



Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

*Acts 10:47*

May 5th, 2024  
*The Sixth Sunday after Easter*  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church



## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### **Welcome to Worship!**

We're glad that you are here  
as part of worship!

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
welcomes all!**

We gather for worship called by  
God's Spirit from many places of  
compass and heart. We bring stories of  
where God has met and sustained us  
along the way. We bring questions and  
yearnings to see God's presence more  
fully in our world. We are brought

together by a God  
who knows us as  
Creator, and who  
gathers us as only a  
Good Shepherd  
can—to lead us into  
what it means to be  
God's people here  
in this place.

As God's people, we  
are continually



learning what it means to be truly  
encouraging and supportive to all. We  
are committed to care for, to love, to  
understand, and to listen to each other,  
regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual  
orientation, gender identity, physical  
or mental ability, social or economic  
status. To all we extend a heartfelt  
invitation to join us on this journey, as  
partners in the full life and ministry of  
Christ the Servant.

The Bible reminds us to “*remember  
the Sabbath day*”. We remember that  
“*This is the Lord's day*”, and as we  
gather to worship the God who  
deserves our praise, the Lord will do  
for us what the Lord does: feed us,  
forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at  
all the wonderful things God is doing.

**We hope that you will feel at home!**

We hope you feel Christ's welcome  
in our service, and hope to see you  
again soon.

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# The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5th, 2024

## **Introduction**

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit .

## **PRELUDE, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock,  
who guides us into all truth.

**G** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Faithful and just God,

**G** we confess

**that we are captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.**

**We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us.  
Forgive us, God of mercy.**

**Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P** In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us  
and sent the Christ to atone for our sins.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

I announce to you that your sins are forgiven.

Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy,  
and inspire you to live for others.

**G** Amen.



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown—  
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

## GREETING

- P** Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:  
 grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.  
**G** And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW SETTING FOUR



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-b-ove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



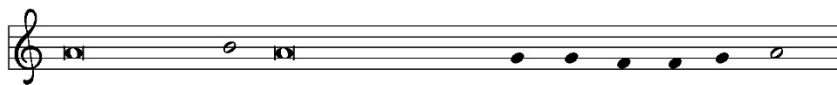
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



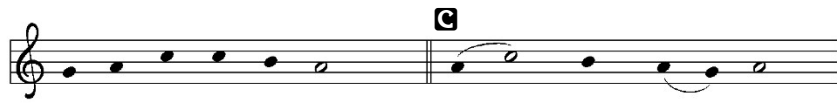
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

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## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray.
- O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus, your Christ and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

- The Word of the Lord
- Thanks be to God**

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## PSALM 98

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with equity.**

## SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 5:1-6

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments.  
Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth

**A** The Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God



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**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***ELW Setting Four (John 6:68)***GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

<sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

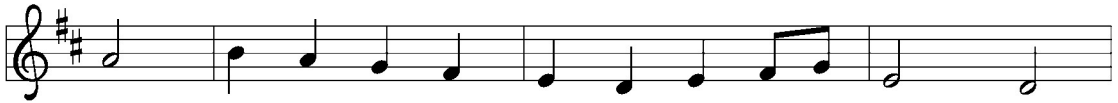
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**G** Praise to you, oh Christ

**SERMON****Pastor Eric**



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890

Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *The English Hymnal*, outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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## CREED

**P** Let us profess our faith  
using the words that Jesus' followers have used in every generation:

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love  
has triumphed over fear, let us pray  
for the church, the world, and all those  
in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

**P** Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear  
the word. Fill your church with the  
gifts of your Spirit and give  
understanding hearts to those who  
strengthen our commitments with our  
faith groups beyond our tribe of  
Lutherans. Open our eyes to the gifts  
of other Christian faith traditions, as  
well as the gifts of those who worship  
but do not call on Christ's name.

God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** You speak and the face of the earth is  
renewed. Revive your creation, that  
habitats and every kind of living thing  
might flourish. Protect endangered  
species and help us to care for all your  
creatures. Be with those who are  
preparing to work the soil and tend  
the crops that will feed us all.

God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Your world is divided and the nations  
rage. Grant wisdom and vision to  
world leaders, that they may seek  
justice, peace, and the good of all.

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Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. Within our own society, return us to the place where we can speak with others without the language of ultimatum, where we can not only hear but listen. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially in quiet ways for those persons and places you have placed on our hearts.....  
God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation and our synod, that we may embody your love for the world. We pray especially for *Flathead*

*Lutheran Bible Camp and Christikon* as they prepare for a vital summer season. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord .

**C Amen.**

**P** The peace of Christ Jesus be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

***The sharing of God's peace  
with each other.***

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**  
**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**WOV # 732**

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

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va-tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞** Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine . Amen.

