

I Have called YOU FRIENDS



JOHN 15:15

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3210 Maple Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467

Phone: Church 715-341-2898; Cell 715-498-0093

Website www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com

Pastor David E. Ficken

Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship Information

Parents with Young Children: We encourage families to worship together.

Worship Bulletin: Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

Worship Form: There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.

Communion: Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are *gluten intolerant* please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion

 Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord's Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.

- Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession *and* absolution.

AS WE GATHER-- The hymn text “Abide with Me,” by English clergyman Henry Lyte, has a history that assists in making the words of hope and comfort in the text memorable. Yet, in reflecting on the true importance of the hymn, it is not the circumstances surrounding why it was written that gives it beauty but the words themselves that the author wrote. In timeless poetry, Lyte underscores the meaning of God’s presence in the life of the Christian as he writes: “I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless” (*LSB* 878:5). Our Lord abides with us not only at eventide, but at all times and in all places. Here and now let us bring to this caring God our thanks and praise!

.....

AS WE GATHER-- A treasured children’s song, “I Love to Tell the Story, has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: “I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.” The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word “love” either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus’ words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the “others” beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the “old, old story of Jesus and His love” anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

.....

WITNESS AND OUTREACH-- John 15:9-17: Jesus chose His disciples to go and bear much fruit through their love and their witnessing. The fire of the Spirit empowered them and still empowers us to share the greatest true story ever told!

WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS

Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (*LSB*).

✠ PREPARATION ✠



HYMN

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB* 686

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10*

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
People: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
People: whose hope is in the LORD his God.
Pastor: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
People: Praise the LORD!
Pastor: We prepare for our time of confession as we sing the hymn, “Out of the Deep I Call.” As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
People: Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Abide with us and grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.
Pastor: God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16*
Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.
**People: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,
**People: who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

Pastor: Blessed be God,
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His
steadfast love from me!
**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.



HYMN OF PRAISE “Christ the Eternal Lord” *LSB* 829 v.5

FIRST READING *Acts 10:34–48* (People from every nation are
accepted by God.)

Lector: Peter opened his mouth and said:
Pastor: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every
nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is
acceptable to Him. As for the word that He sent to Israel,
preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is
Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout
all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John
proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the
Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and
healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was
with Him. And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the
country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death
by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him on the third
day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us
who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank
with Him after He rose from the dead. And He commanded
us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one
appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To
Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes
in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

Lector: While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell
on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the

circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,

Pastor: “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

Lector: And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 98

People: **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

Women: *The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*

Men: *He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

People: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Women: *Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!*

Men: *With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!*

People: **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!**

Women: *Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth.*

Men: *He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.*

People: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 John 5:1–8 (The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 15:9–17* (Obeying Christ's commands and remaining in His love)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LSB 700 v.1

SERMON

CREED

Third Article

Pastor: The First Reading today tells how the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles as well as to Jews—which includes all the peoples of the world. Sharing words of faith confessed around the world, we speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity and then express our confession of its meaning in the Small Catechism words of Martin Luther.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

People: **Amen.**

ASCENSION

Pastor: The Christian Church today celebrates the final service before one of the greatest of all the church festivals, the Ascension of Our Lord, which occurs this coming Thursday. We rejoice that our Lord has gone to be at the right hand of the Father in heaven—and yet we wish that He would still be physically here on earth as He once was. We share the feeling of the disciples from the road to Emmaus who, after enjoying fellowship with the Lord at the table of their home, urged Him to abide with them.

Pastor: Jesus spoke to His disciples very directly, as we heard in the Gospel appointed for this day: “Abide in My love.” As we, abiding as Easter people, gather for the worship of our risen Lord, we share in the love that He entrusted to His disciples. We remain in a divine love that is ours not only to keep, but to share both now and in eternity.

