

MEET & GREET - June 1
CONFIRMATION - June 8
VOTERS' MEETING - June 8
FATHER'S DAY - June 15

June, 2025

Reflections

A PUBLICATION OF ASCENSION LUTHERAN



Regency for June

6/5 & 6/19

HHR

6/11 & 6/25



| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Larry Jeziorski | 06/04 | Kathy Linden | 06/17 |
| Dan Gehring | 06/05 | Ian Thies | 06/19 |
| Andy Hilst | 06/05 | Sharon Damron | 06/19 |
| Christian Reynolds | 06/05 | Marj Ogles | 06/24 |
| Bruce Skrabanek | 06/06 | Carla Peebles | 06/24 |
| Emily Skrabanek | 06/08 | Bob Hirschbuehler | 06/25 |
| Sonya Burhans | 06/09 | Sue Ellen Smith | 06/26 |
| Anna Grott | 06/11 | Jeremy Gehring | 06/26 |

VISIT US ONLINE www.ascensionhsv.org

Sunday
8:00 & 10:45

Monday
6:00 PM



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FROM THE PEW: Cody Moen

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CROSS

*"Surely He has borne our griefs and
carried our sorrows."*

Isaiah 53:4

"Do you do well to be angry?"

Jonah 4:4

When you behold the Cross, what comes to mind? God's wrath poured out for your sins? God's mercy that He gave His only Son to take your place on the Cross? The consequences of sin from the beginning of time to the end of the age?

When you behold the Cross and see Jesus crucified, what comes to your mind?

Most people probably thought of those things: God's wrath, mercy, justice, etc. The things most people have been told since confirmation to the present day. All these things are true. The Cross is God's wrath against sin—His justice. The Cross is God's mercy for you since you do not have to experience His wrath. The Cross and Jesus crucified bears the consequences of all sin: past, present, and future.

When you behold the Cross and see Jesus crucified, do you see only your sins? Do you only see the consequences of what you have done? Have you considered the other side of the Cross?

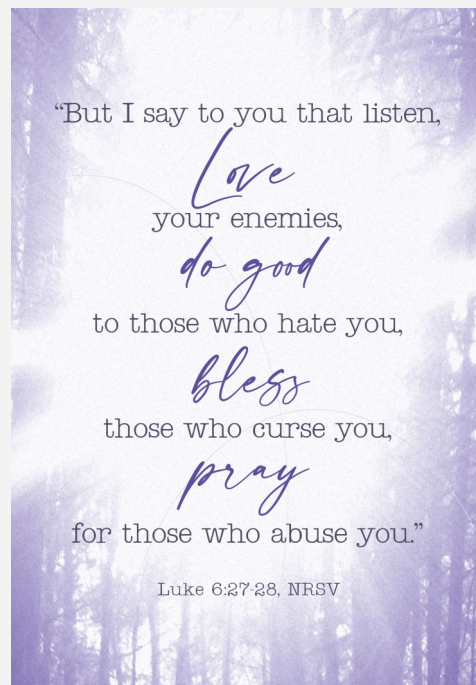
Have you considered the consequences of sin committed against you?



Yes, have you ever considered that the Cross and Jesus crucified also bear the consequences of sin committed against

you? Because if on the Cross Jesus bore the sin of the whole world, that means He took the consequences of all sins into Himself. This includes the sins that have been committed against you. This means He knows the consequences of sin committed against you.

He knows your pain, sorrow, and heartbreak from what others have done to you just as intimately as you do.



A spouse's sin of adultery against you? Jesus knows your unspeakable turmoil from betrayal, your hypervigilance, your rage, the ambivalence between loving and hating your spouse.

The kids who bully, harass, and demean you? Jesus knows your pain of rejection, of feeling alone and hated, the feeling of loneliness and isolation.

What of rape, torture, sexual abuse, people scamming you, taking advantage of you, putting you down, disgracing, manipulating, and hurting you, what about all these sins that have been committed against you?

