

May 20, 2018

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Day of Pentecost

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

Our vision is to be an expanding community of faith, growing in the Holy Spirit,  
and practicing before the world a Christ-centered life.

Missionaries:

All the people of God

Music Director:

Art Hargrove

Organist:

Dave Heimer

Church Secretary:

Deb Krahling

Church Office:

706-485-4600

Music Director's Cell:

706-473-1290

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

lolcsec@plantationcable.net

[www.lolc.info](http://www.lolc.info)

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are  
available from the ushers



**WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE**

*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers  
and we will happily accommodate you.*

**In Preparation of Holy Communion**

*We invite to the Lord's Supper all Christians who are baptized, who have  
communed in a Christian church, and who share our Lutheran understanding that,  
along with the bread and wine, we receive the body and blood of our living Lord  
Jesus – for the strengthening of our faith and witness.*

*The glasses in the very center of each tray contain grape juice for those who are  
not able to drink wine. Communicants may choose to receive the wine in an  
individual cup, from the Chalice or by immersing the wafer in the Chalice  
(intinction). It is very helpful to keep your empty glass visible so the Common Cup  
will not be offered.*

*Children who do not commune are invited to come for a blessing. Pastor asks that  
they fold their hands to show that they are not communing.*

*Ushers: Tom & Todd Saner*

*Greeters: Connie Piepenbrink & Joan Lucas*

*Altar Care: Peggy Uehlin & Reda Joost*

*Communion Assistants: Amy Orr-Stokes & Bob Elkins*

*The Fellowship wish to invite you for coffee after the worship service*

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*Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.*

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## **Choir Prelude: Sweet, Sweet Spirit**

**Welcome: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Welcome guests.**

*Please Stand*

## **The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)*

## **Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His

sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Congregational Hymn** (To sing harmony, turn to # 498 in the Lutheran Service Book)

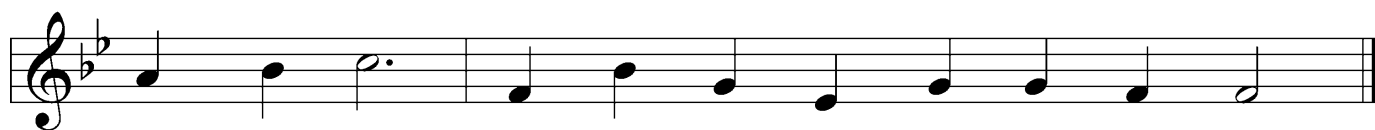
### Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make  
2 To You, the Coun - sel - or, we cry, To You,  
3 In You, with grac - es sev - en - fold, We God's  
4 Your light to ev - 'ry thought im - part, And shed



our hearts Your place of rest; Come with Your grace and  
the gift of God Most High; The fount of life, the  
al - mighty hand be - hold While You with tongues of  
Your love in ev - 'ry heart; The weak - ness of our



heav'n-ly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.  
fire of love, The soul's a - noint - ing from a - bove.  
fire pro - claim To all the world His ho - ly name.  
mor - tal state With death - less might in - vig - or - ate.

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### Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: We pray for God's blessing as we Call a new pastor.

**C: Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on this Your Church in our time of transition. Give guidance from the Holy Spirit to all involved in the Call process. Our prayer is that, in Your good time and according to Your good plans, we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people and equip us for witness and service to the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*You may be seated*

**First Lesson – Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Reader: Charlie Helms**

**Psalm 139: 1-12**

P: <sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

**C: <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

P: <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down

**C: and are acquainted with all my ways.**

P: <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,

**C: behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.**

P: <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,

**C: and lay your hand upon me.**

P: <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

**C: it is high; I cannot attain it.**

P: <sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your Spirit?

**C: Or where shall I flee from your presence?**

P: <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

**C: If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

P: <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning

**C: and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

P: <sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me,

**C: and your right hand shall hold me.**

P: <sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

**C: and the light about me be night,"**

P: <sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you;

**C: the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

## Second Lesson – Acts 2:1-21

Reader: Charlie Helms

*Please Stand*

### Common Alleluia

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.

