

*Second Sunday of Easter ~ April 7, 2024*

*Abiding Hope Lutheran Church*

Rev. Karen Parsh 814.881.3266 [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506



The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~**

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

*Please Stand*

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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!**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 384** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

## 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.**

**HYMN of PRAISE** ~ *This is the Feast* V.1,3 Women ~ V.2,4 Men

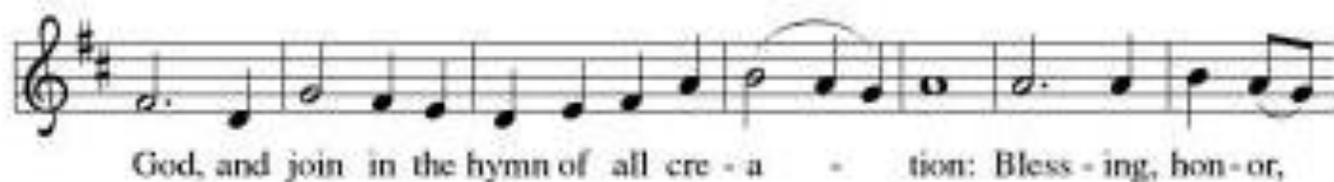
*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



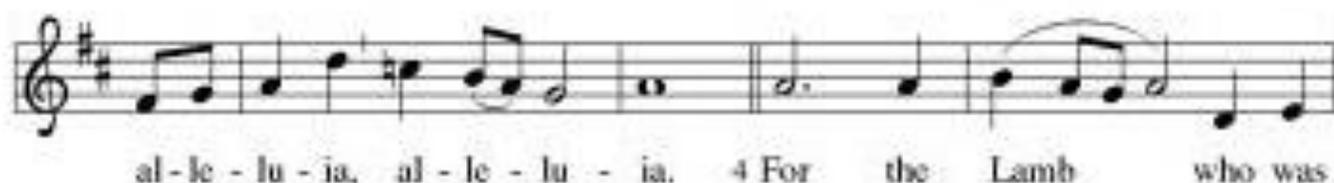
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

## PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together  
*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* **Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

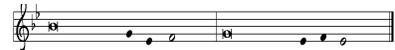
*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 133** Sung Responsively

Tone 7



<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is,  
when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar  
of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>**It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life  
for evermore.**

### SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. **cont'd**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Please stand*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

**cont'd**

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

**HYMN of DAY ~ WOV 675** *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.* Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain, especially: Family and Friends of Don & Helen (Skip), Diane, Shirley, Trudy, Pat, Don H., Maury, Jerry & Connie, Matt & Sally, Ruth, Stephanie & Family, Ed & Jeanne, Damian & Marcia, Pastor Karen & Dave, Tammy, Evelyn. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. 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.**

*Please be seated*

### **New Members Installation**

These persons, Bob and Cindy Reid, desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism as members of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.

Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word, God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? **I do.**

*Please Stand*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

Let us pray.

**Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **PRAYER SHAWL PRESENTATION**

#### **WELCOME**

We joyfully welcome you and celebrate your membership into our Abiding Hope Community.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*Please be seated*

### **PRESENTATION of GIFTS**

**OFFERING ~ CHOIR:** *Lamb of God*

-T.Paris/L. Larson

## OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 481 *Come to the Table*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**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.**

