

Peace Lutheran Church - Rogers City, MI

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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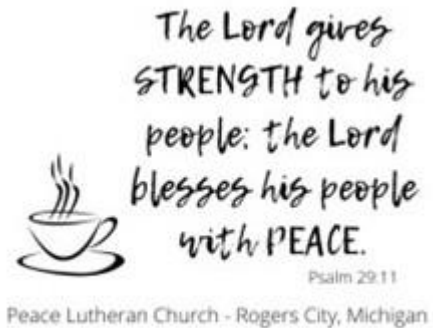
Pastor of Visitation – St. Matthew Lutheran Church Walled Lake, MI

Our Mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word.

Our Vision: Equipping our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work & Play

Informal/Contemporary Service – 11:15am

Third Sunday of Easter – April 14, 2024



As We Gather

Welcome - It is truly a pleasure and honor to be gathered with you to praise and glorify God on this Third Sunday of Easter. We sincerely invite and lovingly encourage all who are searching for a church home to join us in the joy of our journey and become actively involved with us in this challenging, rewarding adventure with Christ and His church here in this place.

The season of Easter continues as we examine what our risen Lord Jesus' presence in our personal lives, our families and His church empowers us to do for Him and His Kingdom and for one another and others.

After Jesus rose from the dead He spent some precious time with His disciples...precious time bursting with spiritual truths that began the transformation process of changing His timid followers into His dynamic disciples. As we spend some precious time with our Lord, along with His disciples, may we learn from Him, and pray that those spiritual truths taught by our Lord are caught by us, so we, His timid, modern day disciples experience that same transforming love and power in our lives.

May the Risen Lord, who willingly gave His hands and feet to be nailed to the cross in order to forgive and save us, now bless our hands and feet for His purpose and use us as His faithful, bold, witnesses to share with our family, friends and others the saving message of His love for them and us.

What a joy today to Welcome As a New Member of Peace Lutheran Church –

Tambi Dunn at our 11:15am Worship.

Please make her feel welcome and get to know her by name.

WELCOME and GATHERING SONG

Man on the Middle Cross

OUR EASTER PROCLAMATION – Based on *1 Corinthians 15 and Romans 8*

Please join in on the **BOLD words**.

In the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. ***He is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

If Christ is not risen, nothing matters. Our preaching is then useless and our faith, too. We are false witnesses about God, for we have testified that God raised Christ Jesus from the dead. We are still in our sins and those who have died are as dead as ever.

You cancel Easter...you eliminate the Resurrection...you erase the fact that Jesus rose from the dead...and there's not a one of us who would be here this morning....*You and I would be the most pitied, pathetic, pile of people who ever lived on this earth.*

But – if Christ is risen, nothing else matters. Though in Adam all may have died, in Christ all will then be made alive. He will destroy every dominion, power, and authority and put every enemy under his feet. Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of Christ— trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, peril, sword, angels, demons, the present, the future, nor any powers.

Nothing whatsoever... Nothing in all creation, neither in life or in death, will be able to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior...

Because - Alleluia! Christ IS risen. ***He IS risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen!***

Therefore, my Easte Christians, stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourselves wholly to the Lord's work. ***Amen!***

REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Christ Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior, You walk WITH us on our journeys in life, through our valleys of despair, our mountain tops of accomplishment and our twisting paths of our failures and successes – You are WITH us.

Yet, we often think we made it by ourselves, refusing to acknowledge Your gentle nudges, discounting the helping hands along the way, not noticing the prayers that followed us and went before us each step of the way.

We have not been alone, though at times we could only see our personal struggles, feel our overwhelming responsibility, and hear only our heartbeat of depression. Loving Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior, we're so slow to remember that YOU LIVE WITH US every step on our way...

You smooth the path in front of us; You hide a prayer in every turn; You send friends to accompany us along the way, whose appearances on the path are not mere coincidences; and You tilt our eyes heavenward and turn our hearts and lives back to You, from whom all blessings flow. Forgive us for our many sins, Christ Jesus – our risen Lord and Savior, our Friend and Companion on the way. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

My Easter Christians, Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. It is by the name of Jesus, who was crucified, but whom God raised from the dead, that we are forgiven and healed. *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men, by which we must be saved.* Adapted: Acts 4:10-12

We praise and thank our Great God for His gift of forgiveness which we graciously accept and embrace in the name of our Triune God - Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SONG OF REFLECTION

This Is Our God

LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Luke 24:36-49 and 1 John 1:1-4

Jesus Appears to His Disciples Easter Sunday Evening Luke 24:36-49

³⁶As they [Jesus' disciples] were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit [a ghost]. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See 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." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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."

