



# Peace Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

737 Barracksview Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63125-5409  
(314) 892-5610

E-Mail: [info@peacelutheranstl.org](mailto:info@peacelutheranstl.org)

Church Website: [www.peacelutheranstl.org](http://www.peacelutheranstl.org)

Peace Music Ministry Website: [www.peacestlmusic.org](http://www.peacestlmusic.org)

Peace Early Childhood (6 weeks-Pre-K) - (314) 892-8844: [earlychildhood@peacelutheranstl.org](mailto:earlychildhood@peacelutheranstl.org)

Green Park Lutheran School (JK-8): [www.greenparklutheralschool.org](http://www.greenparklutheralschool.org)

Lutheran High School South (9-12): [www.lslancers.org](http://www.lslancers.org)

St. Trinity Cemetery: [www.sttrinitycemetery.com](http://www.sttrinitycemetery.com)

YouTube Link for Peace Videos and Services: [www.youtube.com/c/peacelutheranchurchstl](http://www.youtube.com/c/peacelutheranchurchstl)

## DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 8:00, 9:20 and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Jon C. Furgeson, Senior Pastor, 601-1039

Rev. Robert M. Brown, Associate Pastor, 425-9568

The Rev. Dr. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor Emeritus, 892-0888

Burnell L. Hackman, Director of Music Ministry

Christina Stackle, Director of Christian Education



HERE I STAND SUNDAY  
IT'S *STILL* ALL ABOUT  
**Jesus**

THE THIRD  
SUNDAY OF  
EASTER

## 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIET OF WORMS

APRIL 18, 2021

CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD, for the forgiveness of sins, are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar. Due to theological differences among Christians regarding beliefs about this Supper, only confirmed members of an LCMS church are invited to the Lord's table. Ask a pastor if you have questions or concerns! Please register your taking of communion on your attendance card.

KFUO AM 850 BROADCAST today is sponsored by Diane Woehr in celebration of Brianne Woehr's birthday.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IS NOW ENROLLING for the 2021/2022 school year. Ages 6 weeks to 5 years are invited to enroll. Call (314)892-8844 for information.

COVID VACCINATION EVENT today, Sunday, April 18, from 11:30-4:00, in the gym at Peace. All appointment times have been filled. If you made an appointment, please keep your commitment, otherwise, the vaccine will go to waste. Also remember to bring the required paperwork. Contact Christina Stackle if you have any questions.

CONCERTS AT PEACE presents a Special Brown Bag Concert for Senior Citizens on Wednesday, April 21 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm in the parking lot. Popular and Jazz pianist and singer **Ken Kehner** will provide music. You are invited to order a Brown Bag lunch (or bring your own) to enjoy during the concert from your car or lawn chair. To order lunch visit [www.peacestlmusic.org](http://www.peacestlmusic.org) or call the church office. This concert is courtesy of the St. Louis Musicians Union. Monday, April 19 is the deadline to order lunch.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**P** = Pastor

**\*** = Stand

**C** = Congregation

## Opening Voluntary

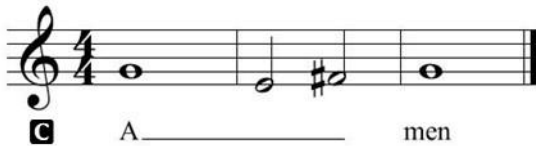
### \*Hymn of Invocation

### LSB 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
He helps us free from the ev - 'ry need  
But for us fights the val - iant One,  
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
The old e - vil foe Now means  
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
dead - ly woe; Deep Of guile and a great might  
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
is the field his for - ev - er. qual. er.

### \*Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

### \*Confession of Sins

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,


**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

### \*Absolution


**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.



### \*Gloria Patri




**G** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

### \*Kyrrie



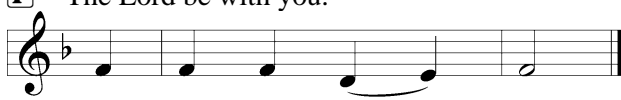
**G** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### \*Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray...

