

THE LUTHERAN HISTORY OF CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

—Luther’s Small Catechism

The words “O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner...” are often so ingrained into a Lutheran’s mind that both the smallest child, who can’t even read, or the elderly woman, who can’t remember her daughter’s name, are still able to confess these words. They’ve become such a hallmark to the liturgy that we might imagine they’ve been used by our people since the time of Martin Luther. And although that is true of much of the liturgy we still use today, it isn’t true of the public rite of Confession and Absolution. In fact, such a rite only goes back to 1941 when *The Lutheran Hymnal* was first published.

As many of us might remember, there were two services a congregation normally used on a Sunday morning: page 5 or page 15. The first was the Service without Communion, and the second the Service with Communion. At the beginning of either service, the congregation confessed their sins, however only the Service with Communion offered an Absolution. The Service without Communion proclaimed a Declaration of Grace, the same thing we’ve been using at our congregation for the last several months. And such a Declaration of Grace was used exclusively in the first English hymnal in the U.S., the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnbook* (1912), making the Absolution only available in Private Confession, as was the common practice in the Lutheran Church since the time of Luther himself.

One could argue that the Reformation was spurred by Luther’s disdain of the misuse of the Sacrament of Confession at his time, when the focus was primarily on the Christian’s remorse over his sin rather than on God’s grace offered in the Absolution. The Roman Church sandwiched the Lord’s forgiveness between the penitent’s sorrowful heart at the beginning and his good works to satisfy his sins at the end, so that the remission of sins was lost in the mix and the focus was primarily on our work rather than on God’s.

Luther wanted to restore what the Lord had given to his Church. He wanted to restore the Holy Absolution. And in the end, he did. By God’s grace, the Gospel shined in his Church once again. A Christian could find comfort in the good news of Christ’s victory on the cross, as it was found in the Word and Sacraments, including the Holy Absolution. The focus wasn’t and never has been on what we can do for God in order to “pay him back” for our sins. There’s nothing to be done. It is finished. The Lord Jesus did it all, and he continues to do it all, as we hear his voice through the voice of a man called to stand in his stead and say: “I forgive you.”



Martin Luther loved Private Confession. He once wrote: “I will let no one take away private confession and would not exchange it for all the wealth of the world, for I know what strength and comfort it has given me.” He truly believed that if Private Confession were rightly understood by Christians, everyone would take advantage of this precious gift:

If all this were clearly laid out, and along with that if the needs that ought to move and induce us to confession were clearly indicated, there would be no need of coercion or force. Their own consciences would persuade Christians and make them so anxious that they would rejoice and act like poor, miserable beggars who hear that a rich gift of money or clothes is being given out at a certain place; they would hardly need a bailiff to drive and beat them but would run there as fast as they could so as not to miss the gift.

At the time of Luther, there was really no such thing as a public rite of Confession and Absolution, as we see it being practiced predominantly in the Lutheran Church today. Over time, the practice became more and more popular for practical reasons and not theological ones. A public rite made it easier on both the pastor and parishioner, and soon enough, the use of Private Confession was all but lost amongst Lutherans, so that most today have never taken advantage of Private Confession even once. Luther would be aghast at the lax attitude we have towards this sacrament, as he wrote in *A Brief Exhortation to Confession*: “If you are a Christian, you should be glad to run more than a hundred miles for confession, not under compulsion but rather coming and compelling pastors to offer it....Therefore, when I exhort you to go to confession, I am doing nothing but exhorting you to be a Christian.”

The first president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was C.F.W. Walther (1811-1887), who also had a very high regard for Private Confession. But like it is for most churches today, he also inherited the practice of the Absolution being offered in the general confession at the beginning of the Divine Service. However, he lamented that this had all but replaced the practice of Private Confession, and so it was his desire that Private Confession be once again “diligently used in addition to general confession and that, where it is possible and advisable, it be finally reintroduced as the exclusive custom and that it be properly preserved where it exist.”

Wilhelm Lohë (1808-1872) was a contemporary of Walther’s and also instrumental in founding several Lutheran churches in our area, most especially St. Lorenz in Frankenmuth. He said that “the absolution is the heart of the cure of souls” and “without private confession and absolution one cannot effectively carry out the pastoral care of awakened sinners.” He advocated strongly for the exclusive use of private confession: “The worst private confession is better than the general confession.” Commenting on the use of general confession at his time, he comments that “the pastor absolves people with whom he is not acquainted; the contemporary procedure is a dead ceremony and a gross abuse.”

