Fourth Sunday of Easter



Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Oak Creek, WI Sunday, April 21, 2024

Welcome to Saint John's!

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod + founded 1843

- May **God bless your worship** today so that your faith in Christ grows stronger and your love for God and neighbor burns more brightly.
- The **restrooms** are located in the basement at the east end of the building.
- Your children are always welcome at St. John's and we encourage you to involve them in the service. *If you need to take your little one out for a bit of a breather, please use our parents' room located in the back of the church.* Parents with small children may wish to consider sitting in the back pews. Thanks for showing respect to your fellow worshipers.
- If you would like **more information** about Saint John's, feel free to...
 - Visit Our website: <u>www.stjohnsoakwood.org</u>
 - Email Pastor Reckzin : <u>d.reckzin@gmail.com</u>
 - Call Pastor Reckzin: 414-232-2953
- If you are **interested in joining St. John's**, Pastor Reckzin is happy to lead you through some Bible classes at your convenience. There is no cost or obligation.

Participation in Holy Communion In respect for the Scriptures and the true presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament, Saint John's follows the ancient and biblical practice of member communion. We ask that only members of Saint John's or of WELS/ELS congregations come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you have questions about close communion, Pastor Reckzin is happy to explain the practice according to Holy Scripture. We appreciate your respect for our practice. Thank you.

Prayer upon entering Church: Lord Jesus, you are my Good Shepherd. You lead me, guide me, defend me, and feed me with yourself, the Living Water, and yourself, the Bread of Life. I pray, also guard and defend me so that neither Satan nor any false prophet can ever take me away from you. Let me be yours forever! AMEN.

897 Lord Jesus, You Have Come



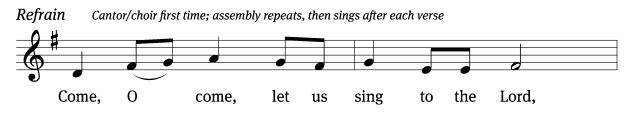
Text: tr. composite; Eberhard L. Fischer, 1695–1773, abr. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Sentences



Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord





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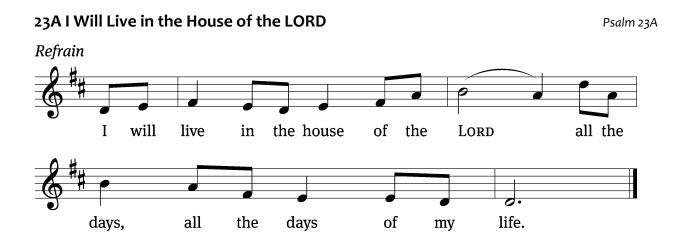
Be seated

Reading

St. John encourages us to test all those who claim to have a spiritual message. Not all such individuals have been sent by God.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit who does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. You are from God, dear children, and you have overcome the false prophets, because the one in you is greater than the one in the world. They are from the world. That is why they speak from a worldly perspective and the world listens to them. We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us, but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. That is how we can distinguish between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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





The LORD is my / shepherd,

I lack / nothing.

He makes me lie down in green / pastures,

he leads me beside quiet / waters,

he refreshes / my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his / name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no / evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they / comfort me. Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days / of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for- / ever.

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Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
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and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Mark Haas. Setting: Mark Haas. Music: © 2014 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727825

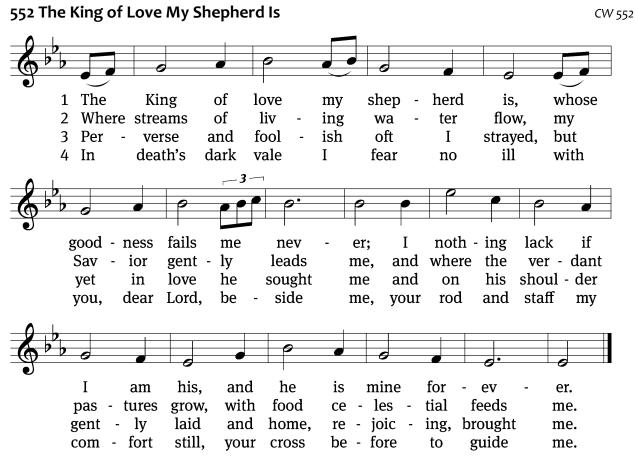
Gospel

John 10:11-18

Jesus explains why he is the good shepherd.

