

YOU SHOULD BE IN CHURCH ON THURSDAY, MAY 29TH

When Jesus had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

—Acts 1:9

You should really be there. Thursday, May 29th, is the 40th day after Easter, and on that day, we celebrate that our Lord ascended into heaven forty days after he rose from the dead. During those forty days, he appeared to his disciples on several occasions to prove that he had indeed been raised from the dead in both body and soul. He allowed them to see the wounds in his hands and side. He broke bread and ate with him. He came again and again but now in a glorified body, a body that could pop in and out, to be there one minute and gone the next.

But after those forty days, it was time for him to be taken from their sight. Jesus would be with his church always to the end of the age, but he would be with them in a different way than before. No longer teaching on the seashore, no longer healing lepers and calming storms. Now, the Lord is with us through his Word and his Sacraments, whereby he bestows on us the fruit of his labor from the cross and empty tomb. That which he accomplished in his death and resurrection is hand-delivered to us in the preaching of the Gospel, the waters of Holy Baptism, the absolution of our sins, and in his body and blood on the altar.

Without his ascension, none of those gifts would be available to you. Jesus was taken from our sight for our sake, so that he could be with us always and even more intimately than ever before. Through his Word and Sacraments, we are united with Jesus, so that all that he has is ours.

This gives us great reason to celebrate. May 29th is not an ordinary day, but it is a holy day, a feast day. It's right up there with Christmas and Easter as a day in which Christians should take notice by coming to the Lord's house to receive his Word and his Sacrament, where he has promised to be.

You should be there. You should be in church on Thursday, May 29th, at 6 pm for the Divine Service. If you need to leave work early, do it. If you have to miss a practice or a game, do it. Reschedule any appointment. Write this service down in your calendar. Make every effort to be in the Lord's house on this most holy day.

This is an opportunity for you to go against the grain, to be different from the world. We all bemoan how our culture is crumbling and how our society has changed for the worse. Well, this is how you can make a change, how you can stand up and not fall in line with where the fallen world is heading. This is another opportunity for you to make a good confession that nothing is more important than your Lord, nothing is more vital than receiving his Word and Sacrament, nothing on earth will come between you and heaven. For when we gather on that Thursday, Jesus, the King of Heaven, descends to us, bringing paradise with him, that we might have a foretaste of the feast to come.

Thursday, May 29th, is a holy day, a different day, the church's day. You should be there.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Why is the paschal candle lit only during Easter?

The word *pachal* comes from the Hebrew word for the Passover and also has its root from a word meaning "to suffer." Paschal has also been used by the Christian Church as another name for Easter. And so, the paschal candle in our sanctuary can rightfully be called the Easter Candle. This candle intentionally stands next to the baptismal font, where a sinner is joined to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that all who are baptized are killed, buried, and raised up. What takes place in those waters is what took place on Good Friday through Easter Sunday.

Because of this, the paschal candle is only lit during the season of Easter, beginning on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, when we transition from darkness to light, from the cross to the empty tomb. At that service, the candle is blessed with a new fire, just as our hearts are rekindled with the fire of God's love that we might be prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end.

This candle remains lit throughout the season of Easter, which lasts for forty days, coinciding with the days our Lord appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. At the end of those forty days, our Lord was taken from their sight, as he joined himself to the power and glory of his Father. Although he could no longer be seen, he was still with his Church always to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20), even as he is with us now through his Word and Sacrament. And so, on the day of Ascension, the paschal candle is extinguished, not signifying that Christ has "left the building," but that he is no longer visible. If Christ had completely abandoned us then we would have to remove the candle, but we don't. He is with his Church on earth through the preached Word, the waters of Baptism, and his body and blood on the altar.

The paschal candle remains unlit until the following Easter, except when there is a Baptism or funeral, the beginning and end of every Christian life here on earth. Again, Holy Baptism is a death and resurrection, just as a funeral is used to proclaim the resurrection for all those who die in Christ, knowing that "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).



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	Vic Trisch
19	Heidi Beneman
	Larry Ill
21	Joyce Dickson
	Frederick Bender
26	Brandon Worden
31	Jason Hall

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3	Dave & Joanne Hills
13	Harold & Cindy Burnison



Like us on Facebook



Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:

www.gracefairgrove.org



NEXT VOTERS MEETING:
SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025 @ 11 AM

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available Saturday, May 10th, from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.

