

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00  
26 APRIL 2026

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a congregation where music, liturgy,  
and prayer reflect the richness of the global church.*

*We gather each week for worship that is both firmly rooted in the ancient forms and traditions of Christian liturgy and attuned to contemporary concerns. We encounter the good news of Jesus in scripture, in song, in the sacraments, and in the gathered community. The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle shapes our weekly worship, leading us to pray for and sing songs from different parts of the world.*

Read more about who we are at: [www.genevalutheran.church](http://www.genevalutheran.church)

**If you are worshipping with us for the first time** or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



*We are glad you are here—welcome!*

**Thank you** to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

*Reader:* Bethany Rosenkrans

*Altar care:* Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo, Bethany Rosenkrans

*Assisting ministers:* Marc de Chassey, Antoinette Djamén, Clare Duran,  
Nyambura Njoroge

*Ushers:* Sidona Melles, Dorine Van Teeseling

*Offering counters:* Johnny Camaddo, Tom Taylor

*Flowers:* German-Speaking Congregation

*Refreshments:* Neighborhood Group A

*Church school:* Marc de Chassey, Grete Willis, Jelimo Yegon

*Videographer:* Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

*Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way  
and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:*

*<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

***Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva***  
***English-Speaking Congregation***  
**20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland**  
**Telephone: 022 310 50 89**

pastor@genevalutheran.ch    office@genevalutheran.ch  
www.genevalutheran.church

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Fourth Sunday of Easter + 26 April 2026, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia*

Welcoming New Members

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting (*rise*)

Not ready,  
***the disciples,***  
not quite expecting what had been reported by others  
to happen to them,  
***gathered without plans or projects,***  
not yet over the roller coaster of despair and hope,  
***waiting without knowing what they might be waiting for—***  
but among them, Jesus suddenly stood.  
***He ate with them and spoke the scriptures,***  
so we pray.

Hymn (*rise*)

## Jesus, stand among us

William Pennefather: Ireland

Friedrich Filitz: Germany

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, stand among us'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn.

1. Je - sus, stand a - mong us in thy ris - en power;  
2. Breathe the Ho - ly Spir - it in - to ev - ery heart;  
3. Thus with quick - ened foot - steps we'll pur - sue our way,  
let this time of wor - ship be a hal - lowed hour.  
bid the fears and sor - rows from each soul de - part.  
watch - ing for the dawn - ing of e - ter - nal day.

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Let us pray:

Creator of your church,  
thank you for those who gather to listen carefully  
to your living word,  
and eat together round your table.

*Reconciler of Peoples,  
thank you for those who pray for peace,  
who work to make peace,  
who stretch themselves so harmony might replace violence and war.*

Source of Compassion,  
thank you for those who feed the hungry,  
care for the wounded,  
listen to the disheartened.

*Inspiration of the law and the prophets,  
thank you for church leaders who speak truth to power  
and who insist on the grace and servanthood  
that are at the heart of following Jesus.*

Dam-bursting Mercy and overflowing Lovingkindness,  
*forgive us when we fail to live up to our calling,  
when our fears grow stronger than our faith,  
when we are less than loving,  
as you loved us in Jesus Christ,  
who gave his life for us that we might live.*

Georgian Orthodox Chant

$\text{♩} = 60$

Tsminda-o Ghmer-to, Tsminda-o Dzli-e-ro Tsminda-o

Uk'-vda-vo She-gvits'-qa-len chven. Tsminda-o Ghmer-to,

Tsminda-o Dzli-e-ro Tsminda-o Uk'-vda-vo She-gvits'-qa-len

chven. Tsminda-o Ghmer-to Tsminda-o Dzli-e-ro

Tsminda-o Uk'-vda-vo She-gvits'-qa-len chven.

*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.*

*Pronunciation*

*Tsmeen-dah-oh, Ghmer-toh. Tsmeen-dah-oh, Dzlee-é-roh. Tsmeen-dah-oh Uk'-vda-vo. Shé-gvits'-kah-lén tshhvén. (The ' is a glottal stop.)*

# Easter Acclamation **Christ is risen from the dead**

adapted from a Georgian Orthodox Easter Melody

Christ is ri - sen from the dead, tramp - ling down death by death

and up - on those in the tombs be - stow - ing life.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They 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 by 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.

This is the Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God.*

Tone 8: Kiev

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Luke 24:36-48

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 24.