All the consequences of these sins you know for you have borne them: fear, sorrow, shame, desperation, and a million scars from all the sins that have been committed against you. All these sins against you, Jesus has borne on the



Cross.

A loved one who chose, or forced, abortion against your will? Jesus knows.

Parents who abused, neglected, and abandoned you? Jesus knows.

Friends who betrayed you? Jesus knows.

Surely, Jesus has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

It is here where some of you may realize you feel increasingly uncomfortable. Because if the consequences of sin committed against you have been borne by Jesus on the Cross, then that means those sins against you are forgiven.

But have you forgiven those who sinned against you?



Notice what you feel reading that question. Does it taste like bitter gall, irritate like salt in the wound, flare up every defense and accusation against your wrongdoer that you want to scream at me, "how could YOU understand what I'VE been through?"

The full consequences of sin against you are not only the pain and harm caused to you, but also the bitterness, the hardness of heart, the instant rage, and all the fantasies of revenge and indignation you have against your wrongdoers and the world. Jesus knows all this, too.

It should not be lost upon us that Jesus not only came to save us, but to feel our hurt. As the Holy Spirit wrote to us, *"for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has*

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CROSS

been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). From forlorn isolation to vengeful justice, Jesus personally knows your full experience of sins committed against you, yet without sin. Still, He has forgiven those sins committed against you, God's justice has been poured out on the Cross for those sins against you, and Jesus has pronounced forgiveness for your wrongdoers.

Here some of us may find ourselves like Jonah caught in a fraught tension between our pain and God's mercy (Jonah 4:1-3). The Holy Spirit then cuts to our hearts by writing to us, *"Do you do well to be angry?"* (Jonah 4:4).

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).



It should not be lost upon us that Jesus not only came to save us, but to heal us (Matthew 8:17). This healing is more than just physical. It is healing for the full consequences of those sins committed against you. It is like God is softly saying:

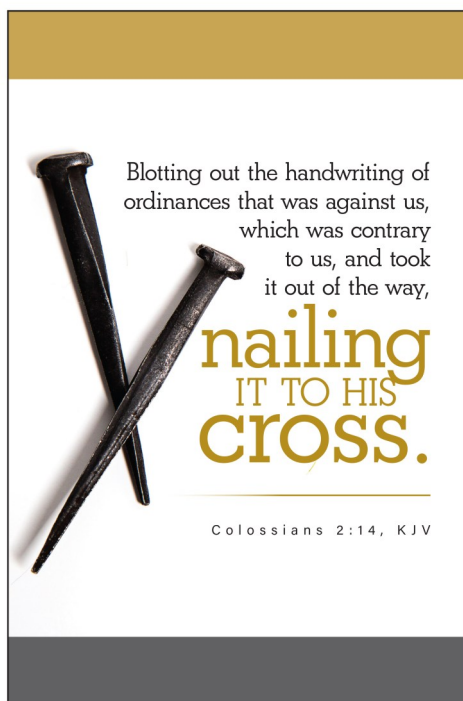
"My child, do you do well to be angry for these sins I have forgiven? I know what they did to you and how it has affected you. I felt every single heart skip of terror, every numbing strike from those who are meant to protect you, every tear and silent pleading through the night. Everything they did to you I've borne on the Cross. My child, do you see these scars? This is My justice for what has been done to you. These sins against you, I have forgiven. The people who did these things to you, I have forgiven. My child, I love you. These things never should have happened to you. I'm sorry they did happen to you. My child, I love you. These things

never should have happened to you. I'm sorry they did happen to you. My child, I love you. These things never should have happened to you. I'm sorry they did happen to you."

Forgiving others is difficult. The old Adam in us cries out for vengeance and is never sated. It harbors bitterness that poisons us to the present day and only causes us more harm the longer we cling and listen to that ceaseless, angry cry. Do we do well to be angry?

