

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 11, 2025

Sunday 10:00 a.m.



**Welcome to All!** We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

### Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

#### Pre-Worship Music

#### Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

#### Prelude

#### GATHERING

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P: In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,

**C: let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.**

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

*(continued on next page)*

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C: Amen**

## Gathering Hymn

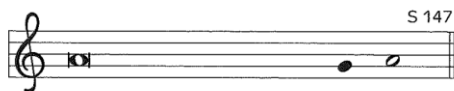
## *O God of Light*

*ELW 507*

### Greeting

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

### Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



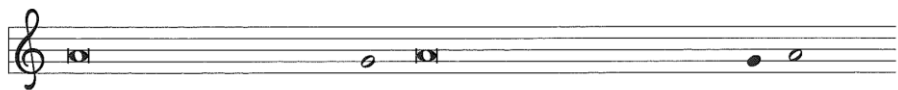
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Hymn of Praise

## Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



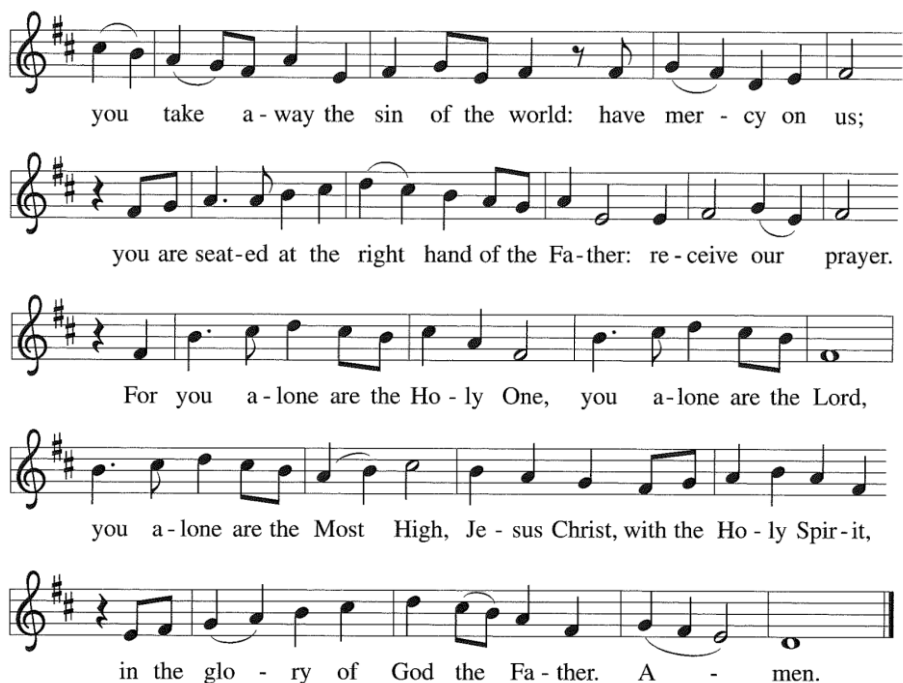
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... **C: O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Children's Message

*Pr. Paul*

## WORD

### First Lesson

**Acts 9:36-43**

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

## Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**2 The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**4 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.**

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

**6 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 Lesson

## Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life.  
Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, *(continued on next page)*

12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

## Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel

## John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

**C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...**

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one."

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

Hymn of the Day    *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*    ELW 502

## Apostle's 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession:** response after each petition: **"Your mercy is great."** (*Before prayer*) A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.... (*Conclusion*) P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **C: Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

Offering / Offering Song

*Zeke Clemons*

Offertory

*Come to the Table*

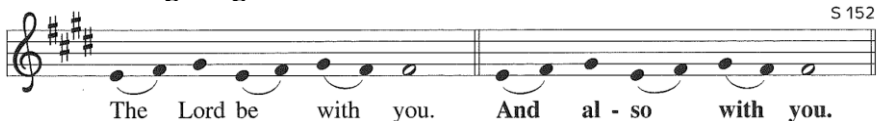
*ELW 481*

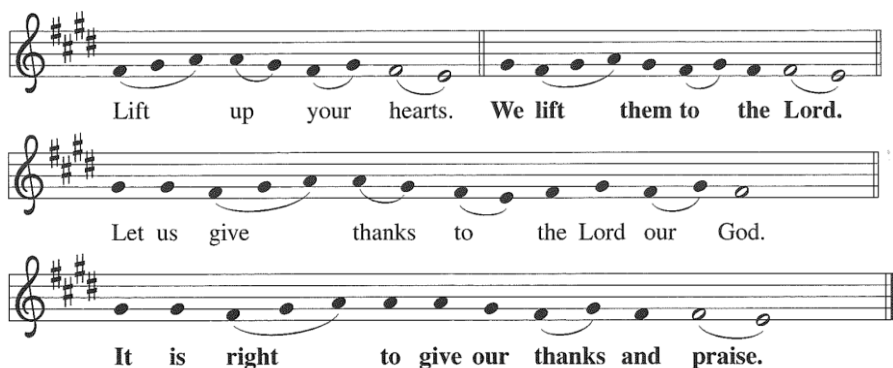
Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

