

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 5, 2024  
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA

**PRELUDE**

**BELL**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Jesus loves you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Jesus loves you.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Risen God,

**C: We confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done. Take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

P: In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING hymn: “We Are All One in Mission” (ELW 576)**

1 We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united

by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service,  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are diff'rent;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united,  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

**\*GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE (ELW pg. 98) congregation sings response**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE     *"This is the Feast"***

**(ELW pg. 101)**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**2 Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**3 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of love,

**C: In Christ Jesus, you have set for us an example of what it means to love one another. By loving us, you teach us to love. Draw us back to your example again and again, that we**

might live with one another in mutual service, and carry your love into the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Please be seated*

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**Gospel Text: Mark 12:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

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

**ACCLAMATION** *sung*

**(ELW pg. 103)**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**PREACHING TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

Lana: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Pastor: And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

Lana: If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**C: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.**

Lana: It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

**C: It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

**Pastor: Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.**

Lana: For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

**C: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.**

Lana: For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

**All: And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.**

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

## CHILDREN'S STORY

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "Praise and Thanksgiving"**

**(ELW 689)**

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbor we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,  
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing  
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,

freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.  
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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE –**

**Prayer Response: “Lord, Hear Our Prayer” (ELW 751)**

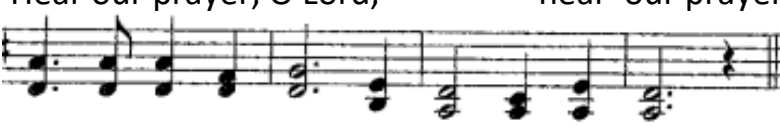
L: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Holy God, ground us in a profound understanding of the kind of love we are to have for one another, and help us to share that love with every single person we encounter, in the church and beyond. God of new life,


C: 

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-

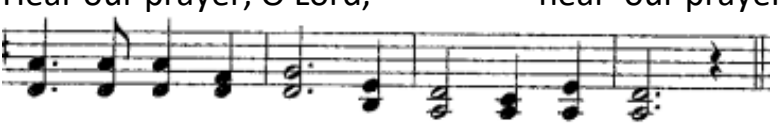


cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

L: Your love is not limited to humanity, and nor should ours be. Inspire us to lavish the same love and care on the natural world as you do. God of new life,


C: 

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-




cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

L: Give us all the patience, kindness, generosity, and humility we need to work together across political differences for the good of God’s children throughout the world. God of new life,


C: 

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-




cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

L: Help all who struggle with physical, mental, or spiritual illness to know that they are deeply loved, that they might be comforted and strengthened in the healing process especially Yuvonne, Colleen, Kristy, Ernie, Georgia, Mike, Al, Luella, Ralph, Gary, Barb, Marsha, Ty, Ivy, Woody, Cindy, Barb, Jen, and Jason.. God of new life,


C: 

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-




cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

L: We place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior.

C: 

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in-



cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED (ELW pg. 105)**

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 power of 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

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always....**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN**

***"Shine Jesus Shine"***

**(ELW 671 )**

***Refrain***

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!

- 1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,



set us free by the truth You now bring us.

Shine on me, shine on me: ***Refrain***

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!

- 2 As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever-changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here,  
may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me: ***Refrain***

Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Loving God,

**C: You demonstrate your love for us by providing for our needs. We return these gifts to you as a sign of our love for you, for one another, and for all of your beautiful creation. Use them for the good of all that you have made. Amen.**

**Meal**

***God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.***

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW pg. 107) spoken**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift our hearts to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

**\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION “Remember Now My Children” Sung**

The night of His betrayal, our Lord took bread.  
He broke it and he blessed it, and then he said,  
“My body given for you is what this means,  
remember now my children what you have seen.”

And then He took the chalice, and raised it high.  
“My body broken for you, a full supply...  
a covenant, a promise, a cleansing stream.  
Remember now, my children, what you have seen.”

We share this food together, remembering Christ;  
we share a common treasure and know the price  
we share it without measure, a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above.

**\*LORD’S PRAYER spoken (ELW 112)**

**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**

P: Jesus who is patient and kind invites you to the feast of love in his name. Come and feast in the presence of our savior.

