Holy Trinity Lutheran Church April 21, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

Service of Word and Sacrament

In the bulletin: The asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able. Boldface type indicates the congregation's responses. At the sign of the cross (\pm), you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.

✤ GATHERING ♥

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach arr. Noel Rawsthorne

*Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy + Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

*Kyrie



*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism, the water of new life.

Water is poured into the font.

We thank you, risen Christ,

for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ,

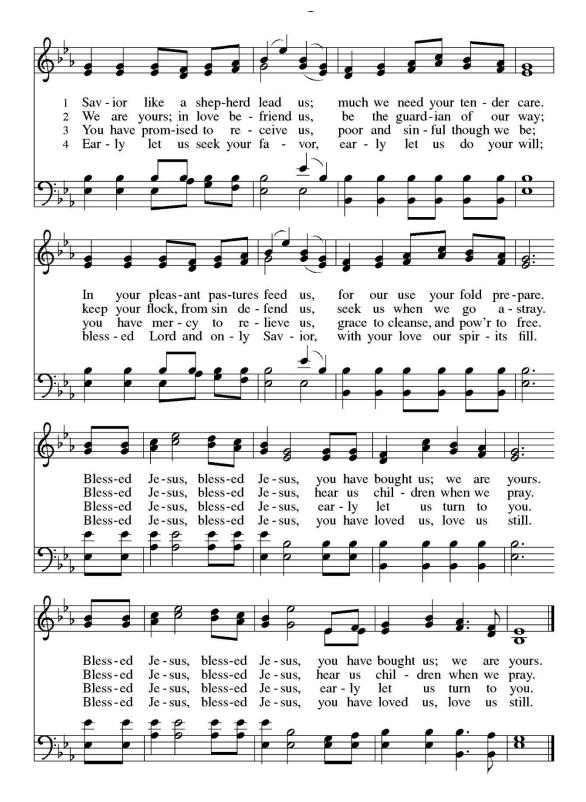
that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

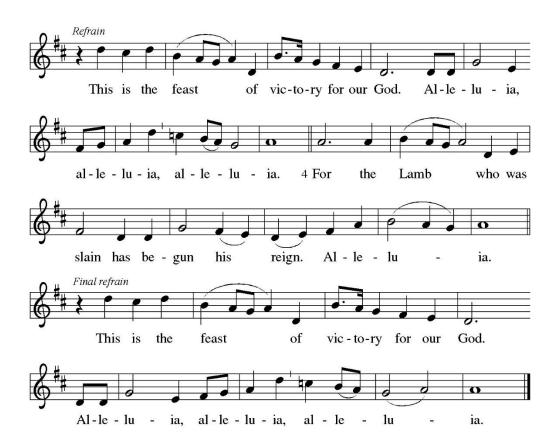
*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

We are your people, O God – the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd.





₩ WORD ₩

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.

A reading from Acts.

⁵The next day their 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 Peter and John 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23



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PSALM: 23:1-6

¹The LORD [|] is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures

and leads me be- | side still waters.

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,

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

⁴Though 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely 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 3:16-24

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.

A reading from 1 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?

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

²³And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and love one another, just as Jesus has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit that God has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



*Gospel Acclamation

*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.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Very 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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer for Understanding

Lord God, good shepherd,

by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name.

*Hymn of the Day No. 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

*The Nicene Creed

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. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

*Prayer of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially... Penny, Karen, Alicia, and David. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

🕸 MEAL 🕸

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

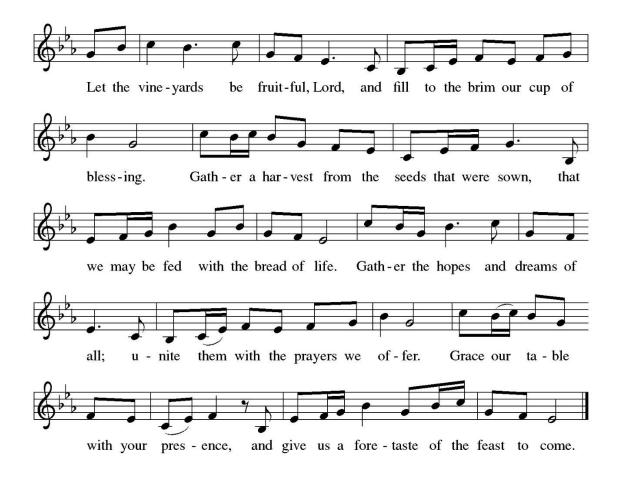
And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another.

