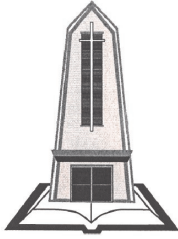




APRIL 27 & 28, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE RISEN SAVIOR GIVES FRUIT IN HIS BRANCHES



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

www.stjohnsbc.org

Church:
706 W. Jane Street
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 684-6791

School:
210 S. Alp St.
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 684-6442

WELCOME

We welcome all of you as we gather around the Word to joyfully celebrate our Savior's resurrection from the dead and what that means for us. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us for worship. We ask that you join us in signing the Friendship Register (the red folder in the pew). We look forward to having you join us for worship again.

SEASONAL THEME: RISEN TO GIVE!

EASTER DAY: The risen Savior gives life from the dead.

EASTER 2: The risen Savior gives proof and peace.

EASTER 3: The risen Savior gives a meaningful message to share.

EASTER 4: The risen Savior gives good shepherding for his sheep.

EASTER 5: The risen Savior gives fruit in his branches.

EASTER 6: The risen Savior gives love in his friends.

ASCENSION: The risen Savior gives his witnesses the promise of power.

EASTER 7: The risen Savior gives protection and hope.

DAY OF PENTECOST: The Holy Spirit gives power to our words.

We are presently in the growing season of spring. We can look at branches connected to a fruit tree or vine and those lying on the ground and can tell which ones are going to produce fruit and which ones won't. Generally, peoples' actions are shaped by their beliefs. People who eat low-carb diets do so, probably not because they hate pasta, but because they believe it's healthier for them. Our Christian living is shaped by our belief in the resurrection of Jesus. You see, we aren't connected to a memory. Jesus lives! And, like what a vine does for branches connected to it, the risen Savior gives our faith the ability to produce the fruit of witness and love that serves our neighbor and brings glory to God. So, the fruits of faith in our lives are also fruits of Jesus' resurrection.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Organist

Cantor

Pastor Jacob Reich
Ms. Gail McFarland
Mr. Phil Lane (10:30)

THE SERVICE

Setting Three (Blue Hymnal pp. 188-198, 171)

The Gathering

OPENING HYMN	454 <i>Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen</i> (st. 1-3)
CONFESSION	(p. 188)
LORD, HAVE MERCY	(pp. 190-191)
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST	(pp. 191-193)

The Word

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-37

In the early church, as the apostles preached the resurrection of Christ, the living Lord produced the fruits of unity and generosity.

³²The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

³⁶Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. ^{EHV}

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 63 *Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay*

Refrain



Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ev - er sing your praise.

Tone



You, God, / are my God,
earnestly I / seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being / longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no / water.
I have seen you in the sanctu-/ary
and beheld your power and your / glory. *Refrain*

Because your love is bet-/ter than life,
my lips will glori-/fy you.
I will praise you as long / as I live,
and in your name I will lift / up my hands.

Because you / are my help,
I sing in the shadow / of your wings.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be-/ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

SECOND READING

1 John 3:18-24

St. John encourages us to demonstrate living faith in loving words and actions.

¹⁸Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. ²²We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. ²³This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

EHV

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:5

Congregation sings Alleluias; Pastor sings the verse.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

³"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples." ^{EHV}

HYMN OF THE DAY469 *Welcome, Happy Morning***SERMON TEXT**

1 John 3:18-24

THEME: WALK THE WALK OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

APOSTLES' CREED	(p. 197)
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH	(p. 198)
OFFERING	
HYMN	450 <i>The Day of Resurrection</i>
LORD'S PRAYER	Traditional (p. 171)
BLESSING	(p. 171)

This Week at St. John's		
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Home & School Connect
Wednesday	10:00 am & 7:00 pm	Midweek Bible Class
Thursday	6:00 pm	Examination Night
Saturday	6:00 pm	Worship Service/Lord's Supper
Sunday	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Worship Service/Lord's Supper Coffee Hour/Sr. Choir/BIC/Bible Class Worship Service/Rite of Confirmation/Lord's Supper/ Jr. & Sr. Choir sing

Announcements

Examination Night, for our 2024 Confirmands, is this Thursday, May 2nd, beginning at 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. The Rite of Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 5th, during the 10:30 am service.

The May newsletter and calendar have been emailed. For those of you who do not receive it electronically, please check your mail slot in church.

Staff Appreciation Week begins May 6th and runs through May 10th. We are still accepting monetary donations to support a fun-filled week! A box is located on the table near the church office to place your contribution or you can donate online via the St. John's website, using the drop-down menu, and selecting "Staff Appreciation".

Breakfast items are needed and would need to be delivered by 7:30 am and serve 12-15 people. Ideas include: breakfast casseroles, pastries, bagels/cream cheese, yogurt parfait bar, oatmeal bar, fruit, orange juice, etc. Volunteers are needed to cover our teacher's lunches and recess times during that week. Monday through Friday: (K-4th grade) 11:30 am-12:20 pm; (5th-8th grade) 11:40 am-12:30 pm. Monday, Wednesday, Friday: (4-Year-old Preschool) 11:50 am - 1:00 pm.

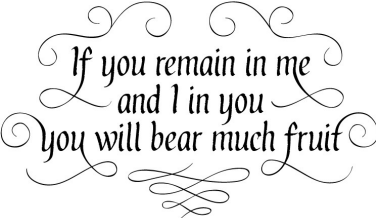
Any questions can be directed via text or phone call to Amy Krager (989-980-6991). Thank you in advance!

A Women's Self Defense class is being offered in our school gym on May 18th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Instructors are Rich Casanova and Rudi Nitschmann. For more information see the April newsletter, or pick up a flyer on the hall table.

Ascension Service: Mt. Olive will host this year's Ascension service for the area WELS churches on **Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm** with Holy Communion. Mt. Olive will also provide refreshments after the service (**602 Sidney St.**). Pastor Zach Steinke will serve as liturgist. Pastor Mike Killinger (Bethel) will serve as preacher. Karen Coberley (Mt. Olive) will serve as organist, Pam Hart (Trinity) as choir director, and Shannon Hatzung (Trinity) as choir accompanist.

If you would like to sing in the choir, contact Pam Hart (989) 600-7572. Please identify yourself and your church. There are **two rehearsals at 6:30 pm**. They are Tuesday, April 30th at Trinity and Tuesday, May 7th at Mt. Olive.

School and Church families, we need your help! Here is a great way to show love and support to our area homeless. We can put into action our compassion for even those we don't know or don't appear to have anything in common with, just as in the parable of the Good Samaritan. We have applied for the *Community Care and Compassion* grant that is sponsored through our Synod. You may remember hearing about it during the WELS Connection that was played after each church service a few weeks ago. It is a grant designed with Christian Outreach in mind. The Grant will match our contributions dollar for dollar up to \$2,500.00! We are going to use the money to buy items to make "Rescue Bags" to distribute to our local homeless shelter - the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. The upper grades will help shop, assemble and distribute the bags. The Mission has sent a list of needed items. Normally we would collect the needed items; however, this grant matches monetary donations. There will be envelopes to donate in both the school and church. **Deadline will be Sunday, May 12th**. The Deadline is short for two reasons: we just learned about this Grant and we need to complete our mission before school ends so the students can help. The Rescue Mission is in dire need - they have received only half of their usual donations. Any amount you can spare will be matched and greatly appreciated. Special envelopes for donations are on the hall table and in the school office. Blessings to you.



Worship Service Attendance	2024	2023
Worship Service Attendance, 4/21	141	189
Communion Attendance, 4/21	98	X