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep. "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**



5 You spread a table in my sight, a banquet here bestowing; your oil of welcome, my delight; my cup is overflowing!

 6 And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Tune: Irish, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Acts 20:28-32

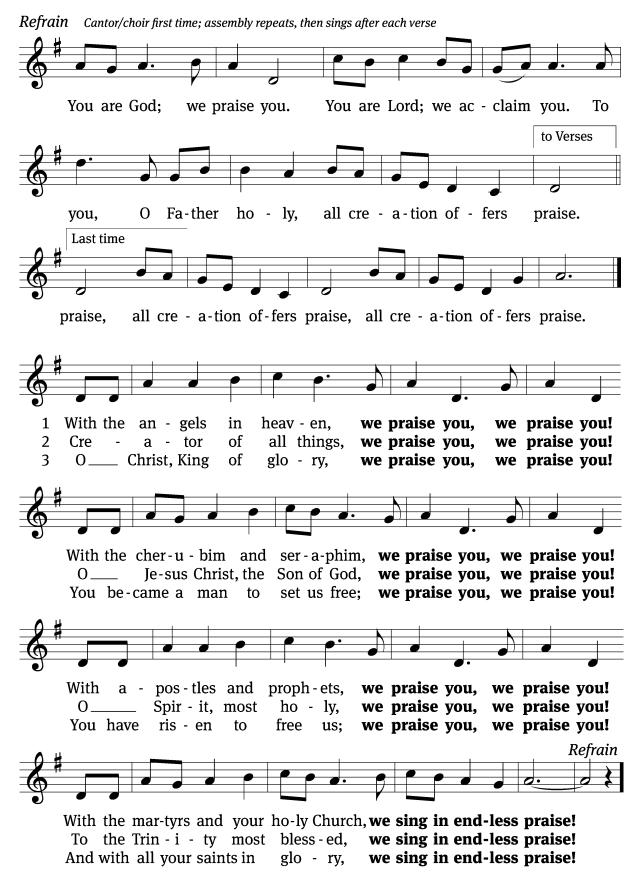
"Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

"And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

MAY THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVE YOU GOOD SHEPHERDS

Stand

You Are God; We Praise You



Be seated

Offertory

The offertory serves as a 'hinge' between the service of the Word and the service of the sacrament. It is a time to reflect on what you have heard and to prepare for the reception of Holy Communion (See page 295 in the hymnal for **Christian Questions** to prepare for Holy Communion.)

Stand



Lord, Have Mercy

Lord's Prayer

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us. First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Thy kingdom come.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

And lead us not into temptation.

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

But deliver us from evil.

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Sacrament

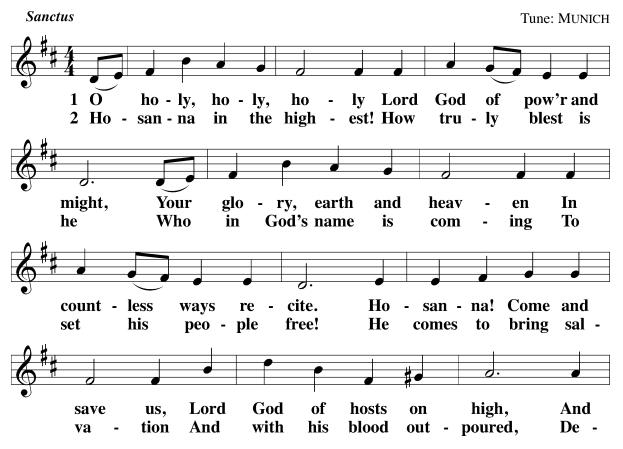
Exhortation

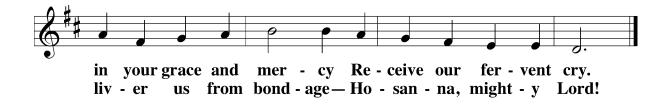
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather to celebrate the Testament of our Lord, let us take to heart the words of Christ by which he imparted to us his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Let us remember and give thanks for his boundless love, which he proved to us when he redeemed us from God's wrath, from sin, death, and from hell by his own precious blood.

Let us faithfully confess that in this bread and wine—which are his body and blood—we receive the pledge and guarantee of his forgiveness.

