Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church 419 Bossardsville Road Stroudsburg, PA

Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me.

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.christhamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. **All are welcome here.** If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering.

Today's service: 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.

Altar flowers given in memory of Jacob and Velma Hartman, by Sandy Lee.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GREETING

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

All: And also with you

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . 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.

All: Amen.

READING ACTS 4:5-12

Reader: A reading from the 4th chapter of Acts.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reader: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.



Cantor: The Lord | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.

All: The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures and leads me be- | side still waters.

Cantor: You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

All: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

Cantor: You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3:16, 17, 23, 24

Reader: A reading from the 3rd chapter of First John.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.



[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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."

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.



Message

Please stand.



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION

Minister: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Lucy Kelly Falko for baptism.

The minister addresses the parents and/or sponsors:

Minister: Called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Lucy baptized into Christ?

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Minister: As you bring Lucy to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, to bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, to teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in her hands the holy scriptures, and to nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to care for others and the world God made, and to work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Lucy grow in the Christian faith and life? Parents and sponsors: We do.

Minister: People of God, do you promise to support Lucy and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

All: We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Minister: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Minister: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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. Minister: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

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

Minister: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

All: He sends us to be disciples in the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Minister: At this font, Holy God, we praise you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Pour out your Holy Spirit and breathe new life into all who are gathered here. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

We pray this through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

All: Amen.

At this time family and friends are invited to come forward and gather around the family at the baptismal font.

BAPTISM

Water is poured on the child's head, as the pastor says: Minister: Lucy Kelly, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the child's head a second time: and of the Son,

Water is poured on the child's head a third time: and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray. . . We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give Lucy new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized child: Sustain Lucy with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.

Minister: Lucy, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

Blessing of mother. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Minister: The Lord God Almighty bring joy to Meaghan as the hope of eternal life shines forth upon children. May God graciously bless her so that as we now give thanks for the gift of children she may always remain united with them in thanksgiving, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing of father. Family gathered are invited to place a hand back/shoulder.

Minister: May the Lord God Almighty, the giver of life both in heaven and on earth bless Joseph, so that together with Meaghan they may follow Jesus and prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children in Christ our Lord

All: Amen

WELCOME (A lighted candle is presented).

Minister: Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.'

All: Let our lights so shine before others that we might do good works and glorify our God in Heaven.

Minister: Let us welcome Lucy, the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.

May God be with you and always bless you! Amen.

Reception of New Members

Minister: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for the Falko family, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Address and Questions

Minister: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Joseph and Meaghan do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond individually.

New member: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Minister: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for them in their life in Christ?

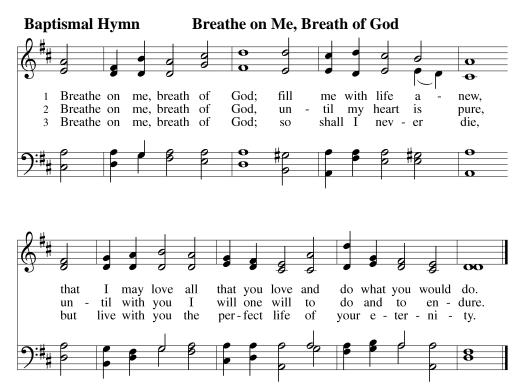
All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Minister: Let us welcome these sisters and brother in Christ to this community of faith.

All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.



Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835–1889

Music: DURHAM, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

Prayers

Assisting Minister: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries throughout our community. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

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,

All: Hear our prayer.

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. Especially be with those in need of prayer that we raise to you now . . . God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

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.

All: Amen.

The Peace is shared with one another.

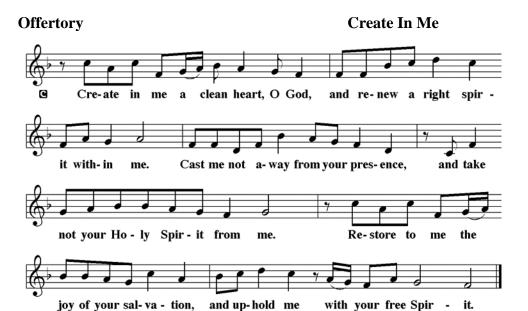
PEACE

Leader/s: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Offering

Tender Shepherd



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Blessed are you,

All: Lord our God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness

you have blessed us with these gifts.

With them we offer ourselves to your service

and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made,

for the sake of him who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

Communion

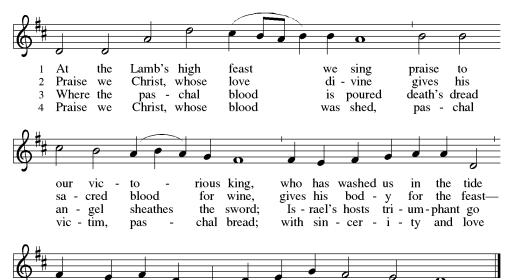
We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right hand aisle and receive the bread from the pastor and the wine from the assistant.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you. Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.



