

+ Fifth Sunday of Easter +

April 28, Year of Our Lord 2024 | DS4



Hymn of Invocation: 837 Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell. Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110020024

+ 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

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Absolution

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16



- P** A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.
- C** **I will extol you, my | God and King,*
and bless your name forever and | ever.**
Every day I will | bless you*
and praise your name forever and | ever.
**The LORD is gracious and | merciful,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**
All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*

and all your saints shall | bless you!
My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.
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.
 A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
 and again a little while, and you will | see me.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
 and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
 so he opens not his mouth.
 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
 Who can describe his generation?
 For his life is taken away from the earth.”

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 John 4:1–21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

John 14:23

P Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”



P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I

believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie; You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice. Text and tune: Public domain

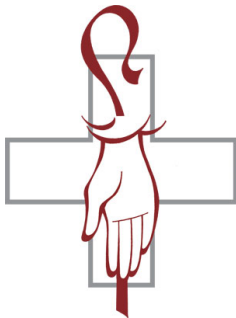
+ Sermon +

Christ is the Vine; You are the Branches

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).

Prayer of the Church



World: Praying for a quick end to the war between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas**. For an end of the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Church: For **Christians in Nigeria** suffering persecution and martyrdom. For **the seminaries of synod and for the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church**. For **safety and protection** for those building our new Sanctuary, narthex, and facilities for Praise Lutheran Church. For **safety for our friends in Kenya** (Pastor Jasper and family).

Vocation: For **veterans and our military** (including **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman, and Vicar Alex Ogden**. For those expecting children including **Jackson and Bri Blankenbeckler**. For the recently engaged including **Sam Bohnet to Kate Roberts** and **Turner Gough to Mandy Haynes**. For **Daniel and Monica Hendricks** rejoicing in the birth of **Lily** 4/24.

Loss and Mourning: Family of **Dave Berrier** (friend of the Hebars) who passed away suddenly. Family of **David Job** (friend of Jim Vesper) who passed away. For **Lila Reuer** (Al's wife; Rhonda Heckman's mom) who went to be with the Lord of Life on 3/26. For **Terry Gift** (Rick Gift's father) who entered the Church Triumphant. Family of **Russ Smolter** (William's father) who passed away 3/1. Family of **Kathleen Lane** who passed away on 2/27. Family of *Barbara Moyer's grand-children's mother* who passed away. Family of Deputy **Greg McCowan** (killed in the line of duty in Blount County). Family of **Grabriel** (Sharon Shower's grandson) murdered in Alaska. Family of **Jeff Ratliff** (Mark's younger brother) who passed away 2/1. Family of **Myrna Frazier** who passed away on 1/27. Family of **Henry Berthiaume** killed in an auto accident, friend of Becky Hamby. Family of **Bill Colver** (Al Collver's brother) passed away 1/6. Family of For **Delora Roth** who passed to be with Christ on 11/13. Family of **Jeanne Lindenfelser** (78 yrs old, passed away 10/3). Family of **Carylon Dickie** (91 yrs old, passed away 9/24).

Health: For **Paula** (friend of Jerald Johnston) who was hospitalized. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For niece of Mary Ellen with a massive

blood clot in her leg. For **Herman** her brother recovering from stent procedure. For **Steve Greene** (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For **Gary Kubin** experiencing debilitating back and leg pain. For **Joan Large** stroke recovery (now home). For **Linda Davis** for healing from anemia related procedure. For **Pastor Ed Maanum** who received new kidney on 3/7 at Vanderbilt. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) blood clot treatments. For **Hermon** (friend of Christopher Snyder) healing for shattered heal and infection. For **Andrew** (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For **another friend** of Laura Bisconte who needs good news concerning her heart condition. **Julie Bullock** (Tom Wittkopp's sister) failing heart condition, now in hospice. For **Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter** cancer diagnosis limited to lymph nodes, for treatment. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** recovering from hernia procedure. For **Jane** (Steve Kaiser's sister) suffering severe back pain. For **Faith** (Jerry and Jennifer Kropp's daughter) health. For **Tanner** speedy recovery (injured in a work accident), Tatum Smolter's fiancée. For **Tom Williams** more tests on lungs. For **Frank Davis** (Leah Mohr's father) recovering from a heart procedure. For **Doug Hammond** (Joan Large's son) recovering from heart surgery. For **Brad** (Phil & Carol Barnett's son) lung blood clots treatment. For **Billye Raye Smith** to build back immunity after multiple myeloma treatments. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). For **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's brother-in-law) terminal cancer. For **Marty Smith** (Tyler [and Megan] Smith's father) rapidly advancing cancer treatment. For **Victor Sebahar** (friend of Fred Hansen), cancer in brain, lungs, and bone. For **Amy Young** (cancer treatments). For **Lyndsie** (Levi & Suzanne's neighbor) cancer treatments. **Ronnie Riggs** (friend of Paul Ruble) declining health. **Lawrence McMichael** thanksgiving for prognosis from tests and good treatment plan to come. **Bill Solomon** (Amy Mohr's brother) eye condition. For **Marge** (Ted Wilson's former wife) valve replacement. **Sharon Yoder** recovering from mitral valve prosthesis trial (thanksgiving!). **Carol Ehrens** diagnosed with Thyroid cancer (slow growing). **Ed McGillick** persistent dizziness caused by abnormal blood pressure fluctuations. **Janice Kaiser** health. **Lee Schuck** at home, for her health and mobility. **Gary Moehling** recovery of balance and stability. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Judy Kalkitis** health. **Pastor Neil Vanderbush** at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. **Kay** (Myrna Frazier's sister) for health. For **June McDonnell** (lung health). **Rachel Ernst's mother**: cancer treatments. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health issues. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** health and stability. **Sheila Schnepf** (friend of Tom & Lois Schering) back pain. **Nancy** (Jim Vesper's mother) health. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Barbara Moyers** health. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. **Al Reuer** health. Steve Kaiser's mother **Louise** in Indiana. Andrew Hebar's **Aunt Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Michele N 4/27, Alex H 4/28, Pastor Roberts 4/28, Jim R 4/30, Kris S 5/3, Mandy H 5/6, Tom S 5/6, Westley B 5/8, Mike G 5/8, Alan S 5/10

Anniversaries: *none for the next two weeks*

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

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus p. 208 for music

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

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

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei p. 210 for music

John 1:29

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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: 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Distribution Hymn: 697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

Distribution Hymn: 540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- 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 Amen.

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: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: praiselutheran.com

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button)

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



Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 229-6024 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

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, Gary Schauer mann

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.

Two Large Print Hymnals are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.



Our address has changed: 315 Southdowne Dr., Maryville, TN 37801.

Please update the church's mailing address if you mail in your contribution check or with your broker if you give gifts through a qualified charitable distribution.



Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see the latest on our build including videos and info on how you can help.

Building Fund	2023 Receipts	2024 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$345,752	\$81,630	\$1,053,181
Pledged	\$277,877	\$179,106	\$1,065,270
Remaining	-\$68,378	\$101,056	\$12,089

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 36% funded).

Help Fund Wooden Beams for the new Sanctuary. The price of these were more than originally budgeted, these were deemed worthy to do now and an important architectural and meaningful feature. Seeking gifts to the Building Fund. Amount needed: **\$30,000**. Please specify "Wooden Beams" or "Building Fund." **Match for Wooden Beam Donations:** an anonymous donor has offered up to \$15,000 (dollar for dollar) match for donations for the new Wooden Beams.

Youth and Families

Encourage your children to attend **Sunday morning Bible study**. Younger children, ages 5 years old to 5th grade, meet in the Sunday School Classroom across from the mailboxes while students from 6th grade through 12th grade (or equivalent) will meet in the Social Hall. See our Sunday School teachers to see what ages we are equipped to teach and feel free to request or offer to teach something for those younger than our current setup.

Middle and High School Youth Groups on Wednesdays

Wednesdays: Middle School 6 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Highschool** 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

High School Summer Retreat (save the date): June 7-9, 2024 (please sign up by this Wednesday, May 1)

Catechesis at Praise



Youth Catechesis

with Pastor Roberts after church, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Meet in (new) Social Hall

TODAY Sun, Apr 28 (*final one until fall*). Topic: Life and Worship (ordering our days according to God's praise)

Adult Catechesis

New group class starting soon!

Date and times (meeting at Praise for 6-8 weeks):

- Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., starting May 7

Please sign-up with Pastor Roberts (email pastor@praiselutheran.com). So far, 17 people have indicated interest!

What we'll cover: What do members of Praise Lutheran believe and confess about Christ and the Holy Scriptures? How do Lutherans regard the 10 Commandments? What do Lutherans believe about Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper? What is a Sacrament? How do sacraments differ from sacrifices? What are good works and who needs them? What are our vocations (callings) in life? Why do we call worship on Sundays and other festivals the Divine Service? When and why do we sing Matins? How and when should we pray? What were the some of the events of the Reformation that have had significant impact on our world today?

Upcoming Congregational Events

Pastor Roberts will be away Monday and Tuesday this week at the East District Pastor's Conference in Pigeon Forge, but home in the evenings.

Please mark your calendars and make sure to make these events part of your schedule:

May 17, 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Potting Party (See DCE Shelli Haynes)

June 2, 5:00 p.m. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (Sign-up now to be a host)

Wedding Invite: Rev. Derek and Gretchen Roberts invite you to celebrate their daughter's wedding, Kate Roberts to Samuel Bohnet, on August 17th, 2024 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at Praise Lutheran Church. Reception to follow.

Please RSVP by July 20th at www.theknot.com/bohnetandroberts

Youth Group Wed 6:00 p.m. Middle School and 7:00 p.m. High School

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

Ladies Bible Study Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch

Young Adult/College Group Thursday at 8 p.m. Trivia Night at Blackhorse Brewing



The Altar Guild kindly suggests that women who use the common cup to please remove lipstick prior to communing. The linens require hand scrubbing to remove lipstick and it is breaking down the fabric. Thank you.

RSVP for the Public Dedication for the New Sanctuary by next Sun, May 5 by filling out a form at praiselutheran.com/may19

Dedication events: **Sun, May 19:**

1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Open House

3:30 p.m. Dedication Service with Special Guests

5:00 p.m. Celebration meal in Social Hall

Sign-Up Today to help with the Dedication Day events on May 19. See clipboards in the narthex. Please consider the needs the planning committee (headed by Tina Pierce) has identified for leaders and servants for the event. The goal is to make the day a well-publicized, well-organized, safe, tasty, and joyful celebration unto the Lord and day of thankfulness for all who contributed to the building project.