**C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

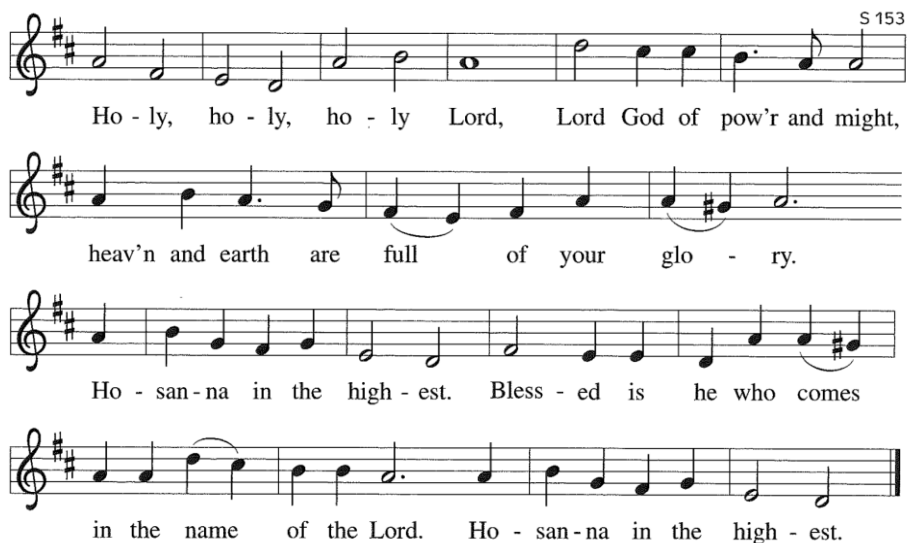
## Great Thanksgiving





P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

### *Holy, Holy, Holy*



## Words of Institution

### 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.**

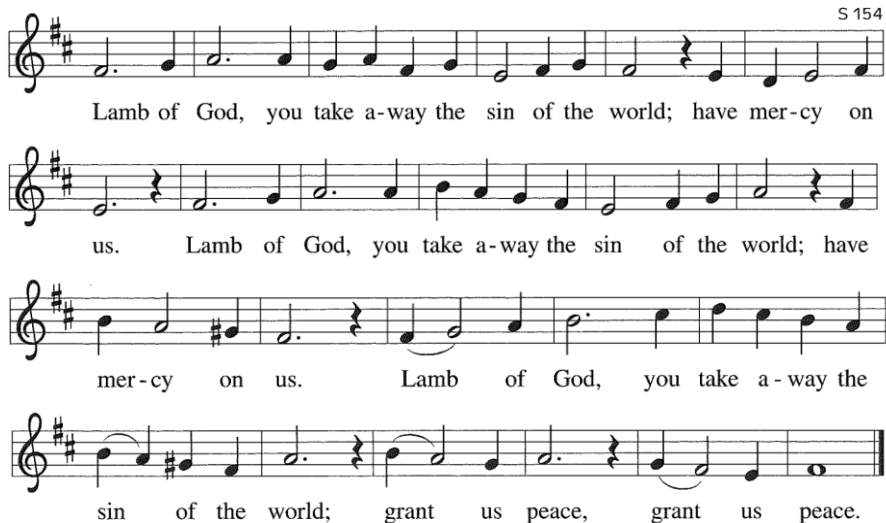


P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Communion

### *Lamb of God*

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness  
Around You, O Lord Jesus*

**ELW 843  
ELW 468**

## Post-Communion Blessing

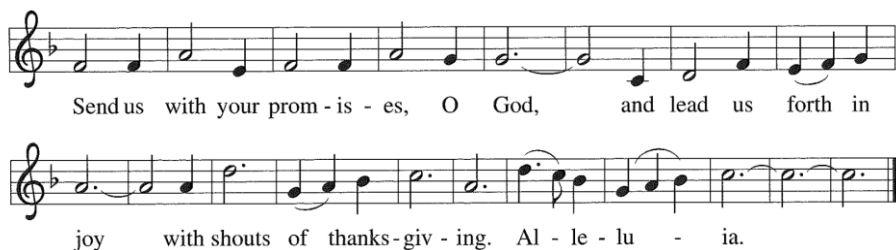
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