The Word of Life 1 John 1:1-4

***1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— **2** the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— **3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing these things so that your joy may be complete.*

MESSAGE: *Jesus LIVES FOR You...WITH You...IN You...AND...*

Questions to consider: *Am I seeing and touching Jesus through the eyes and hands of faith on the pages of Holy Scripture in His Holy Word...AND...Am I living as one of His Easter Christians alive in Christ Jesus, so that others see THROUGH ME my risen Lord and Savior?*

Will you pray daily the following prayer? *Our risen Lord and Savior – Thank You for making me Your Easter Christians alive in Christ Jesus through Your grace gift of faith. Now use me as Your faithful witness to look for and take advantage of every opportunity I have to share with my family, friends and others the saving message of Your love for them and me. Amen.*

SONG OF MEDITATION

Glorious Day

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER – Tambi Dunn See Handout

OFFERING *An offering basket is available at the entrance.*

Our tithes and offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar.

For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. 1 Chronicles 29:14

PRAYERS – Please join in on the **BOLD words**.

Our risen Lord and Savior – We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place.

We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter Christians all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

We pray for all who serve us such as those in the health care industry and especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, who serve to defend our nation in these challenging times. We also pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those grieving the loss of a loved one, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us...*[special prayers offered]...Comfort these loved ones...*

Bless them with the assurance of Your never-failing presence and peace and grant wholeness and healing in Your time that they, along with us, may sense Your purpose in our lives and find strength and hope for each new day.

Merciful God and risen Lord and Savior, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly journeys and have won the final victory in Christ our risen Lord. Lead us to faithfully follow in their way, that we may rejoice together with You and our loved ones one day in heaven forevermore.

But in the in between time – Risen Lord and Savior – use us as Your faithful witnesses to share with our family, friends and others the saving message of Your love for them and us, for it is in Your ministry and mission we labor, and it is in Your strong name we pray: *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. Amen.*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”



The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

With Me on Your Mind

Communicants are invited to come forward in single file by way of the center aisle and to return to your seats by way of the side aisles. You are invited to come all the way to the foot of the step and to remain as long as you desire. Those desiring to receive the Common Cup, please call this to the attention of either Pastor or the Elder and simply wait for Pastor to return to you.

A statement of our Communion practice here at Peace may be found at the conclusion of this order of service.

As you prepare for Holy Communion, you may wish to pray the following: O Lord God, through Your grace gift of faith, You called us to be Your dear children. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive Your precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins and grant us grateful hearts that sincerely thank You for this Sacred Meal and gift of forgiveness. Amen.

Following Communion, you may wish to pray the following: Lord Jesus Christ, You have given Your body and blood to us for the forgiveness of all our sins. Now keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. Preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for Your namesake. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith until life everlasting. Christ's Easter Christians – Now go from here empowered by our Risen Lord and Savior to share with our family, friends and others the saving message of His love for them and us.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Our risen Lord and Savior – we thank You for the privilege of being together at this time and in the place. As we go from here, as Your Easter Christians alive in Christ Jesus, explode in us new possibilities for service. Kindle within us the fires of Your love and compassion so that we may not wait too long to learn to love and to share Your love.

Make us people with Your loving purposes – Reaching out...Breaking walls...Building bridges ...as we share with our family, friends and others the message of Your saving love for them and us. Let us be Your voice of love, joy and peace in our joyless, fragmented world.

We offer our prayer in the name of our Risen Lord, *Christ Jesus, who LIVES FOR Us...WITH Us...IN Us...AND...THROUGH Us. AMEN.*

SENDING SONG

Because He Live

† † † † † † †

***THE LORD IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA !
HAVE A TRIUMPHANT EASTER SEASON!***



Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Regarding Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is celebrated here at Peace in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another.

Our congregation believes that participating in the Lord's Supper acts as a statement that those communing agree with everything our church body teaches. Out of loving care and concern, we want to do all that we can to make sure those who participate in our Communion celebration don't violate their own conscience or a public confession of faith made through another church body by making that joint statement of faith with us.

For that reason, we ask those who don't know and agree with the teachings of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to not commune today. If you'd like to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing from Pastor but not participate by taking the bread and wine, please do so. You may indicate this choice by folding your hands during the distribution.

If for any reason you wish to stay in your seat during Communion, that's okay, too. You won't be alone. Anyone wishing to have the bread and wine brought to their seat, perhaps because of a physical or other challenge, may speak to Pastor or another church member before the service.

Please sing, pray, and worship with us, and, if you'd like more information about Lutheran teachings or Communion practices, contact the Church Office (989) 734-7621 or office@peacelcms.org or check out our website www.peacelcms.org .