**\*COMMUNION CANTICLE      “Lamb of God”      (ELW pg. 112)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

**COMMUNION**

*The acolytes, ushers, organist and those assisting with communion should come forward at this time and receive communion. Following the assistants, we will celebrate continuous Holy communion. The ushers will direct you.*

*We welcome all baptized Christians to the Lord’s Table where we experience the unity that God intends for all people. Those who do not receive the bread and wine may receive a blessing from the pastor. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:      “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”      (ELW 488)**

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,  
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
come into the daylight's splendor,  
there with joy your praises render.  
Bless the one whose grace unbounded  
this amazing banquet founded;  
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,  
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
  
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,  
eagerly and gladly greet him.  
There he stands already knocking;  
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,  
open wide the fast-closed portal,  
saying to the Lord immortal:

"Come, and leave your loved one never;  
dwell within my heart forever."

- 3 Now in faith I humbly ponder  
over this surpassing wonder  
that the bread of life is boundless  
though the souls it feeds are countless;  
with the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ's own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation,  
pledge and seal of my salvation.
- 4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
peace beyond all understanding,  
joy into all life expanding:  
humbly now, I bow before you,  
love incarnate, I adore you;  
worthily let me receive you,  
and, so favored, never leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Lutheran Book of WorshipText © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Please Stand as you are able*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Life-giving God,

**C: In the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, Amen.**

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need*

**\*BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Three-fold Amen.**

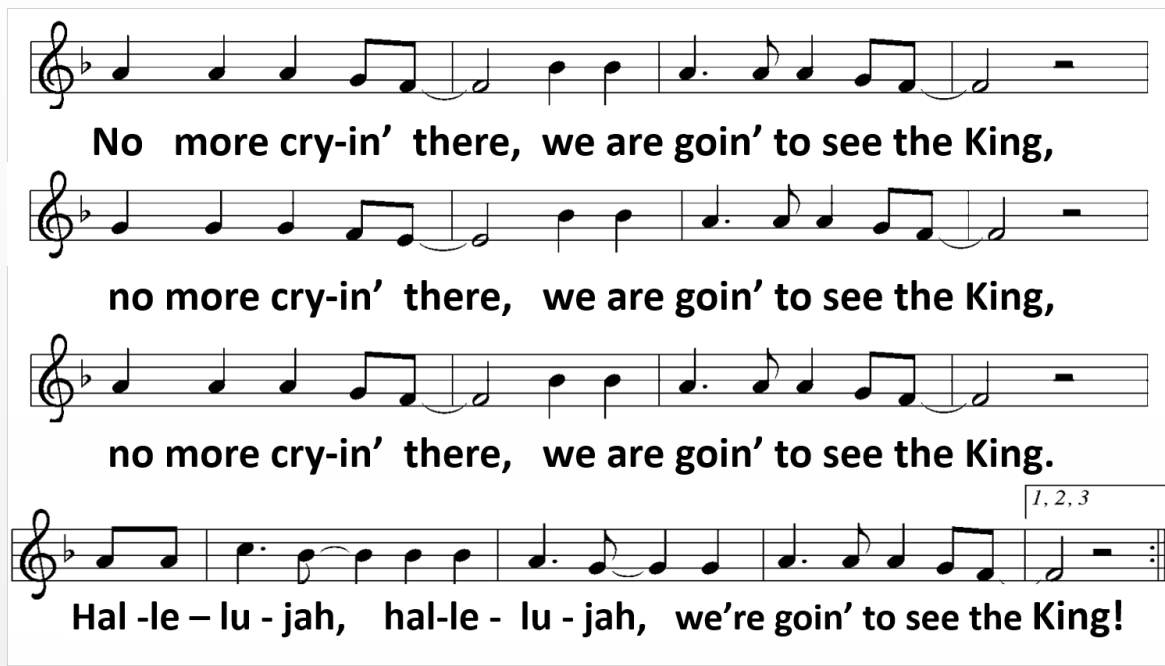
\*SENDING SONG:

*"Soon and Very Soon"*

(ELW 439)



Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



No more cry-in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more cry-in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more cry-in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



**No more dy-in' there, we are goin' to see the King,**



**no more dy-in' there, we are goin' to see the King,**



**no more dy-in' there, we are goin' to see the King.**



**Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!**



**Soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,**



**soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King,**



**soon and ve - ry soon we are goin' to see the King.**



**Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!**

Coda after stanza 4

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945  
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch  
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### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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### This Week at Esther

#### Sunday, May 5

9 am – Sunday School  
 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion  
 Coffee fellowship following worship  
 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s

