

THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2022

Coming or Going?

May always seems like a month of transition. The barely budding trees and flowers explode with blossoms and growth. Fields turn from winter brown to summer green. Students start to wrap up their school year so that by June there's little left to do. Those high-school and college seniors who are graduating have an especially important transition ahead. This May, they look back, hopefully with satisfaction and pride, at the classes they've finished. But in the next minute they're looking ahead at college or a job search. Someone could ask them, "Are you coming to an end or going to something new?" They'd have to answer, "Both." Yes, something important is coming to an end, but something new is about to start.

In the church year, May is a time of transition, too. The life changing events of Holy Week give way to a steady several weeks where the risen Jesus spends time with his disciples again. But change is still on the horizon. Jesus' appearances after his resurrection would come to an end. Forty days after Easter, Jesus returned to heaven. In the presence of his disciples, he ascended, went up, out of their sight.

Ascension is a follow-up to Easter; it's another festival of victory. Jesus, who crushed our enemies of death and hell on Easter, is getting inaugurated as the Savior King on Ascension.

But as the disciples were looking into the sky after Jesus left, two angels appeared and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up

from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Jesus' earthly work of living perfectly, dying for our sins, and rising to overpower death was finished. He was going away from that role to exercise his full power once again. Yet Jesus' going is tied to his coming back.

I think of this whenever I look at our sculpture of Jesus in church. As we gather, we're in the presence of the risen Jesus as he ascends into heaven. This reminds us that right now, Christ is ruling over everything for our good. But the carving of Jesus could also be him coming back at the end of the world. Since Jesus ascended, everything's in place for him to return. If someone was looking at our wood carving of Christ, it would be a fair question: "Is Jesus coming or going?" And I think the best answer is, "Both." In this time between Jesus' first and second comings, we live under his ascension power yet in humble repentance, anticipating the moment, which could be any moment, when we see him returning just as he went.

Transitions from one phase of life to another can be hard, but they can also be refreshing. After a long winter, spring and summer are a welcome change. In our lives, Jesus' powerful forgiveness is a refreshing transition from burdens in the past to freedom in the future, from old ways to new ones, and from uncertainty about where we're going to confidence and longing as we see the last day coming close.

~ *Pastor Patrick Ernst*

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

Church Office

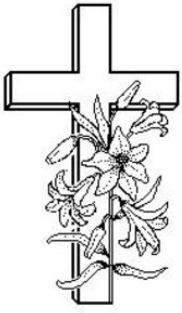
Hours :

Monday—Friday
10 a.m.—4:30p.m.

Office Phone:
(989) 652-6201

Pastor

Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9152



“The great days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic obligation to ‘party on,’ even if we don’t feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply ‘the weather of the heart,’ to awaken our memory of God’s presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation.”

Continuing with Pastor’s reflection on Coming or Going, not only do we reflect on the forgiveness of our sins and the beauty Jesus has internally given to us, but May is the time to prepare for external beauty that surrounds us as we prepare for a beautiful Spring and Summer. Seasons that are much welcomed by all!

Spring cleaning—a tradition for many, a time to clean out and refresh our homes. Consider giving away no longer needed clothing or items within the home to a donation center. A treasure found in a Goodwill, Salvation Army or thrift store gives another person a new feeling of enjoyment.

Planting flowers—we plant flowers so to enjoy the beauty and scents. It provides our yards or patios with new growth and fertility. We see peace and a sense of joy watching them bloom.

Sowing seeds—Planting to give back to others, whether only to family or to communities provides farmers with joy and a sense of belonging and hope to others to feed family, friends and the homeless.

Physical activity—Enjoying a walk, jog, bike ride or swim gives us a sense of renewal and faith for our bodies and minds. So many of us look forward to the first warmth to get outside and breathe in the precious upcoming seasons given to us.



Summertime!

Summer time is often the only time many families can come together. With busy lives of work and school, families often set aside time in the summer to travel to see parents, grandparents, extended family and friends. Generally throughout our great United States, this is a time for perfect weather, no need to worry about driving through snow or snow delays for flights. Gathering around pools, backyards, campfires, parks or just relaxing at home provides us with a sense of renewal and a time to take a look around and enjoy the treasures God gives to us.



What are your plans for Spring / Summer 2022? Take time to reflect and refresh your mind, body and soul. Give to others. Don’t take for granted the goodness of God. Enjoy the seasons. Amen!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

My favorite memory of Summer?

Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

Small Catechism

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Large Catechism

To this article I cannot give a better title than "Being Made Holy." In it are expressed and portrayed the Holy Spirit and his office, which is that he makes us holy.

Many other kinds of spirits are mentioned in Scripture, such as the human spirit, heavenly spirits, and the evil spirit. But God's Spirit alone is called a Holy Spirit, that is, the one who has made us holy and still makes us holy. As the Father is called a Creator and the Son is called a Redeemer, so on account of his work the Holy Spirit must be called a Sanctifier, or one who makes us holy.

How does such sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, resurrection, etc., so

Confessions Corner

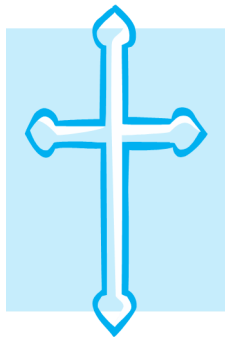
the Holy Spirit effects our being made holy through the following: the community of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. That is, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us in the church's lap, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ. Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe in him and receive him as Lord, unless these were offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through the preaching of the gospel by the Holy Spirit.