My opinion on Private Confession has been shaped by our Lutheran forefathers. They cherished the gift of Holy Absolution, for in it is the pure Gospel. A sinner confesses, and God absolves. No strings attached, no payments to be made. All has been taken care of by our Lord Jesus through his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. Like beggars, we can do nothing but only receive the mercy of God.

I encourage you to read the last several newsletter articles, going back to January, as we discussed the use of Private Confession here at Grace. It is offered every third Saturday of the month from 9 to 10 am and also at any other time by appointment with me.

I’ll finish with the words of Luther: “If you are poor and miserable, then go and make use of the healing medicine.”

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Why do we light candles?

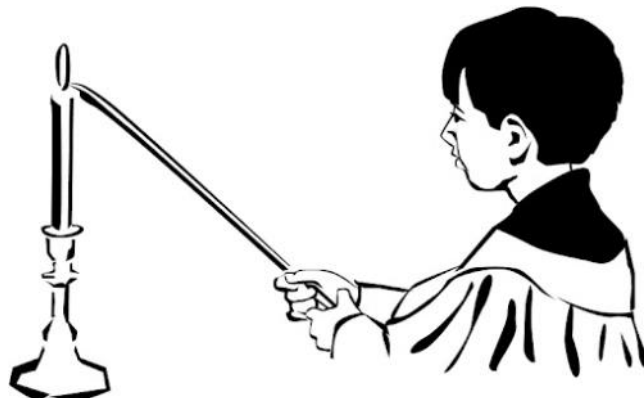
This being the twenty-first century, it seems pretty silly to light a candle unless it has a fragrant smell to it or our house just lost power. However, the church lights her candles for neither reason. Instead, she does it to teach us something about the place in which we have gathered.

Jesus said to his disciples and to us, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). However in John 8:12, he says, "I am the light of the world." Well, which one is it, Jesus? You or us? The answer: *both*. Jesus is the Light that shatters our world's darkness, coming down from the Father of Lights to forgive us of our sins through his dark death on a cross. His empty tomb creates light where there was none—in us. He illuminates us by his Holy Spirit that we might confess that he is Lord. By faith in Jesus, we are the light of the world, because he is the light of the world.

This light is what the church proclaims. She is a shining beacon in the midst of the world's chaos and wickedness. Only through the church does God make himself known as gracious and merciful to sinners. There is no hope in the world, but there is in the church. There is no light in the world, but from the church, God gives you his light to "shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14).

God enlightens us through his Word and Sacraments, whereby we receive Jesus, the light of the word. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, we have been illuminated and made holy. Hearing God's word of promise and forgiveness, our dark sins are shattered. Through eating his body and drinking his blood from the altar, our bodies are filled with the light of Christ. By means of these gifts from God, we are sent out into the world to radiate the One we have received.

The candles in the church remind us who is here—the light of the world—and who he makes us to be—the light of the word. These candles aren't there to help us see better in the dim sanctuary, but to remember that by faith, we see God's salvation which he has prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel (Luke 2:29-32). By faith, we see the light of the world, and we are made the light of the world.





In anticipation of our congregation's 75th anniversary in November 2024, we will have a hymn chosen for the month that will be used during the Divine Service. The hymns of the church give God's people the words to sing his praises and to confess what he has done for them in the saving death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

***O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* LSB 874**

Ambrose, once the Bishop of Milan, composed this hymn during what is called the "Arian Controversy," a time when the divinity of Christ was questioned by some in the Church. Was Jesus really God? Ambrose and all Christians since then have emphatically confessed "yes." It was at this time that the Nicene Creed was written, as we still use it today and proclaim boldly that Jesus is "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made."

The first stanza of Ambrose's hymn confesses the same when it calls Jesus the "Splendor of God's glory bright, O Thou that bringest light from light, O Light of Light, light's living spring, O Day, all days illumining."

The second stanza asks the Lord Jesus, the Light of the World, to pour down his radiance from above and "shed the Holy Spirit's ray."

