

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.com



May 2024

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Grace Family,

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!
ALLELUIA!**

As we find ourselves in the month of May, we also find ourselves still in Eastertide. The joyful celebration of the resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ, continues! Alleluia!

However, we also find ourselves rapidly approaching the Sunday of Pentecost. Pentecost is a Jewish Feast that began in the Old Testament period but was then called "The Feast of Weeks", or "The

Feast of Harvest." "Pentecost" comes from the "Greek" meaning "50 Days."

There were many festivals before Pentecost: Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Feast of Firstfruits to name a few. The "Feast of Firstfruits" was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. According to O.T. tradition you would start with the "Feast of Firstfruits" and count off 50 days, the 50th day would be the Day of Pentecost. "Firstfruits" would be the beginning of the barley harvest and "Pentecost" would be the beginning of the wheat harvest.

This reminds me of **1 Corinthians 15:20-28** where we find these words:

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

It is interesting that Christ is spoken of as ***"the firstfruits"*** of them that slept. Then, 50 days later, on Pentecost (Act Chapter 2), with the pouring out of the Holy Spirit we read of the harvesting of souls beginning with the proclamation of repentance, Baptism and forgiveness resulting in the "harvesting" of some 3,000 souls.

Acts 2:36-41:

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for

all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

This year, Pentecost is celebrated on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024**, observed on the seventh (a "Week of Weeks" [remember the "Festival of Weeks mentioned about]) Sunday (Seven weeks) after Easter.

In our day we are not celebrating a wheat harvest but rather the Holy Spirit calling, gathering, and enlightening the 3,000 believers on Pentecost. We also celebrate His calling, gathering, and enlightening the whole Christian Church on earth and keeping it in the one true faith.

THE HARVEST CONTINUES!

See you in the Divine Service,

In His Service and Yours
Pastor Schultz

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts, we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the

commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time, and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

From: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry

Church Words: Communion of Saints



Every Sunday, we confess that we believe in the “communion of saints.” This phrase is not about the Lord’s Supper (yes, I know we sometimes call it Holy Communion!) It refers to the fellowship between members of their *invisible church*, both in the paradise with the Lord and with us on earth.

Theologians call Christians who have died trusting in Jesus for their salvation the *Church Triumphant*. They have been cleansed of their sin. God has dried every tear in their eyes. They praise the Lamb of God night and day with great joy. In Jesus, they have conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil. On the last day, God will raise them from their graves and we will join them forever at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

The Christians in this world, who still fight every day with the Devil and his forces, the world, and its pressures to worship other gods and the old Adam, are called the *Church Militant*. The word is Latin for “to fight like a soldier.” When the Christian dies, he or she enters the Church Triumphant. William W. How describes the relationship between the two states of the church well in his beloved hymn, “For All the Saints:”

O blest communion, fellowship divine
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia! (LSB 677 Stanza four)

When a Christian dies and enters eternal life, they no longer are aware of this world. We do not pray for them, because they no longer need prayer. We do not pray to them, because they do not answer, nor is there anything they can do for us. We pray to the Father and the Son and sometimes the Holy Spirit. They are where help can be found.

But there is a time when we pray *with* them. When we gather for worship, we are not just praying with those in the room with us. We pray together with the whole church — both the Church Militant around the world of all nations, races, languages, and places, with Angels and Archangels, and the Church Triumphant, the whole company of heaven. The day will soon enough come — today, tomorrow, decades from now, or at the end of time — when we will worship in the presence of God as members of the Church Triumphant. For now, we join them every time we gather to praise God. It is why theologians often call Sunday the eighth day of the week. It is a time outside of time itself in eternity, when the clock stops for us until the pastor makes the sign of the cross at the end of worship and we realize about an hour has past in the world around us!

