

# + Sixth Sunday of Easter +

*with Rite of Holy Baptism*

*May 14, Year of our Lord 2023 | DS2*

## + Confession and Absolution +



*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

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

**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

*1 John 1:8–9*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### Confession of Sins

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

### Absolution

*[John 20:19–23]*

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

## Introit

*Psalm 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105*



**P** Your word is a lamp | to my feet\*  
and a light | to my path.

**C** Forever, O | LORD, your word\*  
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations,\*  
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

**By your appointment they | stand this day,\***  
**for all things are your | servants.**

If your law had not been | my delight,\*  
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

**I will never forget your | precepts,\***  
**for by them you have giv- | en me life.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Your word is a lamp | to my feet\*  
and a light | to my path.



## Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy

*Mk. 10:47*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our  
salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the  
well-being of the Church of God, and for  
the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



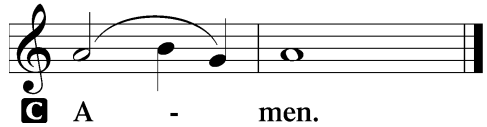
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer  
here their worship and praise let us pray  
to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us,  
gracious Lord.



**This Is the Feast**, for music see hymnal, p. 171

*Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9*

- A** (sung) This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

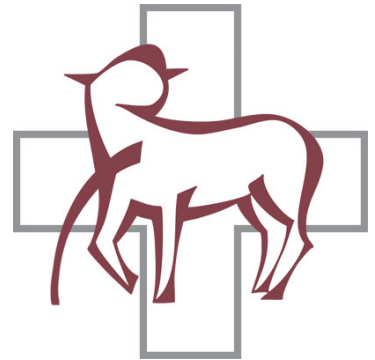
- C** (sung) **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**  
**whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power**  
**and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and**  
**blessing and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of**  
**all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and**  
**the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,**  
**for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**



### Salutation and Collect of the Day



- P** The Lord be with you.



- C** And also with you.

- P** Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



- C** A - men.

### First Reading

*Acts 17:16–31*

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said,

“What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual**

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

**C** **Christ has risen from the dead.**

**God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor.  
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
he has put all things under his feet.**

**Epistle**

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile

your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Verse of the Day

*John 16:33b*

**P** Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

### Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*John 14:15-21*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

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



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



**Baptismal Hymn: Children of the Father** (*written for the occasion of Samuel Hick's Baptism in 2020; offered here in honor of his new baby sister Hannah's baptism.*)



1 O Child - ren of the Fa - ther, O Child - ren of grace, one ho - ly  
 2 Tho sin dai - ly tempts you, tho death and its sting, these can - not  
 3 So live in your call - ing to walk with your God. Hear all the



na - tion from each tribe and race, the wat - ers of re - demp - tion, they  
 harm you for you are washed clean. Bap - tized in - to Je - sus, God's  
 pro - phets and how En - och trod. For - give oth - er sin - ners and



seem as a flood, are means of sal - va - tion bought by Jes - us' blood.  
 gift so di - vine, Sa - tan lost the bat - tle, in hea - ven you shine.  
 learn how to pray. For Jes - us is Life and the Truth and the Way.

## Rite of Holy Baptism

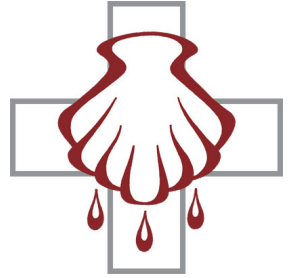
9:00 a.m. Rite administered by Rev. Steven M Stolarczyk

The children being baptized into Christ, forever:

**Kannyon Wayne Clayton** b. August 5, 2016

**Evelyn Catherine-Lee Stolarczyk** b. January 15, 2021

**Benjamin Raymond Stolarczyk** b. April 9, 2022



*Parents:* Michael Stolarczyk and Sierra Clayton; *Godparents/sponsors:* Caleb Block, Owen Stolarczyk, and Morgan Delaney (via proxy)

11:00 a.m. Rite administered by Rev. Derek A. Roberts

The child being baptized into Christ, forever:

**Hannah Joy Hicks** b. April 22, 2023

*Parents:* Alex & Shelby Hicks; *Brother:* Samuel; *Godparents/sponsors:* Andrew & Jennifer Hebar

### Choral Anthem

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

**Hymn of the Day: 556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** by Martin Luther st. 1-5 (see hymnal)

### + Sermon +

*After sermon (st. 6-10 of hymn 556, see below or hymnal):*

- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain;  
The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.