*Please stand*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

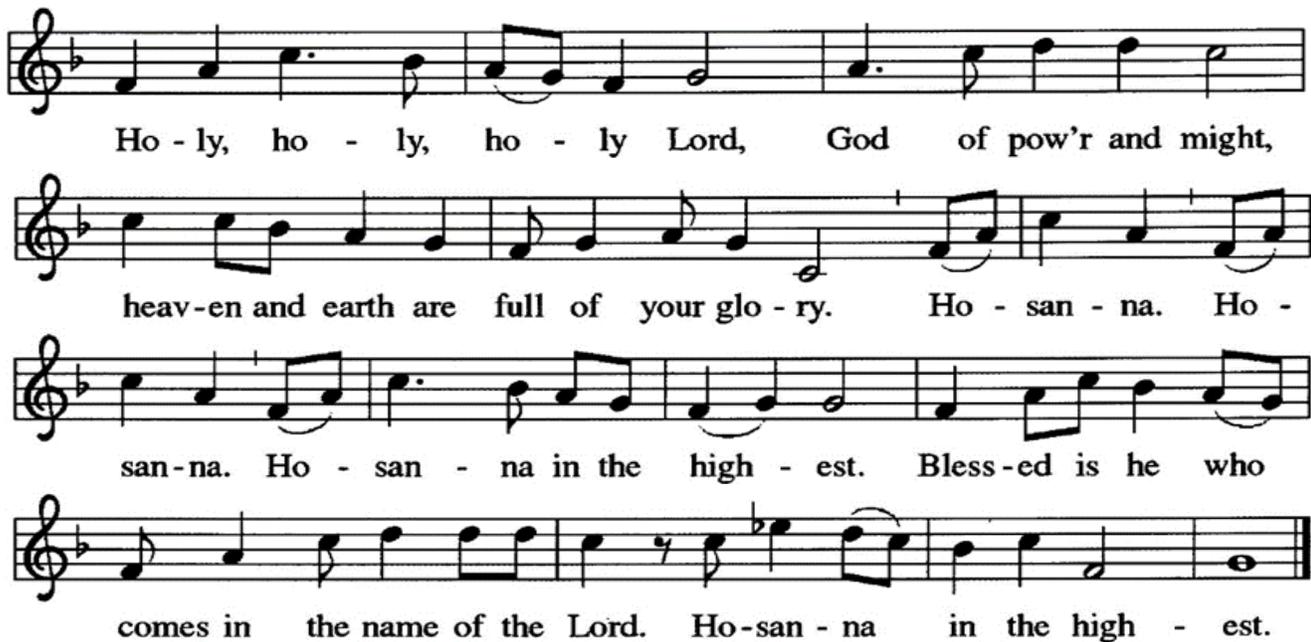
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Please be seated

## INVITATION to COMMUNION

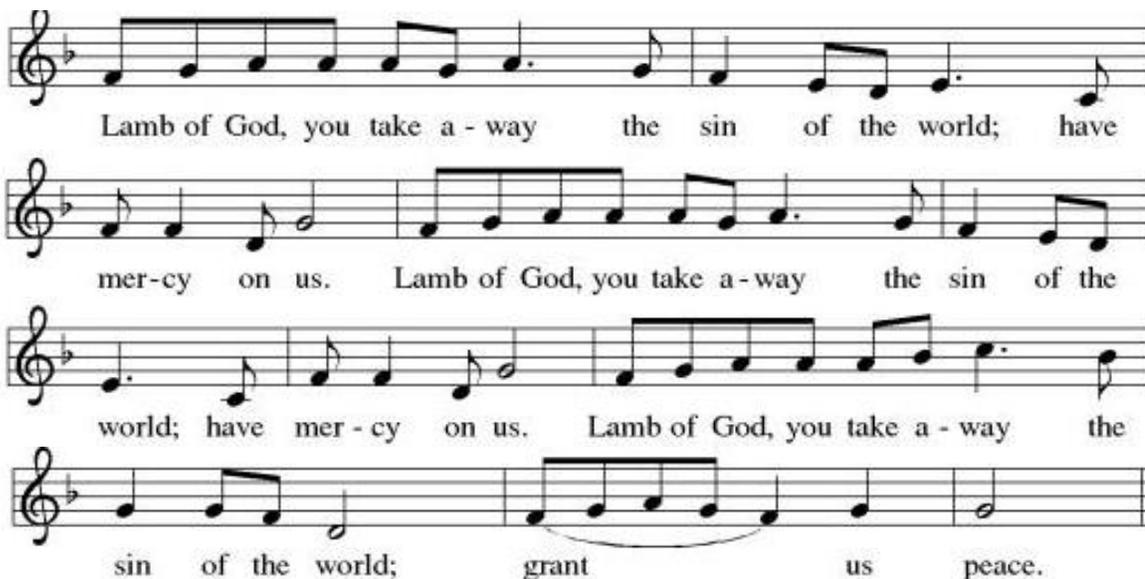
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