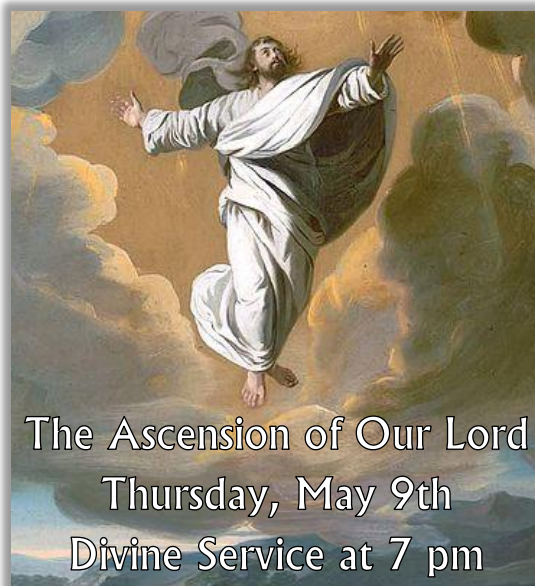
The third stanza moves to the Son's Father, seeking his help to "conquer in temptation's hour," even as we ask in the fourth stanza that he guide us with his love and grace.

In stanza five, we confess that we find nourishment in Christ, who is our bread and drink. Feasting on him, we receive the "plenteousness" of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, the hymn concludes with a doxology to all three persons of the Trinity. Again, such a confession at the time of Ambrose was paramount to remaining faithful to the Scriptures that Jesus is true God and true man.

This hymn has been treasured by the Church for centuries and continues to convey the most fundamental truths in the most powerful way.

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| <p>1 O Splendor of God's glory bright,
O Thou that bringest light from light,
O Light of Light, light's living spring,
O Day, all days illumining:
Alleluia!</p> <p>2 Come, very Sun of truth and love;
Pour down Thy radiance from above
And shed the Holy Spirit's ray
On all we think or do or say.
Alleluia!</p> <p>3 With prayer the Father we implore:
O Father, glorious evermore,
We plead with Thee for grace and pow'r
To conquer in temptation's hour,
Alleluia!</p> <p>4 To guide whate'er we nobly do,
With love all envy to subdue,
To give us grace our wrongs to bear,
To make ill fortune turn to fair.
Alleluia!</p> <p>5 On Christ, the true bread, let us feed;
Let Him to us be drink indeed;
And let us taste with joyfulness
The Holy Spirit's plenteousness.
Alleluia!</p> <p>6 All laud to God the Father be;
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee;
All glory to the Spirit raise
In equal and unending praise.
Alleluia!</p> |
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The Ascension of Our Lord
 Thursday, May 9th
 Divine Service at 7 pm

SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

Jean Adams

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.
 Reese, MI 48757

John & Ruth Ann Kajjala

6004 Gilford Rd.
 Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery

8039 Massoll St.
 Reese, MI 48757

Lillian Wheeler

Bay Shores Senior Care
 3254 East Midland Road
 Bay City, MI 48706

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available every Saturday morning from 9 to 10 am or anytime by appointment.



Like us on Facebook



Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:
www.gracefairgrove.org



May Divine Services
(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Rogate
 The Fifth Sunday after Easter
 John 16:23-33

Thursday, May 9, 2024

The Ascension of Our Lord
 John 16:23-33

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Exaudi
 The Sixth Sunday after Easter
 John 15:26-16:4

Sunday, May 19, 2024

The Feast of Pentecost
 John 14:23-31

Sunday, May 26, 2024

The Feast of the Holy Trinity
 John 3:1-17

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dave & Joanne Hills
- 13 Harold & Cindy Burnison

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Don Carpenter
- 3 Ed McAlpine
Richard Cottrell
- 4 Bev Voss
- 10 Brandt LaPouttre
- 11 Ann Emery
- 13 Joanne Bigham
- 17 Joshua Hargash
- 18 Gabriela Hodgkinson
Vic Trisch
- 19 Heidi Beneman
Larry Ill
- 21 Joyce Dickson
Frederick Bender
- 26 Brandon Worden
- 31 Jason Hall

**NEXT VOTERS MEETING:
 SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 @ 11 AM**

CHURCH LIBRARY

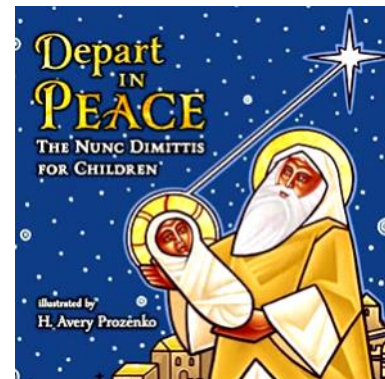
To check out any book from the church library, simply fill out the information needed on the clipboard hanging on the shelf.

