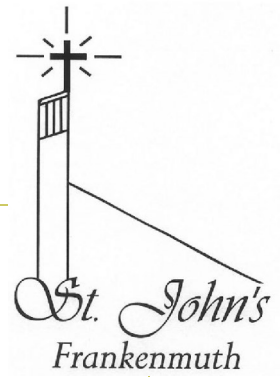


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2021

"Please Be seated."

Hear those words in a restaurant, and you know you're about to be served. Hear them in church, you're probably about to sing or hear a sermon. Hear them at the Secretary of State office, and you know you'll have a wait a little.

Pray those words, and know Christ is always there for you. Forty days after Jesus rose from the grave, he ascended (went up) into heaven. The ascension is recorded in Acts 1. The Bible also says, "[God] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion," (Ephesians 1:20, 21). We summarize the chronology after Jesus' resurrection by saying in the Apostles' Creed that he "ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty."

The ascension might seem like a sad event. Jesus is leaving, right? Is he abandoning us? How will our faith be strengthened if we can't see him anymore?

The truth is actually the opposite of those initial worries. Jesus as-

cending to sit at his Father's right hand doesn't mean he's leaving us for a place far away. Jesus' seat at the Father's right hand is a position of authority, not a limited, physical place out in the galaxies somewhere. Jesus fully exercises his power as the eternal Son of God the Father, the same way your "right hand man" shares your authority, the same way Queen Elizabeth II "sits" on the British throne, even when she's traveling the world, exercising her royal power. Because he has all the power of God, Jesus can be in all places at all times and keep his promise, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). He is there to protect you from physical danger and bless your everyday work. He is there to see your hidden and secret sins, but through his word he is present to forgive them, wash them away with his blood and lift you up from despair and sadness. He's there to comfort you and help you. His power enables him to be truly present in the Sacrament of Communion on thousands of altars and on millions of lips - nothing limits his presence of grace where his word promises he will be. (cont. on page 2)

Worship Service

Sunday at 10 a.m.

Bible Class

Sunday 9 a.m.

Sunday School

Sunday 9 a.m.

Service Broadcast

♦ **Sunday 8 a.m.**
Radio WKCC
98.1 FM

♦ **Monday 7 p.m.**
Charter Cable
TV channel 191

Office Hours :
Monday-Friday
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Office Phone:
(989) 652-6201

Pastor
Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9162

"Please Be Seated" (cont. From page 1)

Such blessings should make us excited to see Jesus ascend and be seated in glory. In these weeks between Easter and Ascension, we should relish his appearances to the disciples and others, enjoy the relief that Jesus accomplished our salvation and opened heaven, and we should pray, "Please, Lord Jesus, be seated. Be seated at your Father's right hand so I can know you are always with me. Be seated with authority over all

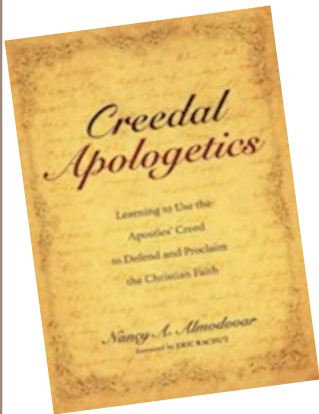
other powers so I can know nothing will separate me from your love. Be seated in glory, O risen head, so I, your member, may also wear a crown in your kingdom. Amen."

Finally, you are invited to please be seated in church on May 13, 6:30 PM, as we celebrate Christ our King on Ascension Day.

~ Pastor Patrick Ernst

May's book recommendation: Creedal Apologetics by Nancy Almodovar

By Jeremy Aiello



The Apostles' Creed was used in two distinct ways by the early Christian church: first, as a tool to teach new disciples the essentials of the faith, and second, as a defense for the faith from unbelievers and skeptics alike. In the world today, many are engaged in apologetics but with their

presuppositions and subjective reasoning, they offer the world nothing different than their own subjective beliefs. Using the Apostles' Creed as a guide enables the Christian to give a hope for the faith within using objective truths based on eyewitness testimony.

This book teaches you how to use the Creed to stay on topic and bring out the essentials of the faith in a concise and graceful manner. Dr. Almodovar gives a rubber-hits-the-road approach to apologetics, offering various scenarios to show how Creedal apologetics is accomplished. This simple tool (the Apostles' Creed), once used for defense, is dusted off, polished up, and sharpened so that today's Christians can defend and proclaim the great gospel of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need of the forgiveness of sins and new life in his name.

