



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

10:00am

Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 27; 101 S. Main Street

Woodsboro, MD 21798

301-845-4533

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Serving God and Community

Reverend Sean DeLawder

Gary Schwartz, Organist

Carolyn Miller, Vocalist

Nancy Swain, Office Administrator



Welcome to Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

WELCOME! We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign our guest book at the entrance to the sanctuary. Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. The Pastor would love to meet you so please introduce yourself. Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are blessed by your presence today.

The April bulletins are given to the glory of God and in honor of my dad, Rodman Myers' 90th birthday on April 9th, by Cheryl Lenhart.

Today's altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of all our nieces and nephews by John and Pat Nash.

Lay Reader: Robin Rippeon
Recording Assistant: Roger Myers
Ushers: Peggy Esworthy
Flower Coordinator: Pat Nash

April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
GATHERING

**Please stand as able Congregation responses are in bold.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

(Continued)

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***GATHERING SONG**

#379 – Now the Green Blade Rises

***GREETING**

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

in unison

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw

him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

PSALM

PSALM 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING:

1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached

(Continued)

perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL:**

John 15:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Sean

HYMN OF THE DAY

404 – Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

(Continued)

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK

OFFERING PRAYER

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 LORD'S PRAYER

in unison

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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 SONG**

#367 – Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WOODSBORO EVANGELICAL PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,
Amanda Blank, Jessica Bowers, Juanita Bowers, Mack Burdette,
Jean Case, Joan Chesser, Sophie Castro-Davis, Peggy Carey,
Nancy Creager, Scotty Easton, Faye Fogle, Stephanie Hammond,
Philip Hockman, Paul and Ann Hutter, Bob Hyde, Jana Inskeep,
Butch Lewellyn, Robert and Sandy Measell, Kasey Melville,
Kathleen Milander, Sue Millione, Millie Miller, Patrick Moseley,
Ronnie Myers, Genie Neugebauer, Ken Palmer, Chester Redmond,
Charlotte Shaffer, Mitzi and Gary Smith, Mike Stottlemeyer,
Lincoln Tiemann, Donald Trimmer, Jean Trimmer, and
Pastor Harry Wolpert

WELC ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE: In order to keep your membership active, you must take communion, and complete and submit a card once per year.

Pastor Sean's Weekly Office Hours – Every Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please feel free to stop by to say hello, give feedback or if you need pastoral care. As always, Pastor Sean can be reached throughout the week at welcpastorsean@gmail.com or 301-606-3632.

Worship Service Social – Join us for coffee, snacks, and fellowship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month prior to our worship service.

Geranium Sale –Ends today, April 28th, 2024. Order Forms are available on the windowsill. Delivery on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 10-11.

Free Community Dinner – The first Tuesday of each month from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the social hall. The next community dinner is May 7th from 5 to 7pm. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Michelle Burns at 301-788-7734 and/or Suzanne Yusko at 301-471-1539.

Year-to-Date Offerings – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of April 19, 2024, is \$25,347.06 with an annual budgeted amount of \$145,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support.

Summer Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale – June 1st, 8:00am – 2:00pm, (donations accepted). For additional information, contact Robin Delauter at.301-639-1206.

Vacation Bible School – This year’s theme is **Scuba Diving into Friendship with God**; June 17 – 20th; 6:00pm – 8:00pm Ages 4-12; Register by calling the WELC Office: 301-845-4533 in the Social Hall.

Council Approved Financial Reports and/or Minutes - If you are interested in receiving a copy of either/both, please contact Nancy Swain 301-845-4533.

Community Partners will be collecting items for their Caring Closet program. May’s focus will be on **Paper Products** – toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Council Meeting – TBD in the upstairs Conference Room 6:30pm.

WELC Food Collection – The Latest from the GVCS Food Bank - All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the food bank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned.) or email at GVFB21w@gmail.com. Thank all of you for your continued support!

Currently, the greatest needs are:		
Baked Beans	Pancake mix	Macaroni-N-Cheese
Hamburger Helper	Boxed Crackers	

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woodsboro Seniors' Luncheon Meeting – On Wednesday, May 15th at 11:30am, we are planning to go to Rocky's Pizza, 205 Tippin Drive, Thurmont, MD. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-304-5244. New members are always welcome.

Chapel's All You Can Eat Breakfast Buffet – Saturday, May 4th, 7-11:00am. Take your family and/or friends and enjoy a delicious breakfast (Adults - \$10.00, Children (5-10) - \$5.00). Please contact Chris Beard at 301-418- 0148 if you have any questions.





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