Rev. Robert E. Smith
Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Blog Post Series

©2019, 2021 Robert E. Smith. All rights reserved. Permission granted to copy, share and display freely for non-commercial purposes. Direct all other rights and permissions inquiries to cosmithb@gmail.com

Women’s Guild

Meeting called to Order 1:38PM
Attendees: S. Garrett, V. Garrett,
A. Garrett, T. Herman, R. Wegener,
N. Harris, S. Schultz, J. Bleser,
K. Quinly

Opening Prayer: Stephanie Garrett
Devotion by Stephanie Garrett,
Walking Into Grace by Darlene
Rayburn; Who you Know

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from
March were printed in April's
Newsletter (proofed by Barbara
Herring.)

Unfinished Business: Mite-Box,
ongoing. Cookbook, B. Herring
has completed the cookbook.
Members may either print it or
purchase a printed copy. Please
report to Barbara your choice.

Spring Outing, Thursday, May 2,
Keeter Center; departing at
9:30AM and carpooling.

New Altar Veil, B. Herring pur-
chased the veil and will bring to
the May 2nd outing to show and
discuss.

Birthday / Anniversary Cakes,
Stephanie reminded everyone that
the person who signs up for the
first Sunday of each month will be
providing the cake. *[next page]*

New Business:

Food Pantry, T. Herman moved that the WG donate towards the Eureka Springs Food Pantry for the 120 backpacks that are filled for low-income families every Friday. Sharon Shultz seconded. Motion carried.

Sheldon Knuth's Funeral Service, Luncheon sign-up sheet was passed around for the meal on April 20th at 2:00PM. Plans were

made to meet at the church at 1:00PM for preparations.

Fundraiser ideas: Discussed ideas for raising funds during the year. A spaghetti dinner will be a possibility. A Concession stand at a local event was also suggested.

Church Picnic, Scheduled for September 29th after church service. Holiday Island Pavilion was reserved from noon - 3:00PM. \$10 charge for grill use (propane tank.)

Games can be brought for enjoyment.

Other: Summer Luncheon is planned for June 18th. Location to be discussed. Eats and Sweets in Eureka Springs was suggested.

Closing Prayer: Stephanie Garrett.

Adjournment: 3:05PM

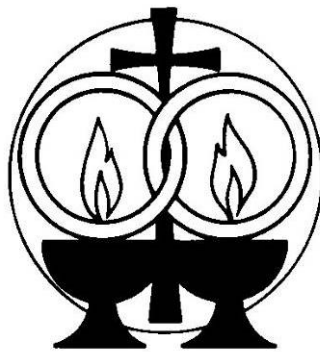
Respectfully submitted by
Terri Herman, Recording Secretary



May

Birthdays

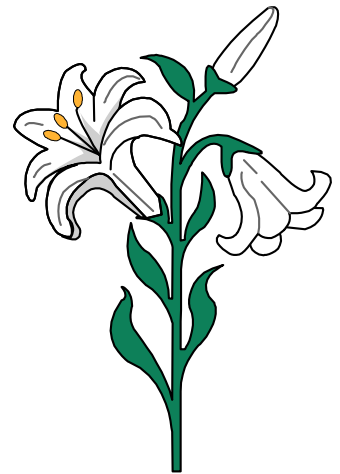
Robert Herring	6
Kathy Stephens	7
Jane Smith	13
Joshua Garrett	16



May

Anniversaries

Chris & Alejandra Hardgrove	17
Stephen & Jessie Goline	23



Bruce & Jane Bleser
 Joshya & Stephanie Garrett
 Ken & Bernie Haydon
 LaVern & Terri Herman
 Myles & Sharon Schultz
 Joe & Sherry Steichen
 Tony & Janice Willmuth

God is Love

All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that 'God is love'. But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two Persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love. Of course, what these people mean

when they say that God is love is often some- thing quite different: they really mean 'Love is God'. They really mean that our feelings of love, however and wherever they arise, and whatever results they produce, are to be treated with great respect. Perhaps they are: but that is something quite different from what Christians mean by the statement 'God is love'. They believe that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in

God forever and has created every- thing else.

And that, by the way, is perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions: that in Christianity God is not a static thing—not even a person—but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance. From: *Mere Christianity*