

***Fourth Sunday in Easter  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
April 21st, 2024***

*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an **\***.)*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**



At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**\*Opening Hymn....."The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing".....ELW #531**

**The trumpets sound, the angels sing  
The feast is ready to begin.**

**The gates of heav'n are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside**

*Refrain*

**Tables are laden with good things;  
Oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.  
He'll fill you up with love divine;  
He'll turn your water into wine.**

*Refrain*

**The hungry heart he satisfies,  
offers the poor his paradise.  
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud  
the amazing goodness of the Lord.**

*Refrain*

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure  
delight.**

**Come and revel in heaven's love and  
light.**

**Take your place at the table of the King.  
The feast is ready to begin;  
The feast is ready to begin.**

**\*Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

\*Kyrie, ELW p. 175



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
 Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -*  
 mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
 us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.



*Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
 Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .



*so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -*  
 mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
 us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
 Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -*  
 mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
 us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

**\*Canticle of Praise, ELW p. 176**



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra-a-que-llos que a-ma el Se - ñor.*  
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra-a-que-llos que a-ma el Se - ñor.*  
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

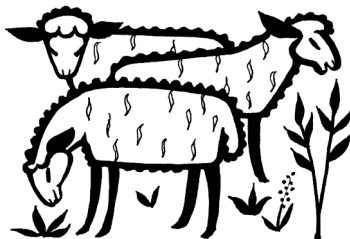
**First Reading.....Acts 4:5-12**  
*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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



**\*Gospel Acclamation, ELW p.179**

*;*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!  
 Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!  
 Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,  
 Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya!      *;*A - le - lu - ya!  
 al - le - lu - ia!      Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Gospel.....John 10:11-18**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>5</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*Response after the conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Children’s Message.....LPA Lorrie Vennes**

*Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us downstairs for Sunday School. We will bring them up for communion and you can pick them up after worship in the Sunday School room downstairs.*

**Sermon.....Pastor Keith Weatherford**

*Silence for reflection.*





**Hymn of the Day....."Have No Fear, Little Flock".....ELW #476**

**Have no fear, little flock;  
have no fear, little flock,  
for the Father has chosen  
to give you the kingdom;  
have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock;  
have good cheer, little flock,  
for the Father will keep you  
in his love forever;  
have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above;  
praise the Lord high above,  
for he stoops down to heal you,  
uplift and restore you;  
praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God;  
thankful hearts raise to God,  
for he stays close beside you,  
in all things works with you;  
thankful hearts raise to God!**

**\* Apostles' Creed**

**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 Intercession**

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.

*Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):*

God of Grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

*...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)*

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

*(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)*

**Offering**

*(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)*

**Offertory Anthem.....St. John's Sanctuary Choir**  
**"Shepherd Me, Lord" by William M. Schoenfeld**  
**Elizabeth Burke, Flute**

*Psalm 23 is a beloved, well-known text, used yearly in our lectionary series on "Shepherd Sunday". It is often used in memorial services, and spoken with families as a loved one passes away. This arrangement stays true to the original text, paraphrasing a little to more modern language. Allow yourself to be moved by the sweeping piano accompaniment, flute and think about this comforting text. This version was arranged in memory of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy of 2012.*

**Offertory Hymn....."Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW #185**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**\*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**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

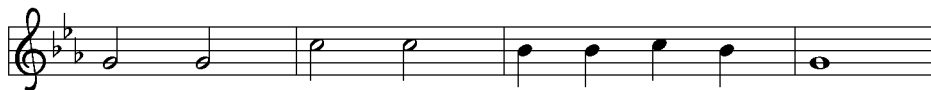
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life, and so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Sanctus, ELW p.181**



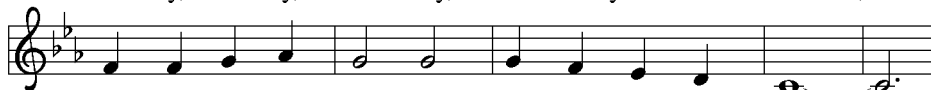
*San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,*



*Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.*  
*God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.*



*San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,*



*Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.*  
*God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.*



*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la*  
*Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on*



*tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el*  
*earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the*



*nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el*  
*name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the*



*cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -*  
*high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .*



*di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.*  
*Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.*

### **\*Words of Institution**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again. Amen!**

### **\*Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **\*Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

*(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)*

# Lamb of God, ELW p.182



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



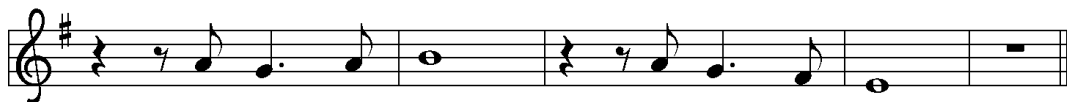
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz,                      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,                      grant us your peace.

