

First Lutheran Church, NALC

St. Ansgar, Iowa



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



An asterisk (*) denotes when worshipers are invited to stand.

If it is better for you to sit for any or all of those occasions, please sit.
God understands and so will we.

REMINDER: Please turn your cell phones off during the worship service.

“MY HOUSE IS THE HOUSE OF PRAYER”

First Lutheran Church
Saint Ansgar, Iowa
Phone 713-4873

Pastor Christopher Staley
April 21, 2024
9:00 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

PRELUDE

Gwen Mellmann

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

WELCOME & WORSHIP NOTES

INVOCATION

HYMN *Here in This Place*

WOV #718

*THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*KYRIE

WOV #602 (in English)

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE

WOV #789

*THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

All: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him Who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The First Lesson Acts 4:1-12

Peter's preaching reached the hearts of around five thousand people who came to believe because of his witness, but it also reached the ears of the religious authorities who had him and John imprisoned for preaching that the resurrection had already come through Jesus. When interrogated, Peter boldly declared that Jesus was the only way through which salvation has or will come.

¹As {Peter and John} were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already

evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. ⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 23 – read in unison

This familiar psalm reminds us that the Lord brings to us goodness, mercy, and life. We are cared for by God beyond measure like a shepherd cares for his sheep. There is no circumstance in which God will not be present for us and with us.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

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

I will fear no evil for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Lesson 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' self-giving, even to the point of death, is the perfect example of Godly love. For those who follow Jesus, love will be similarly expressed in an active faith that cares for and helps others. Hollow words and empty platitudes will not show the world what Godly love is like, but only the ways in which we follow Jesus' commandment to love one another can do that.

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹By this we shall

know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***The Alleluia Verse**

WOV # 612 (sing 2X)

***The Gospel responses (spoken)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, reading from the Tenth Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

***The Holy Gospel John 10:11-18**

Jesus compared himself to a good and caring shepherd who was willing to go to any extreme, even laying down his life, in order to protect his flock. Likewise, the shepherd's flock would recognize and follow him for they know his voice.

¹¹{Jesus said,} "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SONG OF THE MONTH – In Christ Alone

(next page)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what
depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on Him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live

There in the ground, His body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand

SERMON

HYMN: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

WOV #711

***THE CONFESSION OF FAITH (The Nicene Creed)**

Pastor: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin
Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins:

A minute of silence is held for self-reflection

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, **we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

P: O God the Father in heaven, **have mercy upon us!**

P: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy upon us!**

P: O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, **have mercy upon us!**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiven us all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all! **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward all!**

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

With the prevalence of various illnesses, please respect those who may wish to refrain from shaking the hands of those outside their own family.

THE OFFERING

***THE OFFERTORY:** *As the Grains of Wheat*

wov # 705

*THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray, **C:** Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him Who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*PRAYERS

WE ARE FORGIVEN, STRENGTHENED & UNITED IN HOLY COMMUNION

We believe that the true body and blood of Christ are really present under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Sacrament. We receive this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins through which we receive life and salvation. All baptized Christians who so believe and are admitted to Holy Communion in their home congregations are welcome to join us at Our Lord's Table. Non-communing children are also encouraged to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the prayer, with a first and second ending bracketed over the final two measures. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with a third ending bracketed over the final three measures. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us,
mer-cy onus, mer-cy on us. world. Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Personal Prayer Before Holy Communion – We do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord Whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and so to drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

Personal Prayer After Holy Communion - Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of His body and blood may abide in Him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION — Continuous/Kneeling communion We will start on the north (pulpit) side in the back. The balcony will come next, then the south side (lectern) from the back. Ushers will release communicants, about eight at a time. Please fill the north side of the rail from the north end first, then the south side from the south end. **When your side has placed your cups on the tray, please rise and return to your pew.** If it would be better for you to receive Communion where you are sitting, please let an usher know when one approaches your pew.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION: #699, 693, 706

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

WOV #790

BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

WOV #673 (sing 2 X)

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

DISMISSAL

WE LEAVE TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR LIVES

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME to our worship services. **A WARM WELCOME** to our visitors...please sign our guest register in the narthex and come again! **GOOD MORNING** to members and friends at the Good Samaritan Center.

THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN-We are all called by God to continue to spread the Christian faith to all people.

Thank you to Derek Peterson for serving as our reader this morning. Thank you to the members of First Grace Lutheran, Osage for joining us today to present their proposal and to answer any questions you may have.

TOTE-BAGS FOR KIDS: There are several bags available in the narthex for families with young children to use during the service. Inside the bag are small toys, books, and etc. to use during the service. Just return them following the service.

We believe that children should be part of the worship service. Occasionally, children challenge this belief. Should you desire to use our Nursery, it is located in the basement of the church. It provides a place for the child and allows the parent(s) to continue to hear the service.



REMINDER: When planning to commune with us, please fill in a registration card when you enter the church. This serves two purposes. One is that it lets the Deacons know approximately how many portions to prepare. The other is that we record who takes communion each time, as part of the official church records. This data is used when determining who is or is not a ‘voting member’, or to see who may need to be reached out to. So please, list the names of each family member who will be communing on the card. (Can all be on one card) If you are a guest from another church, you may write the name of your home church on the back of the card and we can let your congregation know you have communed with us.

The ‘Prayer Chain’ is based on this promise: *“Again, I tell you that if two of you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”* Matthew 18:19, 20. If you want to submit a prayer request to the Prayer chain, call Sharon Frank at 641-425-8665. If you would like to be a part of praying for the needs of our friends and families, contact your circle leader."

NOTE: The FLCWomen are planning to re-organize/update the Prayer Chain. They are inviting all men or women who would like to be a part of this to contact Jean Lunde or Linda McKinley and let them know you are interested and the best phone number to use.



THE PASCHAL CANDLE -The tall candle burning in the chancel during the Easter season is the Paschal Candle. “Paschal” refers to “Passover”. Jesus is like the Passover Lamb which was sacrificed in Egypt so that those families who had the mark of the Lamb’s blood on their front door were spared by the angel of death. (Ex. 12) Thus, the “Paschal Candle” is the Church’s sign for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us and rose again (Rev. 5)

The Paschal Candle is burned throughout the seven weeks of Easter (until Jesus’ Ascension). It is also lighted as the sign of resurrection and new life at a Christian’s baptism, and at the funeral of a Christian

Anyone interested in joining our First Lutheran Church family or simply wanting to learn more about our church, is encouraged to contact Pastor Staley or the church office at 713-4873.

We have an active/updated website! Go to www.firstlutheranstansgar.com to see the current calendar, weekly bulletin, newsletter, links to our Facebook page, webcam, and the NALC website.

NOTE: If you are not receiving the church's monthly newsletter and would like to, just send a note to the church office with your name and mailing address and we will add you to the mailing list. It may also be viewed using the link from our web page.



Feeding the Community

The **LAST Sunday** of each month is designated as "Food Bank Sunday". You are encouraged to bring food items, paper products as well as personal hygiene items to be given to our local North Cedar Food Bank. As always, you may bring items any Sunday, but we will have a special emphasis on the **LAST Sunday** each month. Also bring your loose change for the Coin Jar. Any loose \$1 bills put in the offering plate that day will be given to the Food Bank.

Members of the May Faith & Care Group have the opportunity to sign up this morning for the various jobs that need to be done to keep the church running smoothly for the month of May. Members of this groups are: Elaine Hansen, Jim/Diane Horgen, Ryan/Renee Horgen Family, Laurie Kimber, Karen Kittleson, Barbara Leraen, Mike/Ann Powers Family, Ben Salz, Brandon Salz, Dennis/Laurie Salz Family, Christopher/Kelly Staley Family, and Ron Tucke.