For children

DEPART IN PEACE

illustrated by H. Avery Prozenko

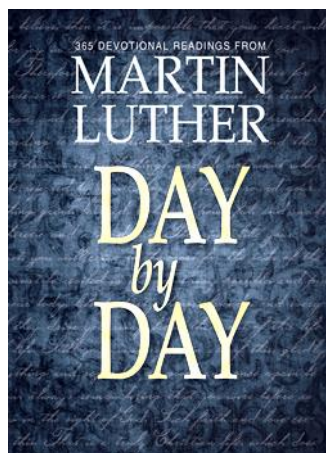
Kloria Publishing has produced several board books that teach the liturgy to children. Their latest is "Depart in Peace," which brings the words of Simeon to life, showing us how the peace of God promised through the ages finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary and now ours to receive in the church. Having received him, we can depart in peace from this life into the next.



For the family

DAY BY DAY

by Martin Luther



A prolific author, renowned preacher, respected professor, and key figure in the Reformation, Martin Luther is still, after five hundred years, one of the most influential people in history. Above all, he worked to make the Bible accessible to everyone. His writings continue to guide and encourage Christians because he points us to Jesus and His Gospel.

These daily devotions are drawn from the many volumes in the American Edition of Luther's Works, including volumes that are newly translated into English, thus providing material from Luther never before available to English-speaking readers.

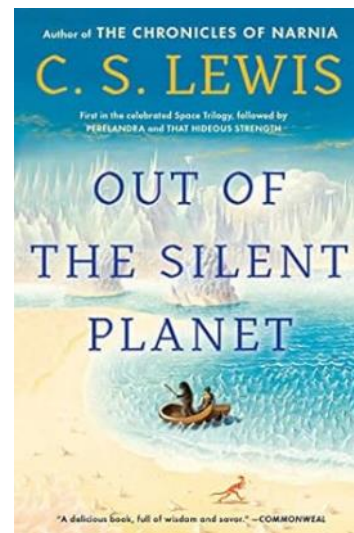
Christian Fiction

OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET

by C.S. Lewis

While searching for a place to rest for the night, Dr. Elwin Ransom is abducted by a megalomaniacal physicist and his accomplice and taken to the red planet of Malacandra (Mars) as a human sacrifice for the alien creatures that live there. Once on the planet, however, Ransom eludes his captors, risking his life and his chances of returning to Earth, becoming a stranger in a land that is enchanting in its difference from Earth and instructive in its similarity.

First published in 1943, *Out of the Silent Planet* remains a magnificent and suspenseful tour de force in which epic battles are fought between the forces of light and those of darkness. It is the incredible beginning to C.S. Lewis's spectacular Space Trilogy, which also includes *Perelandra* and *That Hideous Strength*.



CHRISTIAN TRAINING

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

11 am to 11:40 am

Lesson (preschool—4th grade)

11:20 am to 12 pm

Music (preschool—8th grade)

Adult Bible Study

Acts (also 5th—8th grade)

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR TRINITY SUNDAY (May 26th)

THE MEN'S STUDY

May 18, 7:30 to 9 am

every 3rd Saturday of the month

prayer + breakfast + the Lutheran Confessions



WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am Matins

10 am Bible Study

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

—Romans 1:16-17



The Riches of His Grace

75th Anniversary



Sunday, November 10, 2024
Divine Service at 9:15 am
Meal at 11:30 am

ANNIVERSARY PREACHERS

In celebration of our 75th Anniversary, we have invited previous pastors to come and preach. After the Divine Service, we will have a potluck meal in which we can hear from the pastors, their experience here at Grace and an update on their lives since then. Come and join us as we begin to celebrate the riches of God's grace for 75 years.