**Communion Hymn.....“Shepherd Me, O God ” .....ELW#780**

**Gretchen Munding, Cantor**

*Congregation, please join on the refrain printed below*

**Shepherd me, O God,  
beyond my wants, beyond my fears,  
from death into life.**

**Communion Hymn.....“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” ..... ELW #484**

*Refrain*

**You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gift of finest wheat.**

**Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.**

**As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
they know and heed his voice;  
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,  
we follow and rejoice. *Refrain***

**With joyful lips we sing to you  
our praise and gratitude  
that you should count us worthy, Lord,  
to share this heav'nly food. *Refrain***

**Is not the cup we bless and share  
the blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain***

**The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain***

**You give yourself to us, O Lord;  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity. *Refrain***

**\*Prayer after Communion**

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

**\*Benediction**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn....."Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" .....ELW #544**

**Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,  
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:  
glory be to God on high!  
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,  
by this eucharist declaring  
yours the final victory.**

**Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,  
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,  
ears attentive to your word;  
by your blood new life receiving,  
in your body, firm believing,  
we are yours, and you the Lord.**

**Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,  
we go forth alert and living  
in your Spirit, strong and free.  
Partners in your new creation,  
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,  
may we faithful foll'wers be.**



**\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen

**Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia. Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

**Ministering in Worship**

**Preaching & Presiding**

Rev. Keith Weatherford

**Assisting Minister**

Lorrie Vennes

**Organist**

Dodie Walsh

**Choir Director**

Connie Conley

**Interim Bell Choir Director**

Nicole Evans

**Technology**

Angela Conley

**Acolytes**

Kate & Maria Lee

**Ushers**

**Lector**

Lorrie Vennes

**Communion Servers**

Lorrie Vennes, John & Gwynn Munding

**Altar Guild**

Barb Muir, Judy Kembel, Linda Wollitz

In our prayers: Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Isla Johnson, Jeff Wahl, Bill Berg, Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Mark and Renee Slocum, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: June Jabs, mother of Gayle Grimsrud, Elana Icenoggle, Hazel Aasved, and All the Saints in Heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound: Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul, Maggie Smiedala

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world, Willie Langdji in Cameroon

## **APRIL SOCIAL MINISTRY: ST. JOHN'S YOUTH ATTENDING YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORELANS**

**CREATED TO BE 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** MYLE + the table  
Young Adult Gathering

In July, youth from St. John's will be traveling to join other Lutheran youth from across the country. Those attending will be affirmed and challenged in their faith and will experience new perspectives. Some may ponder their future vocations. They will learn more about what it means to be part of the ELCA and how we as a church are God's people in the world. Everyone will create bonds and memories that will last a lifetime!

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
1000 Helena Ave., Helena, MT 59601  
Office: 406-442-6270**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### Sunday, April 21st

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

11:00 am- New Testament Bible Study

### Monday, April 22nd

10:00 am-Staff meeting

5:00 pm-Brass Rehearsal

6:00 pm-Bells Rehearsal

### Tuesday, April 23rd

Noon- NT Bible Study

7:00 pm- Circle Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 24th

9:00 am-Quilting

5:30 pm-Dinner- Potluck and End of Year Celebration

6:30 pm- Worship and Faith Formation

### Thursday, April 25th

7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, April 26th

Women's Retreat at FLBC begins

### Sunday, April 28th

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

11:00 am-New Testament Bible Study

## Cinco de Mayo!

Looking for a family friendly way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo while also supporting our kids/adults who are attending the 2024 Youth Gathering? Come out for a taco feast on Sunday, May 5th from 4:00 PM-6:00 PM at St. John's. Suggested donations of \$10/person or \$30/family at the door. The youth will be serving hard and soft tacos, beans, rice, churro cupcakes, and non-alcoholic margaritas. Games, music, and fun for all ages!

## Women's Book Club

The women's book club will be reading part two of "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land for our May meeting on May 9 at 12:00. The book is a memoir of Land's struggle to survive as a single parent. The book club will take a summer break and resume our study in September with "Finding My Way Home" by Kirsten Weatherford.

## Mark your calendars!

On Mother's Day, May 12th, the choir wants to include families in our anthem that day! We will be singing a lovely arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me", and you can come to our rehearsal time before the worship that day, at 9:00, in the Fair Chapel. The choir will not be wearing robes that day, and will sit with the congregation for this special day! I chose this song for this event because of its longevity and familiarity, often one of the first songs we learned as young children in our early Sunday School days. Come and sing with us, and even learn the ASL signs to the refrain of this beloved song! Come and sing with us!

## Volunteers Needed!

The Women's ministry is hosting coffee before service on Mother's Day, May 12. Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and clean up. Please reach out to Danyel Bauer (406) 465-5050 if you can assist.

## Women's Spring Retreat at FLBC

Our Women's ministry (Women of the ELCA) is creating two baskets for the silent auction. Funds provide scholarships for the retreat next year. One basket will be consumable items like chocolate/coffee/cocoa and the other will be for personal care products like hand lotion/bath salts. Please donate any items to Danyel Bauer (406) 465-5050.



Can't make it this year, but still want to participate? Here's how you can help! Our Service Project this year is Welcome Bags for Babies. These are designed to 'gift' new mothers with a useful welcoming gift to the newest members of our community. These bags will be sent home to congregations to be distributed to organizations who support families in need. This will directly benefit the Helena area. Bring these items to fill our bags:

Size 1 Diapers  
Sleeper Gowns (0-6 months)  
Receiving Blankets

Baby Socks (0-6 months)  
Baby Wipes  
Onesies

Baby Books  
Pacifiers (nucks)

Please contact Danyel Bauer at (406) 465-5050 if you would like to donate any items.