#### Monday, May 6

6 pm – Worship Committee

#### Sunday, May 12

8:30 am - WELCA  
 9 am – Sunday School  
 9:30 am- Birthday Fellowship  
 10 am – Worship with Noisy Offering  
 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Yuvonne Anderson            Colleen Burquest  
Kristy Fyhrie                 Ernie & Georgia Hart  
Mike Heiser                 Al Pederson  
Luella Thom                 Ralph Townsend  
Jason Wehking- friend of Esther members  
Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers  
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons  
Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson  
Marsha Clow - sister of Linda Arvidson  
Ty Hawes – friend of the McDaniels  
Woody Hoiseth – friend of the Thoms  
Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler  
Barb Tvedt – mother of Joan Burquest  
Jen Wintheiser – friend of Esther members  
Family and Friends of: Cindy Skoglund, Mary Durling, and Lee Wesolowski

### **Serving in May**

**Pastor:** Scott Hoecker

**Organists:** Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht

**Altar Care:** Linda Arvidson

**Communion Assistant:** Larry Doll

**Lay Reader:** Lana Doll

**Ushers:** Rick Arvidson, Mike Arvidson

**Acolyte:** NEED VOLUNTEER

**Birthday Card Sender:** Nancy Bunde

**Tech Team:** Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend, Nancy Bunde

**Birthday Fellowship:** Trent & Anna Hagen, Russ & Jen Higgs, Dennis & Gloria Rosenquist, Dave & Nancy Bunde

### **News and Notes**

**Esther Youth** that are attending the youth gathering this summer are starting to actively sell stock. As a stockholder you are entitled to the following:

- 1.) Access to New Orleans updates! Stock holders will have exclusive access to communication with us during the trip via postcards and Facebook updates daily.
- 2.) An invitation to the Stockholder Presentation! After returning home from the



Gathering, we will hold a Stock Holders presentation to which stockholders will be invited to come enjoy treats hosted by the Gathering participants as well as a presentation about the trip.

3.) An opportunity to pray for our youth! You can pray for our hearts and minds to be open to this experience, to learn something new, to deepen our faith & spiritual growth. Thank you for your support of Esther Lutheran Youth through your purchase of shares of stock.

**2024 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USHER TABLE.** We will not be labeling directories this year – please take as needed for you and your family.

**Someplace Safe 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fundraiser May 1-5<sup>th</sup>** Someplace Safe works to create safer communities in West Central Minnesota by providing high quality crime victim services. Participate in their silent auction and bid on items or buy one outright at [www.betterunite.com/springfund24](http://www.betterunite.com/springfund24) or you can also mail a check to: Douglas Advocacy Office – 700 Cedar St Ste. 268 – Alexandria, MN 56308. Auction will be open to bidding May 1, 2024 at 8 am and will close May 5, 2024 at 8 pm.

**Parkers Prairie High School Student Council is planning for its annual Day of Caring.** On Friday, May 17, the students of PPHS will be ready, willing, and able to help out in the community. If you would like help with spring clean up or have a special project that needs to get done in the Parkers Prairie, Urbank, and Miltona area, contact the PPHS Student Council Advisor David O'Brien at [dobrien@pp.k12.mn.us](mailto:dobrien@pp.k12.mn.us).

**Confirmation** will be held Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Reception will be at 9:15 am. Those affirming their baptism: Wyatt Asleson, McKinnely Bosl, Landen Nistler, Calie Schlosser, and Isabell Steidl.

**On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a special worship service** to honor Pastor Scott and Jacey in appreciation for their years of care and service to Esther. There will be a potluck after worship. Pastor Scott's last day will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**VBS at Esther** will be June 9-12, starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. For more information, contact Karin Wagner. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, neighbors to join in the fun! There will be a sign up sheet for students and volunteers, as well as for food/items needed in the coming weeks on the narthex table.

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!** If you are interested in being on our weekly email list please contact [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net) .

***Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA***

*"Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love"*

**Pastor Scott Hoecker** - Cell: (218) 355-0187 Email: [prscott@estherlutheran.net](mailto:prscott@estherlutheran.net)

11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 - Telephone:218-338-2171

Website: [estherlutheran.com](http://estherlutheran.com) Email: [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net)

Caring Ministry: [caringministry@estherlutheran.net](mailto:caringministry@estherlutheran.net)

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