

# THE HERALD

*And for this gospel I was appointed a herald...*" (2 Timothy 1:1)

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## Special Days in May:

Ascension of our Lord – *May 5*  
Mothers' Day – *May 8*  
Pentecost – *May 15*  
Armed Forces Day - *May 21*  
Trinity Sunday – *May 22*  
Memorial Day – *May 30*

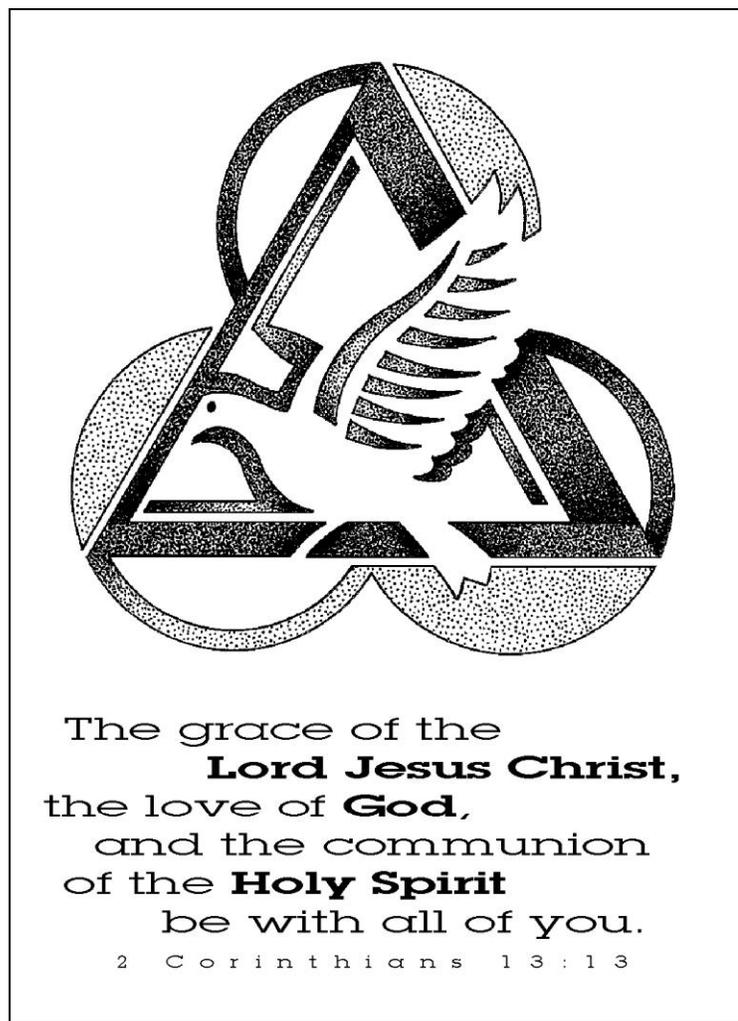
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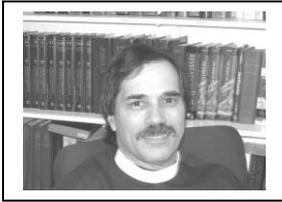
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The grace of the  
**Lord Jesus Christ,**  
the love of **God,**  
and the communion  
of the **Holy Spirit**  
be with all of you.

2 C O R I N T H I A N S 1 3 : 1 3



# FROM THE PASTOR

His great gift of forgiveness and restores our hope that death has been conquered.

*“You are witnesses of these things.”*

The Ascension of Christ is important because He bodily sits at the right hand of Father God. “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’” (Psalm 110:1)

Dear Friends in Christ;

Many Christians consider the Resurrection the apex of the work of Christ when in actuality the Ascension and Judgment Day are additional events that are equally important in the work of salvation.

This year the church will commemorate and celebrate the Ascension on May 5th. For three years Jesus laid the foundation to build the Holy Christian Church through His teaching, miracles, passion and Resurrection. Upon completing His task, and after His resurrection, Christ instructed His disciples that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Heaven and earth has been given to Him. His work continues in and through His bride the Church. We encounter Christ in the Sacrament as we kneel before our Lord asking forgiveness and healing. He bestows

Christ is our Lord. He has called us to submit to His love. In submitting to His love we, the members of Bethany, are called to boldly share our faith.



Christ is the King of all things and also of you. Christ is your Redeemer. We owe our very being to Him, for He is worthy of all our praise, honor and thanks.