You can purchase this book through the Wipf and Stock website (wipfandstock.com) or by contacting Jeremy Aiello

Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you

I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone~ for kings and all those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

May God's comfort surround the family and friends of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and give them peace in knowing that their loved ones have found eternal peace.

The following Memorials were made in honor of James Williams, Frank Lake, Charles Zehnder and Hans Meier:

General Fund: \$70.00

Jammer Scholarship: \$50.00

Missions: \$40.00

CONFESSIONS CORNER

Catechisms Introduction

Luther wrote the Small and Large Catechisms in 1529 after realizing how poorly educated people were in the teachings of Christianity. The word “catechism” comes from a Greek word that means “teaching someone through spoken instruction.” Though the catechisms are written down, you can see in their question/answer format that they are a script for instruction and review through dialogue about the most important parts of the faith. Remember, Luther’s catechisms have six main parts: Ten Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s

Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. For each installment, the Small Catechism will be quoted in full and the Large Catechism in excerpt.

In a time when fewer and fewer people are familiar with the Bible and its teachings, the catechisms are as useful as ever for teaching all ages about God’s Word.

The woodcuts are from an edition of Luther’s Small Catechism published in 1558.



Small Catechism

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Large Catechism

The purpose of this commandment is to require true faith and trust of the heart, which settles upon the only true God and clings to him alone. It is like saying,

“See to it that you let me alone be your God, and never seek another.”

In other words, “Whatever you lack of good things, expect it from me. Look to me for it. And whenever you suffer misfortune and distress,

First Commandment



WORSHIP OF THE GOLDEN CALF
(EXODUS 32)

crawl and cling to me. I, yes, I, will give you enough and help you out of every need. Only do not let your heart cleave to or rest on any other.”

The Beauty of Our Church Series

St. John's glorious stained glass windows

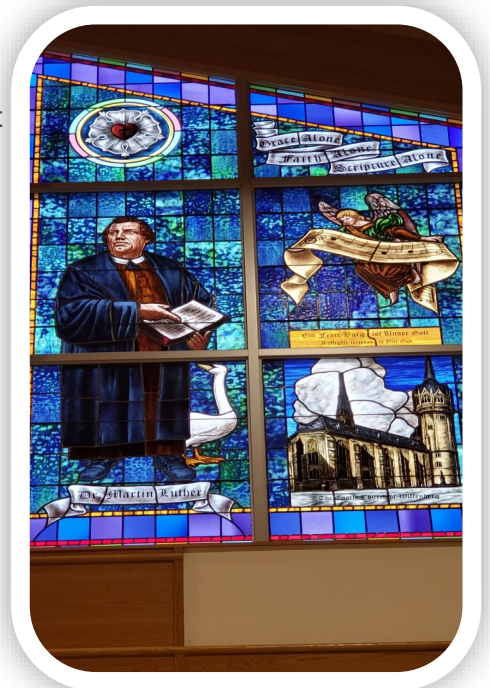


Unfortunately many of us do not see these beautiful art pieces up close and personal unless you take a hike up to our church balcony. How appropriately chosen for the stained glass windows upstairs. Each window depicts angels holding music notes ~ *A Mighty fortress is our God, God's Word is Our Great Heritage*, and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. A banner with Psalm 1:47 ~ *Praise the Lord... Sing praises to our God*. Also on the glass are three prominent men ~ Dr. Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach and Fritz Reuter.

Johann Sebastian Bach Johann Sebastian Bach, a Lutheran composer, and actually considered by many musicians to be the greatest musician ever. He wrote a lot of general classical music, but his contributions to church music are immense. He wrote many works for organ based on Lutheran hymns and for use in church services, and he wrote what are called "church cantatas," musical pieces with several parts, al-

most always incorporating Lutheran hymns, that would fit certain Sundays in the church year.

Friedrich Otto (Fritz) Reuter, a famous German composer, musicologist, church musician and teacher, took courses offered in the music department of the Waldenburg Seminary and also studied under well-known teachers. In 1908 he accepted a call from the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin and Other States to serve as teacher of music at the Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota. Besides teaching music, Friedrich Otto Reuter composed music for choirs and organ. Much of his work was left in manuscript.



HANDBELLS TO BE REFURBISHED!



St. John's handbells are 44 years old, and in need of a make-over! A complete refurbishment for all 3 octaves will cost \$4,100.00 and includes shipping costs to and from Schulmerichs Bells (where purchased in 1977), cost to replace pads and castings, all missing and/or broken pieces, and cleaning/polishing. To help with the cost of this special project, St Johns will set up a "Bring Back the Bells" fund. You can help by either marking "Other" on your envelope and state "handbells", or dropping off your donation in the office.