Offertory Anthem He Shall Feed His Flock by

by John Ness Beck

*Offertory Hymn No. 184 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Offertory 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.

*Invitation

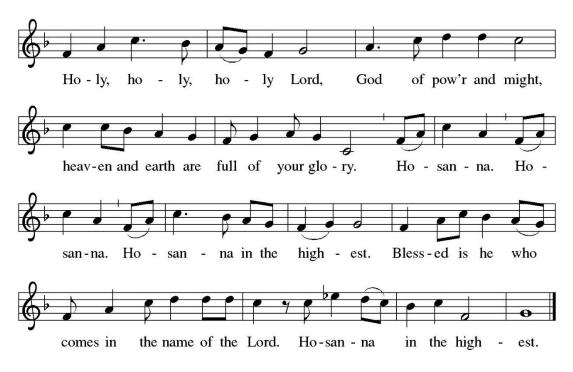
Christ comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine to nourish our faith. The uncontainable presence, grace, love, forgiveness and mercy of Christ come to us in this simple meal that spans all time and space. All of God's children – regardless of denominational background – are welcome and invited to share it with us.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, O God, for the glorious resurrection of 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, singing:



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*Prayer at the Table

Blessed are you,

O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness, to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice,

peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones

of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



*The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.

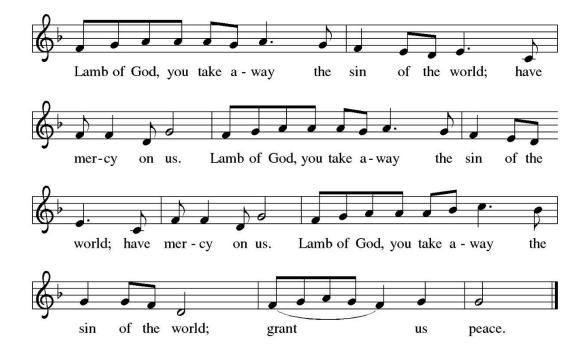
Amen.

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

Lamb of God



*The Communion

Those celebrating with us from your homes: please share the bread and wine or grape juice with one another using these words: The Body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. An **Amen** or **Thanks be to God** is spoken in response to these gifts.

Those celebrating with us in person: Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and an individual cup of wine or white grape juice from those serving. Please return to your seat by the side aisle.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing Verse 7 - Choir only



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

✤ SENDING ✤

*Prayer After Communion

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

Amen.

*Blessing

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
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*Dismissal

Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad. Go in peace.

We go to connect people to Jesus through love and the Word of God.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*Postlude

Rigaudon fr "Idoménée" André Campra arr. Virgil Fox

Acknowledgements...

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Your tithes and offerings are important to our ministry. On-line donation options are available at holytrinityakron.org/donate or by contacting Financial Secretary Jim Minisall at jminisall@holytrinityakron.org. Or simply mail your offerings to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. Thank you for your generous and regular support.

The Love Offering for April will support Teacher Appreciation Week and the Leadership 360 Retreat at Robinson CLC. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10, and Holy Trinity wishes to recognize and celebrate the teachers and staff at Robinson CLC. Also, Holy Trinity plans to again co-sponsor the Leadership Retreat for student leaders at Robinson CLC. Student leaders have spent the school year doing various projects and activities to demonstrate leadership within the school. This retreat is their final event where they will hear from community leaders, participate in break-out sessions, and be reminded of the importance of being a student leader. Holy Trinity helps to provide t-shirts, lanyards, goodie bags, and lunch for all the students. Your support of this month's Love Offering will benefit these two endeavors. Thank you for your generous support!