The victory has been won at the cross and the Resurrection is the victory celebration. The

Ascension is Christ’s coronation, His installation as King. Let us not take this lightly, but embracing His call, work humbly for His kingdom and bear fruits worthy of the salvation given to us by our good and graciously Lord. When we embrace this work and pick up our crosses and follow Him, we, too, will receive a crown. It states in the epistle of James 1:12; “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Fred

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## May Birthdays:

Stefan Gweh	5/3
Savannah Kravitsky	5/6
Pastor Gerlach	5/10
Veronica Viramontes	5/11
Katrina Gerlach	5/14
Thomas Harris	5/14
Nicolas Carcaci	5/15
Emily Gerlach	5/16
Ledyitee Wheagar	5/18
Ken Bastedo	5/25
Kendall Marino	5/31



The second holiday that comes to mind is Memorial Day, when we honor those who have served in the armed forces to protect us and our freedoms. We also honor those who gave their lives in service to our nation.

We also have a number of sacred days of celebration during this month. On Sunday, May 8, we will celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of God interceding for us. However, He is not just there. He comes to us in Word and Sacrament each Sunday.

## May Anniversaries:

Michael & Patricia McGuire	5/19
William & Jennifer Borges	5/20
Oliver & Ruth Deah	5/22
James & Florence Washington	5/22



On May 15, we will celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit and the great increase of members of the church. May we be committed to doing likewise.

On May 22, we will celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday as we rejoice in our Triune God. We worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We also have an opportunity to declare the Athanasian Creed.

Yes, May has two big secular holidays, but it also has three important Sunday celebrations. Come and be part of the worship of our Lord!

- Brad Bastedo

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*If I have not included your birthday or your anniversary, please accept my apologies, and let me know the date of such an event. Thanks.*  
Anita



## Our President's Perspective

Ask people to name the holidays in the month of May and the first response is Mother's Day. Yes, this is a special secular holiday when we honor our mothers and grandmothers. Many of us can be thankful to have been blessed with Christian mothers. We also pray for healing for those who have had difficult relationships with their mothers.



### From the Editor

Wouldn't you like to contribute information, poems, or interesting articles to *The Herald*? We must observe the copyright laws, however, so please identify the source or write the article yourself,

(Continued next page)

## Congregational News Continued

Thank-you to all who participated in the Pasta Dinner—both to those who served and to those who ate. Proceeds go the Bethany's projects.

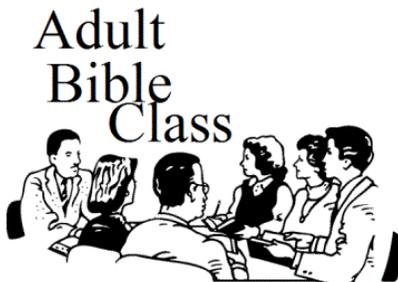
A big thank-you for all the work the LWML did to make the convention a huge success. Our biggest thank-you goes to Cherie Voorheese who put it all together.

Pastor will begin Vesper services on Wednesday evening at 6:30, beginning on May 11. See you there!

The deadline for the June issue of the newsletter will be **Wednesday, MAY 18**. Either give me a paper copy ahead of time or send it via e-mail to FrauM@verizon.net

- Anita Mann

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- May 1 – Congregational Meeting
- May 8 – Jesus' Ascension into Heaven  
(Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11)
- May 15 – Pentecost. The Coming of the Holy Spirit: (Acts 2)
- May 22 – Holy Trinity Sunday. Pastor will lead a special session on the Holy Trinity, "The Triune God."
- May 29 – Peter and John before the Council. ( Acts 4)

- Brad Bastedo

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## The Color of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost happens on May 15. Colors will switch from white to green. We use these colors in the paraments (cloth hangings) on the altar and pulpit and in the stole (the long narrow band which the pastor wears around his neck). However, color can easily be taken for granted or mistaken in its purpose. The colors must be seen as more than decoration. The thing to remember is that we use color to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation

**Why green?** Green is the color of growth and is used during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost and the three Sundays before Lent. It is the appointed color for Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles and growing His kingdom through missions. The Sundays following Pentecost emphasize our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ

- Contributed by Victoria Mark

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## Be at Peace.