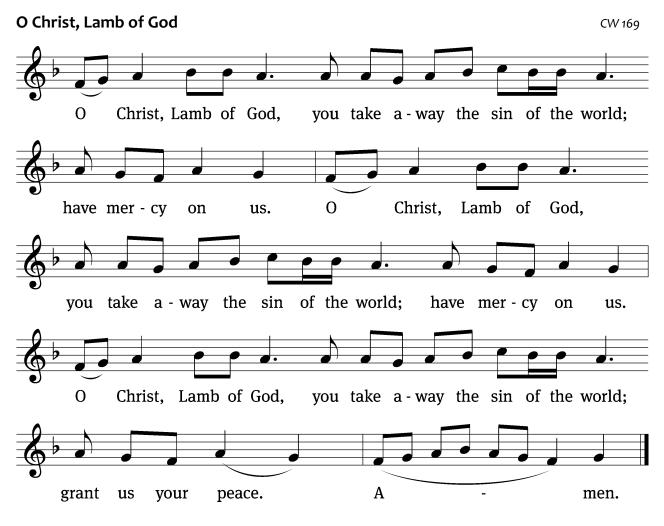
Let us receive and enjoy this Sacrament according to the command that Christ gave, and glorify the name of the one who has so richly blessed us with this meal.





+ Words of Institution +

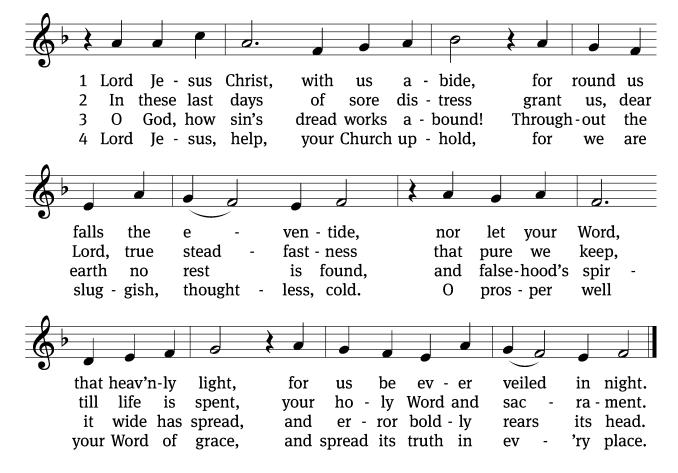
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



Be seated

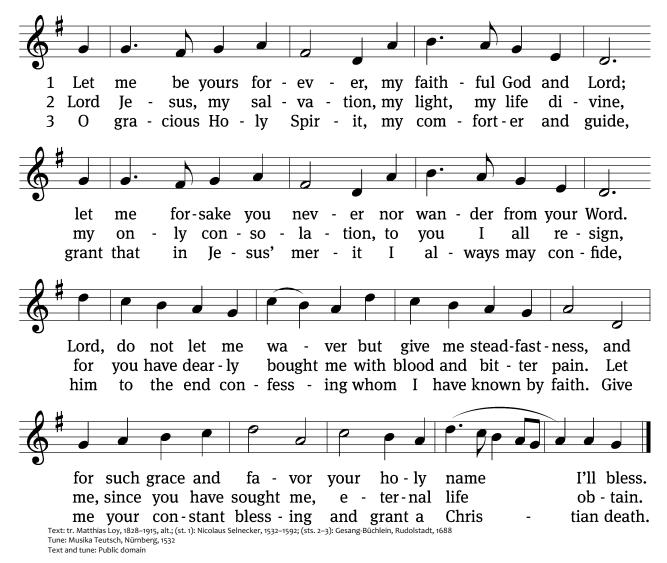
Distribution

641 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide



- O keep us in your Word, we pray;
 the guile and rage of Satan stay.
 Oh, may your mercy never cease;
 give concord, patience, courage, peace.
- 6 A trusty weapon is your Word, the Church's armor, shield, and sword.O let us in its pow'r confide that we may seek no other guide.
- 7 O grant that in your holy Word we here may live and die, dear Lord; and when our journey's ending here, receive us into glory there.

