

This Week at VIC

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Today 4/18	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Sunday 4/25	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:45 p.m.	Voters' Meeting

Announcements

April Voters' Meeting – We will have our April Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 25, following the noon meal.

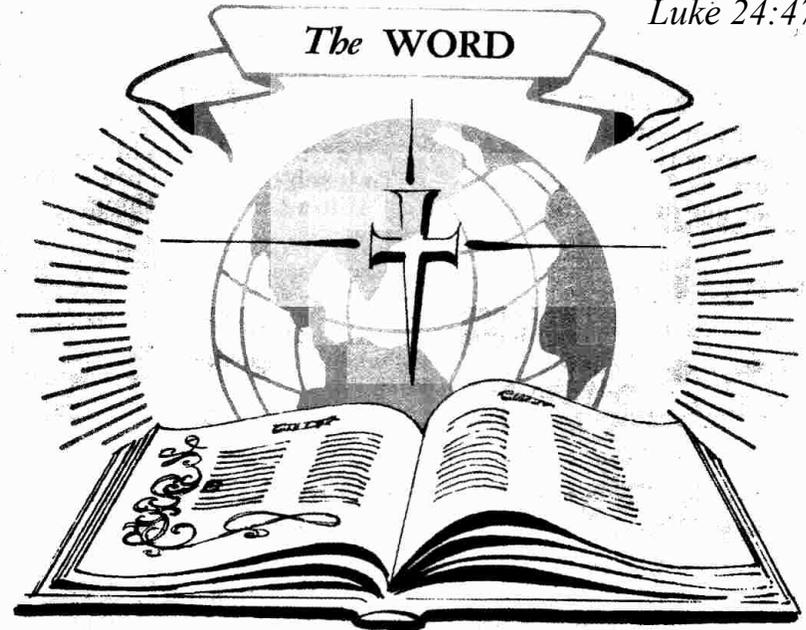
Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning this week are the Groves and Schielke Families.

General Fund Income –

Weekly Budgeted Income	\$ 3,272.86
Actual Income Received Last Week	\$ 2,875.00
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$121,095.82
Year to Date Actual Income	\$129,843.69

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church

*... that repentance to the forgiveness of sins
should be preached in His Name
to all nations.
Lukè 24:47*



Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021
10:00 a.m.

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Hymn of Invocation: #469 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Divine Service Setting One: pg. 151

Introit

Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b (ESV)

^{11b} In your presence there is full- / ness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures for- / evermore.

**¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have / drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice / over me.**

² O LORD my God, I cried to / you for help,
and you have / healed me.

**³ O LORD, you have brought up my soul / from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down / to
the pit.**

⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O / you his saints,
and give thanks to his / holy name.

**⁵ For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a
/ lifetime.**

**Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the
/ morning.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit;
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

^{11b} In your presence there is full- / ness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures for- / evermore.

First Reading

Acts 3:11-21 (English Standard Version)

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1-7 (English Standard Version)

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away

sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36-49 (English Standard Version)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Sermon Hymn: #483 – With High Delight Let Us Unite

Sermon:

Communion Hymns: #640 – Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior

Closing Hymn: #464 – The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Weekly Stewardship Focus

1 John 3:2 – "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

The essence of our sanctification is becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection. In the meantime, we strive toward that goal because we want to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. By His grace we share His destiny in eternal life, and therefore we desire to share His life of service now.

The Readings for today –

Third Easter of Sunday

Acts 3:11–21

1 John 3:1–7

Luke 24:36–49

The Preaching of Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins Makes Us Pure

The risen Lord Jesus taught His disciples "that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" and "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:46–47). Therefore, St. Peter preaches repentance and forgiveness to the people of Jerusalem. As he proclaims that Jesus fulfilled all that "God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets" (Acts 3:18), he also convicts the people of their sin, because they "delivered over and denied" this Lord Jesus and "killed the Author of life." Yet God "glorified his servant Jesus" and raised Him from the dead (Acts 3:13–15). St. Peter calls the people to repent, so that their "sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19–20). Through this forgiveness of sins and by faith in this forgiveness, the Father shows His love for us in order that "we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1). Thus, we hope in Him and are made pure even "as he is pure," because "he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin" (1 John 3:3, 5).

A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:1–12

1 John 3:16–24

John 10:11–18

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

The Lord Jesus is "the good shepherd" who "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). His life is not taken from Him, but He lays it down willingly, of His own accord, because He knows and loves the sheep. As the One sent by the Father, He has the "authority to lay it down" and the "authority to take it up again" (John 10:18). So has He done, and now He continues to love and serve as the Good Shepherd of the sheep by the voice of His Gospel. He thus calls all people into the fold of His Church, so that there may be "one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:16). That is why the apostles "were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (Acts 4:2). Since "there is salvation in no one else," His voice rings out to this day through the preaching of His name, "for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). His voice comforts our hearts against all condemnation and gives us courage to "love one another" and "to lay down our lives for the brothers," as He laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16, 23).