

APRIL NEWSLETTER



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
405 West Main St.
Wytheville, Virginia 24382





April 2023

Grace and peace to you,

A big thank you to all who had a hand in providing music, flowers, altar preparations, mowing, flower bed care, signs, newspaper notices, assistants in worship, bulletin preparation and copying, handing out bulletins, making sure things are in place at St. John Easter morning, welcoming people to church, and cooking and serving Easter breakfast...am I forgetting anything?

I am sure that I am. It always amazes me how many people come together to make all of this happen throughout Holy Week. It truly takes a village to worship together and make sure everything is in place for our community gatherings around the events that unfold throughout Holy Week. So, thank you! Thank you for what you do. Thank you for being here to worship and celebrate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for being a part of the family of Christ that gives thanks and celebrates all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do for us and the whole world.

I am proud to be a Lutheran pastor who is called to proclaim salvation by grace through faith with love, rather than salvation through fear and hate. Our God is a God of love, grace, forgiveness, and hope. Anything else is a misrepresentation of all that a loving, grace-filled, and always faithful God promises to do for us and for the whole world.

We bask in this love as we proclaim, Christ is risen indeed, alleluia, Amen.

Peace and hope,
Pastor Jonathan

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on March 10th.

- ✠ **Property** – Ted reported work would start this week on replacing the sanctuary roof and should take two to three days. We have one estimate for steeple repair and are talking with a couple other potential bidders. That work should be sometime this summer.
- ✠ **Worship** – Lavelva reported a choir is being reorganized with five participants so far, with schedules being worked out.
- ✠ **Diaper Distribution** – The next is on April 11th. This is building in popularity. On Feb. 1st we ran out of diapers by 1:30 PM and had to make a store run for more.
- ✠ **Art Council Sponsorship** – It was decided not to sponsor a Chautauqua Festival activity in Wytheville this year.

2024 Flower Chart

The new flower chart for the coming year is up in the Connector. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar for our Sunday services. If you choose to contact Theresa at Petals, it will only cost \$30.

April Altar Guild Members

Heidi Shupe
Lisa Alderman

Second Sunday Reception – April 14th

Martha Riggle
Amy Aussiker
Chelsea Hamman
Barbara Hamman
Karen Miller

April Worship Assistants:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Comm. Asst.</u>
Apr. 7	Kyle Stephens	Micah Hamman	Julia Stephens	Dan Ferrell
Apr. 14	Eden Miller	Etthan Miller	Lisa Alderman	Karen Miller
Apr. 21	James Crockett	Kyle Stephens	Helen Keck	Helen Keck
Apr. 28	Micah Hamman	Margaret Ferrell	Joe Bean	Martha Ballard

Sunday, April 7th – Second Sunday of Easter

Introduction: This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 4:32-35
Psalm – Psalm 133
Second Reading – 1 John 1:1 – 2:2
Gospel – John 20:19-31

Hymns:

#376 - "Thine Is the Glory"
#367 - "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"
#369 - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"

Sunday, April 14th – Third Sunday of Easter

Introduction: The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Hymns:

First Reading – Acts 3:12-19
Psalm – Psalm 4
Second Reading – 1 John 3:1-7
Gospel – Luke 24:36b-48

#377 - "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"
#373 - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"
#389 - "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Sunday, April 21st – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 4:5-12
Psalm – Psalm 23
Second Reading – 1 John 3:16-24
Gospel – John 10:11-18

Hymns:

#385 - "Good Christians Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"
#384 - "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"
#789 - "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Sunday, April 28th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introduction: This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Readings:

First Reading – Acts 8:26-40
Psalm – Psalm 22:25-31
Second Reading – 1 John 4:7-21
Gospel – John 15:1-8

Hymns:

#380 - "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"
#364 - "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"
#720 - "We Are Called"

FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND	February 2024	2024 Year Total
INCOME NEEDED	\$16,736	\$33,472
INCOME RECEIVED	\$14,761	\$34,239
EXPENDITURES	\$13,705	\$34,768



GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND ATTENDANCE

February 4 th	\$5,233	40
February 11 th	\$5,223	55
February 18 th	\$2,155	53
February 25 th	\$2,150	57
Total	\$14,761	205



Tithes and offerings

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Baptisms

Victoria Crockett 04/01
 Patrick Hedrick 04/02
 Virginia Sharitz 04/03
 Grace Umberger 04/04
 Gary Umberger 04/09
 Bryan Cochran 04/10
 Larry Shupe Jr. 04/11
 Joshua Shupe 04/12
 Martha Ballard 04/13
 Teresa Campbell 04/13
 Grady Beaver Jr. 04/14
 Eden Miller 04/16
 Donald Pattison 04/17
 Christopher Langendorfer 04/21
 Noah Fowler 04/18
 Charlie Clark 04/24
 Rylan Horton 04/24
 Wendy Horton 04/25

Birthdays

Evan Hendrick 04/01
 Emery Martin 04/01
 Amelia Martin 04/04
 Andy Kegley 04/07
 Margaret Ferrell 04/08
 Randall Fowler 04/08
 Hunter Suthers 04/08
 Amy Butler 04/12
 Mary White 04/14
 Kimberly Szogi 04/20
 Breana Akers 04/21
 Katherine Johnson 04/21
 Catherine Ballard 04/23
 Shirley (Jane) Festa 04/23
 Jennifer Miler 04/29

Anniversaries

Margaret and Dan Ferrell 04/14
 Carol and Randy Fowler 04/15