

The Crestview Lutheran

Newsletter

June/July, 2022

Our Savior Evangelical
Lutheran Church



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“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.”
Acts 2:1-4

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

-M. Luther, SC

From the Pastor

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

St. Mark: 16:1-8

In the Name of the Father, and of the @ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“It is finished!” So declares our crucified Lord. He speaks “ex cathedra,” a Latin term which means “from the throne.” From the Cross of Calvary, the only earthly throne He would know in this life and to which He had been nailed, Jesus proclaims victory over sin, death, and Satan. His victory speech announces that all things required for the reconciliation of man and God are now complete; the Law and the Prophets fulfilled, the life-blood of the spotless Lamb poured out in sacrifice upon the altar of the Cross that the door to heaven be cast wide open, the veil of separation between man and God, torn asunder, and the rift

between man and God forever healed. For this Man, who is also God, has made it so with the sacrifice of His innocent life for the life of the world.

Yes, “It is finished!” our Lord’s earthly ministry, complete. With these words, He commits His Spirit to His Father and breathes His last. Yet, Jesus did not stay dead. He rose from the grave body and soul. He walked among the living body and soul. He spent time with His disciples and ordained the Apostles. He rebuked and absolved their unbelief and with His final command, He established His Church. “Go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

“Jesus returned to His Father and ours, but He has not left us alone. It is from there that Jesus, with His Father, sent forth the Holy Spirit to bring light and life to men.”

The Apostles were to Baptize and teach all things that Jesus had taught them. Preaching the Gospel, they were to make the blind to see and the lame to walk, to cleanse His people from the leprosy of sin by opening their sin deafened ears and raising them from death to life in Him.

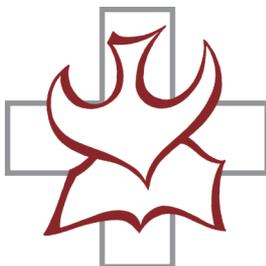
Having made known His final testament to those who believe and follow Him, Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed them and was received up into Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of His Father and ours.

Jesus had walked among us in humility. Now was the time for Jesus to ascend to His Father's right hand, to take His seat upon His throne, where all things are placed beneath His feet. Now the time had come for His coronation and exaltation as King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus has ascended, and we, His people, now look to Heaven from whence comes our help.

Jesus returned to His Father and ours, but He has not left us alone. It is from there that Jesus, with His Father, sent forth the Holy Spirit to bring light and life to men. Proceeding forth from the Father and the Son, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, bears witness to Jesus by making known all that our Lord has done for our salvation. While in Heaven, our Lord intercedes for

us, pleading our case to God the Father from the Father's right hand—His sacred wounds, the wounds of His sacrifice for our redemption, the wounds Christ still bears, are the evidence for our defense.

Yes, Jesus has ascended to Heaven, but His Body in Heaven is no longer like our bodies; it is exalted and glorified. For this Man born Bone of our bone and Flesh of our flesh, is also God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, from all eternity; He has always been and always will be God.



Thus, one cannot divide His natures. One cannot divide His cells and organs—placing in one pile the flesh of men and in another the divine essence of God. He is, from the bottom of His feet to the very top of His head, fully human and fully God, equal to God the Father in His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity, but in glory and majesty always and eternally coequal. In Jesus dwells the fullness of

Continued on page 4

the Godhead in the flesh of men.

Therefore, though ascended, Christ is not gone. He is not confined to one place; He is everywhere. He is omnipresent, without limitation. Thus, His promise to His Apostles and His Church, "...lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." And so, He is. He is present for you in His Holy Word and Blessed Sacraments. He is here to bath you in waters made red with His Blood that His death is your death. He is present in His Church, preaching to you His Words of eternal life. He is here with the comfort of His Holy Absolution.

So too, He is here to give to you His last will and testament. He is present here on our altar—the same Body given for you, and the same Blood shed for you. His Body and Blood given and shed for your guilt is now to be received by you, thus removing all guilt. It is the same Body crucified, dead, and buried for you, and raised again on the

"Death is dead. The enemy is defeated. "It is finished!" and Jesus lives, and because He lives, so also, do you, as are all who are Baptized and believe."

Third Day for you. It is the same Body ascended into Heaven for you and seated in human flesh upon the right hand of God.

Just as through Baptism, this Holy Sacrament of Jesus' living Body and Blood, joins you to Him

in a Holy Communion; it unites His Flesh to your flesh. With this Sacrament, He wondrously restores your human nature and makes you partakers of His divine nature. This blessed union communicates His holiness to you through a kind of contagious sanctification, making you like Him, pure and holy. It joins you to Heaven and to God, forgiven by Grace through Divine Decree! Therefore, you

are forgiven, not through any merit or work on your part; not because you are good or nice; you could never be good or nice enough; you are forgiven because God declares it so!

This understanding is necessary in order to appreciate and understand this feast day and the blessed event it commemorates.

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is not about Jesus leaving us alone, it is not about His going away; it is about Him preceding us that He may prepare a place for us and return and take us with Him, that where He is, so may we be forever. He has gone to prepare a place for us, even though all the while, He is still here with us, still here for us, still here in us. Jesus, who has broken down the gates of hell to free us, has gone on before us to open the gates of Heaven to receive us.