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

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Tone 8: Kiev

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sermon (*sit*)

Andy Willis

Hymn (*rise*)

The risen Christ

Nigel Weaver

Walter Greatorex

1. The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed feet  
 2. The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed side,  
 3. The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed hand  
 4. May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand

from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,  
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide  
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,  
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - ery land,

un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,  
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;  
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears,  
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,

and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.  
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Words © 1993 Nigel Weaver. Music © Oxford University Press

Welcoming New Members (*sit*)

Introduction

*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

God, in your mercy,  
*hear our prayer.*

Peace

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Pia Perkiö

Ilkka Kuusisto: Finland



1. Kos - ke - ta mi - nu - a, Hen - ki! Kos - ke - ta, kirk - ka - us!  
 1. Touch me, God's Spir - it e - ter - nal. Touch me, res - plen - dent Light.  
 2. Touch me, God's Spir - it, and soothe me deep in my rest - less soul.  
 3. Spir - it of God, give me cour - age, Ban - ish my doubts and fears.  
 4. Spir - it of God, bright - ly shin - ing, O - pen my eyes to see  
 5. Touch me, God's Spir - it e - ter - nal. Teach me to thank and praise.



- An - na e - lä - mäl - le suun - ta ja tar - koi - tus.  
 Give my life new mean - ing, show me the true and right.  
 Give me trust in Je - sus. Heal me and make me whole.  
 Show me my vo - ca - tion through all my days and years.  
 those who need my friend - ship: join us in un - i - ty.  
 By your grace be near me; guide me in all my ways.

Melody © Suomen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko, Virsien Julkaisuoikeudet, PL 185, 00161 Helsinki 16, Finland.  
 Finnish © Pia Perkiö. English © Matti Kilpiö

2. Kosketa, Jumalan Henki, syvälle sydämeen.  
 Sinne paina hiljaa luottamus Jeesukseen.

3. Rohkaise minua, Henki, mureнна pelkoni.  
 Tässä maailmassa osoita paikkani.

4. Valaise, Jumalan Henki, silmäni aukaise,  
 että voisin olla ystävä toisille.

5. Kosketa minua, Henki! Herätä kiittämään,  
 sinun lähelläsi armosta elämään.

***Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.***

*You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag,  
 by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.*

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 donation



Sulyok Imre: Hungary

Väinö Malmivaara: Finland

$\text{♩} = 69$  u - runk hah law, hoyj te tah plahs nawp rol nawp raw sün te len

U - runk há - la, hogy Te táp - lálsz nap - ról nap - ra sün - te - len!

1. For the food which you keep giv - ing day by day, we bless your name.
2. God, our hearts are filled with long - ing, wait - ing to be tru - ly fed

ahld yaw layg hoyj meen den ooyh nawp ooyh er röm ooyh ke djue lem

Áld - va légy, hogy min - den új nap új ö - röm, új ke - gye - lem!

- Joy and grace re - fresh each morn - ing, so your good - ness we pro - claim.  
with a taste of Je - sus Christ, the ev - er - giv - ing, liv - ing bread.

English Frederick Schlagenhaft and Terry MacArthur © 2009 Lutheran World Federation.

## Great Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

*Pastor* The Lord be with you. *People* **And al - so with you.**

*Pastor* Lift up your hearts. *People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Preface

In the morning light,

*you, our Creator.*

In each breath,

*you, our Spirit.*

In the breaking of bonds, the walking free,

*you, our Deliverer.*

In the hearing of your word,

*you, our Way.*

In the eating and drinking,

which transforms us into the body of your beloved Jesus Christ,

*you our Bread, you our Wine.*

In the community of your people

embracing those of every time and place,

giving you thanks and praise,

*you our Song.*

## Sanctus

## You are holy

## E-1

*Samba*  $\text{♩} = 88$  Per Harling: Sweden

*Part 1*

Dm Gm C<sup>7</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup>

Du är he - lig, Du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer,  
 You are ho - ly. You are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

B<sup>b</sup> Gm A(sus<sup>4</sup>) A<sup>7</sup>

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, Du är nä - ra än-då.  
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Dm Gm C<sup>7</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup>

Väl - sig - nad va - re Du, som - kom - mer hit just nu,  
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

B<sup>b</sup> Gm A<sup>7</sup> Dm

väl - sig - nan - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

*Part 2*

Dm Gm C<sup>7</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

Du är he - lig, Du är hel - het, Du är när - het,  
 You are ho - ly. You are whole - ness. You are pre - sent,

Gm A(sus<sup>4</sup>) A<sup>7</sup> Dm

He - la kos - mos lo - var Dig! Ho - si - an - na!  
 let the cos - mos praise you, Lord! Sing Ho - san - na

Gm C<sup>7</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Gm A<sup>7</sup> Dm

Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
 in the high - est. Sing Ho - san - na. Sing Ho - san - na to God.

Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden.

*First time unison. Second time women start at the beginning while the men start at Part 2.*

## Eucharistic Prayer

## Words of Institution

Remembering

. . . We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer *in our many languages*

**A-3**

*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 power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.*

Matti Rantatalo: Finland

$\text{♩} = 120$

Gm Dm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D Cm<sup>7</sup> Dm E<sup>b</sup>

Oi, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, jo - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man  
 O, Lamb of God, given for us, all the sin of the world you are

F/A F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> F/A Gm<sup>7</sup> F

syn - nin, ar - mah - da mei - tä, ar - mah - da mei - tä.  
 bear - ing. Grant us your mer - cy, grant us your mer - cy.

Gm Dm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D

Oi Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat  
 O, Lamb of God, given for us, all the sin of the

Cm<sup>7</sup> Dm E<sup>b</sup> F/A F/B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

maa il - man syn - nin, an - na meil - le  
 world you are bear - ing. Peace, we ask you,

B<sup>b</sup>/D Cm F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

rau - ha - si ja siu - na - uk - se - si.  
 peace and jus - tice. Grant us your own true peace.

© 1992 Matti Rantatalo, Rautkallionkatu 12 A 14, FI-01360 Vantaa, Finland. English Terry MacArthur.

## Communion

*All are welcome for communion. Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread. Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice. Place the used cup on the next tray.*

Songs during Communion

**Eat this bread, drink this cup**

**F-1**

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

Musical score for 'Eat this bread, drink this cup'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.' and 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.'

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

**Jesu, tawapano**

**F-9**

Patrick Matsikenyeri: Zimbabwe

Musical score for 'Jesu, tawapano'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has four sharps (F#, C#, G#, D#) and the time signature is 4/4. A tempo marking '♩ = 96' is present. The lyrics are: 'Je - su ta - wa - pa - no. Je - su ta - wa - pa - no. Je - sus, we are here; Je - sus, we are here;' and 'Je - su ta - wa - pa - no; ta - wa pa - no, mu zi - ta re - nyu. Je - sus, we are here; we are here for you.'

© 1990, 1996 GBGMusik, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.

# Lo, I am with you

F-42

Iona Community: Scotland

Dm A Bb7 Am7 Dm(sus4) Dm

1. Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

Dm Am Dm6 Am E A Dm Am

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world. Lo, I am with you.

Cm Gm Dm A Gm Am Dm

Lo, I am with you. Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.

© 1985 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Pearce Institute, 840 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland.

2. Lo, I am with you when you leave self behind.
3. Lo, I am with you in the struggle for peace...
4. Lo, I am with you when you suffer for love...
5. Lo, I am with you in the way of the cross...
6. Lo, I am with you to the end of the world...

# Hallelujah! We sing your praises

F-17

*♩ = 116*      *Refrain*      South Africa

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,  
2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

*D.C.*

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful Gos - pel.

© 1984 Utryck, Sweden.

Sending Forth

Benediction


## Introduction of Visitors and Announcements (*sit*)


### Dismissal


Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

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## Harvest Festival – Today!

All are welcome to this year's Harvest Festival, taking place after today's worship service. We'll begin by sharing a potluck meal and will quickly move into a raffle (tombola), using the many gifts provided by the community.

### ***Raffle Tickets:***

Raffle tickets can be purchased today by cash, TWINT, or a commitment to pay by bank transfer.

### ***This year's projects:***

All proceeds from the Harvest Festival will support two wonderful projects:

#### **Safe Spaces for Women and Girls in Tigray, Ethiopia**

The Tigray War (2020-2022) led to a humanitarian crisis in the region, including famine, economic hardship, and widespread gender-based violence. The Lutheran World Federation has been providing assistance for several years. Our support will particularly help with the operation of safe spaces for women and girls, offering support, case management, education, training, and referral services. The project aims to help create empowered, resilient, and self-reliant communities where women and girls live free from any form of violence.

## **AGORA**

AGORA (*Aumônerie Genevoise Oecuménique auprès des Requérants d'Asile et des Réfugiés*) was created in 1988 by three Christian denominations in the city of Geneva (Reformed, Roman Catholic, and Old Catholic) to serve as a local outreach to refugees and asylum seekers. Through various activities (French classes, computer training, meals, sports, cultural activities, outings, etc), AGORA offers support and accompaniment. Among other services, they provide:

- a consistent presence at both the airport and detention sites
- accompaniment, listening, and support, respecting religious diversity
- connections to legal experts
- a place of peace and spiritual refuge in the airport's meditation room
- emotional and spiritual support, including reading of sacred texts when requested, shared prayer, or simply companionship in moments of distress.