The old Adam in us dies and has died along with its ceaseless cry for revenge with Jesus on the Cross. Surely, with His wounds we are given peace that blots out the old Adam and its old, vengeful desires. Surely, with His wounds we are given healing that raises us to new life and new desires for peace, love, and forgiveness.

It can take time for this healing to take place. Some of us have been nursing wounds all our lives that we are resentful to give up - I know. It is my hope and prayer that you will see the other side of the Cross and God's promises He has for you if you will give your hurts to Him.



When I Behold Jesus Christ

When I behold Jesus Christ,
True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love
As He hung on the tree.

Refrain

What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Je-
sus, there

To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this?
What kind of love is this?

You showed Your love, Je-
sus, there
To me on Calvary.

For me You gave all Your
love,

For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can
Your selflessness explain.

Refrain

You had no sin, holy Lord,
But You were tortured,
tried;
On Golgotha there for all
My sins You bled and died.

Refrain

What love is this? Greater
love

No one has ever known.
My life with God— this I owe
To You, and You alone.

Refrain

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Kaefer; (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): Tilmaz Belhu; (st. 4): Joseph Hertz, 1959

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus; (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000117

From LSB, Hymn #542



THE COLORS OF THE CHURCH

The interior of a church that follows the liturgical year can be a colorful place. Throughout the course of a year, as the seasons and occasions change, you'll see the altar, pulpit, and other fixtures in the sanctuary decked out in red, green, blue, purple, black, or white. In a way, the church year is color coded for us. These different colors are not just for the sake of variety or for making the church look pretty (though they do!) – these colors each point to a different emphasis or aspect of the season, and how each of them points us to Christ and teaches us about the Christian faith. Remembering the words of the Small Catechism, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them,” we use things like these symbolic colors to connect with all our senses as the whole human beings God made us.



We are just leaving the Easter season, for which we use white. This represents purity, holiness, and joy: it is used for the two biggest celebrations of the year, Christmas and Easter (along with their seasons) as well as Epiphany, Holy Trinity, and All Saints' Day. For the commemoration of Christians who were not martyred for their faith, white is also used.



The next we see on Pentecost, this year falling in June: Red, the color most

associated with the Holy Spirit that descended with divine power and tongues of fire on the first believers at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. It is also used with other occasions connected with the work of the Spirit in evangelism and the growth of the Church, including Reformation Day, ordinations and installations of pastors, confirmation, and (remembering their blood shed for the sake of Christ) for the commemorations of martyrs.



After Trinity Sunday, we use green for a long stretch; this is sometimes called “ordinary time,” and the green color reminds us of growth and vitality like the fresh greenness of spring – these days and readings are often devoted more to daily Christian living and the constant renewal we receive through faith in Christ.



At the end of our calendar year, we begin a new church year, as the Advent season four weeks before Christmas marks the start of a new cycle. Historically, purple was used for Advent, but many churches have begun using blue to highlight the differences between Advent and Lent. Blue is a color previously associated with Mary, a significant figure in the life of Jesus and especially in the story of Christmas which Advent recalls. Blue is also used to symbolize waiting and expectation, as we continue to await Christ's second coming.



Finally, purple is the color for Lent, the color that for thousands of years has been associated with royalty. With Christ as our king, we use this royal color for him as well. As an extremely expensive dye, it also showed a measure of sacrifice in devoting it to the use of the church, and therefore was linked with repentance and self-denial as well.

This June, we see three of these five colors used in our sanctuary (red, white, and green) and I hope that this month and throughout the changing seasons of the year you notice these colors coming and going, so that you are pointed in every case to Christ and all that he has done for you.



These sanctuaries are from the five vicars' churches and ours at Ascension. The paraments colors are:

White - Ascension

Red - Trinity Lutheran in Michigan, Rev. Alex Sabol

Green - Trinity Lutheran in Michigan, Rev. Alex Sabol

Blue - St. Peter Lutheran in Bowie, Texas, Rev. Mark De Young

Purple - Trinity Lutheran in Michigan, Rev. Alex Sabol

I am still awaiting a response from Rev. Tyler Arens, Rev. Colin Ford and Rev. Micah Glenn.