Jesus, God, and Man, sits on the Throne of Heaven. Our Brother, our Savior, our Lord, and our God, has established His Kingdom forever. Death is dead. The enemy is defeated. "It is finished!"

and Jesus lives, and because He lives, so also, do you, as are all who are Baptized and believe.

Jesus has gone on before you, but one day, He will return to claim you. He will return for you "in like manner as [the Apostles] saw Him go into Heaven." Until then, Jesus now declares ex cathedra, from His throne at the right hand of Almighty God, "I forgive you all your sins."

In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. Raymond D. Parent II



LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO

Sacred Music for the World

From the Board of Christian Life

Recently, the women's book club completed their study of Rev. William Weedon's book *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recovering the Joy of Piety*. Rev. Weedon has a knack of viewing the topics in the book in a novel way: listening to the Word of God, daily prayers, frequent and faithful reception of the Eucharist, confession and absolution, sacrificial giving, confessing Christ, watching for good works God has prepared for us to do, and remembering death and the Day of Judgement.

In the seventh chapter, "Watching for Good Works God Has Prepared for Us To Do," he surprisingly says that good works are like Easter eggs! He explains that good works are "wonderful little surprises that God has strewn all around us to delight us

and give us Easter joy as we do them. Just think, all around us "every single day...a huge variety of 'Easter eggs' await our discovery and enjoyment."

"Just think, all around us "every single day...a huge variety of 'Easter eggs'

As Lutherans we believe that "God's love for us in Christ Jesus stirs us to love and care for one another." That love helps us to recognize the Easter eggs or good works God has "prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

(Eph 2:10)."

Let's pray for eyes to see the opportunities God has prepared for us to share His love with others. Let's seek with God's help to be "other focused."

If you would like to read *Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey*, there is a copy available for check out in the church library.

Jennifer Currid

From the Board of Security

Reminder!

If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you!

Julie Blaylok

Coffee with Pastor

Coffee with Pastor

begins with

Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to know him and for him to get to know his flock!

Safe travels for all who are going out of town this summer!



Women's Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study on:

June 16, 23, 30

July 7

We will resume on July 14.

Birthdays

Grace White	6/15
Chaplin Sean Ballard	6/23
Linda Urda	7/17
Alison Stewart	7/27

Men's Group

June 21 and July 19

7:00pm

Pastor Parent's house

All men of the church are invited for a great time of study and fellowship.

6481 Wallannee Way

Laurel Hill

LWML

May mites totaled \$24.33.

Sunday Mornings

8:00-8:45—Private Confession

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Divine Service

Scheduled Work Days

Starting in June, workdays will be held every 2nd and 4th Saturday

starting at

8 a.m.

See Brian Hull for details

From Grace Cafe

Hello Friends! Grace Cafe is doing well as to feeding those who come on Tuesdays. Our truck from Destin Harvest is not as large as it used to be. Our volunteer cooks are still managing to serve nutritional and delicious meals. The reason for the smaller truck is that the suppliers like WalMart, Publix and Sam's Club are not ordering like they used to because of the economy. It may be that in the future I may have to ask for donations from the congregation.

At the present time, we're down to three cooks and after June 9th there will only be two full time volunteers to cook and if we have a very hot summer there will only be one. It is possible that Richard may have to have surgery in late Summer or early Fall. I am only suggesting one Tuesday a month or possible two if it is a five week month.

As everyone knows we are all enjoying the aches and pains being Senior Citizens and therefore our mind says we can carry the boxes of food from the truck but our body says who



are you trying to kid. If anyone with a strong back and legs that work fairly well could spend about an hour or so on Mondays, your help would be greatly appreciated. The one drawback to this request I cannot control what time the truck arrives or how big it will be. LeBaron normally gets to church between 2 and 3 in the

afternoon. If you have time in your busy schedules to help, again you have my deepest gratitude.

One more request, I am going home to see my brother who has been diagnosed with stomach cancer,

I haven't been to see him since September of 2019 and begged me to come to Indiana to see him. I will be gone for 10 days, from the 15th to the 25th of July. If someone would like to be charge of the Truck and the Cafe for that period (I will try to bring some non-humid weather back with me.)

May our Lord and Savior keep you healthy and safe 'til the next time I decide to ramble on.

Becky Williams

From the Board of Social Ministry

I desire some feed back on what kind fun gatherings or dinners, either places to go eat or "dinning ins." What kind of movies nights and game nights to make arrangements for and if we want to do it once a month or once a quarter? Also, if you are a member who does like to drive at night be neighborly and offer others who don't a ride. -Becky Williams

From the President

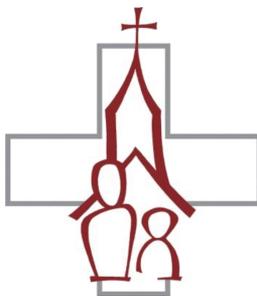
This is the start of the season of the Church year where we focus on Jesus' bride, the Church, for whom He died to be made spotless and holy by His righteousness. So what is the Church? Is it not the assembly of the believers in Christ around His Word and Sacraments? The buildings are not the Church, although we can rightly call the Nave and Sanctuary the House of the Lord. No, it's the people; your brothers and sisters in Christ – that's the Church militant

(here below). We could conduct services in the parking lot and still be the Church (though it would be hot and not as comfortable). This has gotten me to thinking: why do we go to Church? Or the antithesis: why do some not attend?