The New Song

*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
(Psalm 98.1)*

This is a song about the new kingdom, new creatures, new men, born not of the law or of works but of God and the Spirit, who themselves are miracles and who work miracles in Jesus Christ our Lord.

And because the Holy Spirit commands us all to sing, it is certain that he also commands us to believe in the miracles that have been done and proclaimed for our sake. Therefore doubt and unbelief are here condemned, when to say, "How can I be sure that God, by his authority or his arm (that is, through his Son), has done such victories and miracles for my sake?" "Listen," says the Spirit, "for you, for you, for you it was done. You, you, you should sing and give thanks and be happy. This is my wish and will." Sayings from the Old Testament.

WA 48:56

Have you ever read the words of liturgical music prior to singing it? One of our members says this helps her to understand the meaning of the song beforehand. The selection of music is often a reflection of the upcoming sermon. Actually the words to the song will read like a book and while reflecting on them without the instruments really can help understand the music more. Give it a try sometimes and see if it helps you tie the music and song into the liturgy.

After hearing this, I tried it and found that often with a familiar song I unintentionally, or out of

habit, incorporated the sound of the music, whether the organ, piano or violin, with the words.

Take time and read the music before service. Reflect and see if it has a different impact for you. Enjoy!



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

BAPTISM
BIBLE
CHRIST
CREATION
EARTH
FOREVER
GARDEN OF EDEN
GENESIS
GLORY
GOD

GOOD NEWS
HEAVEN
HOLY
ISRAEL
JERUSALEM
KINGDOM
LIFE
MARY
MESSAGE
MOSES

NAZARETH
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
REVELATION
SALVATION
SAVIOUR
SIN
SPIRIT
TEMPTATION
WATER

BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

29 Instructors (8)

1 An ancient weight (6)

30 Hastily (6)

4 Seemed (8)

Down

10 New Testament book (9)

1 Skilled animal workers (8)

11 Unit of length (5)

2 Inspiring (9)

12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)

3 Compass point (4)

13 Contemplation (10)

5 Intense emotion (7)

15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)

6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)

16 A son of King David (6)

7 Jewish leader (5)

19 Concurred (6)

8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)

21 Light sources (7)

23 Propitiations (10)

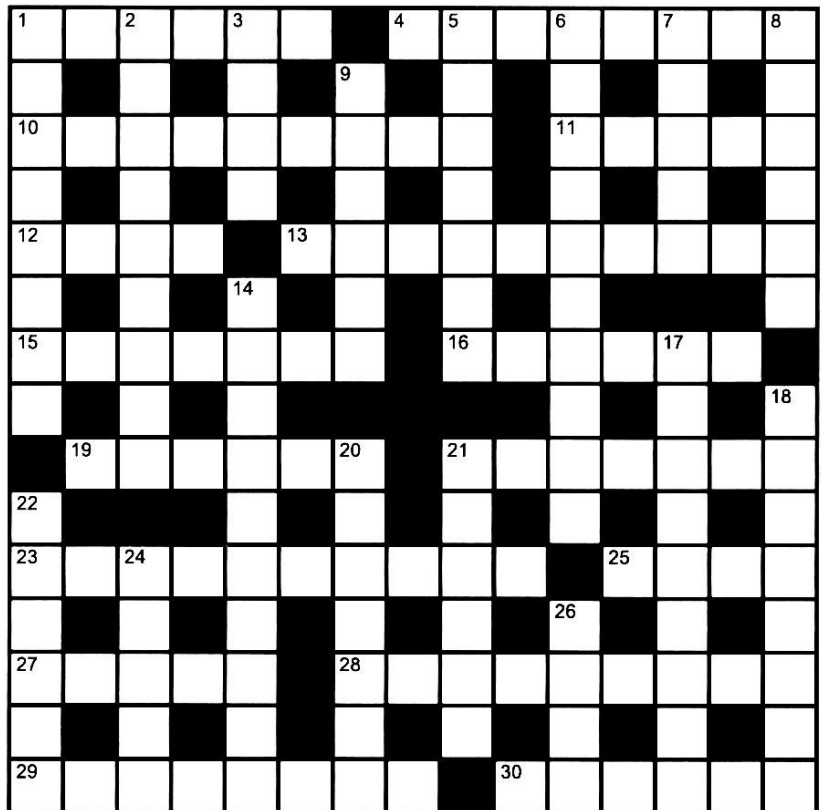
9 Bread makers (6)

25 A false god (4)

27 Gather (5)

28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)

14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)



17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)

22 Jesus did this with authority (6)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

21 Tiny amount (6)