Rev. Leonard Astrowski (2004-2014)

preaching May 26, 2024

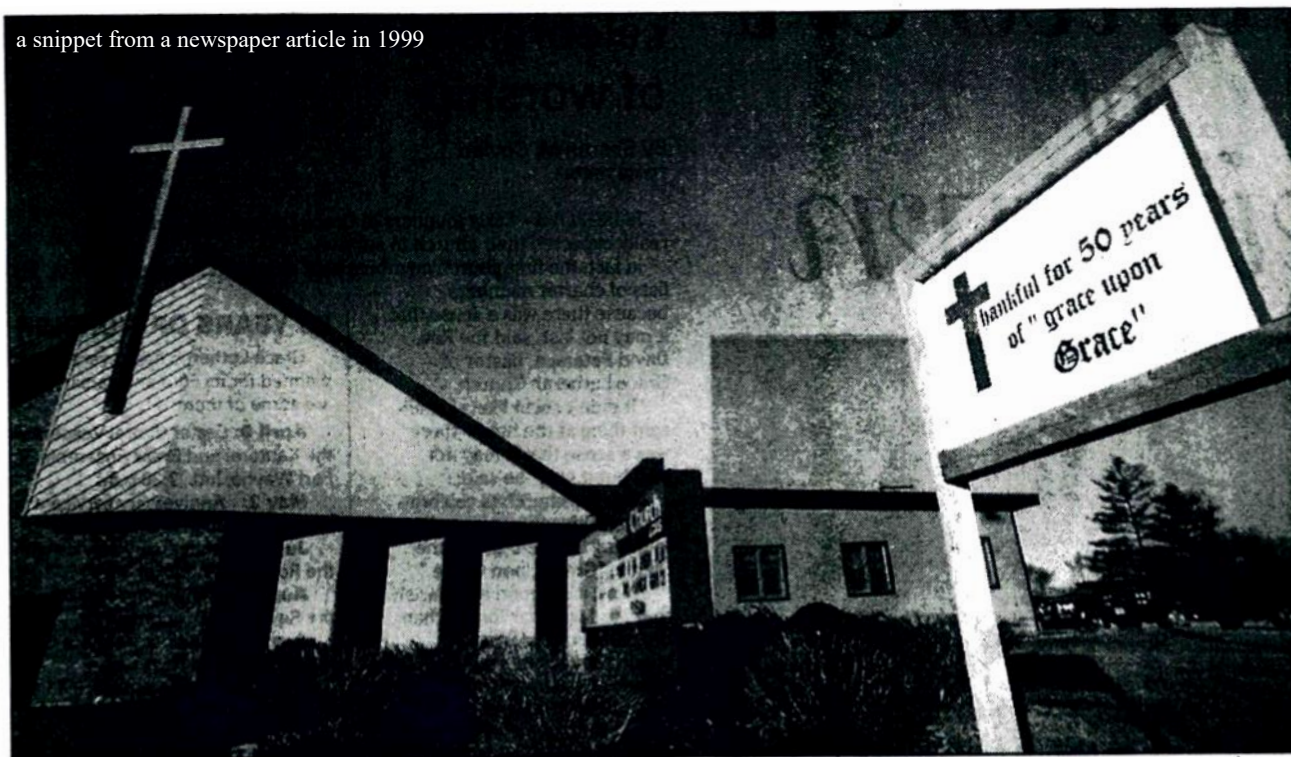
Rev. Paul Bickel (1982-1986)

preaching July 7, 2024

Rev. David Petersen (1996-2000)

preaching October 20, 2024

a snippet from a newspaper article in 1999



Deb Pastner ■ Times Photo

▲ Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fairgrove is celebrating its 50th birthday this year.

FAIRGROVE church celebrates 50 years of worship

From 5A

But the people were determined and for about a year they were independent. Eventually, the Missouri Synod took them back under its wing.

"They existed by their own will power for that whole time, without any grant money. It was all self-directed and they prospered," Petersen said.

In the late 1950s, a new church was built at its current location at 1809 Main St. A larger church was erected in 1984 and the old church became the Fellowship Hall.

Today, the church welcomes about 458 members.

One of those members is Bev Voss, who joined the church more than 40 years ago

when she was 8 years old.

Voss was married to her husband, Earl, by the Rev. Ernest Essig, former pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, at the Cass City Lutheran church. The couple would have been married at the church in Fairgrove, but the church wasn't large enough.

During her time with the church, Voss has witnessed a lot of changes.

"We've certainly grown — we have a lot more members than we ever had and a lot more activities and groups," said Voss, who is a member of the public relations board at the church.

