Divine Service

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER





May 17, 2020 + Sunday, 10:00 A.M.



Welcome! Please fill out the Record of Fellowship, which is the red book at the end of your pew.

PRELUDE

Christ Lag in Todesbanden

Johann Sebastian Bach

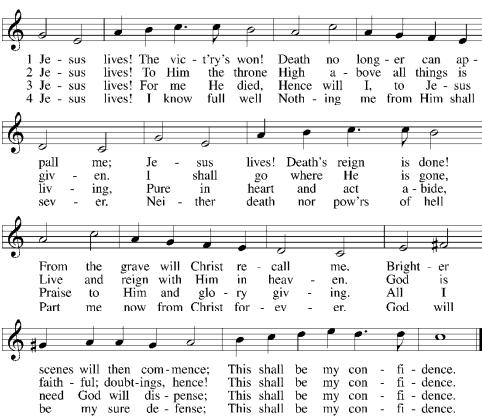
WELCOME

Processional Hymn

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 490

"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"



5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

PAGE 3

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen. Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]
- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Please remain standing as a symbol of our Lord's resurrection.

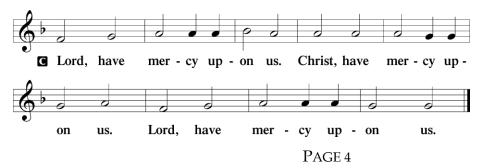
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ⅓ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

 [John 20:19-23]
- C Amen.

Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47



THIS IS THE FEAST



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

2 Timothy 4:22



- **P** Let us pray.
 - O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sitting

FIRST READING Acts 17:16-31

A The First Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is from Acts, chapter 17.

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this

inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for

"'In him we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your own poets have said,

"'For we are indeed his offspring.'

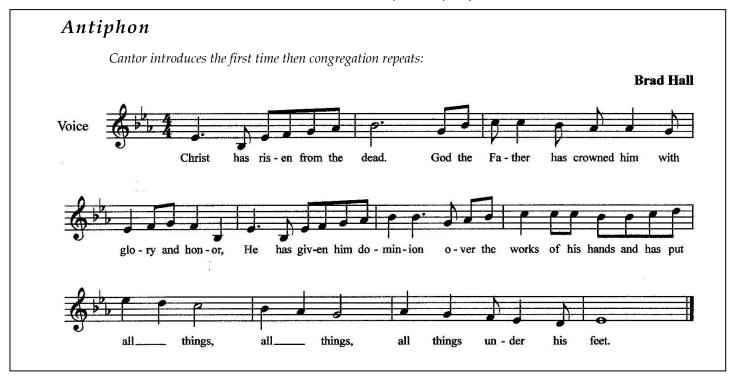
²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

- The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will
- judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

GRADUAL

Psalm 66:8-20; antiphon adapted from Matthew 28: 7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6





- Bless our God, O | peoples;*
 let the sound of his | praise be heard,
- who has kept our soul among the | living* and has not let our | feet slip.
- For you, O God, have | tested us;* you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.
- You brought us in- | to the net;*
 you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;



- you let men ride o- | ver our heads;*
 we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out
 to a place of a- | bundance.
- I will come into your house with burnt | offerings;*
 I will perform my | vows to you,
- that which my lips | uttered* and my mouth promised when I was in | trouble.
- I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;*

 I will make an offering of | bulls and goats.
- Come and hear, all you who | fear God,* and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.
- I cried to him | with my mouth,*
 and high praise was | on my tongue.
- If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,* the Lord would not have | listened.
- But truly God has | listened;*
 he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.
- Blessèd | be God,*
 because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast | love from me!
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- **C** Antiphon

EPISTLE 1 Peter 3:13-22

A The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter three.

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that

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

Standing

he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL John 14:15-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



[Jesus said:] ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

APOSTLES' CREED [Matthew 10:32]

- God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

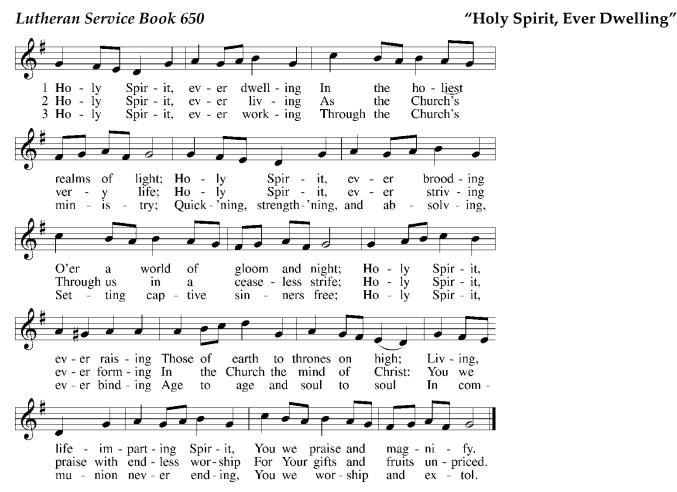
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life

→ everlasting. Amen.

- **P** What is the Third Commandment?
- Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.
- **P** What does this mean?
- We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
- P How do we despise preaching and the Word of God?
- We despise preaching and the Word of God when we do not attend public worship; when we do not use the Word of God and the Sacraments; and when we use the Word of God and the Sacraments negligently or carelessly.
- P How do we hold preaching and the Word of God sacred?
- We hold preaching and the Word of God sacred when we gladly hear it, learn it, and meditate on it; and honor and support the preaching and teaching of God's Word with our gifts.

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY



Public domain

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY Psalm 51:10–12



Sitting

OFFERING

Music

Aria in F Georg F. Handel

MEDITATION

John 14:15 – "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well, "She was forgiven much, so she loved much" (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins – and this causes love to well up in us, which in turn causes us to keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is "Love."

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

- For the faithful proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him, that through hearing the Word of the Lord many may be brought to faith and to the knowledge of the truth, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the Church of God here and everywhere, that all who confess Jesus Christ may be united in doctrine and witness, defended against all the assaults of the enemy, and eager to gather together around Your Word and Sacrament in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this congregation, for the work of the Kingdom in our community, and for the resources to accomplish all that God desires, that His name may be glorified among us and His purpose fulfilled in our words and works, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the agencies and institutions through which we love our neighbor and provide for those in need, for the destitute and homeless, and for everyone who suffers unemployment and underemployment, that we may aid them in their needs and assist them to find honorable labor to supply all their needs, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the lonely who suffer the burdens of life without friendship or family, for those depressed or weary of pandemic measures, and for the fellowship of the Church, that we may bear one another's burdens and live in community with Christ as our head, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the sick and those who suffer, [especially _______,] that God would grant healing to their bodies, peace for their minds, and consolation in their grief and sorrows, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For love of godly things, that we may delight in God's Word and walk in His ways; and for the Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and kept from error and false doctrine, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the nation, for those who lead our nation, for the end of the pandemic, for peace among nations, and for an end to terror and violence, that we may work for the common good so that justice may prevail, life be protected and truth abound, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- O Lord, our God, as we recall the obedient life and life-giving death of Your Son for our salvation, we pray You to strengthen our faith and to make our hearts bold, that we may not fear but address our prayers to You in all humility. Hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, who even now stands before You on our behalf, pleading our cause with His own blood, until that day when we are delivered from the changes and chances of this mortal life and stand before You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- **P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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;

