

# HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

## April 21, 2024—April 28, 2024

### 4th SUNDAY of EASTER 4/21/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Fairwell Fellowship Hour for Pastor  
Althea Sponsored by Church Council**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**4:00 Final Catechism at Grace**

### MONDAY 4/22/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

**7:00PM Grief Support Group**

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 4/23/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

**12:30PM 100th Anniversary**

**Committee Meeting**

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 4/24/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 4/25/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry

**2:00PM Grief Support Group**

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal

7:00PM AI-Anon

### FRIDAY 4/26/24

10:30AM Grace Stitchers

7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 4/27/24

*No events*

### 5th SUNDAY of EASTER 4/28/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service

8:45AM Adult Forum Group

10:15AM Traditional Worship

**Confirmation of**

**Zavier Shea & Alex Piskun**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday  
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace  
Lutheran Church. Present this on  
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner  
6710 Tilton Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
609-641-3669

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Church Office: 609-927-3082 Food Pantry: 609-927-9982**

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

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## GATHERING

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**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

### INTRODUCTION

*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

by Eugene Englert

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BABY SHOWER

for Shore Memorial NICU

will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church along with our brothers and sisters from Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon

**Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM**

Lunch will be served for Shore Medical Center nurses and guests.



Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T), diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

**Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Corinne will be out of the office on vacation until April 30. There will be a volunteer checking mail, email, and voicemail occasionally while she is away. Please contact Pastor Althea directly for any urgent needs.

Fairwell Fellowship for Pastor Althea immediately following worship today  
Sponsored by Church Council

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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**SENDING**


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**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**     *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*     **ELW #789**

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**     *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*     by Robert J. Powell

**DISMISSAL**     Go in peace. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

*May the peace of the Lord be with you always!  
We are glad for your presence today.  
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:**

**Reader:** Kevin Thomas



**The flowers and wine sponsor this week is:**  
Jim Dolan,  
in honor of his wife, Wendy Dolan's birthday!

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**     *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia*     **ELW # 369**

**GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**     *white booklet page 1*

**THIS IS THE FEAST**     *white booklet page 2 & 3*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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**WORD**


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**FIRST READING : Acts 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the

people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23



<sup>1</sup>The LORD <sup>1</sup>is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup>be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup>in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup>side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup>soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup>for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>1</sup>  
fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>1</sup>comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup>of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup>running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup>of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup>LORD forever.**

### SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

*Jesus’ death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God’s commandments.*

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of the Holy Trinity: in our gathering; within this meal; and in the many ways you make yourself known to your people throughout the world. May all blessing, praise, and thanks be to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God’s table. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN      *Lamb of God*      *white booklet page 4*

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems, *especially all those we name aloud or in our hearts...* Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*white booklet page 3*

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, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*white booklet page 4*

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 according to John the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for*

*them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Lord's My Shepherd* **ELW #778**  
VERSE 1 & 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 3 CHOIR, VERSE 4 WOMEN

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* by Robert Lee

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in me a Clean Heart* **WOV page 732**

## OFFERING PRAYER

**Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *Brief silence.*

A: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living