# Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

# Gathered by God's grace, we are empowered to serve and sent to share Christ's love

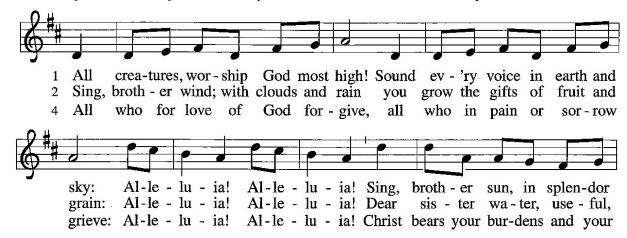
Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

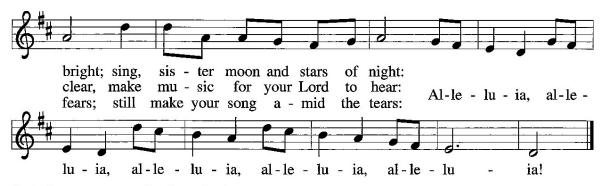
\*(Congregation please stand as able)

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

# \*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

- P: We bless you, almighty God for the gift of water; for the oceans that surround the earth, for the rivers that nurture the land, for the Swatara creek and Susquehanna river which provide water for our community; we bless you, O God, for the waters of the earth:
- C: We bless you, O God, for the waters of earth.
- P: We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water; for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees, for the floods that restore the fields, for the dew that freshens dry places; we honor you, O God, for the waters you send:
- C: We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.
- P: We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism; for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus, for the water that baptized the believers on Pentecost, for the water that illumines us with your Word, for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit, for the water that bathes the church universal; the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, independents; we glorify you, O God for the waters of baptism:
- C: We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.
- P: We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, almighty merciful, and gracious. Well of forgiveness, you revive us, Cup of cold water, you refresh us, Pool of rebirth, you renew us. To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever:
- C: To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever. Amen.
- \*Gathering Hymn: ELW 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High v. 1,2,4 & 5 You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.





5 And you, most gentle sister death,

waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,

fair is the night that leads us home.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

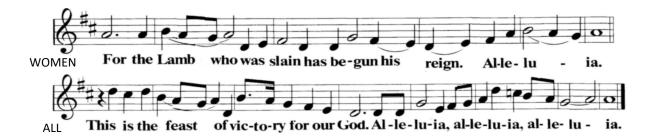
Text: Francis of Assisi. 1182–1226; tr. composite Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

## \*Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. C: And also with you.

## \*Hymn of Praise





## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

# FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-28, 31 (pg. 1 in pew Bible)

When signaled by the lector, the congregation is invited to say "God saw that it was good" When signaled for the last time, the congregation is invited to say "and indeed, it was VERY good"

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. **And God saw that it was good.** 

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. **And God saw that it was good.**And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. **And God saw that it was good.** 

And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. **And God saw that it was good**.

God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. **And God saw that it was good.** 

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. And indeed, it was very good.

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM:** Psalm 8 (pg. 427 in your pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Congregation: You have set your glory above the heavens.

L: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

C: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established:

L: what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

C: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.

L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

C: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

L: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**SECOND READING:** Revelation 1:4-8 (pg. 994 in pew Bible)

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

After the reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Allelu, allelu, alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! (2x) Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! (3x) Praise ye the Lord!

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*Gospel: Mark 16:9-20 (pg. 830 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 16th Chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

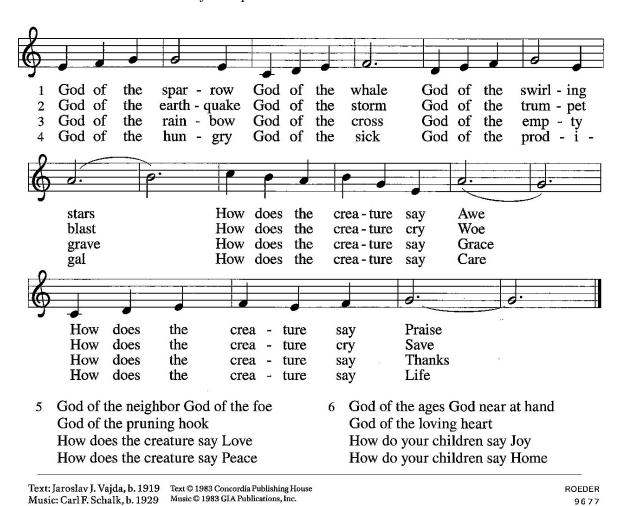
After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **SERMON**

\*Hymn of the day: ELW 740 God of the Sparrow



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## **OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS**

#### \*NICENE CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### \*Prayers of the People

(after hearing, "Lord in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)
(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We commend these and all our prayer to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior." respond: **Amen**)

## \*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

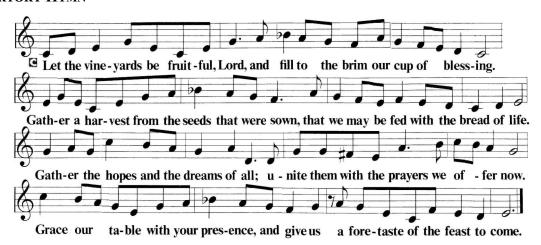
P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

## OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time and regular options.

## \*Offertory Hymn



## \*Offertory Prayer:

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **C: Amen.** 

# \*HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING

\*P: The Lord be with you C: And also with you.