- 9 “Now to My Father I depart, From earth to heav’n ascending,  
And, heav’nly wisdom to impart, The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you And teach you always to be true  
And into truth shall guide you.
- 10 “What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav’nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you.”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain

### Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

### Prayers to God on Behalf of...

World: Praying for the end of the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia** (and preservation of life and land). **Victims of gun violence** (including recent shooting in Nashville.)



Church: For our ongoing **church building/expansion planning** with architect Studio 4, contractor Creative Structures, and our 3-year Capital Campaign with LCEF. Mission work of **Rehema Open Door** (Rehema is Swahili for mercy) palliative care center/hospice in Kenya. Local mission of **Pregnancy Resource Center** of Maryville and Sevierville. For our DCE **Shelli Haynes**, for blessings upon her service to Praise, and for her family. For the newly baptized: **Kannyon, Evelyn, Benjamin, and Hannah**. For our catechumens and the upcoming confirmations of **Kayla Del Carpio, Lucy Nunnink, Auggie Mohr, and Jonathan Roberts**.

Vocation: **Faithful Mothers** (on the occasion of Mother’s Day). **Tyler Smith** (Airforce) in Mississippi and **Megan** beginning law school at UT. **Jacob** (Tami DeHaven’s grandson) stationed in S. Korea. **Carter Felt** (Navy: stationed in Charleston). **Casey Lawson** (Airforce). For **Emily and Julian Martinez** (rejoicing in birth of Soren). **Paul & Angela Gift** rejoicing in the birth of **Nyla**). For Bill & Diane Miller’s new grandson **Isaiah**. **Tatum Smolter** (and Tanner, rejoicing in birth of **Tylen**). **Eugene & Vicky Gorman** (expecting); and **Vicky** who started a fulltime job as an archivist in Oak Ridge. **Ann Brown** giving thanks for a new great grandson. **Mary Schopmann** giving thanks for 4<sup>th</sup> greatgrandchild. **Alex, Shelby, and Samuel Hicks** giving thanks for birth of **Hannah Joy**. High school graduation this month for: **Sam Nunnink, Caleb Pierce, and Lex Stolarczyk**.



Mourning: For the family of **Pat Hinds** who passed away and services will be 4:00 p.m. on May 20 at First Lutheran Church in Knoxville. For the **family of Scott McNeil** (friend of Matthew Flaska) whose mother passed away suddenly. For the family of a Praise Lutheran founding member, **Wanda Jenkins**, who passed 4/19. For family of **Arnold Solis** (Nunnink's and Lee's father and [great] grandfather) who passed away. Family of **Terry** (Seth Pierce's uncle) who passed away. Family of **Taryn Sebright** (including Billye Raye, Kris, Tiana, Taylor, and JJ) on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of her passing. Family of **Clayton Narveson** who passed away 1/20. Family of **Janet Moore's mother, Mary Lou**, who passed away. Family of **Stan Stubelt** of Friendsville (Sharon Felker's brother) who passed away. Family of **Priscilla Sullenberger** (Debbie's Johnston's sister). Family of **Dick Mohr** who passed away 9/17/22.