May Divine Services

(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, May 4, 2025

The Second Sunday after Easter
John 10:11-16

Sunday, May 11, 2025

The Third Sunday after Easter
John 16:16-22

Sunday, May 18, 2025

The Fourth Sunday after Easter
John 16:5-15

Sunday, May 25, 2025

The Fifth Sunday after Easter
John 16:23-33

Sunday, May 29, 2025

The Ascension of Our Lord
Mark 16:14-20

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

Don Carpenter

Tuscola County Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro MI 48723

John & Ruth Ann Kajjala

6004 Gilford Rd.
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery

New Hope Bay
668 N Pine Road
Bay City, MI 48708

Pat Starkey

Heritage Hill
1430 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723



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Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11th

Strawberry shortcake during fellowship hour

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Thursday, May 29th

Divine Service at 6 pm



Altar Flowers

In an effort to enhance the Divine Service, Ladies Aid has posted a flower chart for families or church boards wishing to participate. Please consider signing up to beautify the altar sometime this year...

1. Sign up for a Sunday on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
2. Inform the Ladies Aid members for that month (see newsletter) to schedule the dropping off of flowers.
3. Have flowers at the church by Saturday or early Sunday morning for your week.



—STEWARDSHIP—

May Coffee Money
Youth Trip

Mother's Day
Lutherans for Life

The Ascension of Our Lord
Armed Forces Ministry



The Stewardship Board's Special Mission from now until the end of June will be to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, an organization that translates, publishes, distributes and introduces books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven. In more than 90 countries and 145 languages, thousands of people have come to faith in Christ because they've been able to read books like *The Good News About Jesus* or *Luther's Small Catechism* in their own languages. Lutheran Heritage Foundation has published the catechism in more than 110 languages with dozens more requested. In the past decade, LHF has published and distributed over 1,300 titles and 3 million Lutheran books to pastors, seminary students, missionaries and churches – all at no cost to them.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the display table in the fellowship hall.



From Mother's Day (May 11th) through Father's Day (June 15th), we will be collecting donations for Positive Alternatives. Pick up a baby bottle from the back table in the narthex and fill it with loose change, cash, or a check to help support mothers and children in our community. They can then be returned to the same basket.

—EVANGELISM & MERCY—

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Photos will be taken for our church directory on Tuesday, June 17th and Wednesday, June 18th. Further information will be in next month's newsletter, your church mailboxes, and on the fellowship hall bulletin board.



FREE CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

Saturday, July 19th, from 9 am to 3 pm

Donations needed:

- clothing (only children's, up to teenage years)
- new underwear (size 2T to 16)
- wide ruled notebooks
- folders with three hole punches
- 24 count boxed crayons
- 12 count colored pencils
- scissors
- glue sticks (no glue bottles)
- #2 pencils (Ticonderoga)
- pencil cases
- red, blue, & black ink pens
- 8 count washable or regular markers
- pink erasers
- black dry erase markers
- colored dry erase markers
- backpacks

Donations can be placed underneath the coatrack in the fellowship hall.

Christian Training

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

Lesson (preschool—4th grade)

Music (preschool—8th grade)

Adult Bible Study

Revelation (also 5th—8th grade)

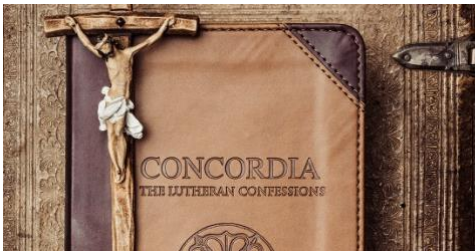
Large Catechism

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING
FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY (June 8th)**

The Men's Study

Saturday, May 10th, 7:30 to 9 am

breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



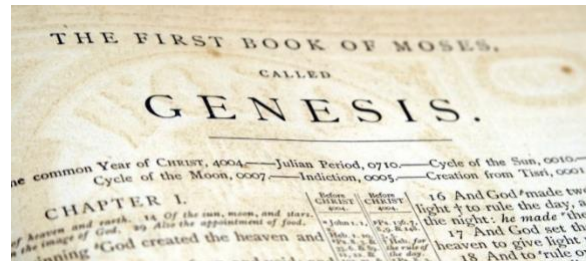
Wednesdays at Grace

9:30 am

Matins

10 am

Bible Study



Catechesis Parents Meeting

Sunday, June 8th, during the Bible Study hour

All parents of children (from infant through the 12th grade) are expected to be at this meeting, as we will discuss the catechesis process here at Grace. More information will soon be announced.



