

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross — Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from the Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Teaching confirmation is a joy. Seeing children who have been raised in the faith grapple with questions, grow in understanding, and find footing on "the rock that is higher than us" (Psalm 61) is a wonder. I am blessed now to be teaching youth in our confirmation classes all of whom I also was privileged to baptize years before. This deepens the joy of seeing these young ladies and men claim the gifts they were given through the stewardship of their parents.

In church history, the rite of confirmation began as a public recognition of private baptisms. The baptized did not wait years but marched into the church and confirmed what had just happened in baptistries behind closed doors. Over the years, tradition moved back the rite for those who had been baptized as children.

Why do we baptize children? When Christian baptism was first practiced, Peter preached:

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. (Acts 2:38-39)

We know God calls the little children to Himself. Jesus even rebuked those who tried to stop the children coming to Him (Matthew 19:13-14). We know that the gift of faith can be given to children (Psalm 22:9-10). Later in the book of Acts, we read that entire households were baptized (Acts 16:15; 18:8).

Since we believe God acts in Baptism, washing away sins (Titus 3:5), sealing us with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22), this is not a gift parents want to withhold from their children. It is also not a gift to be given and neglected. Like giving a puppy as a gift, this can be a joyful wonder, and one you need to be prepared to feed, train, and discipline.

Our faith needs feeding. In John 6, Jesus teaches how He is the bread of life, nourishing our faith as we abide in His Word and Sacraments.

Our faith needs training. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul compares bodily training with growth in the Word. "Being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine... is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come" (4:6-8).

Our faith needs discipline. Hebrews 12 describes how discipline follows from the love of a parent and concludes, "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of right-eousness to those who have been trained by it" (12:11).

That is why it is such a joy every time we celebrate confirmations to see the fruit of work that began first with parents and grand-parents, with Sunday School teachers and brothers and sisters in the church, and becomes finally the work that the confirmand herself takes up and commits to continuing.

On May 22, we will celebrate the confirmation of Zoe Shreve. We are proud of her and ever thankful for the many gifts of our gracious Lord in His church.

Your servant in Christ,



Celebrations in May

Birthdays

- 4- Erica Flanery
- 7- John Cromeans
- 10- Kameron McKinley
- 10- Gracie McKinley
- 11- Max Semeniuk
- 11- Carly Dejarnette
- 12- Melissa Hardin
- 13- Chase Ragland
- 14- Ken Shreve
- 15- Jamie Lee
- 15- Olivia Botkins
- 19- Doug Boardman
- 19- Nancy Kovach
- 20- Cindy Alvano
- 23- Danielle Themer
- 25- Rebecca Spreitzer
- 25- Samuel Themer

Anniversaries

25- Charlie & Brenda Moody (1979)

COMMUNION CHANGE

May communion schedule is changing from 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays communion. Because of Zoe Shreve's Confirmation and first communion on May 22, we will have communion 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays, with no communion on the 2nd and 5th Sundays.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Our Zoom Bible study on 1 John, led by Pastor Andy Guagenti, has returned to Wednesdays at 7 PM.

Easter Lilies

Given to the glory and praise of God by...

<u>Charlie & Brenda Moody</u>- 2 lilies in honor of our son and our church family.

<u>David & Lori Franke</u>- 1 lily in memory of loved ones.

Rutledge family- 2 lilies in memory of Mother Rutledge and brother Mike, in honor of our children and in celebration of my daughter's soon to be born son.

<u>Kathy Adams</u>- 2 lilies in memory of loved ones and in honor of family.

<u>Barbara Eaton</u>- 1 lily in memory of departed loved ones.

<u>John & Merrie Feole</u>- 2 lilies in memory of departed loved ones and in honor of our children and parents.

<u>Shelley Hermann</u>- 1 lily in memory of Bart Helmus.

<u>Cindy Alvano</u>- 2 lilies in memory of Richard VanEvera and in honor of Gloria Nielsen.

<u>Bob Myers</u>- 2 lilies in honor of my parents and Les and Jo and in celebration of 23 years of marriage to Joy Hollingworth.

<u>Tammy, Robert, Courtney, Devan and Kim</u> <u>Chesher</u>– 1 lily in memory of Nicky and other loved ones.

<u>Don Saltzman</u>- 1 lily in memory of our loved ones who have gone before us.

<u>Margaret Riddle</u>- 1 lily in memory of Thelma Lefler-wonderful mother.

<u>Tammy Clark</u>- 3 lilies in memory of Carl Clark, Mae Clark, and Mary Basham.

<u>Jennifer Harrod</u>- 6 lilies in memory of Brenda Thomas, in honor of my family and in celebration of God's Grace.

<u>Michelle & Anthony Ewers</u>— 2 lilies in memory of Uncle Gene and Grandpa Fratto.

LUTHERANISM 101

In May, we'll start another round of Lutheranism 101, this time with a different class time than Saturday mornings. If you are interested in participating in that Lutheranism 101 class, let me know. Lutheranism 101 goes through the basics of the Bible, church history, and why Lutherans practice Christianity the way we do.