Health: **Larry Moore** recovering from ankle replacement surgery. **Steve Lee** recovery from wrist surgery. **Melissa Lyke** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) open heart surgery recovery. **Myrna Frazier** cancer treatments. **Sharon Yoder** recovering from tricuspid valve procedure. **Pastor Neil Vanderbush** at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. **Billye Raye Smith** chemo treatment for multiple myeloma. **Kay & Dwight** (Myrna's sister and Brother-in-law) for health and Dwight's cancer treatments. For **Analisa** (Karen Fortune's daughter in Cincinnati), her baby was born early, please pray for health. **Janice Kaiser** sciatic pain treatment. **Gary Kubin** recovering from back surgery. **Soren** (newborn to Julian & Emily Martinez) breathing and oxygen levels. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** upcoming valve and heart surgery on May 31. **Paula** (Corlis William's mother) health, hospitalized recently, doing better. **Jeannie Lindenfelser** for lung cancer treatments. Rick & Lisa Gift's family, **Terry & Ann Gift** (both with cancer). **Mark Cutler** (Randy & Carol Groen's brother-in-law) lung cancer surgery recovery. **Ole Johnson** upcoming tests for cancer. **A Teacher at Justin Gift's school**, fighting cancer. **Mary Schopmann** for strength and health. **Pastor Ed Maanum** of First Lutheran Knoxville, kidney function. For **June McDonnell** (lung health). **Jennifer Morsch** (Joel & Barbara's daughter) health. **Delora Roth** good leg circulation health. **Rachel Ernst's mother**: cancer treatments. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Brad** (Phil and Carol Barnett's son) cancer surgery recovery. **Sheila Schnepf** (friend of Tom & Lois Schering) experiencing 24/7 back pain. **Judy Kalkitis** health and mobility. **Nancy** (Jim Vesper's mother) health. **Aurora Stevens** back treatments. For **Carolyn Dickie** (health). For **Barbara Moyers** health. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **all suffering from mental health issues**. **Al Reuer** health. **Gregory Strege** (Phyllis's son, health). **Tom Williams**, health and care for heart. **Ken Payne's** health (friends of a friend of Jim Vesper). Ruth Kistler's son **William** (tests and possible cancer treatments). Kenna Chorney's mother: **Gail Rieman** (wound care). **Tim Smith** (heart and back health). Steve Kaiser's mother **Louise** (age 92) in Indiana. Andrew Hebar's Aunt **Kara** (struggling from cancer treatments). **Connie** (Andrew Hebar's friend) brain and lung cancer. **Bill** (Cathy Wacker's father) dementia,

health. **Lee Schuck** (health, unable to walk). **Janeen Meier** (Maureen Roberts's sister)  
health. **Melissa Gilmore** (friend of Jim Vesper) COPD.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:** For **Larry Wacker** new device to help with tremors. For **Brad**  
(Phil & Carol Barnett's son) who heard good news that he is now cancer free!

**Birthdays:** Baylor S 5/14, Eugene G 5/20, Liam H 5/20, Shelby H 5/21, Blair J 5/22, Deb W  
5/22, Marleen B 5/23, Mary Ellen B 5/24, Gary K 5/27

\* **Benediction** for those worshipping on the livestream.

## + Service of the Sacrament +

### A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

### Preface, p.177

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Tim. 4:22*



**C** And al-so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

*Col. 3:1*



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Psalms 136*



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Proper Preface ~ Altar Book (appropriate to the day or season)**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and saying:

**Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Isaiah 6:3; Matt. 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*p. 178*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever. **C Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**P** 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  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."



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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Proclamation of Christ**

*1 Cor. 11:26*

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. **C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and grant us Your peace.

**Pax Domini**

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

**C** A - men.

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.



## Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

**Distribution Hymn: 821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

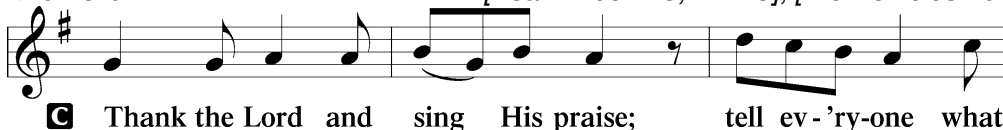
**Distribution Hymn: 605 Father Welcomes**

**Distribution Hymn: 469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

**Distribution Hymn: 769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ**

**Thank the Lord**

*[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8-10]*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what

He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
 joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Post Communion Collect**

*p. 183*

- L** Let us pray... now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** A - - - men.