## Post-Communion Canticle

### *Thankful Hearts*



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has  
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



## Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

**C: Amen**

### Sending Song

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

*ELW 669*

### Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**



**Bethlehem** May 11, 2025  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

5/11—Summer Kolka  
5/11—Linda Revelts  
5/12—Mary Ann Tanis  
5/12—Barbara Wentzloff  
5/13—Kathy McPherson

5/16—Caleb Andrew Smith  
5/16—Linda Gokey  
5/17—Barbara Oster  
5/17—Sally Erickson  
5/18—Jim Achard

### **Worship Servants for May 11**

Presiding & Presiding—Pastor Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Barb Graf

Musicians: David Chown, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denise Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: by Inga Nyquist in Honor of Mothers everywhere

Hospitality—Leonard & Barb Graf

A/V—Paul Ton / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee— VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Tim Goebel

Front Door Monitor: Tina Dohm

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Forest Bowling / Jane Passmore

**More Chair Yoga:** Bethlehem is adding another Chair Yoga class per week. Starting May 14th a class will be held on Wednesdays at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$5 and Janet Weaver will be the instructor. We will continue to have the Monday class at 3:00. People can attend one or both classes per week. Gail Goldsmith will continue to be the church representative for the Monday class and Cindy Monroe will be the church representative for the Wednesday class. It is a great opportunity to stretch and work on balance issues.

**The next Third Thursday service will be a Jazz Vespers service on May 15th at 7:00pm.** The service will be livestreamed. Peg Pepler will prepare a meal at 5:45 p.m. It includes Baked Ziti, a gluten free pasta, Caesar salad, bread, and gluten free bread, and cheesecake. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

**Movie Day:** We'll be watching the Disney Pixar favorite **Ratatouille** on **Saturday, May 17th at 3pm.** Freshly made popcorn will be provided, as well as drinks! Seating will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a folding/camping chair if that is more comfortable for you! Bring a friend and join us for a fun afternoon movie!

**What IS GRIEVING?** Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! We meet here on the first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the third Monday from 5:30-6:30. **Due to Peggy being out of town at the Synod Assembly on May 19th, there will not be a grief group on that date.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.

**VISION IN ACTION:** YES, you read that right!! The Vision Team, with the help of all who have so generously participated in the numerous congregation discussions, is ready to get us moving!! On Sunday, May 18, immediately following worship, we will gather for our coffee/fellowship time and you will be provided with exciting information regarding BLC's direction for the future. Our time together will be filled with some general information regarding our findings, brief discussion about how we anticipate moving forward, and small group time to hear specifically about three areas of direction. Snacks will be served and we are anticipating taking only one hour of your time. It is important that we have plenty of handouts as well as refreshments... you can help us in our preparation by signing up on the **Sign Up Sheet that is posted in the narthex.** This is going to be an informative time, an opportunity to say "How Can I Help," and a way to get connected as we move into the next phase of our life together. As the song goes: "We Got to Move It, Move It!!" Hope to see you there... check out the **Sign Up Sheet in the narthex.** Many Thanks! Your Vision Team

**BOOK CLUB NEWS:** We are changing our location AND our date this month to the 4th Wednesday.. The next meeting will be Wed, May 28 at 5:30. We will be reading "Signal Fires" by Dani Shapiro. We will again be at the home of Betsy Morley for a potluck picnic. If you plan to come please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net to indicate what you would like to bring for the meal.

**WELCA Appreciation Dinner for ALL MEN of the congregation on June 1** at 11:45am (after church service). Old Fashioned Roast Beef dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Come for dinner and an uplifting program. There is a sign-up sheet next to the sign in the Narthex.

**National Cherry Festival Volunteer Opportunity** Bethlehem Lutheran Church has the opportunity to volunteer 3 times at the National Cherry Festival to earn money for Pastor Paul's future Sabbatical. We are asking for 5 volunteers for each event to earn \$200 per shift from the Community Share Group. The sign up to volunteer has changed this year. Every person who volunteers will need to go online to the Festival Foundation Website and complete the waiver form and read the volunteer handbook.

This year we have volunteered for **Monday, June 30th from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Souvenir tent.**

We are also signed up for **Tuesday July 1st from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pepsi tent.**

And **Thursday July 3rd from 9:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Pie and Ice Cream tent.**  
**We will need 7 people for this tent.**

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for each event. You can sign up for one or more events. Each day after our work shift we are invited to go to the Oasis to have lunch. It is nice to be able to sit down as a group and eat and have time to talk. If you have any questions please talk to Gail Goldsmith.