THE DAILY READINGS FOR MAY

“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 119:25-32	Exodus 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
May 2nd	Psalm 92:1-9	Exodus 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
May 3rd	Psalm 106:16-23	Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38
May 4th	Psalm 119:49-56	Exodus 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
May 5th	Psalm 80:1-7	Exodus 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
May 6th	Psalm 86:11-17	Exodus 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
May 7th	Psalm 84:1-4	Exodus 34:29-35:21	Luke 7:36-50
May 8th	Psalm 119:145-152	Exodus 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31	Luke 8:1-21
May 9th	Psalm 107:23-32	Exodus 39:32-40:16	Luke 8:22-39
May 10th	Psalm 41:1-3, 11-13	Exodus 40:17-38	Luke 8:40-56
May 11th	Psalm 45:4-8a	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
May 12th	Psalm 119:129-138	Leviticus 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
May 13th	Psalm 25:1-10	Leviticus 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
May 14th	Psalm 19:7-14	Leviticus 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
May 15th	Psalm 17:7-15	Leviticus 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
May 16th	Psalm 119:1-8	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8	Luke 11:1-13
May 17th	Psalm 36:7-12	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36
May 18th	Psalm 37:1-9	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
May 19th	Psalm 31:1-5	Leviticus 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
May 20th	Psalm 127	Leviticus 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34
May 21st	Psalm 116:12-19	Leviticus 23:23-44	Luke 12:35-53
May 22nd	Psalm 52	Leviticus 24:1-23	Luke 12:54-13:17
May 23rd	Psalm 119:33-40	Leviticus 26:1-20	Luke 13:18-35
May 24th	Psalm 63:1-5, 8-11	Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44	Luke 14:1-24
May 25th	Psalm 135:13-21	Numbers 3:1-16, 39-48	Luke 14:25-15:10
May 26th	Psalm 103:6-14	Numbers 8:5-26	Luke 15:11-32
May 27th	Psalm 85:1-7	Numbers 9:1-23	Luke 16:1-18
May 28th	Psalm 62:5-10	Numbers 10:11-36	Luke 16:19-31
May 29th	Psalm 130	Numbers 11:1-23, 31-35	Luke 17:1-19
May 30th	Psalm 77:11-15	Numbers 11:24-29; 12:1-16	Luke 17:20-37
May 31st	Psalm 119:97-104	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33	Luke 18:1-17

Serving Our Lord in the Month of May

Elders for May

Stephen Bender & Steven Reinbold

Ladies Aid for April

Joanne Bigham & Joanne Hills

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Refreshments: Laura Starkey, Bev Voss, Cindy Voss

Propers Choir: Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Ashley Bublitz

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Nicole Seeley

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Refreshments: Helene Weber, Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold

Acolyte: Erwin Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Hannah Haller

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Refreshments: Ashley Bublitz, Sandy D'Addezio, Joyce Dickson

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Pamela Ill

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Laura Starkey

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Refreshments: Ann Emery, Sarah Hall, Hannah Haller

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Bible Study Babysitter: Ashley Bublitz

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Propers Choir: Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Noah 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.**

MAY 2025

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Stephen Bender (989) 430-9910 & Steven Reinbold (989) 233-5097

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>St. Philip and St. James, Apostles</i> 10 am Ladies Aid	2 Pastor's Day Off	3
4 <i>The Second Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	5 7:30 pm Properties	6	7 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	8	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
11 <i>The Third Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 <i>The Fourth Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Matins 10:30 am Sunday School Bible Study	19	20	21	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24
25 <i>The Fifth Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	26	27	28 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	29 <i>The Ascension of Our Lord</i> 6 pm Divine Service	30 Pastor's Day Off	31