**Acknowledgments**

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## **Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 1850 Big Springs Rd. Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810, Website: [praiselutheran.com](http://praiselutheran.com)

Online giving: [praiselutheran.com](http://praiselutheran.com) (click the blue "Give" button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 to Noon, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (EST)

Office Administration: Jack Nunnink, [jack@praiselutheran.com](mailto:jack@praiselutheran.com)

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, [pastor@praiselutheran.com](mailto:pastor@praiselutheran.com), cell: (865) 229-6024 (Pastor's day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, [shelli@praiselutheran.com](mailto:shelli@praiselutheran.com)

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Capital Campaign Info: Ed Hannah; Joel Morsch

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson



Announcements (see also next page)

**Sunday morning Bible study for students in middle or high school** has begun and meets in the office behind the Pastor's office from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Please bring your Bible! We are studying Genesis.

**Parents of middle and high school students!** We want to partner with you with your kids! We have several important youth events and activities coming up. Are you receiving the monthly newsletter? Are you signed up for *Remind*, the group messaging app? We are using both to communicate with you. Please see Shelli Haynes to get connected.

**Women's Retreat** sponsored by Ladies Bible Study at Praise is being planned for mid-to-late September at a nearby venue (to be determined). Stay overnight or come for the day. Please sign-up TODAY if interested (no final commitments yet) and specify whether or not you would stay overnight. See Kris Smith to sign-up.

**Rescheduling: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** event to (tentatively): **Sun, Aug 20** *due to our anticipated groundbreaking on Sun, June 11*. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" is a fun way to meet other Praise members. We need 8 hosts who can accommodate groups of 5 to 8 people in their homes. Please let Shelli Haynes know by emailing: [shellihaynes@gmail.com](mailto:shellihaynes@gmail.com) (or sign-up in the narthex today).

Announcements (see also previous page announcements)

**Ascension of Our Lord** Divine Service THIS THURS, May 18 at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**Pastor Roberts** and family will be away next Sun, May 21 on vacation. Please welcome our Elders and Choir members who will lead the Order of Matins. Note: from May 19 to 26, any pastoral care emergencies will be assisted by the Elders. Admin Assistant Jack Nunnink will be in the office Mon-Wed from 9:00 to 12 noon and Thurs from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Door Offering** TODAY (see special baskets at the doors) to help fund the sponsoring of Jeff Baerns and team “Praise the Lord BBQ” which includes promotional advertising for Praise Lutheran Church at the Big BBQ Bash competition on **June 23-24** in downtown Maryville. The funds help the programs of Helen Ross McNabb Center in Blount County. The event welcomes the community to come enjoy great BBQ and support the worthy cause. Let’s spread the word about Praise the Lord BBQ and our upcoming build.

**Young Adults** meets NEXT SUN, May 21, at 5:00 p.m. at Levi & Suzanne Nunnink’s home (1416 Lonas Dr. Maryville) for meal and Bible Study on the Apostles’ Creed (ends at 8:00 p.m.).

**Catechesis** for *just the four upcoming confirmands* meets after church NEXT SUN, May 21.

#### *Confirmation on May 28*

Our catechumens/candidates for confirmation: **Kayla Del Carpio, Lucy Nunnink, Auggie Mohr, and Jonathan Roberts**. Please pray as they prepare by memorizing assigned sections of the catechism to share with the congregation and answer questions of the faith once delivered to the saints. *Questioning of the Confirmands* on Sun, May 28 during Bible Study hour, 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

#### *This Week*

**Choir Practice** this week at 6:00 PM

**Youth** meet Wednesday (Middle School from 7 to 8 p.m.; high school from 8 to 9 p.m.)

**Ladies Bible Study** at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays with Barbara Morsch

#### *Next Month*

**Ground-breaking ceremony** at Praise tentatively set for: **Sun, June 11** at 3:00 p.m. with refreshments to follow. More details to come!

**Capital Campaign reminder:** please review your personal commitments made to the capital campaign for the build to help keep our borrowing costs low as the build soon begins. Consider a “ground-breaking” gift to the building fund.