She has also seen the addition of several programs such as Bible Study, Vacation Bible School and a Marriage Enrichment group. Church members are currently dis-

cussing adding parenting and marriage groups.

To commemorate the beginning of its 50th anniversary celebration, congregation members commissioned Grand Rapids-area artist Ed Riojas to paint a series of 4-foot high murals called "The Resurrection Polyptych."

The four-painting series, depicting the bodily resurrection of God's children on the Last Day and of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, were created on boards and installed in the church on Oct. 30.

Next in the anniversary celebration is an Easter Choral Vespers program with the Kantorei and Brass Ensemble from Fort Wayne, Ind., at 7:30 p.m. April 9.

STEWARDSHIP

May Coffee Money

Youth Trip

Ascension

Armed Forces Ministry

Mother's Day

Lutherans For Life



To help celebrate our congregation's 75th anniversary this year, the Ladies' Aid is putting together a commemorative cookbook! Please submit your recipes to Hannah Haller by September 1, 2024. If you would like to include why you love the recipe, why it is special to you, or any other information, please include that with the recipe. The recipes may be submitted in any format (i.e. handwritten or typed).

The Stewardship Board's quarterly mission for May through June will be to St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf. In years past, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was able to serve the deaf community with a Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. After this school closed, there was no longer a way to access the youth in the deaf community. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society started St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf in cooperation with Emmanuel Lutheran School in Dearborn. With growing support our hope is to have all the funds needed to keep the school running tuition free. The school hopes to accomplish these goals:

- Provide a bilingual ASL and English environment for grades PreK-8 and be an avenue for the giving of the Gospel so that each child (and family) may believe in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Train the child in the biblical truths of Christianity as confessed by the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Provide a comprehensive educational program.
- Enhance the self-worth of each child and lead him to awareness of God's goodness in his life.
- Develop the talents that God has given each child.
- Provide a nurturing and caring environment in which each child can work, learn, love and grow.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.



FREE Clothing Giveaway

open to ALL surrounding communities

ONE DAY ONLY!

SATURDAY, JULY 20TH 9AM - 4PM

Donations needed:

- clothing (only children's)
- new underwear (size 2T to 16)
- notebooks—wide & college ruled
- loose leaf paper—wide & college ruled
- folders
- boxed crayons—8 & 24 count
- scissors
- glue sticks & bottles
- pencils
- red, blue, & black ink pens
- washable markers
- pencil boxes
- erasers
- book bags—new or gently used

Donations can be placed underneath the coat rack in the fellowship hall.

THE DAILY READINGS

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

May 1st	Psalm 116:12-19	Leviticus 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
May 2nd	Psalm 52	Leviticus 24:1-23	Luke 12:54-13:17
May 3rd	Psalm 119:33-40	Leviticus 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
May 4th	Psalm 63:1-5, 8-11	Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44	Luke 14:1-24
May 5th	Psalm 135:13-21	Numbers 3:1-16, 39-48	Luke 14:25-15:10
May 6th	Psalm 103:6-14	Numbers 8:5-26	Luke 15:11-32
May 7th	Psalm 85:1-7	Numbers 9:1-23	Luke 16:1-18
May 8th	Psalm 62:5-10	Numbers 10:11-36	Luke 16:19-31
May 9th	Psalm 130	Numbers 11:1-23, 31-35	Luke 17:1-19
May 10th	Psalm 77:11-15	Numbers 11:24-29; 12:1-16	Luke 17:20-37
May 11th	Psalm 119:97-104	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33	Luke 18:1-17
May 12th	Psalm 81:10-16	Numbers 14:1-25	Luke 18:18-34
May 13th	Psalm 146:5-9	Numbers 14:26-45	Luke 18:35-19:10
May 14th	Psalm 111	Numbers 16:1-22	Luke 19:11-28
May 15th	Psalm 118:19-25	Numbers 16:23-40	Luke 19:29-48
May 16th	Psalm 80:14-19	Numbers 16:41-17:13	Luke 20:1-18
May 17th	Psalm 78:9-16	Numbers 20:1-21	Luke 20:19-44
May 18th	Psalm 116:1-4, 16-19	Numbers 20:22-21:9	Luke 20:45-21:19
May 19th	Psalm 135:8-14	Numbers 21:10-35	Luke 21:20-38
May 20th	Psalm 128	Numbers 22:1-20	Luke 22:1-23
May 21st	Psalm 94:8-14	Numbers 22:21-23:3	Luke 22:24-46
May 22nd	Psalm 22:19-26	Numbers 23:4-28	Luke 22:47-71
May 23rd	Psalm 1	Numbers 24:1-25	Luke 23:1-25
May 24th	Psalm 132:8-12	Numbers 27:12-23	Luke 23:26-56
May 25th	Psalm 97:6-12	Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27	Luke 24:1-27
May 26th	Psalm 46:1-7	Numbers 35:9-30	Luke 24:28-53
May 27th	Psalm 27:4-10	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16	John 7:32-53
May 28th	Psalm 32:1-5	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20	John 8:1-20
May 29th	Psalm 104:24-35	Ecclesiastes 6:1-7:10	John 8:21-38
May 30th	Psalm 43	Ecclesiastes 7:11-29	John 8:39-59
May 31st	Psalm 146:5-10	Ecclesiastes 8:1-17	John 9:1-23