Text: tr. composite; (st. 1): German version, Geistliche Psalmen, Nuremberg, 1611; (st. 1): Philipp Melanchthon, 1497–1560; (sts. 2–7): Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–1592, abr. Tune: Geistliche Lieder D. Martini Lutheri, Leipzig, 1589 Text and tune: Public domain 715 Let Me Be Yours Forever



Prayer of the Day

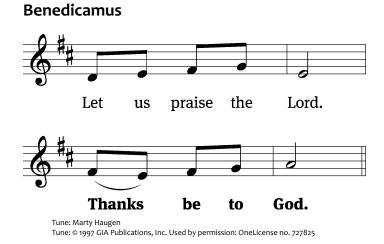
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

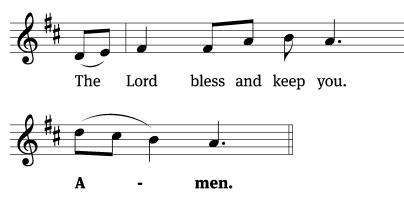
Prayer for Grace

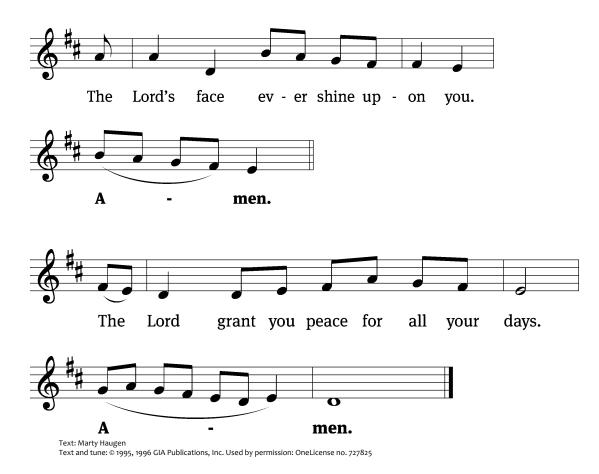
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.











5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing to the Father's home on high;
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die;
mediator to the Father, sacrifice and great High Priest:
lead us to your heav'nly mansions, there to share your wedding feast.

6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead; Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church's glorious head: praise and thanks and adoration and unending worship be to the Father and the Spirit and to you eternally.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964 Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinatti, 1825, ed. William Moore Text: © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727825 Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer (alternate) from Christian Worship

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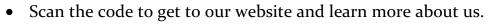
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A Welcome to Our Guests

If you're visiting today, we're especially glad to have you with us. Here are some further ways to connect with our congregation:

• Sign the guest register in the narthex so that we know you came to visit.



• Speak with Pastor Reckzin, Deacon Lambrecht, or any of our members. We're happy to answer questions or talk with you more!

Daily Lectionary Readings + April 21 - 27

Let your faith flourish with these daily readings! Use the questions as prompts to meditate more deeply on passages from the Word of God. These are also sent out by email every Sunday. If you'd like to be on the email list, please contact Deacon Lambrecht.

<u>Sun Apr 21</u>

Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36

Why does God have Moses consecrate Aaron as high priest by washing him? **Luke 9:1-17**

How are Jesus' providence and power demonstrated in this passage?

<u>Mon Apr 22</u>

Leviticus 9:1-24

What parallels can you find between the sin offering and our worship today? **Luke 9:18-36**

Why does Peter want to build tabernacles? In what way does he not understand what he is asking? (v 33)

<u>Tue Apr 23</u>

Leviticus 10:1-20

Why was it so important that priests distinguish between "the holy and the common...the clean and the unclean?" (v 11)

Luke 9:37-62

Based on the events in this passage, what characterizes true descipleship of Jesus?



<u>Wed Apr 24</u>

Leviticus 16:1-24

In what ways does the annual Day of Atonement point ahead to Christ?

Luke 10:1-22

Though Jesus grants power to the seventy-two to heal and cast out demons, what does he say their true joy should be?

<u>Thur Apr 25</u>

Leviticus 17:1-16 What specific sin is God addressing with blood and sacrifice requirements? **Luke 10:23-42** Was Martha's request of Jesus reasonable? How does Jesus address this complaint?

<u>Fri Apr 26</u>

Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8

How does God characterize the idolatrous behavior of the pagan peoples? What is the consequence for emulating them?

Luke 11:1-13

How confident can we be when we approach God in prayer? Why?

<u>Sat Apr 27</u>

Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37 How are the people of Israel able to keep all of the laws God sets before them? Luke 11:14-36 Why does Jesus refer to the generation as an evil one? (v 29)

Parish News

Sermons: Want to revisit messages you hear in church? Here's how to get them:

- Pick up a hard copy in the narthex (in the shelf beneath the signup sheets)
- Read, hear or watch it at **stjohnsoakwood.org/worship**. Recorded versions are usually available every Sunday.
- Browse an archive of all videos at our YouTube channel (@st.johnslutheran2392)

Prayer Requests. This week, please remember in your prayers:

- Family and friends of Jackie Balistreri, who was called home to heaven Apr 4
- Beverly Biba, who is having continued complications due to hip surgery
- Our shut-ins, **Donna Glidden**, **Janice Willms**, **Marlene Mueller**, and **Paul & Rose Harvey**

If you have a request, please fill out a card in the narthex or speak with Pastor.