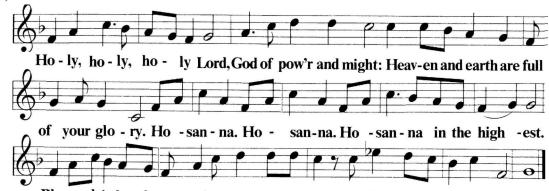
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Holy, Holy, Holy



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high-est.

## \*AN EARTH EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory:

## C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory:

# C: The earth is full of your glory.

P:We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. On the night before he died, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song; The earth is full of your glory:

## C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you created the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our death to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory:

## C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: Amen, and Amen.

C: Amen, and Amen.

## \*Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

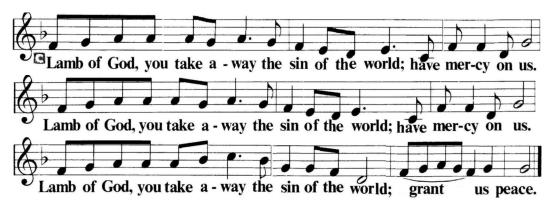
P: Let us pray using the words Jesus taught us:

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.

## \*Invitation to the Lord's Table

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

#### LAMB OF GOD



At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.

"Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen."

**Communion Hymns:** #771 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* 

(blue book) #770 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

#760 For the Fruit of All Creation

## \*Post Communion Prayer

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **C: Amen.** 

## \*BENEDICTION

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **C: Amen.** 

\*Sending Hymn: ELW 879 For the Beauty of the Earth (next page)

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn towards it, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872 777777 DIX

## \*DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen. C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshiping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: De Mohn, Jan, Pat Keefer, Gary, Wendy, Halley, Jeremy and family, Randy & Diane, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

#### This Week at Zions:

Apr. 28, Monday @ 6:30 pm. Church Council meeting

Apr. 30, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Apr. 30, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

May 3, Saturday @ 9:00 am Babies and Bibles meet

May 3, Saturday @ Noon -7:00 pm LVC Spaghetti Dinner in social hall

May 4, Sunday @ 2:00 pm NL Ministerium Prayer meeting

## **Next Week at Zions:**

May 7, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

May 7, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship,6:50 Bible study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

May 11, Sunday @ 9:15 am Men's and Women's Bible Study meet

**Dudes & Donuts, and Women of the Word,** Men's and Women's Bible studies will meet May 11 at 9:15 am. Donuts and coffee will be available.

**Eva Frank and the LVC Athletic Training Department** invite you to Zion's for all you can eat spaghetti! May 3 from noon until 7 PM to support the graduate student trip to Dublin Ireland to attend the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy World Congress. Cost is \$12/plate (roll, drink, and all you can eat pasta and meat sauce). Order today by text 302-362-2264 or email nicole.diamico@gmail.com.

The Northern Lebanon Ministerium will gather for an afternoon of prayer and worship on Sunday May 4 from 2-4 PM at the "Middle" Pavillion at Memorial Lake. Bring a chair and join others in praising God and praying for our community.

**Bible study returns** this Wednesday at 6:50 pm. in the "Katie" classroom. We will look at the scripture texts for the coming Sunday.

**Zion's 8<sup>th</sup> annual DDS Dance** will be held in the social hall on May 17 from 4 until 7. ALL of the congregation is invited. The sign up sheet is on the board in the Gathering Area. Please sign up by Sunday, May 11. The theme this year is HALLOWEEN IN MAY. So please wear a Halloween costume! Dinner is included and the cost is \$3 per person. All the money goes back to DDS. There will be a photo booth so that you can take your own pictures. Also, anyone who would like to volunteer to help in the kitchen or with the DDS participants, please let Linda Wenrich or Elaine Ludwig know.

**R+K Sub Sale to support Zion's Preschool** Our preschool is raising funds for their graduation celebration through a sub (\$7.50) and pretzel sandwich (\$6.50) sale. Orders can be placed with Linda Toth and are due by Sunday May 10 for delivery around noon on Wednesday May 21 (also available for pick up that evening)

Youth Service Camp coming to Zion's this summer! Youth who have completed 6th through 12th grade are invited to participate in a week of service, learning (and fun) June 16 to 20, based at Zion's. At the end of the week, participants will receive money to use for a service project or to contribute to a non-profit of their choice (with thanks to the Touching Tomorrow Endowment!) More info and registration links on our website.

**Help needed for Youth Service Camp!** Of course, to make this great week of service learning possible, we need adult help! If you're able to provide a meal for our time together, donate a Thrivent Action Team card, help transport youth whose parents are working, or provide transportation for one of our afternoon activities *please let Pastor Caitlin know*. Thank you!

**Know someone who could use a prayer shawl or lap blanket?** Thanks to the generosity of our knitters, we have some to share! See Jean Fowler if you'd like to select a prayer shawl, lap blanket, or baby blanket to share with a friend. One small way we can share God's love and hope with others.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Jean Fowler	Jim Gill
Prayer	Elaine Ludwig	Nancy Ludwig
Children's sermon	Pastor Caitlin	Christine Techky
Comm. Assts.	Linda Wenrich, Linda Toth	Linda Wenrich, Noel Strattan
Greeter		Elaine Ludwig
Acolyte	Levi Bucks	Derek Wolfe
Crucifer	Madison Hess	Joanna Guldin-Noll
Altar Guild	Merkel family	Bucks family
Elevette	Kadance Kugler	Tom Frey
Ushers	Luke Hiester, Jim Fowler	Georgetta Wolfe, Rick Herr

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin Sound: Houser family

Zion's Office: 717-865-2848 zions@comcast.net

VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz PASTOR's OFFICE: 717-865-3652 pastorckurtz@gmail.com