- + Gwendolyn Roth (peace of mind and that she will know God is with her)
- + Tom Clark (healing)
- + For our active-duty military personnel, especially those serving in Alaska and our veterans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UPDATE FROM THE CARING FOR CREATION TEAM | SOLAR PANEL PROJECT

We are over the moon—or should we say, “over the sun”, that we as a congregation have reached our goal of \$63,500 for the 44-panel solar project for our church and community! Thank you to all who supported the project with money or prayer. We have contacted the installer to set a date for the panels to become a permanent part of our roof sometime this summer. More to come on how we hope to encourage care for God’s creation.

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

We will be having our electronics recycling event Saturday, May 18th, 2024 10am – 2pm. This recycling is for household electronics and our partners in this are Total Reclaim and Eagle River High School green club. The cost is FREE / carload, which is quite a deal considering how much it costs to recycle. Monitors or large screen TVs will have a small cost. Appliances (refrigerator, dryer, washer) and smoke detectors are not allowed because appliances take up too much room and smoke detectors contain radioactive materials. If you’d like to help, they will set up at 9:30 and we’ve divided sign up into two slots 9:30 to 12 and 12 to 2:30 and we’ll post that after church Sunday. Volunteers usually just help direct traffic, answer questions, etc. No real manual labor because Total Reclaim brings a bunch of guys to disassemble the materials into their component parts. Let your neighbors and co-workers know. Let’s keep these things out of the dump!

JUMP FOR JOY KIDS CLOTHES CLOSET – 1st Sunday of each month

If anyone has girl clothes sizes 5T - 7, it would be much appreciated! Thank you all for your donations and help serving our community in this way!

CHURCH BRUNCH-2nd Sunday of each Month

Join us after worship for our church wide brunch following worship. All are welcome!

JOY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER- HIRING TEACHER/COOK POSITIONS

JCDC is currently hiring, full descriptions can be found on the bulletin board at the main entrance and in the narthex. Feel free to take a flyer. If you have any questions, please contact JCDC jcdcoffice@gmail.com or 907-694-2755

JOY OF READING BOOK CLUB | May- September 2024

The Joy of Reading Book Club meets once a month to discuss the book selection for that month. We share thoughts on the book of the month, have a light dinner, and talk and laugh together.

Upcoming books and meetings:

***May 20-** is *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell and Mona Mitton will be hosting.

***No Meeting in June**

***Friday July 12-** is *The Women* by Kristen Hannah- Mark your calendars for the book club anniversary celebration on Nancy Lake! This will be our 14th Anniversary!

***August 19-** is *Little Souls* by Sandra Dallas.

***September 16-** is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni.

Books are meant to be shared! Please join us!

Please contact the office on 907-694-9601 if you would like any more information.

Do you have an announcement for the bulletin or Notes of Joy? Email Ericka in the office at joylutheran@gmail.com. Submissions are due each week by Thursday at 9am.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presider: Pastor Sean Avery
Assisting Minister:
Readers: Henry H.
Pianist: Nancy W.
Altar Care: Sue W. & Wayne R.

Communion Assistant: Becky A.
Acolyte: Grace J.
Ushers: Karen J. & Henry H.

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT SUNDAY

Presider: Pastor Sean Avery
Assisting Minister:
Readers: Jim H. & Gideon S.
Pianist: Kathy H.
Altar Care: Lori S.

Communion Assistant: Marcia W.
Acolyte: Peter W.
Ushers: Mark S. & Shontelle S.

Today's Flowers Provided by:

Jeff & Karen Johnson

In celebration of their 17th Anniversary

Joy's April Birthdays & Anniversaries

If we missed your birthday, or anniversary please email joylutheran@gmail.com

Birthday's

3 Emily Mullin
12 Sue Weimer
13 Shontelle Schmidt
16 Keith Oistad
18 Jack Simasko
21 Cynithia Oistad
21 Roy Corral
23 Dina Torres

Anniversaries

20 Jeff & Karen Johnson

The Art of Spiritual Practice

This week we observe Earth Day on April 22nd. It is not a day just to pick up litter or vow to be a little better at recycling, although these are steps. What matters is what motivates us to care for the Earth? Ultimately a recognition of the fact that our lovely blue and green planet floating in a vast universe is a unique creation, crafted by the love of God.

Teilhard de Chardin, paleontologist and priest writes in *Letters to a Traveler*, *All that really matters is devotion to something bigger than ourselves. The more I devote myself in some way to the interests of earth in its highest form, the more I belong to God.*

By loving the Earth with humility (I think of the hymn, *How Great Thou Art*) and with a tender love for how this physical earth reflects the very nature of Love in its highest form, the more we “belong to God.” We are not separate from this planet. We are made of the very same elements. Yet we are conscious! How will we use this awareness to honor and protect this earth so all beings can survive and thrive?

The spiritual practice: Ask yourself, “What is my relationship to Earth? Does it reflect an honoring of God, a belonging to God, an inspiring by God?”

Pastor Marcia Wakeland is a retired ELCA pastor, a spiritual director and a listening advocate. She is interested in the actual experience of having faith and how that is lived out. She can be reached at mwakeland@gmail.com for comments or more questions Her ongoing blog of living out spiritual practices is listeninglife.live.