Offerings: There are multiple ways to give an offering! You can:

- Mail your offering to the church address
- Drop your offering in the box when you're here
- Give electronically by scanning the code or visiting <u>stjohnsoakwood.org/give</u>.



AULL BE MY

WELS Women's Ministry Conference: You're invited to this year's conference, *Empowered to Proclaim*, held July 28-30 at the Ingleside Hotel in Waukesha. Join women from WELS churches across the country to be empowered in the faith.To register or learn more, go to <u>https://welswmconference.net/</u>. Deadline for registration is May 31.

Northwestern Publishing House has all kinds of materials available for Easter and beyond: confirmation gifts, devotionals, music, and much more. There are flyers in the narthex with more information. You can also go to **<u>nph.net</u>** to find the full range of resources NPH offers.

Arbor Day: Sisters in Our Savior will be hosting an Arbor Day cleanup on Sat Apr 27, from 8:00 am – noon, with lunch provided afterward. We will be cleaning up the lawn and flower beds, mulching, and any other outdoor jobs that need doing. If the weather does not cooperate, we will reschedule for Sat May 18. If you have questions, please speak with Erika Bahr or Deacon Lambrecht.

Swap Meet: Our annual swap meet began April 7 and will run for the duration of the month. If you would like to participate, you can bring your items to the Sunday School room in the basement. See Erika Bahr with questions.

Anniversary Concert: As a part of their year long 175th anniversary celebration, First Ev. Lutheran Church in Racine will host the Laudamus Lutheran Chorale of Southeastern Wisconsin on Sun April 21 at 3:00 pm with a bratwurst dinner to follow. Learn more at <u>firstracine.org/page/175th-anniversary</u>.

Lawn Care: Signups are now available for lawn care volunteering, both in the narthex and online at **<u>stjohnsoakwood.org/connect</u>**. If you have questions, please speak with Mike Havey or Deacon Lambrecht.

Area Lutheran High School News

Shoreland Call Updates: Mrs. Megan Rosenau has declined a call to serve as English instructor at Fox Valley Lutheran High School and will remain at Shoreland. Mr. Dan Hahm has received a call to serve as English instructor at Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills, WI. Please keep both of them in your prayers.

Perfect ACT Score: Congratulations to Wisco Junior Thomas Doerr on scoring a perfect 36 on the American College Test (ACT). While millions of students take this test every year, fewer than 1% earn a perfect score. This also marks the seventh perfect ACT score at Wisco in the past seven years. To God be the glory!

Serving St. John's in April

Chancel:

Karen Borchardt (Thurs Setup) Roni Block (Thurs Takedown) Sharen Demski (Sun Setup) Deb Gramza/LuAnn Matyas (Sun Takedown)

Organists:

Daniel Baker (Apr 4 & 7) Daniel Baker (Apr 11 & 14) Lisa Reckzin (Apr 18 & 21) Daniel Baker (Apr 25 & 28)

Ushers:

Art Kruegel (Thurs) Dennis Cowan (Sun) Chad Frank (Sun)

Counters:

Dennis & Janis Cowan (Apr 7) LuAnn Matyas & Roni Block (Apr 21)

Sunday School Teachers:

Jamie Dropik (Apr 7) Karen Borchardt (Apr 14) Chad Frank (Apr 21) Daniel Baker (Apr 28)

Lawn Care

Mike Havey (Apr 20) Doug Parker (Apr 27)

This Week at St. John's

| Thur (Apr 18) | Divine Service w/Holy Communion | 6:30 PM |
|---------------|--|---------------------|
| Sun (Apr 21) | Divine Service w/Holy Communion Bible Class & Sunday School | 9:00 AM 10:15 AM |
| Mon (Apr 22) | Catechism | 6:oo PM |
| Tue (Apr 23) | Bible Class | 10:30 AM |
| Thur (Apr 25) | Divine Service w/Holy Communion | 6:30 PM |
| Sat (Apr 27) | Arbor Day Cleanup | 8:00 AM |
| Sun (Apr 28) | Divine Service w/Holy Communion Confirmation of Jillian Buttke Bible Class & Sunday School | 9:00 AM |
| | | 10:15 AM |