*Join in the fun, and help support these wonderful projects!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Meet Our Newest Members**

Please join in welcoming the many new members joining our community today!

*The Avafia Family (Kim, Tenu, Mia & Sadie)* – We moved to Geneva in 2022 from Zimbabwe, after spending 12 years living in New York. Kim is originally from South Africa, and Tenu from Namibia. We have been members of the Lutheran Church since 2011. Our daughters, Mia (13) and Sadie (11), love playing netball and making the most of school holidays, especially enjoying all the rides at Luna Park. We discovered this church in 2024 and are so happy to now be part of the community.

*Antoinette Djamen* – I was born in Africa, with my roots in Cameroon, and spent my early childhood there before my family relocated to Geneva. My father worked with the World Health Organization, and my mother with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which gave our family a strong connection to service and international community life. I grew up and received my education in Geneva, where I later built my own family. I am married to someone who also shares Cameroonian origins, and together we are blessed with three actually grown up sons. I have always found joy in simple and meaningful pursuits. I love cooking, caring for my home, singing, watching films, and reading—especially immersing myself in books whenever I can. Over the many years, I have also been deeply committed to working with

children and have participated in various humanitarian projects, which have been very close to my heart. Since joining this congregation in September 2025, I truly feel that I have found a second family. It has been a place of warmth, faith, and belonging, and I am grateful to be part of this community and I know that I will have lots to learn.

***Katrin Hafstein*** – I am originally from Iceland and was brought up in the Lutheran tradition. I have been living in Geneva for the past 42 years, where I have built my life and feel deeply rooted. I have three daughters and one grandson, all of whom also live in Geneva, which is a great joy to me. I have a long-standing connection to this church, as one of my daughters was baptised here in 1994. It therefore feels particularly meaningful to join this congregation today. I look forward to being part of the community and to sharing in its spiritual and communal life.

***Anupama Hial*** – Rev. Dr. Anupama Hial is an ordained minister of the Lutheran Church in India and a respected voice in global theological discourse. Born and raised in India, she was baptized and nurtured in the Lutheran faith, eventually discerning a call to ordained ministry. Her theological journey has been shaped by a deep commitment to justice, contextual theology, and the transformative role of the Church in society. Dr. Hial pursued advanced theological education, earning her doctoral degree with a focus on areas that intersect faith, public life, and global concerns. Her work reflects a passion for engaging theology beyond ecclesial boundaries, bringing faith perspectives into dialogue with contemporary social, political, and ethical issues. She currently serves as Program Executive for Global Public Theology at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), based in Geneva. In this role, she facilitates global conversations on theology in the public sphere, working with churches, theologians, and ecumenical partners across diverse cultural and regional contexts. Her leadership contributes to strengthening the prophetic and public witness of the global Lutheran communion. Rev. Dr. Hial is deeply committed to the ecumenical movement and values the richness of the worldwide Church. She considers it a profound blessing to be part of the Lutheran community in Geneva, where she continues to engage in ministry, and international collaboration with the beauty of diversity. Her vocation is marked by a dedication to fostering inclusive theological dialogue, empowering marginalized voices, and articulating a faith that speaks meaningfully into the challenges of our time.

***Juneyoung (“June”) Lee*** – I feel deeply blessed to be part of this church. In this community, I have found a place of grounding and belonging, especially through the difficult season of losing my mother, who lived with me here in Geneva during the last ten years of her life. I am Korean, and I am also a mother and a wife in an international family. I first came to Switzerland as a student, and over the years Geneva has become the place where I grew into

adulthood and built my professional life, including through my work at the World Trade Organization. At the same time, I have a strong sense that God may lead me to different places around the world in order to fulfil His plans for my life. Wherever that journey may take me, I believe this church will always remain a spiritual home and a base camp for that calling. Thank you very much for your warm welcome.

***The Mwaipaja family (David, Sarah, Nuru, and Hannah)*** – We moved to Geneva last year from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, following Sarah's work posting. Back home, we were part of the Madale Lutheran Church, which was a meaningful part of our lives and community. Relocating came with many changes, especially with two young and energetic girls. We are deeply grateful to have found this wonderful congregation in Geneva. From the beginning, we were welcomed with warmth and kindness, and over time, we have truly found a sense of community here. Nuru and Hannah especially enjoy Sunday school, and as a family, Sunday service has become the highlight of our week! We feel thankful to be part of this church family.