Members Present

Mary Engel, Secretary
Helga Akins
Michele Corser, Treasurer
Lynne Dille
Roberta Willenberg
Inga McDonald
Marcia Pate
Cathy Noble
Gloria Masters
Cynthia McCullam
Lynne Heape
Janet Smith
Carla Jo Peebles
Linda Myszka
Joanne Hildreth

Mary Engel opened the meeting. Cynthia McCullam led the devotion. There will be no meeting in June or July. Laura Ballentine will give the devotion at the August meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The working balance is \$592.28 for a total of \$1,050.43.

Reports:

Sunshine - Lynne Heape sent Easter cards to Edith Turner, Toni Hypes, Margaret Taylor. Mother's Day cards were sent to Toni Hypes and Margaret Taylor. Reflections were sent to Edith Turner and Portals of Prayer to Margaret Taylor and Annette Duckworth. Prayers are needed for Edith Turner.

Cradle Roll - Roberta Willenberg had no baptismal information for anyone.

Huntsville Community Free Clinic - Marcia Pate delivered 134 pill bottles.

CDC Food Pantry - Members brought items for the CDC Food Pantry for the families in need.



Food Donations

Consignment Fundraiser - committed to the Seminary Adopt a Student & family. \$48.45 was received. Adopt A Student expenses were \$100. Total \$116.60.

OLD BUSINESS

Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen: A sign-up sheet was passed for the baked potato meal that will be served May 29. Loaded baked potatoes, 60-



70 pounds with sour cream, butter, bacon bits, cheese, and green onions along with chili, and 125 bananas or mandarin oranges will be served. Marcia Pate will make the chili. Some needs of the Rose of Sharon are children **coloring books, booklets, toiletry items.** The toiletry items needed are **razors, soap, bug spray, toothbrush & paste, deodorant, women's hygiene items, baby wipes, ChapStick, sunscreen.** Linda Hirschbuehler has a plastic tub to collect the items.

A letter was received from our **Adopt -A-Student.** Jason is a second career, first year St. Louis seminarian student. He and his wife Courtney have four children 2 years to 10 years old. They are from Greenville, North Carolina. You are encouraged to send letters, cards, emails, gift cards.

Mr. Jason Dulworth
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary PL.
Saint Louis, MO 63105
dulworthj@csf.edu

The **Consignment Fundraiser** is ongoing to collect items for sell or consignment in lieu of having a garage sale. The Fundraiser is committed for Adopt a Student expenses. Members are asked to bring items that they would like to donate to the meetings. Items not accepted from Encore are donated to Saving Way. Marcia Pate and Linda

Myszka can be called for pickup of items. Encore will also pick up large items. The congregation is welcome to donate items.



The **National LWML Convention** will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. Marsha Carden and Michele Corser are attending. An order was sent in for t-shirts and sweatshirts. LWML convention shirts will be delivered soon. Let Michele know if you want to order one.

LWML will host a **confirmation reception**, June 8 for the confirmands, their families, and the congregation. Elise Patterson and Annabella Burhans will be confirmed. A gift of a cross will be given to each. A card will be signed by all. A cake will be ordered. A sign-up sheet was passed to bring drinks.

NEW BUSINESS

LWML has been asked by the call committee to host a **Meet and Greet** June 1 for the candidate of the CDC Director, Brenna Nunes. It will be held during the Sunday School hour. A sign-up sheet was passed around for items to bring.

Emily Trahan, Zone President sent a notification of the **Fall Zone Rally** to be held at St Paul's in Decatur. LWML T-shirts will be delivered soon.

The meeting was adjourned with the reading of the LWML Pledge.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Engel



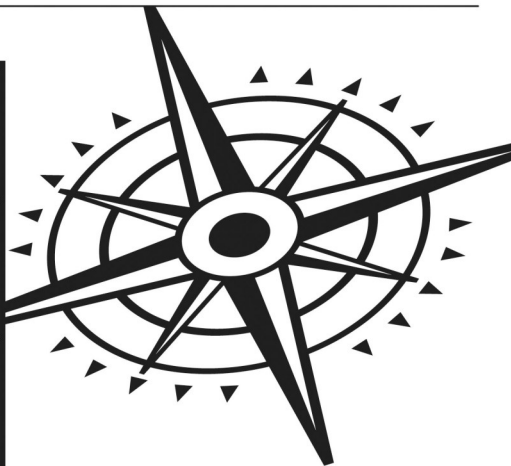


SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| FROM as is can | NORTH from far | at the EAST FROM |
| is South AS | as do far EAST | the THIS up as |
| WEST THAT is East | far down WEST | THE be AS West |



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west

Sprinkle and split

A sprinkle of pepper and a dab of soap illustrate a big concept from God's Word.



What you need:

- Shallow dish
- Water
- Black ground pepper
- Toothpick
- Dish soap
- Bible

What you do:

1. With the dish on a table, fill it halfway with water. Don't jiggle the dish.
2. Sprinkle pepper on the water.
3. Dab the toothpick into a drop of soap. Then touch its tip to the center of the water and observe.
4. Read Psalm 103:8-12.
How does this experiment illustrate God's forgiveness?
5. Explain the science behind this experiment: The soap disturbs the water's surface tension. The soap molecules don't want to interact with the water. This repels the water molecules from the soap, causing the floating pepper to also move to the sides.

The Road to Emmaus

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him...

When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:13-16, 31-35

Jerusalem to tell the eleven disciples of Jesus that they had encountered the risen Christ.

My favorite verse in this Bible passage is "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" This is passion. Burning passion. The kind of passion that can't sit still. The kind of passion that results in a mad rush back to Jerusalem to share with the disciples what had happened.

Do we have this same kind of passion? Do our hearts burn when the Word of God is read, when the Gospel is preached? Or have we heard it so many times that our hearts have become dulled to it?

What Jesus Christ did for us is simply beyond comprehension. It's incredible. Almost unbelievable. Fantastic. God becoming human, living a humble existence as a man and then dying on the cross to take on the punishment for our sins. What? The Creator of the universe dying for me, for you? Let's face it, we suck. Why the One who created everything even cares about us is surprising, but undergoing this humiliation and then suffering and dying for us? Why? All we've done is fight Him every step of the way.



...HOW WIDE AND LONG
AND HIGH AND DEEP
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

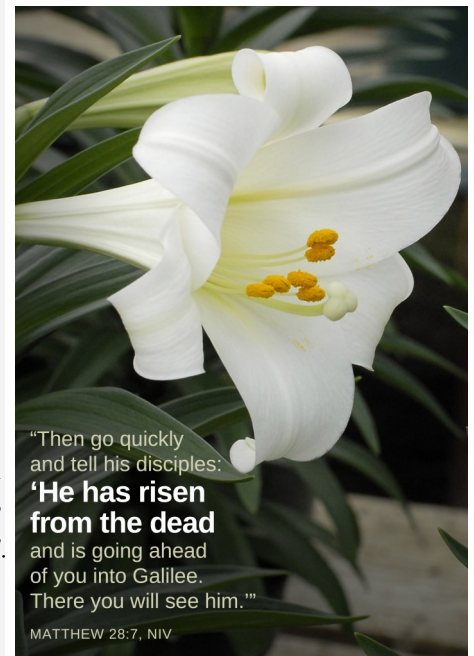
EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

If the Son of God dying on the cross and trading His perfect righteousness for our miserable filth is not worth getting fired up about, then what is? Do we truly understand what God has done? Do we comprehend just how awful Hell is going to be and how wonderful Heaven will be? A never-ending eternity of suffering for unbelievers versus a never-ending eternity of bliss for believers. Do we

believe this? If so, how can we remain silent, how can we let people we love continue down the path that leads to eternal damnation?

