



# First Communion

## *First Communion Recipients*

*Sam Robert Becker*

*Makenzie M. Feiner*

*Cotter Martin*

*Haylee Mathews*

*Sydney Mae McBeth*

*Abigail Jacquelynn Montague*

*Dylan Theodore Montague*

*Iris Elisabeth Ogren*

*Eleanor Jane Rusch*

*Samantha Joy Samerson*

*Anna Elizabeth Stepien*

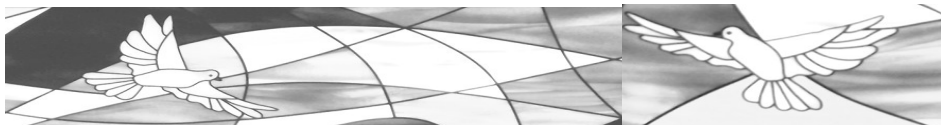
*Marit Elizabeth Schweitz*

*Virginia Mae Teschendorf*

*Nora Ann Thompson*

*Amera Lou Kiana Wagner*

**Fourth Sunday of Easter + April 25 - 26, 2026**



## **PRELUDE**

**10:30 AM**

Sydney McBeth - piano

## **OPENING HYMN**

**5:00 PM** *This Little Light of Mine*

ELW Red Book #677

**8:15 AM** *Good Christians Friends*

ELW Red Book #385

**10:30 AM** *This Little Light of Mine*

ELW Red Book #677

## **GREETING**

### **KYRIE**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Pastor:* Let us pray...

***Congregation:* Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 2:42-47

ELEANOR RUSCH

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

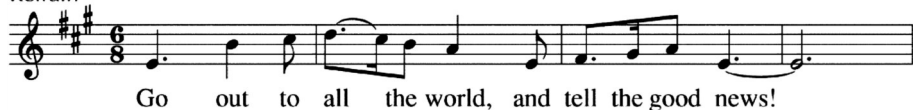
*Reader:* Word of God, word of Life.

***Congregation:* Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM 117

## Go Out to All the World

Refrain



### SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

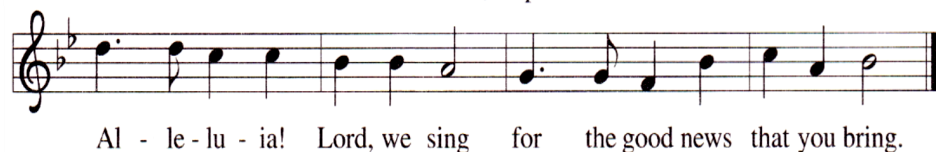
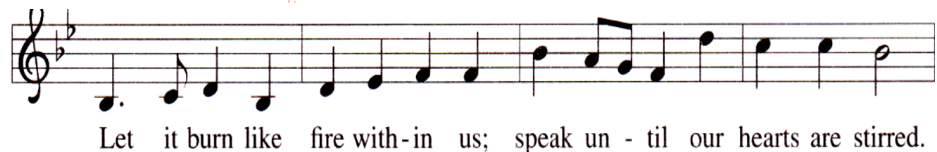
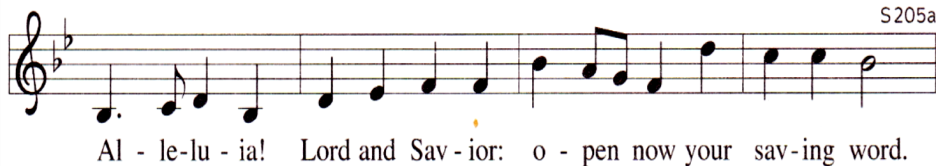
SAMANTHA SAMERSON

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Reader:* Word of God, word of Life.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

ANNA STEPIEN

Jesus said: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

### ‡ THE HOMILY ‡

PASTOR JEFF VANDEN HEUVEL

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*All Respond after each prayer: Hear our prayer.*

**SIGN OF PEACE** *Greet one another with: Peace be with you.*

## OFFERING

Sam Becker  
Makenzie Feiner  
Cotter Martin

Iris Ogren  
Eleanor Rusch  
Marit Schweitz

Virginia Teschendorf  
Nora Thompson  
Amera Wagner

## BERAKAH (Ancient Hebrew Blessing)

Bread: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God...for us the Bread of Life.

**Congregation: Blessed be God forever.**

Wine: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God...for us our Spiritual Drink.

**Congregation: Blessed be God forever.**

## GRATITUDE OF THE OFFERING

*Pastor:* Let us pray. Merciful God...

***Congregation:* We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, our life and our breath, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

***Congregation:* And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Lift up your hearts.

***Congregation:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***Congregation:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Sung by All*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Here at Messiah, we believe that Christ is the host of this meal. Regardless of your background or tradition, we believe that all are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

*If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.*

*Grape juice is available on the trays in the central cups.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available in the gold container on the stand between the bread distributors.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

**5:00 PM** *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW Red Book #471

**8:15 AM** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ELW Red Book #502

**10:30 AM** *For Everyone Born* Back of ELW

*God Be the Love to Search and Guide Me* **Page 7**

## COMMUNION CLASS PHOTO

**BLESSING**      *Congregation: Amen.*

## CANDLE LIGHTING AND CLOSING SONG

*Please keep lit candles upright  
and tip unlit candle to light it from another.*

*At Evening*

**1**  
Now it is evening: lights of the city  
bid us remember Christ is our light.  
Many are lonely, who will be neighbor?  
Where there is caring, Christ is our light.