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Voter's Meeting April 14, 2024

Executive Director, Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Pastor Haller opened with a reading and devotion from John 10 and closed the devotion with prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Roll call was taken with 16 members present and 12 excused.
- Minutes reviewed from January 2024 Voter's meeting. Motion to accept minutes by Diane Spencer and 2nd by Joe Bublitz. Motion carried and approved to accept the meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Mary Masker

- Handout showing checking account balance as of March 31, 2024 at \$22,012.61 and current balances of Designated Funds and Church Extension accounts.
- Stephen Bender helping to interpret requirements for tax filing since we received a 1099-INT from the credit union and a 1099-NEC from Melaleuca for contributions.
- Medical Needs Designated Fund discussed and decided to keep for AED services and replacements.

CHURCH PROPERTIES ~ No Report

- Refrigerator seems to be working well after complete thawing.

ELDERS ~ Steve Reinbold

- Monthly meeting held on first Tuesday of each month at 7pm
- Just finished the busy Lent and Easter season. Lenten devotions were ordered and given to each family.
- Elders served the Lenten dinner on March 13th and proceeds will go towards Devotions budget.
- Continue the work of contacting delinquent members.
- Reviewed and adjusted the Housing Allowance for Pastor that is reported on W-2. Approved at PPC meeting.
- Repairs getting done from power outages during the winter. Still working on solutions for complete repair of Carillon as the CDs do not properly work. May be able to program music through a computer.

EVANGELISM AND MERCY ~ Leslie Reinbold

- Clothing give away planned for July 20th. Always taking donations, especially looking for school supply donations. Using the Blessing Box for donations until the event. Board is considering holding a fund raiser for extra money to purchase school supplies. Always looking for volunteers to help with set up and tear down.
- Using the anniversary theme from Ephesians 1:8 for the Labor Day float this year.
- Still looking for photographer to take portraits and put together church directory.

LADIES AID ~ Diane Spencer

- Had 28 flowers ordered for Easter.
- Putting together a church cookbook for the church anniversary. Recipes may be turned in to Hannah Haller.
- Next meeting will be held on May 2nd and no meetings held during the summer.

STEWARDSHIP ~ Sarah Reid

- Bethesda update: St. Lorenz purchasing one of the Frankenmuth homes and Wellspring purchasing the other Frankenmuth home and the two Saginaw homes. Ann Finta has been working with Wellspring to update them on the needs and requirements and Wellspring hoping to complete the transition by June.
- Waiting on a design for the coaster to be made for the church anniversary gift.
- Coffee money for April will go to our seminary students. May coffee money designated to the Youth Trip and June coffee money will go to Positive Alternatives.
- Mission collections for the 2nd quarter: Ascension envelope goes to Armed Forces ministry, Mother's Day collection will go to Lutherans for Life. During May and June we also participate in the Baby Bottle Boomerang sponsored by Positive Alternatives. The board has designated St. Martin's School for the Deaf as our Special Mission for the 2nd quarter of 2024. ELMS (Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society) started the school in corporation with Emmanuel Lutheran School in Dearborn. There will be an article in the April newsletter.