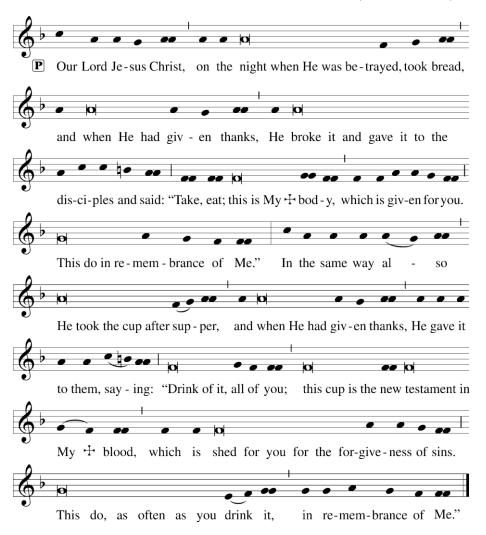
and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

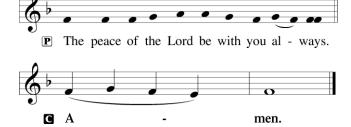
but deliver us from evil.

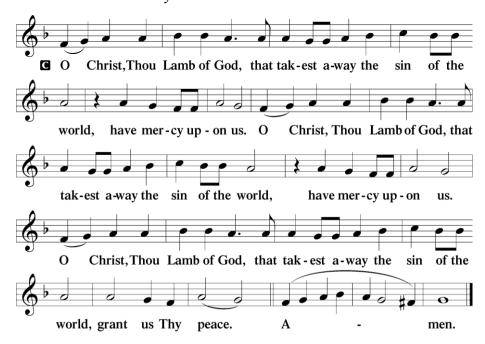
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



PAX DOMINI ~ The Peace of the Lord

John 20:19





Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 652

"Father, We Thank Thee"



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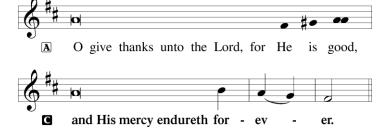
NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1

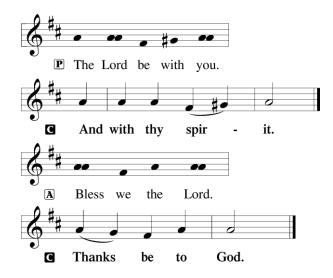


POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- **P** Let us pray.
 - O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

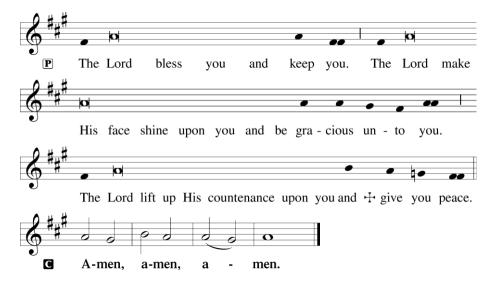
SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- **C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 924

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"



Public domain

POSTLUDE

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

Johann Walther

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book
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SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, Pastor

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder* Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, Director of Music

Altar Guild

Anne Bigelow

Usher(s)

Grayson Beckman/Greg Ison

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, Pastor

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder* Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, Director of Music

Altar Guild

Anne Bigelow/Lucie Woolery

Usher(s)

Brian Beckman/Isaac Beckman



Calendar		
Sunday 5/17	Sixth Sunday of Easter Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: Christ In the Old Testament Feasts Divine Service with Holy Communion Church Board Meeting	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 5/18	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM Closed
Tuesday 5/19	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 5/20	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel Divine Service with Holy Communion	7:00 AM - 6:30 PM 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM 10:00 AM Noon
Thursday 5/21	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 5/22	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 5/23	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Men's/Women's Group Bible Study	Closed Closed 9:30 – 11:00 AM
Sunday 5/24	The Ascension of Our Lord Nursery available LCA Ensemble Rehearsal Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: Christ In the Old Testament Feasts Divine Service with Holy Communion	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM

WORSHIPING OUR GOD

→ Midweek Divine Service

Theme: A midweek Divine Service will be available on Wednesdays during the month

of May. It is intended for those who wish to take part in a smaller group setting.

While abbreviated, it will still feature the liturgy of the common service,

hymnody, preaching, and Holy Communion.