***The Sørheim-Rensvik family (Josva, Petra, Hanne and Marita)*** – We are a Norwegian diplomat family of four. We are pleased to have landed in Geneva and this church last fall, and are planning to stay until the Summer of 2029. Hanne and Marita met during development studies in Oslo in 1996, later in Bristol in 1999, and got married 20 years ago. We have served three years in Lilongwe, Malawi (where Petra was born in 2008) and in the US, Washington DC (where Josva was born in 2011). But for the past 11 years, we have been rooted in Oslo, which is where our home is. Hanne works from Oslo part of the time, but Geneva is our base for now, and we are still exploring the everyday life of Geneva and our surroundings. We are grateful for this community, its warmth and ability to be relevant both to our faith and daily lives and to the greater context we live in.

### **Next Sunday, 3 May – Contemplative Worship at 17h30**

On the first Sunday of each month, our congregation worships at 17h30 instead of 11h00. This service will be simpler than what we normally have in the morning, quieter in mood, and with intentional moments for silence. We will try to slow down and reflect rather than just react. Because of its simplicity, this would be a good moment to invite friends or neighbors, who might not be used to church, but who might appreciate such a service. Welcome others into a communion restful, absorbing, refreshing.

### **African & Caribbean Fundraising dinner – Saturday, 30 May 2026**

The dinner will start at 18h on 30 May (Saturday). Tickets (75 CHF) are now available on the Event Frog platform online—scan the QR code. Please remember that this event is an opportunity to present our church to the public for them to get to know and support us. So, spread the word, and invite friends! The warmth, colours, tastes, sounds and rhythms of Africa & the Caribbean will be on full display. Come and enjoy tasty food, music and dance in our welcoming & loving community.



### **Can You Host a Visiting University Student from 28 to 31 May?**

From 28 to 31 May, a group of eleven university students from College Park, Maryland in the U.S. will be visiting Geneva. They are part of the Lutheran campus ministry at the University of Maryland and will be spending some days in Geneva for meetings with ecumenical and humanitarian organizations before going to Taizé for a week. We have been asked to help house the students for their three nights here. Housing a student would mean giving him/her a place to sleep, and possibly sharing dinner with him/her. Can you host one or more students? Contact the church office or sign up on the sheet this morning.

### **Nominating Committee**

Following the announcement last Sunday, the nominating committee now has sufficient names to proceed with its task of establishing a proposed slate of Congregation Council members for the assembly on 31 May. If, however, you would still like to share a member's name with the nominating committee for consideration, you may do so until 28 April. Names can be sent to any member of the committee: Maureen Gumbe, Nina Kiderlin, or Maarten Wilbers. Kindly note that, as mentioned, the group will need to take account of multiple considerations, and may, therefore, not be able to include every suggested candidate in the final proposal.

### **Women's Circle**

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 22 August**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, or the office for more information.

### **Young Adults' Group**

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday

and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

**Prayer Group**

Our congregation's prayer group meets monthly to pray for the needs of our community and our world. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, from 19h until 20h, and are generally hybrid, with the possibility of joining either in person at church or online via Zoom. Please contact Kiki Lawal to receive the Zoom link or if you have or prayer requests you'd like to share: kiki.lawal@gmail.com.

**Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

3 May – Group B

10 May – Group C

17 May – Group D

24 May – Group E

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,  
please let your group's coordinator know*

cover image:

*LWF Safe Space, Tigray, Ethiopia, © Lutheran World Federation*

**Upcoming Events:**

|                      |              |  |
|----------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Tues, 28 Apr</b>  | <b>19h00</b> | Congregation Council meeting   |
| <b>Thurs, 30 Apr</b> | <b>19h30</b> | Choir rehearsal  |
| <b>Sat, 2 May</b>    | <b>18h00</b> | Young adults   |
| <b>Sun, 3 May</b>    | <b>17h30</b> | Worship, Rev. Terry MacArthur preaching,<br>Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt presiding |

*Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30*

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. Thank you for your support! There are three ways you can donate today:

**By bank transfer:** Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève  
CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance  
CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

**By cash:** Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

**By U.S. dollar check:** Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

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**If you are a guest in our congregation today,** *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

| <b>ELCG Connection Card</b> |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Name                        | _____      |
| Phone                       | _____      |
| Email                       | _____      |
| Comments                    | _____      |
| New to Geneva? Y/N          | Date _____ |