### Holy Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth and sixteenth chapters.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup> "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me,

and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

**Sermon "What Can God Do With Dead Dry Bones?" Rev. Larry Townsend**

based on Ezekiel 37:1-14

Congregational Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 727 in the Lutheran Service Book)

On Eagles' Wings



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -  
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And  
3 You need not fear the \_\_\_\_\_ ter - ror of the night, Nor the  
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,  
fam - ine will bring you no fear;  
ar - row that flies \_\_\_\_\_ by day; Though  
guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My \_\_\_\_\_ ref - uge, My \_\_\_\_\_  
Un - der His wings your \_\_\_\_\_ ref - uge, His \_\_\_\_\_  
thou - sands \_\_\_\_\_ fall a - bout you,  
on their \_\_\_\_\_ hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock \_\_\_\_\_ in whom \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ trust!"  
faith - ful - ness \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ shield.  
Near you it shall \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ come.  
dash \_\_\_\_\_ your foot a - gainst a stone.

*Refrain*



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The



## Nicene Creed

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## Offering

**Instrumental Anthem:**

***Please stand as the offering is brought to the altar.***

# Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a measure with a whole rest in the treble staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

The fifth system concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

## Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray

P: Merciful Father

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

### *Brief silence*

P: Eternal God, by the power of the Holy Spirit we confess You to be the one true God. Accept our thanks today for Your Spirit's work in our lives. Help us daily to rely upon the Spirit's important work of teaching, rebuking, reminding and comforting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, bless the work of proclaiming Your one message of salvation into many languages. Guide those individuals and organizations who endeavor to translate Your Holy Word into foreign languages. By their efforts, bring more people to a knowledge of Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, we acknowledge You to be God and Lord. Renew and strengthen this confession of Your holy people as the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments administered. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord of the Church, by Your Holy Spirit You pour forth Your charity and love into our hearts. Renew Your faithful people by Your mercy, sustain them in their hope and faith, and work in them a zeal to demonstrate Your mercy to others. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity not only to the nations on earth but to the Christian Church, including The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Give Your servants a spirit of Christian love as they seek to conduct the affairs of our church in all humility and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O merciful Father in heaven, guide all who have authority over us, especially our president, the Congress of the United States, our governor and all who make, administer and judge our laws. We humbly pray that these, Your servants, will fulfill their civic duties, recognizing that they are Your instruments in caring for us in this life by promoting stability and tranquility in our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty and Everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who are in any tribulation or distress graciously come before You, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort. Graciously abide with those who mourn the loss of loved ones [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. Wrap them in Your certain promise of a joyful reunion in heaven for all those who die in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, our God, in the Sacrament of the Altar, Your Son delivers into our mouths His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. By this Sacrament, send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of Your faithful people, that we may be strengthened in our faith to show fervent love toward all those around us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Preface**

*LSB 177*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **Proper Preface**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 178

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this

cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Proclamation of Christ**

*LSB 179*

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 179*

**C: 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.**

## **Pax Domini**

*LSB 180*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*You may be seated*

## **Distribution**

Communion Hymn (To sing harmony, turn to # 806 in the Lutheran Service Book)

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the  
Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_\_ Je - sus  
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give  
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_\_  
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am  
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of  
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the  
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am  
rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_



*Please Stand*

## Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Announcements

*Please Stand*

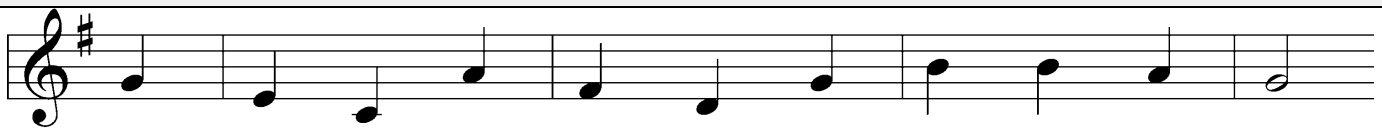
## Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Congregational Hymn** (To sing harmony, turn to # 802 in the Lutheran Service Book)