At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



- flow ing his wound - ed side. Al from ia! Αl 1e lu Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. ia! wave that drowns the Al through the foe. le lu ia! from bove. A1 1u ia! eat man - na
- 5 Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Gift of Finest Wheat







- when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- With joy ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- not the cup blood of Christ out-poured? we bless and share the
- The mys-t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, You give your-self to us, O Lord; no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- us, O Lord; then self-less let



COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

All: Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS AND LEADERS

PRESENTATION

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, you have been equipped to serve as Stephen Ministers at Christ Hamilton. Listen now to the words we find in Scripture.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

(Colossians 3:23-24).

ADDRESS

Leader: Brian, Vicky, Sue, Cathy, and Paula each of you has been comforted by God

with the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for you. We ask you now to join in serving our Lord and those in our congregation and neighborhood who need to be comforted.

As the Lord Jesus has responded to the needs of others we ask you to strive to be responsive to the needs of others.

As the Lord Jesus took the burdens of the world we ask you to be a friend to those who are burdened under the stress of daily life.

As the Lord Jesus patiently listens, we ask you to be a patient listener in a hurried world.

As the Lord Jesus has broken down the barriers that separate us from God, we ask you to help heal divisions wherever you find them and strive to make people whole.

As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service, we ask you to use your skills and talents to help those people whom you serve and to pray for them.

As the Lord Jesus has shown care for others, we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community.

As the Lord Jesus has revealed his presence through faith, we ask you to share your personal experiences of faith with those around you so that all may celebrate the presence of Christ in our world today.

Vows

Leader: Are you prepared to help those in need and pray for them?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, build up, and comfort them?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: [addressing the congregation] Will those of you here open your hearts to Brian, Vicky, Sue, Cathy, and Paula? Will you support their ministry and to pray for them, so that they may be effective servants of Christ.

All: Yes, with the help of God.

Each Stephen's Minister in turn is addressed.

Leader: Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at Christ

Hamilton United Lutheran Church

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Please come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMENDATION

Leader: Because you have promised faithfully to serve the Lord Jesus and his people as Stephen Ministers, I commend you to the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit as you care for others. Use the skills you have learned, releasing the gifts and talents the Spirit has given you so that you might be a blessing to the people you meet and care for.

PRAYER

Minister: O God, we ask you to take Brian, Vicky, Sue, Cathy, and Paula into your care. You have blessed them with gifts and talents to care for others. May they serve you with the power of the Holy Spirit; may they be quick to serve, patient in listening, and willingness to share themselves with those in need. Keep them strong in the faith you have given them for the sake of Jesus,

All: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

All: Amen

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steven C. Claycomb

Organist: Beth McElroy

Lector: Gail Derrer

Lay Assistant: Jeff Gilbert

Greeters: Brian Powers & Eileen Dorshimer

Choir Director: Tassy Gilbert

Accompanist: Gail Derrer

Announcements: Amanda Balas

Videographer: Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

We welcome the newly baptized Lucy today at Christ Hamilton and celebrate with her parents, Joseph and Meaghan Falko and her Sponsors, Andrew and Emily Billings. We are also grateful for all their family and friends as they celebrate this special day

Congratulations to our newest Stephen Ministers: Brian Powers, Cathy Peechatka, Suzanne LaBar, Paula Hallock & Vicky Francis. Thank you for all your time and dedication to this important ministry!

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy, Jim, Gloria, Jackie and Dumitru. If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.

Today is our next community meal from 4:30 to 5:30pm. If you would like take-out please line up in your car outside the Lighthouse lobby door at 5:45pm. Ham, potatoes, green beans & dessert will be served.

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate in the month of April! 4/7: Janet Catina, 4/8: Chris Reeder, 4/15: Dick Person, 4/19: Gail Derrer and John Balas, 4/23: Marleen Dymond, 4/25: Doug Young, 4/27: Rich Wiegand, 4/30: Bonnie Claycomb

Coffee Hour hosts needed! Please sign up to host coffee hour in the months of April and May. We are also taking donations of baked goods that can be frozen and used when no one has signed up. Please note: If we do not have an interest in volunteering for this ministry just coffee will be served.

PATHWalk 2024 will be held on Sunday May 5th. Registration starts at 12:30 and the walk begins at 1:30pm and is a leisurely 3 mile walk around Stroudsburg. Sign ups and sponsor lists are available at coffee hour. PATH (Pocono Area Transitional Housing) is a non-profit organization that provides temporary housing and support services for families with young children who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Food Safety Session hosted by Penn State will be held at 5pm on Tuesday, April 30th in the Lighthouse kitchen, everyone who utilizes the kitchen is encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Jane Person rilperson@epix.net

VBS planning has started! If you are interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School this year please contact Liz Marshall. VBS will be held from July 8-12 9am to noon for ages 3 through 6th grade. Younger children MUST be potty trained.

Welcome Falko Family!



Joe and Meaghan Lucy and Bo

The Falko's

Joe was raised at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Catasauqua and Meaghan at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Lake Ariel. They started dating in 2008 and have been married since 2013. Meaghan was born in Oklahoma and Joe in Catasauqua. Joe is an Environmental Manager for Befesa Inc., in Palmerton and Meaghan a High School Guidance Counselor at Nazareth High School. Bo will be attending Kindergarten next year at Hamilton Elementary. Lucy celebrates her baptism with us today!