REMINDER: Since we have entered the cold and flu season, we ask that anyone who has such symptoms to consider remaining home on Sunday so as to limit the spread of these or other illnesses, especially for the sake of those most vulnerable. The service can be viewed on our webcam (live) or on Facebook (live or recorded). Links for both of these can be found on our webpage: firstlutheranstansgar.com

OUR MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

* Active ** Reserves

** Marissa Stoeffler

** Collin McKinley

* Tanner Evans

* Lacey Crowley

** Leah Jorgensen

* Derek Peterson

Now is the time to register to attend Bible Camp this summer! If your child is interested in attending Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. Many of the sessions fill quickly, so do not wait if they want to attend. **Again this year, you will register ONLINE yourself, and when you get to the payment section, you will enter a code for our church. This code varies, depending on which camp they choose to attend. You may contact the church office to get the needed code. As before, our church policy for this is:** You will be responsible for paying Riverside the first \$50 towards your deposit and informing the church office which program and week they are registered for. Remember that any 'extras' such as Camp Care, Horse Rides, Canteen Money, is the responsibility of the family. If your child chooses to attend a camp that is higher priced than a 'regular' week at camp, you need to pay the difference in that also. The church only pays for one week of camp for each student.

High School Students: There WILL be Luther League today! – Please plan to attend. **Seniors:** If you have not already submitted a photo for the bulletin board, please do so soon.

The Senior Saints Club Fund Raiser Lunch will be held **TODAY** from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Senior Saints Center. BBQ Sandwiches, Potato Salad and Baked Beans, Bars/Cookies, Ice Cream will be served. Carry-out meals available. Free Will Offering

Devotional Booklets for this quarter are in the narthex – help yourself!

Thank you to everyone who is willing to help with our ‘Spring Clean-Up Day’ today, following worship.

How Are We Doing? A Year To Year Comparison

INCOME TO BUDGET YTD

	Last year	This year	Needed to be at
	<u>3/31/2023</u>	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>for budget</u>
GENERAL FUND/OFFERINGS	\$56,471.71	\$38,034.67	\$54,116.16
BENEVOLENCE/NALC	\$490.00	\$15.00	\$1,625.01
GO SERV GLOBAL	\$827.20	\$2,055.00	
OTHER BENEVOLENCES	\$1,077.86	\$1,481.02	

NON-BUDGET ITEMS COMPARISON YTD

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
WORLD HUNGER	\$695.00	\$1,840.00
HELPING HAND	\$0.00	\$0.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER	\$0.00	\$0.00
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	\$590.00	\$490.00
NEW MISSION SUPPORT	\$0.00	\$0.00

BUDGET

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$214,675.00	\$216,464.60
BENEVOLENCE/NALC	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
CAMEROON MISSION	Pass Through	Pass Through
OTHER BENEVOLENCES	Pass Through	Pass Through


OFFICIAL NOTICE: SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING


Sunday, April 28, 2024 at the Church

10:05 A.M., following the 9:00 A.M. worship service

Proposed Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Consideration of proposal from First Grace Lutheran Church in Osage.
3. Closing
4. Adjournment

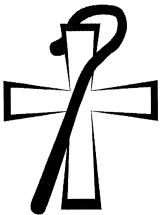

Michael Borcharding, President


Mary Kleinwort, Secretary

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

TODAY:	9:00 a.m.	Worship W/ Holy Communion Acolytes: Mitchell Frein, Ella Horgen Deacons: Meghan Powers, Kjersti Mayer - Presentation by representatives of First Grace
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour Faith & Care sign up (May) Spring Clean Up Day
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday school & Luther League
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study W/ Pastor
TUESDAY:	9:30 a.m.	Pastor to Text study
	3:30 p.m.	Bible Study W/Pastor Staley
WEDNESDAY:	8:20 A.M.	Confirmation Students to Mason City Community Kitchen
THURSDAY:	- - -	Deadline for NewsNotes (May)
SATURDAY:	9:00 a.m.	Pastor to IA Mission Dist. Council Mtg.
SUNDAY:	9:00 a.m.	Worship Acolytes: Leighton Rosenberg, Lauren Berg
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hour Faith & Care sign up (May)
	10:05 a.m.	Special Congregational Meeting (in the church following worship)
	10:15 a.m.	Sunday school
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study W/ Pastor Staley

Next Week's Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 150; 1 John 4:1-11; John 15:1-8



The Fourth Sunday of Easter is informally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows his own and they know him. The shepherd, as opposed to the hired hand, will go to any length necessary to save his sheep. This is exactly what Jesus did when he died on the cross for the sake of those he loves. Salvation comes from one way only, through Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead.