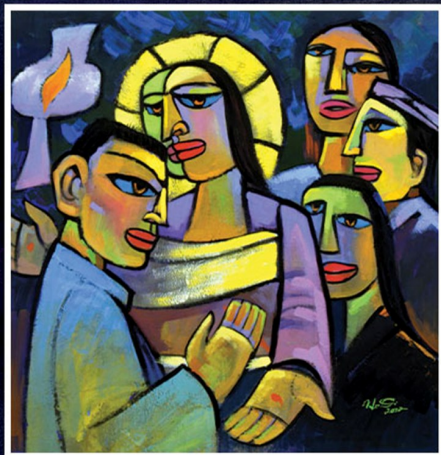


**DO NOT
DOUBT
BUT
BELIEVE**

JOHN 20:27



Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjohnl875@g mail.com

April 27 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and
to serve where the Spirit leads us.

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG

Now All the Vault of Heaven

#143



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives -
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P The word is near you,

C on your lips and in your heart.

P If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

P and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P Faith comes from what is heard,

C and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

+ SCRIPTURE SONG



☐ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.



Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?



☐ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-long to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades

or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

PSALM: 118:14-29

- P ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”
- C ² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- P ³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- C ⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
- P ⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- C ⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- P ⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- C ⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
- P ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- C ¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- P ¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo-ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with-in us while you o-pen to us the Scrip-tures.

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo-ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, You Faithful

#132



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel-come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: GAUDÉAMUS PARTIER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** *(Ephesians 1:13-14)*

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C **Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.**

Silence for reflection and self examination.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C **Amen**

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

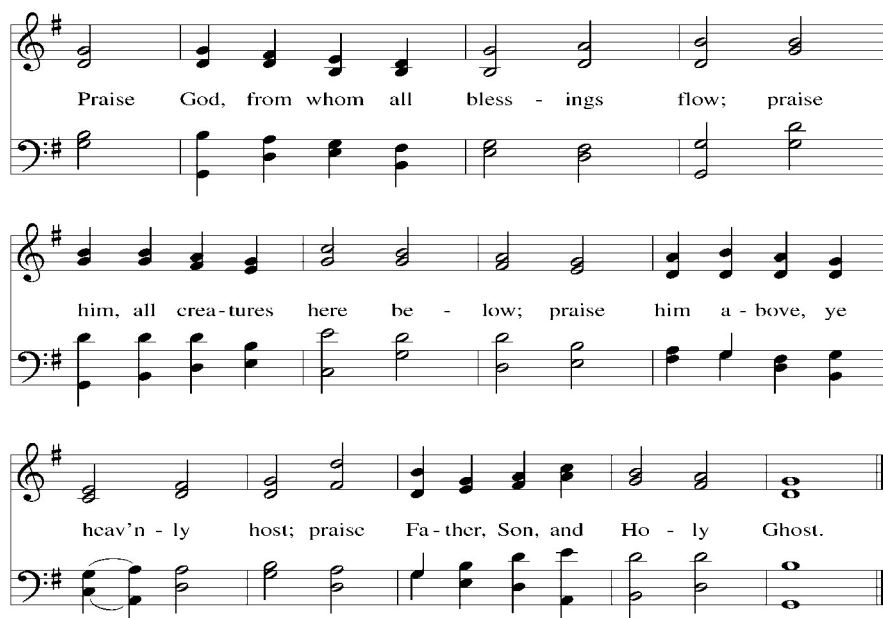
The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O Holy Spirit, We pray for our next pastor. We know not who you are making ready to come and be with us, but we ask that you speed our meeting with one another, and that you make us ready to seek new adventures with a new shepherd at our side. Grant that we might make ready today to find the new tomorrow you desire for St. John Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

CHOIR

Go Now in Peace

+ BLESSING

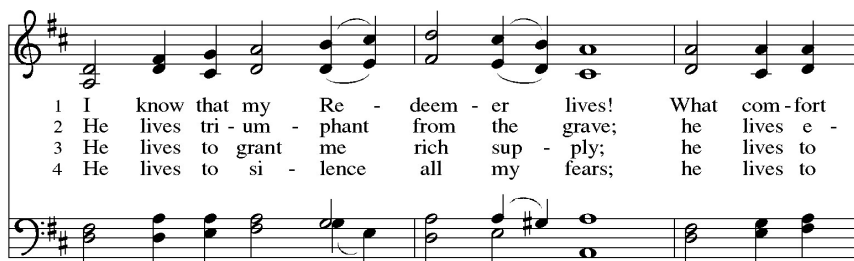
P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

+ SENDING SONG

I Know that My Redeemer Lives
(verses 1, 2, 5, & 8)

#352



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Acolytes

Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Dené DeGonzague
Dawn Scott

Nancy Williams, James & Kym Hayman
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Rod Schneider, Ed Hughes, Brenda Moore, Donna Arnett, Ken Staker, Pastor Dennis King, Luke White, Jim Webb, Greg Piguet, Mary McQuay, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

THE BLANKET PROJECT GROUP will begin meeting again on Tuesday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. Come and join as we meet every Tuesday morning! Everyone is welcome.

YOUTH NIGHT Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. All youth and their friends are invited to join in for an evening of fun!

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders April 12 and 26 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room. **CONFIRMATION** will be Sunday, May 3.

CONFIRMATION is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our confirmands are Drew DeGonzague and Emmett Salyers. A reception will follow worship. Plan to come and join in the celebration of this important ministry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Vacation Bible school is just around the corner! Plans are already in place, and we need your help! The dates for this summer 's VBS will be June 22 through the 26th from 5:30 to 8:15 pm. Again this year we will be having a kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Our theme this year is Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Vivian know! (740.464.1914) We are looking forward to another fun filled successful year of VBS with our children!

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Theo Neal, Freida Otworth, Amy Fraulini, Ron Willis, Kara Tieman, Abigail Parish

BAPTISMS: Jessica Stafford, Terry Stevenson, Kasyn Thackston, Kwynn Thackston, Kymber Thackston, Roberta Sommer, Ethan Gleim, Katherine King, Norman Staker, Cole Smith

ANNIVERSARIES: Aaron & Hannah Akers, Keith & Freida Otworth

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

This Week at St. John

Today—*Second Sunday of Easter*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir

Next Sunday—*Third Sunday of Easter*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*

11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Attendance

2026 Average: 73

2025 Average 62

Serving Next Sunday, April 19

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Worship Assistant

Vivian Riffel

Lay Reader

James Hayman

Prayer Leader

James Hayman

Greeter

James & Kym Hayman

Acolytes

Altar Committee

Nancy Williams, James & Kym Hayman

Council President

Rick Williams

Coming Events

Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 19 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 21 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Night

Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, May 3 Confirmation

Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Tuesday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, June 22-26 at 5:30 p.m. –8:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School
Kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Blanket Project

Will begin meeting again on Tuesday,

April 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join.

Youth Night

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Sunday, May 3 during worship.

A reception will follow worship.