Day & Time: Wednesdays in May at noon

Location: Church sanctuary

GROWING IN HIS WORD

→ Bible Study: Christ In the Old Testament Feasts

Theme: Ever heard of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, or Succoth? Did you ever wonder

if Chanukah (Hanukah) is biblical? Have you noticed that we still celebrate a few of them yet today in the Church? What, if anything, do they have to say about salvation in Jesus Christ? Why don't we still observe them as the Jews did? These are just a few of the questions that will be answered in this nine-part Bible study. Please join us for a deeper and richer understanding of the Bible.

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., from May 10 – July 5

Location: Church fellowship hall

+ Bible Study: Lutheranism 101

Theme: Originally scheduled for April and May, this study has been postponed due to

the governor's order to shelter-in-place. To ensure best attendance and

participation, we are rescheduling this special book study for the early fall. If you'd like your own copy of the book or need study questions, please contact

Pastor Miller at pastor@ascension-lcms.com.

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., beginning on a date yet to be determined in August

Location: Church fellowship hall

→ Men's Group: Bible Study

Theme: Calling all guys! You're invited to join the group for a gathering of fellowship,

prayer, study, and discussion. We will be wrapping up the last chapter of Jeffrey Hemmer's book *Man Up!* Also, we'll be gearing up for a brand new study of Kurt Senske's *The Calling: Living a Life of Significance*. Those new books

are available for purchase at only \$20/copy. Don't miss out!

Day & Time: Saturday, May 23 at 9:30 A.M.

Location: Church overflow room

→ Women's Group: Bible Study

Theme:

Come, delve into the great hymns of our church as they're informed by God's Word! The Ascension Women's Group is taking on a new hymn each month using the book *Praise and Honor: Hymn-Inspired Devotions* by Timothy Shoup. It's available for purchase on Amazon for \$13 or through Concordia Publishing House for \$18, and the book "features introductions to 14 hymns with devotions based on each stanza, helping readers learn the biblical basis of the words the authors chose."

If you've never joined this group for a book study before, now is a great time – since the ladies will be studying a different hymn each month, you're free to come when you can and not stress if you can't commit to every meeting. Childcare is provided!

Day & Time: Saturday, May 23 at 9:30 A.M.

Location: Church narthex

SERVING IN HIS NAME

+ 1-1-1 Mission Campaign

Theme:

For less than the price of one visit to Starbucks, you could contribute a month's worth of financial support toward our Lord's mission work in the English District. 1-1-1 is a new campaign to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone in the district can give toward the work of getting the Gospel out to those in our community. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, the English District is supporting Concordia Lutheran Mission in Myerstown, PA. But this money goes toward eight other startup congregations, including two Spanish-speaking churches and several college ministries. Please consider playing a part in the mission of our English District! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

In Celebration

Birthdays

→ Justin Ledford, 5/22

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

♣ Penny Durden, 5/22

Wedding Anniversaries

→ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

- Penny Durden, 5/22
- Clara Smith, 5/22

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

+ Syria

For comfort, health, and healing:

- + Jim Burroughs (brother of Jean Meyer's son-in-law)
- + Hunter Chase (brother of J.P. Morr's friend)
- + Terrie Dowling (aunt of Caitlin East)
- + Rev. David Heller (Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, GA)
- + Brandon Irwin (friend of Lauren Morr)
- + All impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19)

For the health and safety of our deployed servicemen and women:

+ Luke Voss (neighbor of the Schoellens)

Peace and comfort for the family and friends of:

+ Raynard Dailey (uncle of Nancy Grossberg)

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- + Hannibal (Hank) Durden
- + The Kroll family (friends of Ascension)
- → Willard Meyer (grandfather of J.P. Morr)
- + Tom & Adi Murphy (former neighbors of the Beckmans)
- + Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- + Director Barbara Collins & Open Arms Board
- + English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials
- + LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- + Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- + Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- + President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials



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