Some people go to Sunday services to catch up on one another's doings or current events (i.e. How have you been? What's going on with you?, etc.). Others show up to get an experiential or emotional lift from their

otherwise mundane week; but what happens when the service doesn't make you feel happy (because of convicting you of sin)? What happens to your faith then?

Why do you come? Is it to "feel good" or to receive blessed assurance of forgiveness of sin, regardless of your feelings? Is it to hear the Word of God preached in truth and purity and to receive the Sacraments as instituted by Christ? Is it to hear the Pastor



spiritually kill you with the Law and immediately salve you with the balm of the Holy Gospel? Is it to be "moved" by energetic music much like a concert, or to sing the hymns that are about Him and what He has done for you? I challenge you to think about these things, while meditating on God's word, because they are important.

The Peace of the Lord be with you!

- Alex

Getting Around OSELC

Flower sign up—Sign up poster in the fellowship hall

Refreshments sign up - Sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Directories—on the back counter in the nave (where Service is held)

LWML mite boxes—on the back counter shelf in the nave

Serve as chairman of a board—See Alex Franco

Serve on a board—See that board's chairman (list is on the back of the newsletter)

Make Offerings Electronically—See Brian Hull

Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine—See Trish Hull

Websites:

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod—www.LCMS.org

Southern District—www.southeranlcms.org

Sunday's Readings

(Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
June 5	Gen. 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
June 12	Is. 6:1-7	Acts 2:1-21	John 3: 1-15
June 19	Gen. 15:1-6	1 Jn 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
June 26	Prov. 9:1-10	Eph. 2:13-22	Luke 14:15-24
July 3	Micah 7:18-20	1 Tim. 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
July 10	Gen. 50:15-21	Rom. 12:14-21	Luke 6:36-42
July 17	1 Kings 19:11-21	1 Cor. 1:18-25	Luke 5:1-11
July 24	Ex. 20:1-17	Rom. 6:(1-2) 3-11	Matt. 5:(17-19)20-26
July 31	Gen. 2:7-17	Rom. 6:19-23	Mark 8:1-9

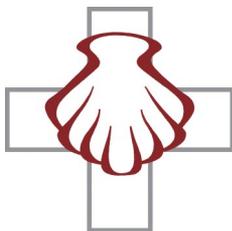
Christ in, Christ out

Perhaps you remember the Minute Maid Orange Juice commercial where the little boy is putting orange juice in the dog's bowl, the bird feeder, the guinea pig cage, and is about to share orange juice with the goldfish, when his dad says, "Maybe we should give some to mom." The tag line of the commercial is: "Minute Maid Orange Juice: Put good in and get good out." Now we're talking! What is God's must become ours. God has put His Word into us by delivering it on the lips of His Son. If I may just change ever so slightly the tag line of the Minute Maid Orange Juice commercial: "Put God in and get God out."

The One who knows our depravity knows that only if He intervenes does anything change in our sin-soaked world. He is the game-changer. Defilement can only be dealt with the One who is Himself our righteousness. He has swallowed all the filth that belches forth from our lives. He has taken on and pays the penalty in His own person by suffering and dying on the cross for us poor sinners. He becomes the sin eater. Oh, I know, the picture is ugly because our defilement is flowing out of us! Sin is ugly! But the great Physician has nursed us back to health by turning us out of ourselves and

centering us under His cross, where there is alone health and healing for hurting souls. He cleans up the filth that flows from our depraved hearts here in the intensive care unit of the church.

The Son of God came into a world of sinners like us and put Himself into our sin and depravity. He put Himself in our world; that our world would get God out by His incarnation, suffering, and death. Jesus is cast out of the city by His own people that He might die for them and that they might be brought into His family and people. He goes out that we might be brought in by Him.



Baptism changes everything. You are not putting in anything but your sin. You are not getting out anything but mercy, forgiveness, the death of your sin, the life of Christ. Once you were on the outs. Now you are placed in Christ. What makes the difference is not what is in you, but what is in God and what God gives to you by being in the world through the incarnation. God changes all the "ins" and the "outs." He puts Himself in baptism so that we might get God out of baptism. God puts Christ in that we might get Christ out.

By Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran Church



Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

178 W. North Ave
Crestview, FL 32536

850-682-3154
oselc@oselc.gccoxmail.com



We're on the Web
www.Oselc.net

OSELC Staff, Officers, and Volunteers

Pastor Raymond Parent

Deaconess Heather Bien

Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Council Secretary: Trish Hull

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Jeannie Harrison

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Jennifer Currid

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education/Youth: Gervase Anthony

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Becky Williams

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Soup Kitchen Director: Becky Williams

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull