

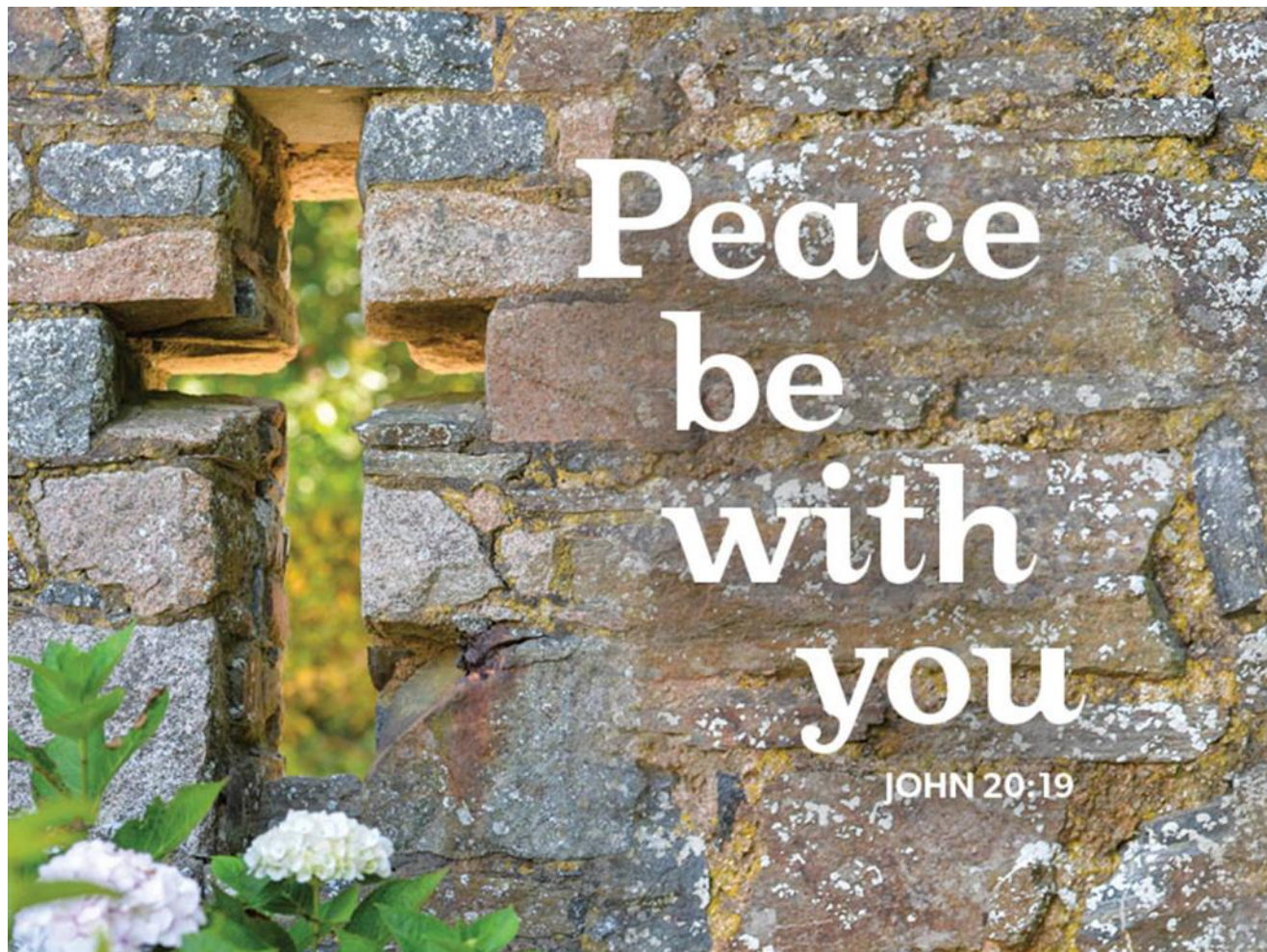


# The Herald

April 2024

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Helena, Montana

*"Growing in grace, walking by faith, serving in love"*



## Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

In-person and online via our Facebook page

Services uploaded to YouTube

Healing Service: First Sunday of the month at 8:15

Touchmark Service: Second Thursday at 2:00

Midweek Gathering

Community Meal at 5:30

Worship w/Holy Communion at 6:30

Fellowship at 7:00

## Table of Contents

Pastor's Perspective—2

News Around St. John's & Our Neighborhood—3

In Our Prayers & April Calendar—4&5

Social Ministry & Women of St John's—6

Youth & Family—7



## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### “Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

An overarching theme of the Easter season is one of belonging. From Thomas still finding his place despite, or perhaps because of, his doubts, to our place in the sheepfold and on the vine, to the embrace of the Spirit, we are reminded repeatedly about our place in God’s family. Russian nesting dolls may be helpful in illustrating this theme. Jesus is within God, and we are in turn within Jesus as his sheep, his fruit, his people. Just like those smaller dolls inside the larger doll, we are embraced and protected at every level. We are not just *with* Jesus but *within* Jesus, as much a part of him as he is of God. The security that knowledge brings can be a springboard for action in the world: sharing the good news, spreading the love of Jesus, and working for justice. The Easter season will hopefully inspire those hearing the message to act with the knowledge that, no matter the outcome, possible missteps, questions, or doubts, there is always a place for them in the fold or on the vine. Jesus does not ask us to be perfect but to abide in him and to bear fruit.



When we find our place and sense of belonging within the abiding, triune God, we are also reminded that there are others who belong to God with whom we are encouraged to build community despite our differences.

The Easter texts use multiple images of “the many”: a flock of sheep, the branches of a grape vine, and a multitude of strangers of various nationalities and languages gathered on the Day of Pentecost. There is a push for unity within the body of Christ throughout the Easter texts. As we move through them, the images of what binds us together become more and more abstract. The resurrected Jesus gathers his followers around him behind locked doors and then around a beach fire and breakfast. Images of physical gathering give way to metaphorical nonhuman images of flocks of sheep and vineyard branches full of grapes. Then the invisible but powerful Holy Spirit begins to move and push us together.

It all builds to Pentecost when we are brought together through language and deeper understanding.

Through this journey, we are taken from the very familiar group of disciples, to images out of nature that show unity without diversity, and then finally to an image that is highly relatable: a large group of people who go from only seeing their differences to being unified by the Holy Spirit. It is this unity, within God and within the body of Christ, that drives our Easter season and should continue to drive our efforts to live out our roles as disciples in the world.

Through the stories of this season, we see how the early disciples and followers of Jesus struggled to find their bearings after Jesus ascended into heaven. These stories reflect our own struggles with belonging and faith and can be used as encouragement to come together and show God’s presence to one another, to work together to show God to others, and to follow the example of Jesus in how we bring communities together through justice, peace, and love.

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Keith

*This article is an excerpt and adaptation of the seasonal essay “Preparing for Easter.” That was first published in Sundays and Seasons 2024, Year B, copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.*

## NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S & OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### Healing Services

Healing Services will continue on the first Sunday of each month. at 8:15.

### Touchmark Services

Join us every second Thursday at 2:00 at Touchmark.



### Women's Book Club

The women's book club will be reading "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land for April and May. Please read part one for our April meeting on April 11 at 12:00. The book is a memoir of Land's struggle to survive as a single parent. You may "drop in" to join us for this one book. No previous attendance necessary! Contact Kendra Wilde with questions: 406-465-8590.

### Ministering in Worship

There are many wonderful ways to help serve during our worship service each week! We are always looking for greeters, lectors, communion servers, ushers, and acolytes. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Keith or call the office. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or call the office (406-442-6270).

### Thanks for Supporting Fair Trade

Your contributions to the basket by the coffee urn make it possible to support growers in developing countries get a fairer price for their coffee, tea, and chocolate. A new order of whole bean Congo coffee for individual sale has arrived and for each bag purchased \$1 will go to the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you for putting in your dollars so we can continue to serve fair trade coffee and come and check out the coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars that are available for individual sales.

[www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/congo-coffee-project](http://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/congo-coffee-project)



### VBS 2024 Dates-June 17th-21st, 2024

Classes for Preschool, Elementary 1st-5th

Worship, Fun Music, Bible Study,

Small Group Activities,

Large Field Games, and Crafts!

Daily from 9:00 AM-Noon

Email the office to save your spot now!



## BIRTHDAYS

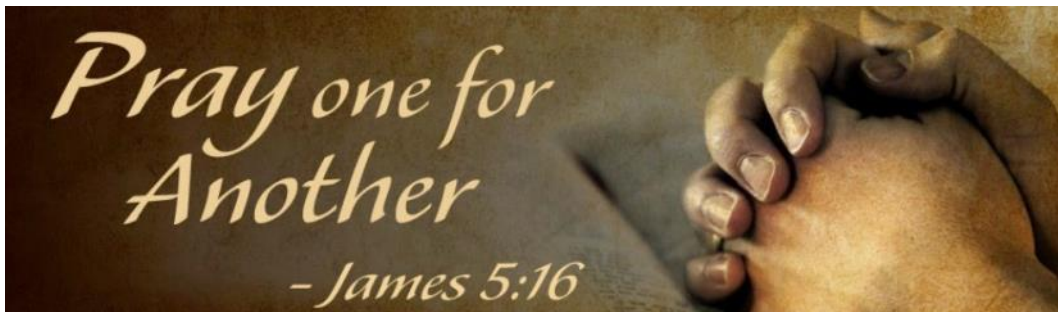
- 2 Janice Forseth
- 4 Merwin Barrows
- 7 Genevieve Graybill
- 8 Carly Smiedala
- 12 Mark Blessinger
- 15 Matt Eckdahl

- 16 Pam Bourassa
- 16 Curt Nichols
- 17 Kay Elverum
- 19 Que Twoteeth
- 21 Joshua Barrows
- 26 Randy Rake
- 28 Madisyn Gard
- 28 Alyson Rake
- 30 Garth Grimsrud

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Susan & Frederick Frey

Help us keep our records up-to-date! If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary listed or if you need to make a correction to what we have listed please contact the office. We would like to be able to celebrate your special day!



In our prayers: Alan Stine, Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Elana Icenoggle, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Isla Johnson, Bobbie Fellows, 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

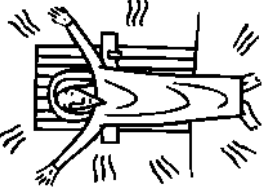

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: June Jabs, mother of Gayle Grimsrud, Mary Gardinier, and All the Saints in Heaven

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

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

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world, Willie Langdji in Cameroon

# April 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sun</b> 	<b>1</b> 10:00 am-Staff Meeting 5:00 am-Brass Reh.	<b>2</b> 10:00 am-Property Noon-Caring friends 5:15 pm-Evangelism  Pastor away at Synod	<b>3</b> 9:00 am-Quilting	<b>4</b> 5:00 pm-4H Photo- graphy in Guild Room	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:15 am-Healing Ser- vice 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Fellowship	<b>8</b> 10:00 am-Staff Meeting 5:00 pm-Brass Reh. 6:00 pm-Bells Reh.	<b>9</b> Noon-WELCA Business Meeting 6:30 pm-Executive Committee	<b>10</b> 9:00 am-Quilting 5:30 pm-Midweek**	<b>11</b> Noon-Women's Book Club: "Maid" 2:00 pm-Touchmark Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Fellowship/ Bible Study 4:30 pm- 4H Sewing in Guild Room	<b>15</b> 10:00 am-Staff Meeting 5:00 pm-Brass Reh. 6:00 pm-Bells Reh.	<b>16</b> Noon-Bible Study 5:30pm-Church Council	<b>17</b> 9:00 am-Quilting 5:30 pm-Midweek**	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm-Choir Reh.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Fellowship/ Bible Study	<b>22</b> 10:00 am-Staff Meeting 5:00 pm-Brass Reh. 6:00 pm-Bells Reh.	<b>23</b> 9:30 am-Circle Bible Study Noon-Bible Study 7:00 pm-Circle Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9:00 am-Quilting 5:30 pm-Midweek**	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm-Choir Reh.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 am-Worship 10:30 am-Fellowship/ Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10:00 am-Staff Meeting 5:00 pm-Brass Reh. 6:00 pm-Bells Reh.	<b>30</b> Noon-Bible Study			<b>**MIDWEEK SCHEDULE</b> 5:30 pm-Dinner 6:30 pm-Worship w/Holy Communion 7:00 pm-Faith Formation	Please contact the church office to schedule meetings & events. Thank you!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table Young Adult Gathering

