

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 14, 2024

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh 814.881.3266 pastorparsh@gmail.com

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506



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.

PRELUDE ~ *Prelude in Classic Style* -G. Young

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ *A special Thank You to Howard Lyon for providing special music.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 369 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia*

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. **Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, 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

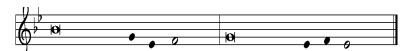
FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 4 Sung Responsively

Tone 7



¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear
my prayer.

²**"You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?"**

³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

cont'd

⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us | any good?"

Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;

for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

cont'd

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Installation of Council Members

Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in Thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of our Church Council.

The following persons, having been elected, by the congregation, to the positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as names are read. Andy Saska, Penny Gresh, Analee Cree, Dave Cunning, Cindy Filson, Rich Filson, Lois Kuhns, Michele Rion, Larry Ruhlman, Diana Stoker.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

APOSTLES' 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.

St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)
You have been elected to, positions of leadership and trust in his congregation.

To Council:

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that' the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the office to which you have been elected?

If so, answer in unison: **Yes, by the help of God.**

Congregation, please stand.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

If so, answer in unison: **Yes, by the help of God.**

To Council:

I now declare you installed as *officers/council members* of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Amen

Let Us Pray

For all who offer themselves in your name, we give thanks, O God. Give them the joy of service, and constant care and guidance. Help us all to be both willing servants and thankful recipients of ministry, that your name be glorified, your people live in peace, and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special thanks to outgoing members, Carol Korn and Pat Wenzel.

HYMN of DAY ~ ELW 782 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

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.* O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief and illness, 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.

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. 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.**

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 ~ *Rondeau* from Orchestral Suite No.2 – J.S. Bach

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 531 *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

The feast is read - y to be - gin;
the feast is read - y to be - gin.

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.**

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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

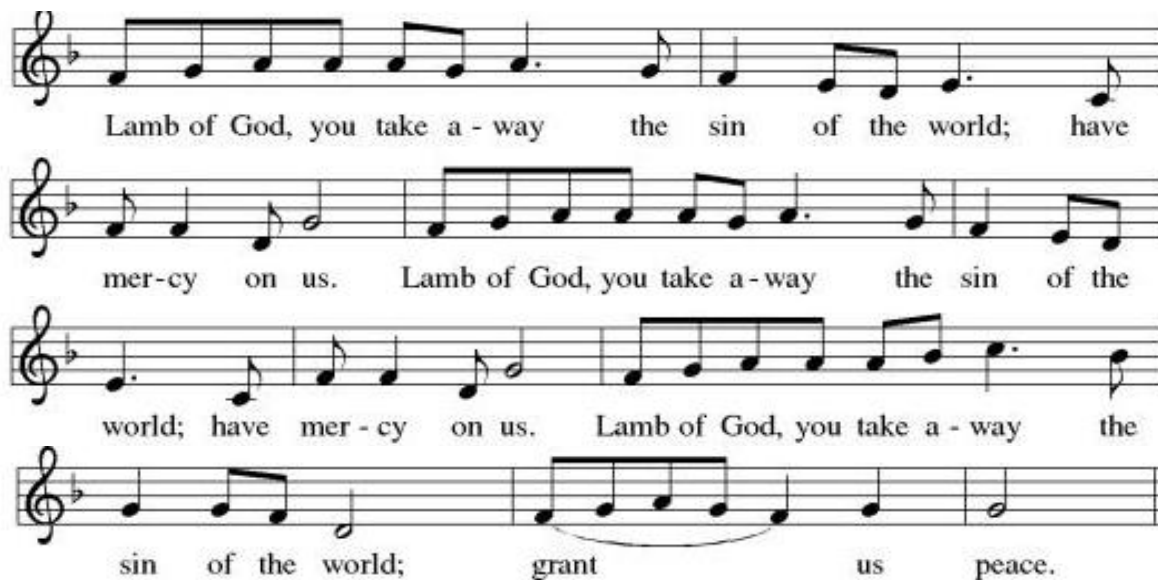
The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

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 484 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Together*
ELW 764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

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 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 ~ *He Leadeth Me*



- 1 He lead - eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav' n-ly com-fort fraught!
- 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom,
- 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
- 4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,



What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.



His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE ~ *Great Is the Lord* -M.W. Smith/m. Verhaalen

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PARISH NOTES ~ April 14, 2024

Phone: 814-868-8685 – Email: ahadministrator@hotmail.com
Website: www.abidinghopeerie.org - FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

Town Hall Meeting

Following worship
Enjoy coffee & goodies

Bring your questions, concerns and ideas for AHLC.

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 14: Choir Practice, 10:45am

Wednesday, April 17: Prayer Warriors will meet in the sanctuary. Members of the congregations are encouraged to join in for any length of time between 1-3p to silently pray for our Pastor, our congregation, the community, our nation and world.

Wednesday, April 17: Art Committee meeting, **12:30p.** Over 200 of Milton Sontheimer’s paintings have been cleaned and categorized...Art Events are being discussed.

Wednesday, April 17: Men’s Night Out has changed from Saturday. Join the guys this month at the UnderDog BBQ, 2714 West 8th (formerly Perkin’s), @ 6:30p. RSVP not required.

Thursday, April 18: All ladies welcome to attend “Ladies Night Out” at the Colony Pub & Grille, Colony Plaza @ 5:30p. RSVP to Jacque Holmberg by Monday, April 15 or sign up in the narthex. Also, if you need a ride let her know. Rides leave AHLC @ 5:00p

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.

Thursday, May 9: Erie Lutheran Conference Ascension Day service with Rev. Erik Young, St. Paul’s preaching. 7:00pm @ Luther Memorial. Festive reception to follow.

Saturday, May 11: Lutherlyn CampBlast! 11a-4p. Free! Rain or Shine!
Indoor/outdoor activities: campfire, crafts, pony rides, nature activities, sports, hayrides, hikes, zipline etc. Lunch (12n-3p) and worship. No registration required. Just show up with family and friends.

Thursday, May 23: Motorcoach trip to Ohio for a sight and sound theatre production of **RUTH**. Additional information with a reservation form on the table in the narthex.

KAFP Project Dignity: April item, **Hand/Body Lotion**. Donations can be place 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: Mon., Tues., 9:30a-3:30p. Wed., 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

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

Worship Leaders ~ April 14, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Lector/Prayers	Rick Penn
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Analee Cree
Comm. Assist/cups	Emily/Kayla Miller
Communion tray	Carol Korn
Presenter	Jeanne Tropper
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Lois Kuhns & Penny Gresh