**2**  
Now it is evening: food on the table  
bids us remember Christ is our life.  
Many are hungry, who will be neighbor?  
Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.

**3**  
Now it is evening: little ones sleeping  
bid us remember Christ is our peace.  
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor  
Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.

**4**  
Now it is evening: here in our meeting  
may we remember Christ is our friend.  
Some may be strangers, who will be  
neighbor? Where there's a welcome,  
Christ is our friend.

**BLESSING**      *Congregation: Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

**8:15 AM**    *Be Thou My Vision*

**10:30 AM**   *Sing a New Song*

ELW Red Book #793

W&P Purple Book #125

## DISMISSAL

*Pastor:*            Go in peace, serve the Lord.

***Congregation:* Thanks be to God!**

### *Flowers Given By*

Jeff & Paula Stadtmueller  
In Celebration of Our 35th Wedding Anniversary

Claire Gensch  
In Memory of Dave Broome

## God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

### **Thank you to everyone who made this First Communion possible.**

Thank you to Brittany Rusch who coordinated the program.

Thank you to our 2nd grade teaching team  
Karen Clark and Kristen Seashore.

Thank you to Julie Neppl who made our banner and to  
Tisa Kremer, and Julie Neppl who helped with our projects.

Thank you to families for sending your children to the classes  
and doing additional learning at home.

Thank you to Pastor Dan and Pastor Jeff  
for their guidance and inspiration.

### **HOLY BAPTISM      ADDILYN ANN LEA CRARY**

Today we welcome Addilyn, child of Lynsey & Brandon Crary  
into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.  
Sponsors are Brady Crary and Lauren Kelly

**THIS WEEK**

**April 27- May 3, 2026**



**Monday, April 27**

Pastor Jeff's Day Off  
Men's Fellowship Breakfast..... 9:00 AM  
Prayer Shawl Meeting..... 1:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 28**

**Wednesday, April 29**

Morning Bible Study..... 7:00 AM  
SAM Luncheon & Speaker..... 12:00 NOON

**Thursday, April 30**

Pew Keepers ..... 9:00 AM  
Women's Book Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Grief Group ..... 4:30 PM  
Senior Choir Practice..... 7:30 PM

**Friday, May 1**

Pr. Dan's Day Off

**Saturday, May 2**

Worship Service ..... 5:00 PM

**Sunday, May 3**

Worship Service ..... 8:15 AM  
Adult Education..... 9:20 AM  
Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Men's Fellowship Breakfast..... May 4  
SAM at Second Harvest Food Bank..... May 4  
Morning Bible Study..... MAY 6  
Annual Day of Prayer ..... MAY 7  
Dignity Project Workshop..... May 9  
Ladies Lunch Bunch ..... May 13  
Boomerang Bag Workshop..... May 20  
Sacred Circle..... May 25

Counters 4/27..... Nancy Schmidt, Dan Battist  
Lawn Mowing Team ..... Paul Vanderbloemen  
..... Ed Maas, John Marchewka

**Office and Contact Information**

**OFFICE PHONE**.....608-222-3833

**EMAIL**.....ourchurch@messiahchurch.com

**WEBSITE**.....messiahchurch.com

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday.....8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Friday.....8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE DROP BOX**

to the left of the main front entrance

**5:00 PM SERVICE**

**Altar Ministry** ..... Nancy Battist  
**Greeter**..... Claire Gensch, Maren Anderson  
**Reader**.....Jan Hagen  
**Communion**..... Phil & Char Lawler  
..... Gene & Susan Qualmann  
**Ushers** John & Carol Otterson, Michaelle Eeg  
**Musician** ..... Melissa Vanden Heuvel  
**Vocalists**..... Clyde Nyhus, Cara Musick  
Mike Digman, Dave Down, Tara Von Dollen,  
..... Donna Buchert  
**Streaming** ..... Jenna Shinstine

**8:15 AM SERVICE**

**Altar Ministry** ..... Cindy Ellis  
**Coffee Ministry**..... Jan Hagen  
**Greeter** .. Mike McHugh & Marnee Hafeman  
**Reader** ..... Chris Gingher  
**Communion**..... Nancy Wilson, Linda Olson  
..... Cynthia McVay, Pam McGranahan  
**Ushers** Cindy Ellis, Don & Gloria Hehenberger  
**Musician** ..... Marian Korth  
**Vocalists** ..... Senior Choir Members  
**Streaming** ..... Steve Cheramy  
**Nursery** ..... No staff in nursery today

**10:30 AM SERVICE**

**Altar Ministry**.....Martha Netzloff  
**Communion Cups** .....Becky Skibo  
**Coffee**.....Deb Plantz  
**Greeter**.....Don Hendrikse  
..... Gary & Gretchann Dalgaard  
**Reader** ..... Mary Marshall  
**Communion** ..... Julia Neppi, Karen Clark  
..... Martha Netzloff, Ronald Mach  
..... Dave Lindorff, Mary Marshall  
**Ushers** ..... Lee Nelson, Michael Savides  
..... Walt Herrod  
**Musician** ..... Melissa Vanden Heuvel  
**Vocalists**..... Celebrate Group  
**Streaming** ..... Clark Kellogg  
**Nursery** ..... No staff in Nursery today