Until we face death, until we realize our end is inevitable, we tend to think that our lives will just continue, that there will always be another tomorrow. We think there will always be another opportunity, another chance to do what we should have done. Until there isn't. Until there's no more opportunities, no more chances. Until it's too late.

God loves us so much (why is beyond me) that He sent His Son to us, to die for us, that whoever believes in Him should not perish in Hell but have everlasting life in Heaven (paraphrase of John 3:16). This, the Gospel in a nutshell, is the hope that every Christian banks on, that is the basis of our faith. This is wonderful, wonderful news! Let's share it while we have the chance.



"Then go quickly
and tell his disciples:
**'He has risen
from the dead
and is going ahead
of you into Galilee.
There you will see him.'**"

MATTHEW 28:7, NIV

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Hallelujah!

The Road to Emmaus is one of those heartwarming stories in the Bible, two followers of Jesus on their way to Emmaus discussing the events of the last week, which culminated with the death of Christ and rumors of His resurrection, being joined by the risen Christ on their trip. Disguising Himself to hide His identity, Jesus explains why it was necessary that the Christ had to die and how His life had fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. After being invited to dine with them, Jesus reveals His true identity and then disappears. In their joy, the two followers race back to

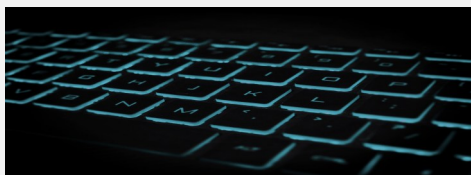


FROM THE ELDER:

Computer Website

Two Years Later...

Two years ago, I wrote two or three articles describing an LCMS chatbot, a chatbot ala ChatGPT trained on LCMS -approved documentation that would, therefore, give answers to inquiries based on LCMS doctrine, and a website built to take advantage of this LCMS chatbot. At the start of last year, I retired and decided to pursue this combination of chatbot (which I abandoned for a variety of reasons) and website. Although I had years of software design and development, none of it was web-based development, so this effort was going to involve a lot of learning and, undoubtedly, making mistakes.



The result is the website 'https://www.lutheranhub.com' (for cellphones) and 'https://www.lutheranhub.com/Multi' (for desktop and laptop computers). My original goal was to develop some basic functionality and then get an LCMS organization interested in taking it over and completing it. This, as I discovered, was naïve and optimistic, as the individuals at the various organizations with which I talked all had their own full plates of work they needed to complete. Plus, they didn't know who I was and, therefore, had no reason to adopt this effort. So, I made the decision to see it through to completion (or at least the first official release) with the hope that, sometime in the future, I can turn it over to an LCMS organization that can extend and maintain it.

Without going into the details of this website, which could easily be a series of articles, I would appreciate you taking a few minutes to check out this website and giving me your feedback, positive or negative. In particular, I would also like any suggestions you might have about how I could improve it.

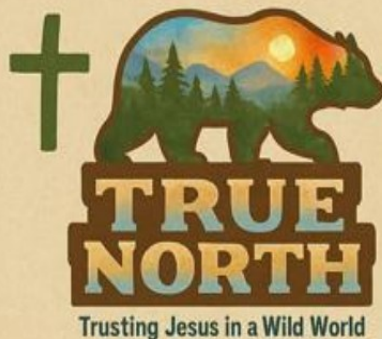
VBS Registration Is OPEN!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 7-10, 2025

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Family Dinner at 5:30 p.m.



**Ascension
Lutheran Church**
3801 Oakwood Ave
Huntsville, AL 35810
256-536-9987



**Bible Lessons
Music
Crafts
Games**

**Adult Bible Study
offered during VBS**

Ascension Lutheran Church



[VBS 2025 at Ascension](#)

Both the Code to the left and the link above will allow you to sign up for VBS, either as a participant or if you want to help with the program. The sooner you sign up, the better the planning will be, so get excited and sign up - and bring some friends!