HOLY CROSS RUMMAGE SALE: JUNE 25

Because of Covid we had to cancel the fall rummage sale. Now that everything seems to be getting back to normal we are planning a rummage sale for Saturday, June 25. We will need help the week prior for setting up and pricing, working the day of the rummage sale, and afterwards with cleaning and boxing up the unsold items. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church prior to the sale. If we do not get enough volunteers the rummage sale will be canceled. We appreciate any donations for the sale! Proceeds from the sale will go towards a new storage building. For more information please see Kathy Adams or Merrie Feole.

KFUO.org RADIO

Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM"s flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For more information, visit www.lhm.org(http://www.lhm.org) or call 1-800-876-9880.

DAY-TIMES & LADIES LUNCH OUT: MAY 14

The Day-Timers and Ladies Lunch Out will meet on Saturday, May 14 at the Bell House in Shelbyville. They will meet there at 11:30am. Please let Rita Whitehouse know if you will be attending.

DAY-TIMERS: MAY 11

The Day-Timers will meet on Wednesday, May 11 at 9:30am.



Ladies Lunch Out at the Farm Table
April 8, 2022

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NOAH PREPARES FOR ANOTHER HUGE DAY

YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

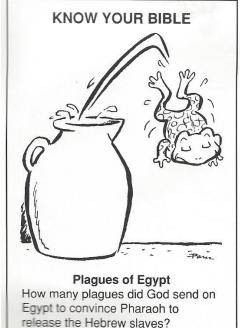
- When someone mentions red and green (in terms of Christmas) you immediately think of a battle over hymnals.
- During the entire service you hold your hymnal open but never look down at it.
- During communion you hum the hymns so you can see who's at church that Sunday.

LIFE QUOTES

"Your ascended Jesus goes with you. When you have doubts and struggles, take them to Jesus. When you're conflicted and troubled by sin and guilt, take it to Jesus and the cross. Together we lift each other up and grow up in Jesus! You are gifted! You are equipped! Know you are serving Jesus! Now and to eternity."

Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Lifewww.lutheransforlife.org



release the Hebrew slaves?



Look for the answer in the June/July Newsletter April's Answer: She became a pillar of salt (see Gen. 19:26)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHERS	CLEAN	NURSERY	MOWING	ALTAR GUILD
May 1	Nathaniel Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Don Saltzman	Merrie Feole	Robert Chesher Alex VanPelt	Brenda Moody Karen Hite
May 8	Masyn Botkins	Dave Themer	Don Saltzman Bob Myers	Charlie Adams	Anita Themer	Mike Semeniuk Max Semeniuk	No Communion
May 15	Zoe Shreve	Nancy Kovach	C. Moody R. Whitehouse	Franke family	Suzanne Rutledge	Dave Themer Brian Gehrman	J. Harrod Karen Hite
May 22	Nathaniel Semeniuk	David Franke	Alex VanPelt Charlie Adams	Sandy Runner	Danielle Themer	John Feole Anthony Ewers	Rita Whitehouse Karen Hite
May 29	Eden Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Corrie Brian Greg Rutledge	Don Williams Bob Myers	Brenda Moody	David Franke Max Themer	No Communion
June 5	Brenyn Botkins	Dave Themer	Cindy Alvano John Feole	Theresa Tip- pett	Merrie Feole	Pastor Guagenti	Brenda Moody Nancy Guagenti

If you cannot serve on the appointed day, please call someone to serve in your place.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School wrapped up their study of Jesus' seven "I Am" statements found in the gospel of John. The beautiful im-



agery of these passages illuminate how much our loving savior wants us to know him; who He is, and what He wants to be in our lives. Thank you teachers for really bringing these passages to life for the children!

Starting May 1, the children will be studying Ephesians 6: 10-20, the armor of God, and how to ".. be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

The older students have been taking a look at some of the 'bad guys' of the Bible. This theme will continue through the month of May.

VBS planning is getting underway, so stay tuned



HELP US REACH OUR \$80,000 GOAL!









OUR LOCATIONS

SHELBYVILLE 711 HENRY CLAY ST. 502.647.0300

SHEPHERDSVILLE 368 N. BUCKMAN ST. 502.212.2535



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article - May 2022

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1 –2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

VINCE MANSFIELD LEGACY GOLF SCRAMBLE

MONDAY, MAY 9 **SHELBYVILLE**

WEISSINGER HILLS GOLF COURSE 2240 MT, EDEN RD

> NOON REGISTRATION 1:30 PM SHOTGUN START

MONDAY, MAY 23 SHEPHERDSVILLE

HERITAGE HILL GOLF CLUB 1050 VALLEY VIEW DR

NOON REGISTRATION 1:30 PM SHOTGUN START

\$125 INDIVIDUAL | \$500 FOURSOME TEXT "GOLF" TO 502.443.1288 TO REGISTER



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- and on ALC social media
- Recognition at event
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- · Half-price foursome

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- of someone
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Mothers in the Bible Word Search

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SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM

DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM
MAY NEWSLETTER 2022



National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 5