**P** Heavenly Father, through Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your redeemed people, eternal gladness and joy in the new life we have been given; through Jesus **C**hrist, our **L**ord who lives, and who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

### First Reading

*Acts 3:11–21*

<sup>11</sup>While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. <sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>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.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 John 3:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## \*Holy Gospel

*Luke 24:36–49*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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

<sup>44</sup>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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.”

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## SUNDAY: \*Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## SATURDAY: Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

## LSB 548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O  
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on  
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,  
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,  
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con-quired in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -  
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -  
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly  
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is  
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.  
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.  
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.



## Interlude

## \*Offertory



**C** 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## \*Prayer of the Church

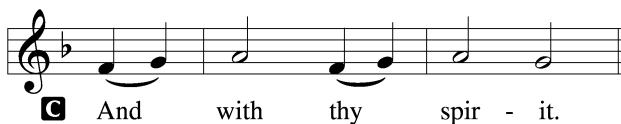
## \*Lord’s Prayer

**C** 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.

## Service of the Sacrament

## \*Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



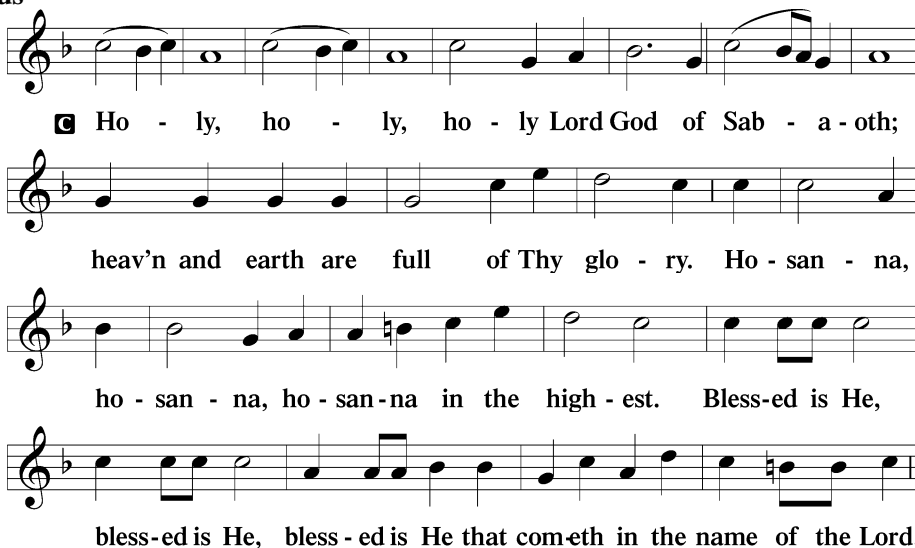
**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



### \*Proper Preface

**P** We should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### \*Sanctus





Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

### \*The Words of Our Lord

L: 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."

L: 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."

### \*Pax Domini

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



**G** A - men.

### \*Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## Distribution Hymn

## LSB 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and

by de- ceit or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Your  
 Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend Your ho-ly Church that  
 u-ni-ty on earth; Sup-port us in our fi-nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
 we May sing Your praise e-ter-nal-ly.  
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

## Distribution Hymn


## LSB 482 This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy-ful Eas-ter-tide A-way with sin and  
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je-sus crossed the  
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea-son

sor-row! My love, the Cru-ci-fied,  
 riv-er; Lov-er of souls, from ill  
 slum-ber Till trump from east to west

Has sprung to life this mor-row:  
 My pass-ing soul de-liv-er:  
 Shall wake the dead in num-ber:

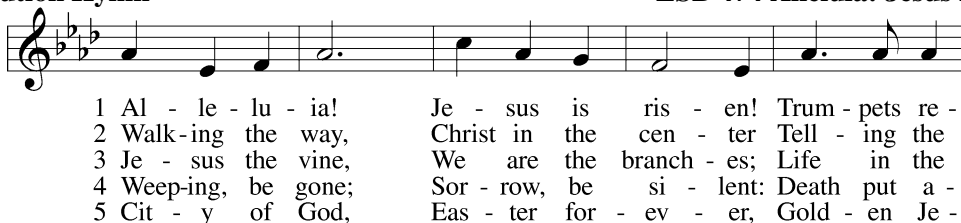
*Refrain*  
 Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris-on,




Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -  
ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

## Distribution Hymn

## LSB 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the  
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -

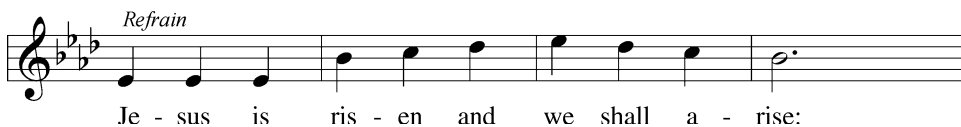


sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -  
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us  
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the  
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be  
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

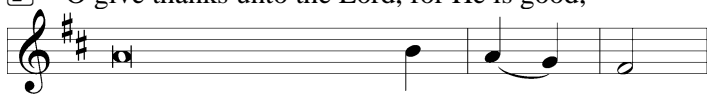
### \*Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

### \*The Dismissal

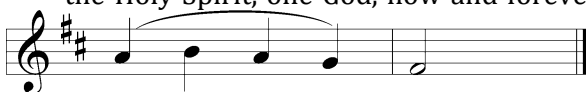
### \*Thanksgiving

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
  
**G** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

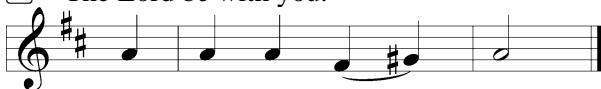
**P** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for

His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask  
 You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by  
 Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through  
 Jesus **C**hrist, Your Son, our **L**ord who lives, and who reigns with You and  
 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

### \*Benedicamus

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

### \*Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\dagger$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

### \*Hymn to Depart

### LSB 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,

4 The Word they still shall let re - main



All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain

They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

### \*Silent Prayer

### Closing Voluntary

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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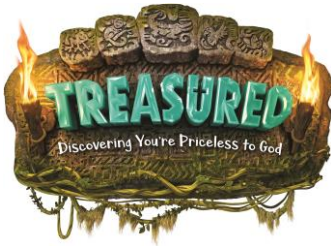


### SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Jon C. Furgeson  
Liturgist: 5:00, 8:00, 10:30: Pastor Robert M. Brown; 9:20: Sem. James Burke  
Organist: Saturday: Alice Kastens; Sunday: Kendra Ruesler  
Sat. Cantor: Rachel Wildman  
KFUO 850 AM Broadcaster/Engineer: Alan Hopfer/Terry Hutton  
Elders: 5:00: Stephen Kienstra; 8:00: Jeff Akers, Rick Goodman; 9:20: Aaron Baese, Art Hoeflerlin; 10:30: Dave Carlson, John Hooss  
Ushers: 5:00: Bill Petrovic, Gary Stinnett; 8:00: Joe Sneed, Jon Caron, David Dippold, Joe Doskal, Tyler Rainey, Tyler Sneed, Brian Stumpf; 9:20: John Roesch, Charles Rolf, Joe Roesch, Bill Schlegel, Gerry Schramm, Ed Stackle; 10:30: Mike Murphy, Caleb Mirly, Andrew Oster, Lynn Oster, Roger Rakers, Matt Thiel, Bob Uthoff, Rob Uthoff, Ken Werkmeister  
Altar Comm: Jeanne Hooss, Grace Truemper

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 18, 2021

Sunday, April 18: 11:30 – COVID Vaccination Event  
Monday, April 19: 6:00 – Board of Parish Ed Meeting  
7:00 – Boy Scout Meeting  
Tuesday, April 20: 9:00 – Quilters  
9:00 – Plastic Mat Making  
6:00 – Property Management  
Wednesday, April 21: 9:00 – TPL Assembly  
12:00 – Brown Bag Concert for Senior Citizens  
7:00 – Wednesday Bible Study  
7:00 – High School Youth  
7:00 – Chancel Voices Rehearsal  
Thursday, April 22: 7:00 – Chancel Singers Rehearsal  
Saturday, April 24: 5:00 – Drive-in Worship Service  
6:30 – St. Louis Theater Orchestra Concert  
Sunday, April 25: 8:00/9:20/10:30 – Worship Services



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is planned for July 19-23. Due to possible COVID restrictions, we need all participants to register online on the Peace website by Sunday, June 6. Registration is vital so we can plan the logistics for the children and staff. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Stackle.