Page 8

A SECURE FOUNDATION

"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone."

Ephesians 2:20

In the fable of "The Three Little Pigs," the Big Bad Wolf easily blows down the pigs' homes made of sticks and straw. But the home built with brick stood strong against the wolf's evil plan. The house's foundation was secure.

Ephesians 2:19-22: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

What does it mean to be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets? It means that the church is not built on modern ideas, but rather on the spiritual heritage given to us by the early apostles and prophets of the Christian church.

A church building is sometimes called God's house. In reality,

God's household is not a building but a group of people. He lives in us and shows Himself to a watching world through us.

... the whole body, joined and knit together ...



as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV

People can see that God is love and that Christ is Lord as we live in harmony with each other and in accordance with what God says in His Word. We are citizens of God's kingdom and members of His household.

Are we certain that our spiritual home of faith is secure from the evil one? Paul tells us in Ephesians that our home is built on God's word, given to us by the writings of the apostles and prophets. The Word is God's truth. Obeying His Word keeps our faith home strong and resistant to the devil's schemes.

Psalm 5:8: "Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me."

Psalm 27:5: "For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock."

Psalm 16:9: "Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure."

Psalm 112:8: "His heart is steady; he will not be afraid until he looks in triumph on his adversaries."

Hebrews 6:19-20: "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 127:1-5: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the

bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."

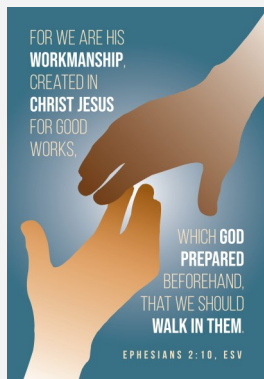
COMMIT to the LORD
whatever you do,
and your plans
will succeed.

Proverbs 16:3, NIV



Families establish homes and watchmen guard cities, but both of these activities are futile unless God is with them. A family without God can never experience the spiritual band God brings to relationships. A city without God will crumble from evil and corruption on the inside. We should not make the mistake of leaving God out of our lives. If we do, all our accomplishments will be futile. Keeping God as our highest priority will allow Him to do the building.

God is not against human effort. Hard work honors God, but working to the exclusion of rest or neglect of family runs both health and relationships and be a cover-up for an inability to trust God to provide for our needs. Everyone needs adequate rest and time of spiritual refreshment. On the other hand, Verse 2 does not excuse laziness. We should be careful to maintain balance. Work hard while trusting God, and rest, also, while trusting Him.



Psalm 127 is a reminder for all parents and grandparents that they should fully participate in loving, raising and disciplining the children in their care to follow God. Do not leave the job to the school or the church alone. When children are raised to

follow after Jesus, they will be like well-aimed arrows and not launched into the world randomly.

Job 38:6-7: *“On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

Isaiah 8:16: “. . .therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

2 Timothy 2:19: *But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”*

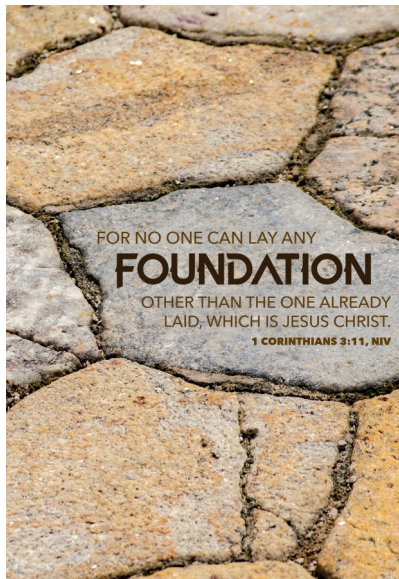
Psalm 102:25-27: *“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.”*

Fear casts a very dark shadow over the future, but when we find refuge in the living Christ, we realize that regardless of how ominous things might appear, everything is still under God's control. The Lord God Almighty still reigns and has not abandoned His creation.

