

As We Gather

The Easter celebration continues as the people of God rejoice that Jesus is alive! Though we cannot now see Him, we love Him and rejoice with inexpressible joy. This joy is produced in us by the Spirit of truth—the Holy Spirit—who glorifies Jesus, taking what belongs to Jesus and declaring it to us through Word and Sacrament. Even though we have many sorrows now, the Spirit of truth brings us to Jesus and fills us with joy that results from faith in the Gospel. While we wait for the dwelling of God to be among people in the fullness of His kingdom and new creation, we remain close to the Lord, who lives and works among us by His Spirit through Word and Sacrament.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN:

"Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious"

Hymn #548

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

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

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess before You our sinful nature and our sinful deeds. We do not like to wait for anything! As sinners we want and labor for things that perish, forgetting to set our affections on You and Your kingdom where true joys are found. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and fill us with the Spirit of truth that our sorrow may turn to joy. Amen.

The dwelling of God is with people. Beloved, Jesus is in our midst. He is and ever shall be. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

**Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST READING: Acts 11:1–18 *(The Gentiles receive God's Word.)*

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³ "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-7 (*God dwells with people.*)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the sixteenth chapter.

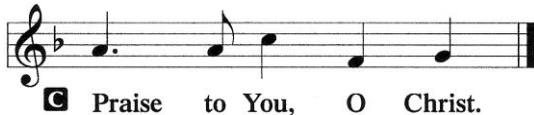
Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 16:12–22 (*The Spirit of truth brings joy!*)

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸ So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Mt. Calvary Puppet Ministry

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

"I'm But a Stranger Here"

Hymn #748

THE MESSAGE

"God With Us"

Pastor David Brighton

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

Live in the power of the resurrection!

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

(1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

OFFERTORY:

"Lord of All Good"

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now.

Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

Tokens of love and pledges they shall be

That our whole lives is offered to Your will.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;

Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;

Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:

To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, *"Hear our prayer."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"When Peace, Like a River"

Hymn #763

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by John & Liz Hunter in honor of their 14th wedding anniversary, and by Bonnie Hudlin in honor of the birthdays of Trevor and Cali-Grace.

Members of the Week: Doug & Cindy Branham became members of Mt. Calvary in 2014. They love the "genuine kindness of the congregation". Doug is currently serving as the Chairman of the Fellowship Board and Cindy is serving on the Stewardship Board. They both enjoy being active in the church and serving God in small ways. Doug was born in Fort Knox, KY, but as an "army brat," moved a lot until finally settling in Macon, where he attended Southwest HS. Doug has a Bachelor's degree in Project Management and a Masters in Integrated Logistics & Supply Chain Management. He worked for YKK in Macon 15 years and Sunbelt Plastics in Centerville for 3 years. For the last 15 years he has been working at Robins AFB. Cindy grew up in Hawkinsville and graduated from Dodge County HS. She went on to get an Associate's degree in Business Administration from Middle GA College in Cochran, and then a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from GA College in Milledgeville. She started working as a co-op student with the AF Audit Agency which then worked into a full time position. She worked there for 13 years, then took a position in Financial Management at the AF Reserve Command where she also worked 13 years. Meanwhile, she completed her Masters Degree!! Doug and Cindy met on a blind date in 1994, which was set up by mutual friends. They were married in 1995 and Cindy became mother to three awesome boys (Doug, III; James; and Michael) aged 7, 9, and 11, who have grown into wonderful young men and are "Doug & Cindy's greatest achievement to date"! Doug and Cindy have been blessed with 5 grandchildren; 4 girls and 1 boy.

The Lutheran Village Committee will meet on the April 26th at Christ Lutheran at 2 pm. all interested are invited for updates to the progress on the Senior Living Retirement initiative.

Family Fiesta! Join us on the church lawn on April 30th for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family! This celebration will feature relay games, cornhole, tug o' war, and more! Bring your favorite Mexican (or any) side dish to share! Hope to see you there!

Cornhole to begin at 10:00 am - Games begin at 11:00 am – Eating begins at 12:00 pm

Come out and support the church softball team! This week's games: 1) J-Boys - 7:30 on Tuesday at Peavy 1; and 2) Union Grove Disciples – 8:30 on Thursday at Peavy 3.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have all items for the May Newsletter in to the office by Monday, April 25th.

Donations From The Heart Needed - Did you ever purchase something that you hope you'd never have to use? Well . . . Altar Guild did, and we're hoping to get some donations to cover the cost. Three items were purchased for funerals - A pall for an infant casket, a pall for a child's casket, and pall to cover an urn for those cremated. Each item is between \$200-\$300. Thankfully, one very generous family covered the cost of one of these items, but we'd be thrilled if we could find donations towards the other two. If you would like to donate, make your check out to Mt. Calvary, and put "Funeral Pall" on the memo line. Thank you! Ruthie Radcliff, Altar Guild Chairman

You're invited to a Bonfire Snack Supper by your sister congregation of Christ Lutheran Church in Perry, on Friday, April 29 from 7 pm to 11 pm. This is the ultimate *laid back* activity. Arrive or depart whenever. The sun sets at 8:15. You're welcome to bring a snack to share, your choice of child or adult beverage, and your favorite lawn chair. Invite a friend. The bonfire will take place in the back corner of our property near Luther Lake, and is available for making smores, grilling hot dogs, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, or eating Cool Ranch Doritos out of the bag. Individual contributions to the adult-supervised, Georgia-legal, fireworks show at dark are welcomed. Optional camping overnight for adults and families. All-you-can-eat pancakes are served at 7 am for campers. In the event of rain, this event won't happen. Christ Lutheran is located at 208 Langston Road, Perry. For more info, call or text the church office at (478) 397-5914.

A generous gift was received from Rhoda Reilly in memory of her husband, Ken, for the Education Scholarship Fund for those pursuing full-time church work.

The many "get well" cards, phone calls, and your comments to me at church during my recent illness have meant a lot to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. - Hiltraud Culpepper

8th Grade Confirmation Exam: 8th Grade youth planning on being confirmed next month should be preparing for their exam with the study guide and memory passages. The exam will be during class on Wednesday, April 27th. A rough draft of their final project is also due by this time as well as parents selecting their confirmation verse (optional). Confirmation will be Sunday, May 15th, at the 8:00 service this year (since 5 of the 6 students attend that service).

High School Outreach Party: The last outreach party of the school year will be next Friday, April 29th, from 7-10 pm in the Annex. The cost is \$5/person to cover snacks, pop, & pizza but you can pick up an invitation/"Party Pass" for your friends to use as a coupon. Games, drawing, and a basic devotion on our Christian Faith will make it a great event to bring your friends and introduce them to TAG.

Family Fiesta / Fun Day: Saturday, April 30th – This event is combining the Board of Fellowships Annual Spring Celebration with TAG's end of the year family fun day. Corn Hole starts at 10, other family games begin at 11, and lunch is a noon. There will be some planning time for both the Middle School (12:30) and High School (1:00) groups to talk about and vote on activities for next year. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

High School TAG Night: The next High School TAG Night will be next Sunday, May 1st, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Annex. TAG Nights are a time for our High School Youth to gather for food, fun, and fellowship as we explore what God's Word has to say to Christians today as we wrap up our series on "Beware Christian".

Middle School Party: The next Middle School Party will be Friday, May 6th, 6-9 pm in the Annex. Middle School Parties are a great place for our youth to grow in their relationships with each other and introduce friends to the TAG family. Parties cost \$5/person which covers snacks, pizza, & beverages.

Wednesday Night Wrap-Up: The final Wednesday Night Christian Education & Fellowship will be May 4th. High School WAMs will begin June 1st but everyone else will be on break until August.

9th Annual Welcome to High School Road Rally: The 9th Annual TAG Road Rally will be Saturday, May 7th, 3-7 pm. This event is for all youth in 8th – 12th grade and their friends. The Road Rally is kind of on-the-road scavenger hunt for the ultimate group picture! It is also the first official High School event for the 8th grade youth who will soon be confirmed. The cost is \$5/person covers dinner and trophies (8th graders are free!) We meet and finish things up at the Annex!

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Mae Channell, mother of Dale Channell, who died recently.

Josh Johnson, who is hospitalized.

Monika Reynolds, who is at Pruitt Health on Peake Road in Macon.

Dwight Miller, who is home, but still very weak.

Keep In Your Prayers

Michael Longbine, Charleen Beahm, John Harmon, Hiltraud Culpepper, Pat Aldredge, Peggy Rodriguez, Carol LeBorious (Pete's mother), Mike Finnegan (Barbara Jernigan's brother), Kurt Rover, Sallie Brinkley, Sandi Jacobsmeyer, Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mom), Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

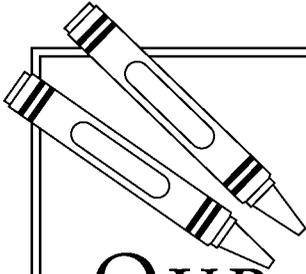
(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Margaret Frazier, Mary Jahnke (Joe's sister), Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Bruce Oswald (Krystal Ferguson's father), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son) and Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Benjamin Brighton, Emily Whaley, Rodney Hood, Matthew Forehand, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.



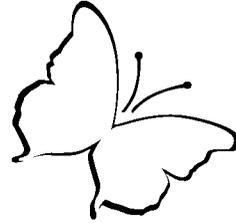
Just for

KIDS

OUR LIVING HOPE

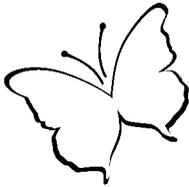
Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ!** In his great **mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil or fade** — **kept** in **heaven** for you"



P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
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R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W



H	O	P	N	S	E
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S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Tim Staffeld. **ELDERS:** Eric Gossman (8 am) and Bob Gerstenberger (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Nathan LeBorious (8 am) and Tyler Longbine (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early - Brian Harper, David Rossman, Bob Yeager & Richard Uitto. Late – Mike Hopf, Bruce Bauman, Dave Harter, Ed Bodony & Earl Bogardus. **ALTAR GUILD:** Lois Harter, Melinda Hopf, Ruth Miller, Suzanne O'Daniel & Maureen Young. **LAY READERS:** Linna Nielsen (8 am) and Cindy Schafer (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Early – Nick Jenkins. Late – Caleb & D J Nelson.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Gary Hadley (Sun 8 am) and Open (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Carolyn Harper (Sun 8 am) and Libby Parsons (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Debi Cole (Sat 6 pm), Dick Kesler (Sun 8 am) and Roger Moeller (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Eileen Mittuch (Sun 8 am) and Champ & Pat Aldredge (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 16:9-15 and Revelation 21:9-14,21-27

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 42 Early – 88 Late – 163 Total - 293

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	1:00 pm	TAG Golf Tournament Fundraiser
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	CALL DAY	
	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC
	7:30 pm	Softball
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Dinner
	6:00 pm	Adult Bible Classes
	6:15 pm	Children/Youth Classes
	6:30 pm	8 th Grade Exam
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
	8:30 pm	Softball
Friday	7 – 10 pm	High School Outreach Party
Saturday	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	High School TAG Night