

April 26, 2026



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Knowing that Voice

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning
the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

Within our questioning, Christ appears.

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

Within our certainty, Christ appears.

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

ELW #365

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us make our confession, before God and each other,

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that impedes us,

The ignorance that hinders us,

The doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will

Find courage in unlikely places,

Move to those places where love is needed,

And have faith that you are with us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

Alleluia! Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

ELW #857

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving Shepherd, **You know our names; you care for us.**
When we face darkness and death, journey beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING:

Psalm 23

Congregation Read Bold Text

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING:

John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

All young and young at heart
are invited forward during the
Children's time.

THE WORD

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



So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

L: The Gospel of the Lord
SERMON

C: **Thanks be to God**
Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Shepherd Me, O God”

ELW #780

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

To support the ministry of
FOC please use the QR
Code below or donate to the
offering plate.



THE MEAL

God feeds us with the
forgiveness and presence of
Christ.

All are invited to receive
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing
and Goldfish Crackers



THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Go My Children, With My Blessing”

ELW #543

SENDING

POSTLUDE

Today We Recognize as New Members in our Community:

Steve & Pat Bock
Matt, Brita, Audrey, & Evelyn Hanchek
Bonnie Liebelt
Brian & Tia Smith
Abhi, Sarah, Aadrika, & Aayan Tummala

Please stay after worship and join us for our 10th Annual Chili Cook off rescheduled from March. All donations received today will go to support Luther Park.

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Serving Today

Pastor
Brent Eler
Musician
Mary Wescott
Sound and Video
Gerry & Cheryl Wills

*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

FamilyofChrist
FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 72.9 MHz on the FM band