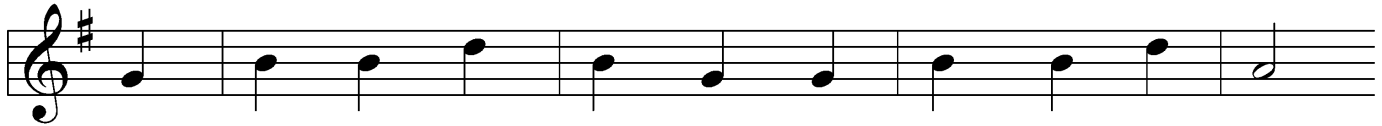
### Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—  
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree  
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

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## The Dismissal

**P:** Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

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Post-service Music

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**THANK YOU TO REVEREND LARRY TOWNSEND** for leading us in worship today.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays:**

- Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Robin Larson
- Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Langan

And anniversaries

- Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Deb & Steve Krahling
- Best wishes to all!



**Altar Flowers** are given in celebration of Pentecost.

**LET US PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Suzanne Sponsler**



**\*\*CALL FOR ALTAR CARE & USHERS: we really need your help with ushering and Altar care for June & July.** A signup sheet is on the round table.



**PASTORAL CARE:** If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Ron Schornhorst at 706-484-9855.

**MUST GO HOME OR FIND A NEW HOME:** For several months food containers, insulated bags and dishes have been accumulating in the kitchen. Please help us make the stove and counters tidy and useable by claiming your items. They have been relocated to a table in the narthex to make them more visible. Unclaimed items will be donated. Thanks.

**VOTERS' MEETING TO CALL A PASTOR:** We will have a voters' meeting on June 10th to elect the pastor to call as our next pastor. There is a notebook in the church office with information on each pastor being considered and how to listen to their sermons.

**CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE while Deb (church secretary) is on vacation**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b>
Monday May 21	Open 9am - Noon
Tuesday May 22	Open 9am – 2pm
Wednesday May 23	Open 9am - Noon
Thursday May 24	Open 9am – 2pm
Friday May 25	Open 12pm – 2pm
Monday May 28	Memorial Day – Office closed

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Tuesday	Putnam County voting	all day
Saturday	Episcopal Church Bible Study	3:30 p.m.
	Episcopal Church Worship Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Adult Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	9:15 a.m.
	Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
	Council Meeting	after worship



Church  
Council

meeting will be held Sunday May 27 after worship



## ***Prayer Requests***

### **Those we keep in our prayers:**

Sue Amick	Cindy Fritch
Barbara Crawford	David Harris
Carol Dunn	Nadine Haydon
Martha Glenn	Cathy Hayes
Donna Hansen	Sherry Jones
Patsy Mahs	Donald Mulford
Lance Pailer	Ricky Newsom
Lou Pailer	Marianne & Rev. Louis Pearce
Leo Sauer	Carol Pope
Mary Tober	Price family
Peggy & Tom Uehlin	Phil Riley
John Zawislak	Jean Smith
Sandra Barr	Laura Taylor
Rafael Caballero	Larry Wells
Francis Cooper	Alexis Ward
Wanda Davis	Ellen Warren

### **Those families who are grieving:**

- The Mahs family
- The Fuller family
- The Hansen family
- The Chambers family
- The Petrea family
- The Dunn family
- The Uehlin family

## **OUR VALUES AS A CONGREGATION**

### **Word and Sacrament –**

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

### **Christian Education –**

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

### **Evangelism –**

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

### **Stewardship –**

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

### **Fellowship –**

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

### **The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.**

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.