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This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, 4/21	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
	10:45 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship - Chapel Lounge	
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Trinity Book Club - Library	
	11:00 a.m.	Invite-Welcome-Connect Meeting- Room 202	
Tuesday, 4/23	8:00-4:30 p.m.	Leek Organ Tuning - Sanctuary	
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Derbytown Chorus</i> - Fellowship Hal	
Thursday, 4/25	8:00-4:30 p.m.	Leek Organ Tuning - Sanctuary	
		Morning Devotions- Facebook Live	
	6:30 p.m.	Trinity Bells Rehearsal - Sanctuary	
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Room 202	
Friday, 4/26	9:00 a.m.	Faith 5 Fridays - Zoom	
-	3:00-6:00 p.m.	DLM Delivery	
Sunday, 4/28	9:30 a.m.	Worship	
	10:45 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship - Chapel Lounge	
	11:00 a.m.	Invite-Welcome-Connect Kick-Off Luncheon -	
		Chapel Lounge & Room 202	
	4:00 p.m.	Arts @ Holy Trinity Concert - Sanctuary	
	Ĩ	~ reception immediately following in Chapel Lg.	



The flowers on the altar today are in honor of Betty Oberdorfer's 90th Birthday given by her family.

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In Our Prayers...

<u>April 21:</u> Penny Porter (cousin of Deb Ickes), Karen Isaiah (friend of Frederica Cohen), Alicia Boyd (friend of LJ Kimble), and David Probert (brother of Danny Probert).

<u>April 14:</u> The family of Michael Thrall (Gene Thrall's son) and Judy Hendrick (grandmother of Hannah Miller.

<u>April 7:</u> LaVerne Mansour (member), Pat Keller (member), Iva Johnson (member), and John Shea (husband of Steve White).

March 31: Sandy Plummer (member) and Hans Verhoeven (friend of Deborah Marks).

The names of those making the request will be printed next to the name of the person being prayed for. We kindly ask those making the request to keep our prayer list coordinators updated as to the status of the person they are requesting prayer for. We would be glad to continue praying for individuals (adding them for another four weeks) upon request. If you have updates or additions to the prayer list, please contact Sally Richenbacher, Rachel Núñez, or Pastor Becki Verbridge.

Ministry Team	Team Leader(s)	Phone
Care & Fellowship	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597
Faith Formation	Amanda Archbold	(330) 322-6554
Finance	Lesli Eisenhart	(330) 696-7460
Invite-Welcome-Connect	Sandy DeLuca	(330) 703-4870
Outreach & Social Concerns	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Personnel	John Stefanik	(330) 666-3579
Property	Kevin Heckel	(330) 283-2866
Worship	Frederica Cohen	(330) 535-3037

...Ministry Team Leaders...

...Our Staff...

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Maintenance Coord.	Bruce Mansour	mansour@holytrinityakron.org	
Sexton	Vince Simmons		

...Activity Coordinators...

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Altar Guild	Deborah Ickes	678-353-7444
Communion Assistants	Deborah Ickes &	678-353-7444
Communion Assistants	Marcy Nagy	330-858-4995
Council President	John Guran	330-606-3915
Meditation Memorial Garden	Nan Riemenschneider	330-239-1086
Men's Bible Study	Jack Harig	(330) 644-9862
Well's bible Study	Tom Baumgardner	(330) 603-3691
Parish Nurse Ministry	Sally Richenbacher	330-650-1175
Prayer Chain	Sally Richenbacher	330-650-1175
Readers	Nancy Riemenschneider	330-239-1086
Stewardship	Jack Harig	330-644-9862
Ushers	Gregg Loesch	330-733-4081
Warriors Journey Home	Jack Harig	330-644-9862
Women's Bible Study	Rachel Nunez	330-634-6597

50 N. Prospect Street Akron, OH 44304 (330) 376-5154