To believe that God is working out His divine plan, in spite of man's sinfulness, enables us to maintain a well - balanced and calm attitude. Therefore, we can either look to the future without God and feel depressed and fearful, or

we can believe in God's plan of redemption for mankind and approach the future with trust and confidence.

Life is not easy, but if we complain about our fate and feel that God has let us down, we only succeed in creating more misery and despair. If the eternal Spirit of the living Christ lives in us, He will prevent us from sinking into the quicksand of despair. *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you”* (1 Peter 5:7). After all, He knows about everything. Then we will be able to live creatively and courageously. Through the power of Christ's indwelling Spirit, we can triumph over any negative circumstances.



With Christ as the cornerstone of our faith, every aspect of our lives depends on Him. He is the Shepherd who guides us; He is the Healer who cures us from the disease of sin; He is the Shield who keeps us safe from the evil one. His love is the mortar that holds our faith together and keeps us from crumbling. His love for us led Him to sacrifice His only Son, Jesus, for all our failures so that we could have eternal life with Him. He calls us now to love others in Christ so they, too, can have a faith home that will stand strong.

Psalm 17:7-8: *“Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.”*

We are the apple of the Lord's eye. God will protect us because He will answer our cries of distress. He is bending down, compassionate and interested in our prayers. We must believe that God will use His powers to protect us. When we look to God with expectations, we receive the protection we so desperately seek. He is the only One who can truly shield and protect us, so we can, with confidence, lay our cares at His feet.

O Christ, You shed Your blood and gave Your life to redeems us to be Your Holy Bride, the Church. Gie Your church faithful pastors to preach Your Word through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains saving faith. Give Your people the desire to gladly hear Your Word and receive Your body and blood for life and salvation. Send Your Church into the world to proclaim salvation through Your Gospel message. In Your name we pray. Amen.

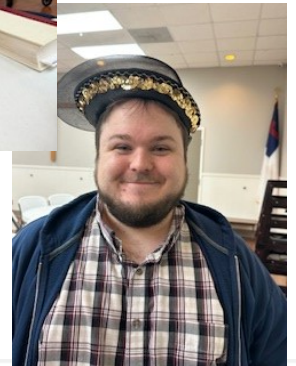


HAT DAY! How easy it is to start a tradition at Ascension! One year, just before Mother's Day, someone said, "Let's all wear hats on Mother's Day next Sunday and take a picture between and after services! Doesn't that sound fun?" Well, whether it did or not, it happened and it continues!

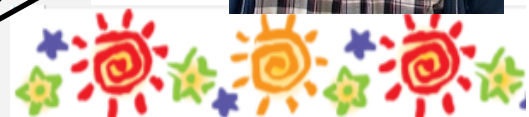


Do you know how hard it is to

take attendance from the balcony when the women wear hats?



It looks like the men want to start their own tradition.
Father's Day - June 15 - Hat Day?



June Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Meet & Greet DCM Nunes 9:45 AM - Regency</p> | <p>2</p> <p>3:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Worship</p> | <p>3</p> <p>10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:00 PM - Confirmation with Elders</p> | <p>5</p> <p>10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship and Confirmation 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency 12:15 PM - Congregational Meeting</p> | <p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM - Worship</p> | <p>10</p> <p>10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Directors</p> | <p>11</p> <p>10:15 AM - HHR</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency</p> | <p>16</p> <p>6:00 PM - Worship</p> | <p>17</p> <p>10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> <p>10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency</p> | <p>23</p> <p>6:00 PM - Worship</p> | <p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>25</p> <p>10:15 AM - HHR</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Classes 9:45 AM - Regency</p> | <p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM - Worship 7:00 PM - Chinese Restaurant on Jordan</p> | | | | | |