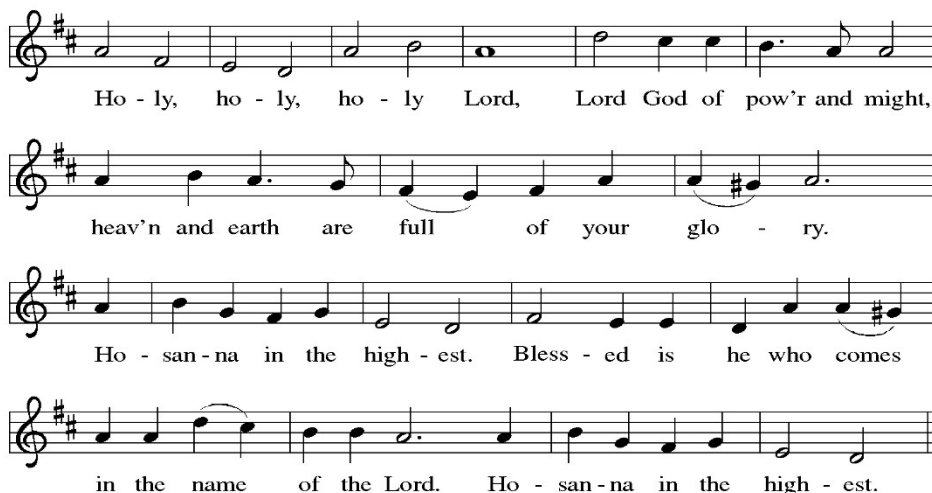
## COMMUNION LITURGY

*ELW Setting Four*

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....  
.... and so with all the host of heaven, we join in this hymn

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*ELW Setting Four*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

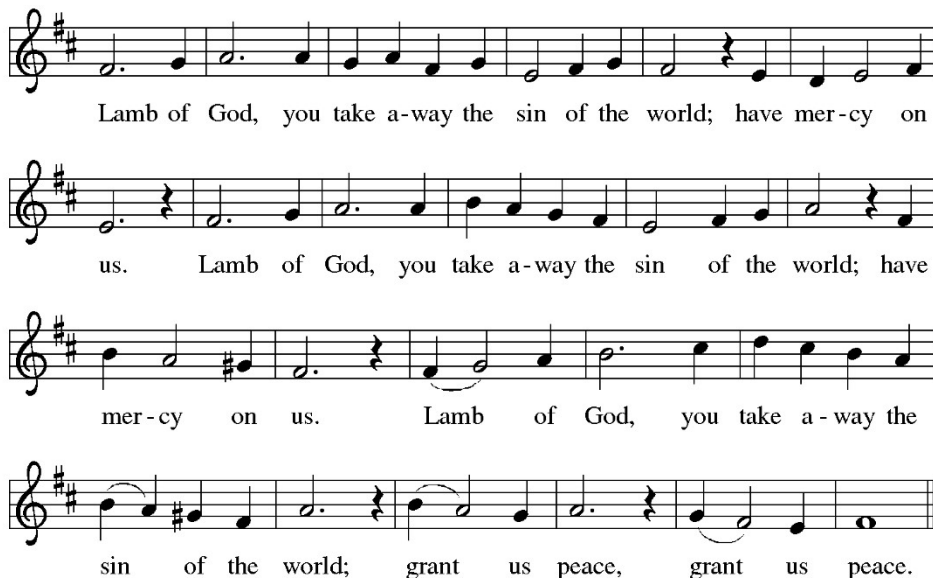
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** In the night in which He was betrayed.....

## 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.

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**LAMB OF GOD***ELW Setting Four*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION***Jesus Loves Me, This I Know***ELW # 595****POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

- ☒** **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this communion to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend . Amen.**

**BLESSING AND SENDING**

- ☒** Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.
- ☒** ***Amen, Amen, Amen* (sung)**

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SENDING HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW # 836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad .

**B** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE**



## Pizza, Root Beer, and Bible Study

Friday, May 17th—6:00 p.m.

Gather in the Church Courtyard later this month for an evening of rich fellowship, exquisite food, and a wondrous hike through all of Biblical history.

The *Morgan/Traner (Brandvold)* sisters are lending us their equipment and expertise as Fire Roasted Pizza Masters for a kick off meal of individual pizzas. Handmade dough will await us. Sauce and toppings will be on hand. Our adventure will be to form our own individual sized pizza to be tossed into the Fire Ovens to cook for two or three minutes. Coaches will be on hand to help everyone have success.

Fabulous Root Beer Floats will also be available. They will be Authentic Italian Root Beer Floats, served by our own Authentic Italian, Emilio Vanni.

Having satisfied our hunger for food and drink, we'll then feast on the Word. Pastor Eric will journey with us all as we create on one sheet of paper a Timeline of the major events and seasons of the Biblical Story. Come to see how the story of God working among us takes root and grows. See how all the pieces flow into a larger heritage. No experience is required, but a deeper sense of our place in this story will result!

Make this May 17th your chance to share in good food, fellowship, and the Word. Consider bringing a neighbor!