## LAMB of GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 471 *Let us Break Bread Together*

### ELW 388 *Be Not Afraid*

### *Breathe on Me, Breadth of God*



1. Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am whol - ly Thine,  
4. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.  
un - til with Thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
but live with Thee the per - fect life of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.

## **PASTORAL BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

*Please be stand*

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **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 ~ ELW 379** *Now the Green Blade Rises*

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE ~**

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## PARISH NOTES ~ April 7, 2024

Phone: 814-868-8685 – Email: [ahadministrator@hotmail.com](mailto:ahadministrator@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org) - FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

*Flowers this week are given to the Glory of God,  
In Memory of Charlotte Doehrel's Birthday  
and LeRoy & Charlotte's Wedding Anniversary  
from Analee Cree*

*In Celebration of New Members,  
Bob and Cindi Reid  
from the Abiding Hope Family*

**Please pray for:** Family & Friends of Don & Helen "Skip" Kleckner, Shirley Englert, Diane Farnsworth, Pat Kerr, Trudy Mueller, Maury Allen, Matt & Sally Zill, Jerry & Connie Vogt, Don Holder, Stephanie Volland and family, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Ruth Hinkson, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Evelyn Senger. and Tammy Sharp McIntyre.

**Sunday, April 7: Bible Study, 10:45am. Choir Practice, 10:45am**

**Wednesday April 10:** Our **Lunch & Listen** series continues with **Baher Ghosheh, Ph.D.**, who will offer his perspective on the challenges of World Wide immigration. **This is not a political talk.** Bring your **lunch** for **12n, speaker, 12:30p**. Invite your friends & family to enjoy this interesting presentation. Beverages & cookies provided.

**Sunday, April 14:** Plan to attend the **Town Hall Meeting** following worship. Enjoy coffee & goodies. **Bring your questions, concerns and ideas for AHLC.**

**Thursday, May 2:** Enjoy a 3-hour tour **11a-2p** of Hurry Hill Farm, the sugar house and Maple Sugar Museum (rain date, May 6). Jan Woods will demonstrate, and we will participate in the making of maple sugar. You are encouraged to read the award-winning book, **"Miracles on Maple Hill" by Virginia Sorensen** prior to the tour. Sign up form in narthex for tour (\$10). Book is also \$10 if you wish to purchase. Cash payments for both.

**KAFP Project Dignity:** April item, **Hand/Body Lotion**. Donations can be placed in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

**Bethany Outreach:** Collection of used clothing and household items continues as well as collection of shoes (pairs only) in good condition for **The Chosen**. Baskets on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

**Office Hours week of April 8:** If office is closed on Monday, hours will be Tues., Wed, 9:30a-3:30a. Thur. 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.

**Altar Flowers:** Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- **\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

**Current Fund**

<b>March Income</b>	<b>\$11,183.00</b>	<b>Year to Date Income</b>	<b>\$29,473.89</b>
<b>March Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,311.03</b>	<b>Year to Date Expenses</b>	<b>\$34,125.98</b>
<b>March Difference</b>	<b>-\$128.03</b>	<b>Year to Date Difference</b>	<b>-\$4,652.09</b>
<b>YTD Budget \$33,491.36</b>			

**Worship Leaders ~ April 7, 2024**

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Lector/Prayers	Sally Zill
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Donna Holder
Comm. Assist/cups	Nancy Cunning
Communion tray	Emily / Kayla Miller
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Jeanne Tropper
Usher	Rick Filson
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Dave Cunning & Andy Saska