VBS will include:

Track 1: For children age 3 through going into 3rd grade (Cost \$10.00 per student)

Track 2: For children going into 4th and 5th grade (Cost \$10.00 per student)

Lutheran Adventure Week: For children going into 6th grade. Includes field trips to Lutheran Hour Ministry, CPH, International Center, the Seminary and Perryville, MO. (Cost \$25.00 per student)

CONCERTS AT PEACE presents a Special Brown Bag Concert for Senior Citizens on Wednesday, April 21 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm in the parking lot. Popular and Jazz pianist and singer **Ken Kehner** will provide music. You are invited to order a Brown Bag lunch (or bring your own) to enjoy during the concert from your car or lawn chair. To order lunch visit [www.peacestlmusic.org](http://www.peacestlmusic.org) or call the church office. This concert is courtesy of the St. Louis Musicians Union. Monday, April 19 is the deadline to order lunch.

CONCERTS AT PEACE will host the **St. Louis Theater Musicians' Orchestra** in concert Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the West Parking Lot. You may sit in your car or bring a lawn chair to enjoy music from 22 musicians that perform in the orchestra pits of the Muny, The Fox and Repertory Theater of St. Louis. Support has been provided by Local 2-197 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

VIRTUAL BANQUET AT PEACE The Life Ministry Team is hosting a virtual banquet at Peace on Tuesday, May 4, for the Pregnancy Help Center of South County. Dinner will be served at 6:30p.m. and a video presentation of the work done by the center will be shown. A donation to the center would be appreciated. Contact Christy at 314-805-9127 by April 28 if you would like to attend.



### **Luther's Answer at the Diet of Worms:**

It could have all ended the evening of April 18, 1521. The sun was beginning to set on the city of Worms. The heat was stifling in the packed room of the bishop's palace where emperor, electors and German princes all waited with anticipation to hear the answer Martin Luther would bring. Would Luther recant? Would he retract what he had written and said against abuses in the church and against papal tyranny? Most of all, would he give up on the Gospel he had preached and taught, giving comfort and certainty to consciences in Christ? "Martin, answer clearly and without any doubletalk: Do you or do you not recant your books and the errors in them?" If Luther were to recant and admit that he was wrong all would be well before the emperor and the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, if he did not recant, his own life would be at risk. He could be burned as a heretic. This was it: recant or stand firm. With beads of sweat on his face, Luther responded:

**"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me. Amen."** (LW 32:112–13).

At this bold confession, the room erupted in noise. Some rejoiced; some demanded fire! Yet, in the midst of such commotion, the truth of Jesus Christ rang forth. The gates of Hades had not prevailed over the confession of the Gospel. The proclamation of justification by grace through faith on account of Christ's work alone did not bend to spiritual tyranny.

### **500 Years Later:**

Today, we stand in the footsteps of Martin Luther 500 years later. We stand boldly, proclaiming the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We stand boldly, renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. We stand by the grace of God, steadfast and ready to suffer all rather than fall away. We do not stand on Luther, but we will gladly stand with him, firm on the testimony of the Holy Scriptures to confess the saving Gospel of Christ, our Good Shepherd, who died and rose, in whose name is forgiveness of sins for all people. Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen.

ONE MEMBER PRESENT AT THE DIET OF WORMS was the 12<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather of Pastor Kastens. Rev. Johann Hedemann (1488-1541) was present when Luther made his April 18, 1521 appearance at the Imperial Diet at Worms. He was Chaplain for the Duke of Diepholz, Germany at the time. He later became a Lutheran in 1528 and served as a Lutheran Pastor until his passing.