## *Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief* partner to support farmers and families in newly liberated areas of Ukraine

Lutheran Disaster Response, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)'s ministry to provide short- and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world, is responding to urgent humanitarian needs and supporting agricultural livelihood recovery in Ukraine through a \$1 million grant to Lutheran World Relief, a Corus International organization.

The Supporting Farmers to Restore Resilient Livelihoods in Kharkiv (SPARRK) project will run through November 2024 and is centered in Kharkiv Oblast, one of the first regions targeted by the Russian offensive and where Ukrainian forces have reclaimed thousands of square kilometers of territory.

The funding will significantly scale up existing Lutheran World Relief humanitarian response operations in Kharkiv, more than doubling the number of families that will receive critical support. SPARRK will reach more than 7,000 families, including returnees, residents that remained in Kharkiv, and families who fled their homes and now reside in Kharkiv.

“Even as the Russia-Ukraine war continues, the SPARRK project will provide concrete support for families in Kharkiv and serve as a sign of hope for the future of Ukraine as crops are planted and farms reestablished. Lutheran Disaster Response is glad to support the SPARRK project as part of our commitment to long-term recovery,” said Maryn Olson, Director, Lutheran Disaster Response.

Support includes both material and technical resources to restore or establish small farms and prepare for the harsh winter season. Participants in the project are receiving inputs depending

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upon their needs, like vegetable seeds, gardening tools, canning kits and pickling containers, chicks, chicken coops and feeders. Local agriculture advisors are providing training in small-scale, climate sensitive farming practices, that can include planting, composting and harvesting, and winterization preparedness, which involves drying, packaging and storing crops. Additionally, farm restoration grants will be issued to households that have lost assets as a result of the war and require a financial boost to expand their farming.

SPARRK will also address urgent needs of the most vulnerable in Kharkiv through distributions of essential items like personal hygiene kits and medical supplies, which will be delivered to local health centers.

“The SPARRK project will serve as a model for effective humanitarian lifesaving and recovery efforts. By addressing both agricultural and humanitarian needs, the project will improve overall outcomes and contribute to the restoration of resilient livelihoods in conflict-affected regions.” said Daniel Speckhard, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief and Corus.

The project is part of Corus International’s large-scale response in Ukraine, which brings together experts from [Lutheran World Relief](#), [IMA World Health](#) and [CGA Technologies](#) and includes emergency shelter, essential health care and psycho-social support, material resource distribution, protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services, and technical assistance for cash transfer programs.

For more information, please contact Maryn Olson, Director, Lutheran Disaster Response at [maryn.olson@elca.org](mailto:maryn.olson@elca.org) or Muhammad Tahir, Sr. Media Relations Manager, Corus International at [mtahir@corusinternational.org](mailto:mtahir@corusinternational.org).

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### **Lutheran World Relief**

*Founded in 1945 by Lutherans in the U.S., Lutheran World Relief is an international development and aid organization working across Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We collaborate with local partners to grow inclusive and climate resilient rural economies, reduce poverty, and we respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Lutheran World Relief leads rural economic development programming at Corus International, an organization that unites an array of world-class nonprofits and businesses, each with specialized expertise. Our reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in our Corus family, including IMA World Health, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.*

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**Gatherings this Week:**

Sunday, May 5 10:00 **Worship**  
Wed, May 8 7:30 **Men's Square—Text Study**  
12:00 **Women's Bible Study**  
1:15 **Prayer Chain Meeting**  
Thur. May 9 7:00 **Human Concerns Cmt**  
Sunday, May 12 10:00 **Worship**  
11:15 **Executive Committee**

**FISH WEEK**

OSLC week at FISH is May 13-17.

Please let Harold Spilde know if you are willing to volunteer (406-761-5009).

Hours are from 9-11

**May Newsletter adjustment—already!?!?!?**

In May, our Game Night will be the final Friday of the month rather than the fourth. That makes Game Night May 31st at 6:00. It will be the season Finale, so come and experience the intensity of fun and fellowship.

Also—to remove the clash with Memorial Day, the Book Club will meet one week earlier. That is the Book Club, now on May 20th.

The Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 20th. Printing on the 21st.

**SERVING MAY 5TH**

Usher Joyce Morgan  
Greeter Judy Spilde  
Reader: Anne Schmidt  
Altar Guild: Carol Anderson & Sue Dickenson  
Fellowship Fellowship Committee  
Offer. Coll. Tina Price  
Offer. Counter Helen Beckley &  
Clarice Flanagan  
Cantor: Ellen Forslund  
Organist/Pianist: Madeleine Folkerts  
Pastor: Eric Finsand

**SERVING MAY 12TH**

Usher Nancy Traner  
Greeter Bonnie Knight  
Reader: Volunteer Needed  
Altar Guild: Carol Anderson & Sue Dickenson  
Fellowship Fellowship Committee  
Offer. Coll. Tina Price  
Offer. Counter Helen Beckley &  
Clarice Flanagan  
Cantor: Ellen Forslund  
Organist/Pianist: Madeleine Folkerts  
Pastor: Eric Finsand