This, then, is the article that must always remain in force. For creation is now behind us, and redemption has taken place, but the Holy Spirit continues his work without ceasing until the Last Day, and for this purpose he has appointed a community on earth, through which he speaks and does all his work. For he has not yet gathered together all of this Christian community, nor has he completed the granting of forgiveness. Therefore we believe in him who daily brings us into this community through the Word, and imparts, increases, and strengthens faith through the same Word and the forgiveness of sins. Then when his work has been finished and we abide in it, having died to the world and all misfortune, he will finally make us perfectly and eternally holy.



PENTECOST
(ACTS 2)

Thoughts and Prayers



The family and friends of Gary Carpenter, Richard Hunt, John Krumnauer and Donna Reinert who have fallen asleep in Jesus, have given memorials in their memory. May God's comfort surround them and give them peace

in knowing that their loved one has found eternal peace. Also, birthday gifts in honor of Rev. Joel Ehlert, Judy Hiles & Herb Zeilinger.

April Memorials:

General Fund	\$120.00
St. John's Scholarship	\$100.00
Jammer Scholarship	\$ 50.00
Altar Guild	\$ 30.00
Media Ministry	\$200.00



PEACE

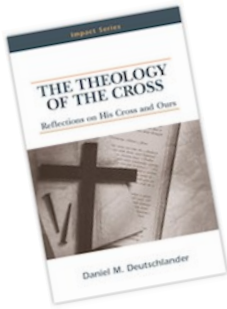
Lord,

We thank you that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In [John 16:33](#) you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation.

As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved.

We Pray for the People of Ukraine

God, we pray fervently for the people of Ukraine. The situation they now face is not a new one. The name Ukraine translates to "borderland," and this nation has been viewed for centuries as just that - a bordering land waiting to be conquered. This nation and its people have seen struggles with Russia for a century, and over 13,000 have already died in the small-scale war that has been raging in the southwestern area of Ukraine since 2014. They are a resilient people who live in a volatile area of the world that has seen regular war and upheaval. Yet Jesus walked the earth in a similar part of the world, plagued by oppression and a ruthless empire. Your word promises in [Isaiah 26:3](#) that, "you keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." We ask that the people of Ukraine may be safe, secure, and that they would know not only peace of earth but your true and unwavering peace.



May's book recommendation by Jeremy Aiello:

The Impact Series: From Northwestern Publishing House
Here We Stand: A Confessional Christian Study of Worldviews

Written by expert pastors and theologians, this series provides a greater understanding of our present-day church and faith. Addressing a wide variety of important doctrinal and cultural questions, this series offers both clarity on difficult issues and practical applications for your spiritual life.

The Theology of The Cross is a book on Christian doctrine that reminds us that all biblical doctrine relates to Scripture's central teaching that God sent his Son to save lost sinners. The Old and New Testaments make it clear that our salvation is found in the cross of Christ. However, there is a paradox between the theology of the cross and the theology of glory. Sinful people tend to overlook the cross and its demands and, instead, focus on the glory that they think they should enjoy because they call themselves Christians. This is a matter of urgent concern. The author helps us see Christ's cross as our cross. He reminds us that our good works have no value for our salvation. Yet good works are valuable as fruits of faith done out of gratitude to God for his gift of salvation.

These books can be ordered at online.nph.net or you can see Jeremy Aiello for purchasing a copy.

Confirmation Anniversaries Through the Years



The Archive display reflects Confirmation. This year we are honoring the class of 1922 - 100 years, 1947 - 75 years, 1972 - 50 years and 1997 - 25 years ago. As we look back may we also remember our confirmation and its significance of our lives. The Archives is privileged to have a confirmation certificate of Margarethe Anna Sophia Katy Cares, daughter of Pastor Cares confirmed in 1922. Displayed on the shelves in the gathering space are other Confirmation Certificates - Elizabeth Mueller and Irene Zeilinger, both confirmed in 1935.

The oldest Confirmation Certificate is from 1901. It is in German of the confirmation of Wilhelm Johann Frederick Zietz; born 20 November 1888, Confirmed 10 Marz, 1901 by Pastor J. Zink at St. Johannes Kirche zu Frankenmuth. This is a digital image received from the Historical Museum of Frankenmuth.

Over the years the certificates have changed, however the church continues to use a cast iron embosser with the seal reading ~ Ev. Luth St. Johannes Gemeinde Frankenmuth Mich. In the center of the seal is a cross and below it is 1 Tim. 1.15 (Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst NIV). The earliest use we know of is 1922.

The Archives would like to ask if you had a Confirmation Certificate from St. John's you would like to share with the Archives. We could scan the certificate or if you would like to donate, please contact a member of the Archives or the church office. The Archives continues to collect and preserve the history of St. John's Lutheran Church.



LIGHT OF THE WORLD WORD SEARCH

H	A	I	S	S	E	M	K	S	A	V	I	O	R	D
L	H	S	V	I	O	A	V	Z	X	F	V	M	E	F
O	M	U	H	U	N	K	H	R	G	O	J	I	T	V
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V	H	U	T	U	O	N	O	G	T	U	N	K	H	F
E	W	X	L	L	C	N	A	Z	A	R	E	N	E	N

COMFORTING

JUDGE

MESSIAH

PRAISED

SON OF GOD

GLORIFIED

LOVING

NAZARENE

SACRED

TEACHER

HEALER

MERCIFUL

PERFECT

SAVIOR

THE WORD

Color Fun



word scramble
ISAIAH 49:24-25

1. LNDERCHI
2. HAIST
3. LHSAL
4. UHTS
5. LFAULW
6. RLIBREET
7. CAITPEV
8. AKNET
9. WTIH
10. RYEP
11. DORL
12. AWYA
13. HTEE
14. TNODNCE
15. EAVS
16. UBT
17. VEEN
18. IHYGMT
19. ELDVRDEEI
20. FRMO

[illegible]