OFFERTORY (in offering plate at entrance to sanctuary)

HYMN “We Give Thee But Thine Own” Sts. 1: LSB 781



We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction that we may abide in Your love, sharing that wondrous love in all our words and deeds throughout our life's journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You now for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to give us assurance of Your fatherly care, knowing that all of our days are spent in God's sight. Directed by Your Holy Spirit and reflecting Your limitless love toward us, grant that we abide in Christ's love, awaiting the fulfilled promise of eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne in glory everlasting.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: 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 ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 *1 Corinthians 11:26;*

Revelation 22:20

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

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

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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

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

People: **And also with you. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"

LSB p.163



Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

See LSB 329: Christian Questions with Their Answers prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.



Note: These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

NOTE: Pastor will come around again, offering the COMMON CUP.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

"He's Risen, He's Risen"

LSB 480

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

LSB 474

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament that we have now received may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**



HYMN “I Love to Tell the Story” [AGPS 128]

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do. *Refrain*

Refrain: I love to tell the story; ’Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
’Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Arabella Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, alt. Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

OLD TESTAMENT READING Acts 1:12-26

EPISTLE 1 John 5:9-15

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11b-19

TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

Our “**tithe**” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “**Offerings**” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest. Please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit.)

March Financial Recap:

March Givings (Thank you!) \$19,705.25

Monthly Need (5 Sundays): \$22,050.20

Shortage: -\$ 2,344.95

Life Quotes: May 5 “The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ’s goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven.” *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty: May 5 The Battle of Puebla was an important victory for the Mexican forces over superior French forces. This battle is celebrated today as “Cinco de Mayo,” a day honoring Mexican culture and heritage. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty works to ensure that God’s people can freely take a role not only in sharing the Gospel, but in helping society/culture in being humane, civil, and temporally just.

CALENDAR:

May 6—Women’s Prayer time, Mission Coffee House, 5:30pm

May 6-7—Teresa on vacation

May 18—Spring Clean-up @ church, 9am-Noon

May 19—Last Sunday School, Lutheran Hour Ministry Sunday, Ice Cream Social after church!

June 17-19—VBS, 6-8pm

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Prayer List : 5/5/2024 – 5/11/24

Ongoing prayers for Grief & Loss: (Named & Not Named)

Loved Ones –

Lori Hopp – Sister Jo Ann; Dave Norrgran--Mother Marlene; Paul Hansen – father Donald; Family of Bob Helmrick; Family of Robert Kowalski (Chad’s father); Family of Luan Wendlick (Cheryl Wagner’s mother); Family of Elaine Idsvoog, Ashley Pawlowicz—Mother Yvonne, Andy Weden—Father Gary

Situations

Suicide Attempts, Cancer, Christian Parenting, Caregivers, AODA

Military:

Devante; Emily; Nick

Pending Diagnosis & Treatment: Ken Resch (Father of Julie Barge); Paula; Phil Idsvoog; Rose Janke (Karen Holman’s mother); Melissa (Caleb Schultz’s aunt); BSLC friend new cancer diagnosis; BSLC friend, Sarah, new cancer diagnosis

Hospitalized/Recovering:

Sharon Hughes--Hospice

Circuit 17: St Luke-Rapids (starting the Call process for a Pastor)

Shut-ins:

Merry Kampmeier, Mary S., and Anita C.

Birthdays:

5/07 Kyla Barge

5/09 Kris Ficken

Baptism Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Missions:

First Choice Resource Center

Camp Luther

Peace Campus Center & Pastor Andy Weden

St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School
Wycliffe & Lutheran Bible Translators
& Linda Jordan

J.P. & Aimee Cima & Family

Orphan Grain Train Center

Adam Tanney (Seminary Student)

Christ Care / Carpenter’s Crew

***Please let us know if you have any prayer requests – Thank you! ***

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Epistle: 1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone

who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”



Easter

About the Cover: Jesus does not treat us as servants but as friends. He does not withhold from us what the Father is doing but openly shares His loving intention. The Father’s love is this: “That He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). That love spills over into doing what Jesus has commanded and loving one another, especially all fellow friends of Jesus.