(Continued from March issue)

John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."€•

2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."€•

Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.€•

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Psalms 4:8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philemon 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 32:17 And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 15:33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Proverbs 3:24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Isaiah 9:6 and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Psalms 29:11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Contributed by Nancy Sandmeyer

PEACE PEACE PEACE

"We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful"

- Mother Theresa



## Chapter and Verse

In its original format, the Bible contained no chapter and verse divisions or numbers. Those are entirely a human convention, intended to make reading easier.

The first modern system of dividing Scripture occurred in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Interestingly, the New Testament was first separated into verses in 1551—by the son of a French printer, as he rode on horseback!

- *Newsletter newsletter May 2016*

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## Encounter

We met him on the road, mid-afternoon. It was murky dark, stormy. It had been for a while.

We heard him moaning before we saw him.

“My head hurts!”

He reached out to try to touch us, but we were shielded. There was no pulling us to him.

His eyes shone out red, angry, bright with hate. The kind of light that you pull away from.

His arms twitched with desire to hold us.

His fingers grasped in effort to capture our hands.

We heard ---

“My head hurts!”

His legs and feet stumbled, drawing him out of his intended path. His frustration was awful to see. It multiplied his anger and hatred ----

“My head hurts!”

He must have been in some battle, considering his state. It seemed a battle to the death. Not his, but he had still lost.

“My head hurts!”

We watched him staggering away with the words –

“My head hurts! Oh! My head hurts!”

Genesis 3:15: “He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

- *Shirley Smith*

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## What’s so Special About St. Louis?

On May 25, 1968, Vice President Hubert Humphrey dedicated the nation’s tallest monument, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. The arch, soaring 630 feet above the banks of the



Mississippi River, is part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial which honors Thomas Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase, and the pioneers who settled the West. The gleaming stainless-steel arch stands 75 feet taller than the Washington Monument and more that twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

In each leg [of the arch] visitors can board a tram made of eight five-passenger capsules for a four-minute ride to the top. There windows give views of the Mississippi River to the east and St. Louis to the west.

(Continued next page)

St. Louis, which started as a French fur trading post in 1764, became part of the United State in 1803 when President Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase from France. The next year the Lewis and Clark expedition set out for the Pacific Ocean from the St. Louis area. The town became a “gateway to the West” for settlers, as a steam-ship port and as a railroad center. The gleaming arch has come to represent the spirit of a nation always ready to take on the next frontier.



Concordia Seminary, founded 177 years ago (1839) is located in St. Louis. The Gateway City is also the home of Concordia Publishing House and our Synod’s International headquarters.

**What’s special?** Included in that famous Lewis and Clark expedition was the great, great, great grandfather of the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, current President of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, founded 169 years ago. (1847)

**What’s extra special?** Pastor Fred Gerlach graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, class of 2005, and Rev. Howard Claycombe, class of 1954.

- Rev. Howard Claycombe



## The Price of Freedom

What Did He Die For” Twila Paris reminds us why we observe memorial Day and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America’s freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win

eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

“What did he die for  
when He died for you and me,  
Made the sacrifice  
so that we could all be free?  
I believe we will answer each to heaven  
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.  
Look inside and ask the question,  
what did He die for?”

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, everyday we’re challenged to live so as to honor Jesus supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our “priceless liberty” using our blessings to bless others.

- Newsletter Newsletter 2011

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## God is the Fountain

God is the fountain whence  
ten thousand blessing flow;  
to him my life, my health and friends,  
and every good, I owe.  
The comforts He affords  
are neither few nor small;  
He is the source of fresh delights,  
my portion and my all.  
He fills my heart with joy,  
my lips attunes for praise;  
and to his glory I’ll devote  
the remnant of my days.

Benjamin Beddome

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*Happy Mothers’ Day!*



## WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom likes me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.



## What do Lutherans Believe?

The main idea of Lutheranism is the doctrine of salvation by God's grace alone (*Sola Gratia*), through faith alone (*Sola Fide*) for the sake of Christ's merit alone (*Solus Christus*). Lutherans believe God made the world, humanity included, perfect, holy and sinless. However, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, trusting in their own strength, knowledge and wisdom. Because of this Original Sin—the sin from which all other sins come—all descendents of Adam and Eve (thus, all humans) are born in sin and are sinners.

Lutherans believe that individuals receive this gift of salvation by faith alone—a full and complete trust in God's promises to forgive and to save.

The Lutheran faith is described in *the Book of Concord*. In the *Book of Concord* is the Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed.

- Contributed by Victoria Mark

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