## APRIL SOCIAL MINISTRY: ST. JOHN'S YOUTH ATTENDING ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

IN JULY YOUTH FROM ST. JOHN'S WILL BE TRAVELING TO JOIN OTHER LUTHERAN YOUTH FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN NEW ORLEANS. THE CORE GOALS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- AFFIRMED & CHALLENGED IN THEIR FAITH
- EXPERIENCE NEW PERSPECTIVES
- PONDER THEIR VOCATION
- BOND WITH THEIR CONGREGATIONAL GROUP
- LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ELCA AND OUR PARTNERS



### Women of St John's

**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 on April 26-28.** 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.

*For over 50 (or maybe 60?) years, the WELCA women of the Great Divide and Five Valleys Clusters have been hosting a Women's Spring Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Each year we look forward to*



*meeting together in this beautiful place with an inspirational speaker, a service project to benefit a non-profit and lots of time for hikes, conversation, worship, and fellowship with women of faith. All are Welcome! Bring a friend, a daughter, a sister!*

Registration and more info at

[www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat](http://www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat) Questions?

Contact Nancy Solum at 406-240-0023 or [WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com) Sponsored by

Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Cluster

WELCA Women's Spring Retreat

### What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?

Come for a weekend of relaxation, rejuvenation, fellowship, and inspiration with women of faith.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
April 26-28, 2024

Register at [www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat](http://www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat)

Sponsored by:  
Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)  
Five Valleys and Great Divide Clusters





Please speak with Gretchen so we can schedule you.

**Music Festival Participants!**  
Are you preparing a solo for the upcoming high school district music festival? We would love to have you play your piece in church!!



There is no Midweek Connection on Wednesday, April 3rd . We will resume on April 10th. And the last day of Midweek Connection for the school year is Wednesday, April 24th.

We will resume with class on Sunday, April 7th and the last day of Sunday School for the school year is Sunday, April 28th.

Senior Sunday (celebrating our graduating HS Seniors) will be Sunday, May 19th during the 9:30 AM worship service.

VBS is around the corner! Save your spot now. Camp runs the week of June 17-21 from 9:00 AM-Noon every day.

***We had a busy month of packing up snack bags for HMS and our youth night/lock-in with Pastor Mark Donald from Christikon!***



**The Herald-April 2024**  
**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
1000 Helena Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #46  
Helena, MT  
59601



## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

*"Growing in grace, walking by faith, serving in love"*

1000 Helena Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 442-6270  
www.helenastjohns.org  
email: saintjohns@helenastjohns.org  
Pastor email: pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org  
Like us on Facebook!

### Worship Services

**Sunday 9:30 am**

In-person and online via our Facebook page

Services uploaded to YouTube

**Healing Service:** First Sunday of the month at 8:15

### Midweek Gathering

**5:30 pm Community Meal**

**6:30 pm Worship w/Holy Communion**

**7:00 pm Fellowship**

### Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Monday-Thursday

Office Closed on Friday



## Ministering at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

<b>Witness to the Gospel</b>	Members of SJLC
<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Keith Weatherford
<b>Organist</b>	Dodie Walsh
<b>Choir Director</b>	Connie Conley
<b>Interim Bell Choir Director</b>	Nicole Evans
<b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministries</b>	Gretchen Munding
<b>Secretary</b>	
<b>Audio and Video</b>	Angela Conley
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Hicks
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Randy Rake
<b>Sexton</b>	Pat Gober
<b>Church Council</b>	Gail Vennes, President Paul Hilchen, Vice President Jennifer Wintersteen, Secretary Bing Crosby, Kari Ceaicovschi, Brian Tetrault Lee Rhodes, K'Lynn Sloan-Harris, Teressa Kinley

**St. John's Social Ministry Outreach**  
**for April is the ELCA Youth Gathering**