FELLOWSHIP ~ via Tracey Reinbold

- Thank you to all the boards who participated/served the Lenten dinners.
- Fellowship served a beautiful Easter breakfast with approximately 70 in attendance and thanks to those the provided the “extras” needed. Proceeds going to the Kitchen Fund.
- Mother’s Day will be serving strawberry shortcake. Last day of Sunday School will have ice cream sundaes and Father’s Day will be serving pies.
- Determining date for another Chicken BBQ after May
- Potluck meals will be scheduled for the dates we have a visiting pastor in celebration of our 75th Anniversary. Currently looking for a caterer for our Anniversary dinner in November.
- Ann Emery made Chrismons for the guest pastors from the Board of Fellowship.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S WORK ~ via Tracey Reinbold

- Youth will not be attending Higher Things this year.
- Pins and Pizza event for Junior Youth (grades 3-8) planned for Saturday, April 20th at Brentwood in Caro from 11am to 1pm. No cost to any of our junior youth. RSVPs by Friday, April 19th.
- Looking into possibly doing a weekend retreat with Senior High youth this summer.

PASTOR’S REPORT

- Sunday Bible Class is currently studying in Acts 11 and the Wednesday Bible Class is in Romans 12.
- Jr High Catechesis will conclude on May 29th. Out of 6 catechumens, 4 are considered for First Communion. High School Catechesis will conclude on May 5th. Sunday School ends on May 19th when they will then join the adult group during the summer. Possibly continuing the “Youngers” through the summer.
- Men’s Study meeting the 3rd Saturday of every month with next meeting on April 20th at 7:30am. Private Confession held after the men’s study on the 3rd Saturday of each month.
- Combined Circuit Convocation on October 5th at Immanuel Lutheran in Sebawaing. This is usually held every three years when no convention. \$5000 per circuit pledged from Church Extension. The theme, “Glad Hymns Forever, Alleluia” celebrates 500 years from the 1st hymnal. Rev. Stephen Starke from Bay City will be one of the speakers. Will also have breakouts with other local pastors and a Hymn Festival. Also working on a Children’s program.
- June is marriage month and Pastor Haller will be ordering a 4’ x 8’ banner that has a beautiful graphic displaying the rainbow, Noah’s arc and a verse from 1 Corinthians. We will also have a message on our front sign.
- Pastor Haller will be attending the North and East MI Pastor’s Conference on May 6th and 7th.
- There is now a designated fund set up for the Church Library for those who wish to donate.

OLD BUSINESS

- 75th Anniversary planning continues.
- Front sign: Steve Reinbold, Tom Reid and Pastor Haller working together. Have quotes for several different granite signs, 4’ x 8’ in size, ranging from \$3400 sign only - \$11,300 installed sign.

NEW BUSINESS

- In January, the parsonage had a sewer back-up in the basement. Insurance denied the claim as well as the city. Servpro was hired for the clean-up (\$3700) and Mike Starkey has done the repairs (\$4260). Motion to pay Servpro and reimburse Mike Starkey for the repairs made by Pastor Haller, with 2nd by Leslie Reinbold. Motion carried and approved.

Next Parish Planning Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18th at 7pm.

Next Voter’s Meeting will be on Sunday, July 14th at 11am.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Bublitz and 2nd by Steve Reinbold.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and singing of the Doxology.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Mary Masker

Secretary/Treasurer

MAY 2024

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703
 Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105
 Elders of the Month: Steven Reinbold (989) 233-5097 & Daniel Bublitz (989) 392-7805

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	2 10 am Ladies Aid	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 <i>The Fifth Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study 6 pm H.S. Catechesis	6	7 7 pm Elders	8 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 <i>The Sixth Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	13	14 9 am Quilters	15 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
19 <i>The Feast of Pentecost</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study	20	21	22 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 <i>The Feast of the Holy Trinity</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Potluck	27	28 9 am Quilters	29 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	

Serving Our Lord in the Month of May

Elders for May

Steven Reinbold & Daniel Bublitz

Ladies Aid for May

Joanne Bigham & Irene Stange

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Refreshments: Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender, Ashley Bublitz

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

Acolyte: Erwin Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Hannah Haller

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Propers Choir: Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Refreshments: Sandy D'Addezio, Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Alberta Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Chelsea Worden

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Refreshments: Sarah Hall, Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Bible Study Babysitter: Melinda & Isabella Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Laura Starkey

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Refreshments: Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

**If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

**If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.