



The Eternal Light

Eternal Savior Lutheran Church
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**From the Intentional Interim Pastor
May 2023**

The Significance of Ascension Day

Ascension Day - May 18

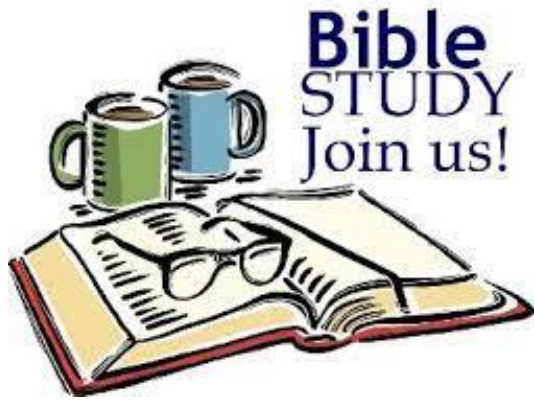
On Ascension Day, the Church does not merely commemorate an historical event in the life of Christ, the Church celebrates Christ's physical departure from the world and His glorification with God the Father. For forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus remained on earth. He appeared to His Disciples and five hundred people at various times and places witnessed this. By eating and drinking with His followers and conversing with them about the Kingdom of God, Jesus assured them that He was truly alive in His risen and glorified body.

On the fortieth day after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and led them out of Jerusalem, as far as Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. He lifted up His hands, blessed them and as His disciples were looking on, He was lifted up - or "ascended" - and a cloud took Him out of sight. While they were looking up, two angels in white robes appeared and said to them: "Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen Him go there." The Ascension is, therefore, a sign and symbol of Christ's Second Coming. Christ will return to the earth in the same manner as He left it. When the risen Lord returns again in glory, God's will for mankind will be fulfilled.

First, the ascension clearly marked the end of Christ's earthly ministry. What began in a manger in Bethlehem ended with His return to heaven. Second, the ascension marked the success of His earthly mission. Jesus accomplished the mission that the Father had given Him. Third, the ascension marked the time when Jesus once again enjoyed His heavenly glory. During His time on earth, with the exception of the Transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-9*), Christ limited any expressions of the heavenly glory that He enjoyed prior to His earthly birth. His ascension began a new period during which Jesus would once again reign without limiting Himself to His earthly role. Fourth, the ascension marks the beginning of the time when Jesus is preparing a place for His followers. John 14:2-3 teaches, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." Fifth, it indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (*Hebrews 4:14-16*) and Mediator of the New Covenant (*Hebrews 9:15*).

Finally, the ascension established the pattern for Christ's return. As the angels in Acts told the disciples, Jesus will return just as He left. Jesus Christ currently reigns in heaven. His ascension marks the beginning of the time in which the Church actively communicates the message of Jesus to bring many to faith who will live with Christ for eternity in the place He has prepared for us. This is why Ascension Day is so important.

Pastor Schultz



Come Join us for Bible Class

Come join us for an exciting new study on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. We are currently studying the Augsburg Confession from the Book of Concord. On Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. we are studying the church pericopes for each week of the church calendar year. Also, on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. we are studying how we got the Bible and how the Bible is on Trial. Hope to see you there!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – May 2023

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (*John 13:15*). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (*Rom. 12:8*).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (*2 Cor. 8:3*), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (*2 Cor. 9:7*). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (*1 John 3:18*). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (*Ex. 36:5–6*). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

OFFERING REPORT

Offerings for the month of April were:

April 2	\$4,186
April 9	\$3,449
April 16	\$2,036
April 23	\$6,440
April 30	\$1,681

This weekly average (\$ 3,558) compares to our 2023 weekly budget needs of **\$4,369**.

COUNTER SCHEDULE

If you have a conflict on a day you are scheduled, please arrange with another counter to cover that day.

May 7 – Mark and Mary Bunge

May 14 - Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly

May 21 - Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane

May 28 - Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane

June 4 – Mark and Mary Bunge

June 11 – Mark and Mary Bunge

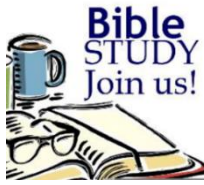
June 18 – Sam and Lynn Kelley

June 25 – Sam and Lynn Kelley

We have a handful of members successfully using both of our electronic giving options. If you are interested in trying it out but need a refresher please let Mary know and she will have someone get in contact with you.

News Items

- **Thank you!** Thank you to all the members at Eternal Savior Lutheran Church for their prayers and good wishes. Your kindness has been unbelievable. To all who made us meals, we can't express how much we appreciate them. They were all so delicious and really helped us out. May God bless each and every one of you. Thanks again so much!
Red and VeeAnn Jasper
- **Stop!** - When your Easter lilies are finished blooming, please don't throw them out. Instead, bring them into church & place them in the clear bin by the other bins in the narthex. We are going to try and incorporate them into revamped planting beds we are going to put in this Spring. No need to worry about keeping them watered. ALSO, if you have bearded iris in your yard and plan to divide any of those plants, please keep the church in mind. We also want to add iris to our new planting beds. Any colors are welcome. Questions? Talk to Leslie Ball. Thanks!
- **The Lutheran Chorale**
The Lutheran Chorale presents its May concert, "Something Old, Something New, Something Tried, All Are True" on Sunday, May 7, 2023. The concert includes a wide range of music, from Bach and Handel to inspiring anthems, fun spirituals and more. You won't want to miss it! The afternoon concert will be at 2:30 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church, 6281 W. Yale Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado. The evening concert will be at 6:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Rockies Lutheran Church, 106 Rosalie Road, Bailey, Colorado. There is no cost to attend, but a free will offering will be collected.
- **Support for the Lutheran Seminary in Siberia Remains Strong As Ever**
The *Save the Seminary Campaign's* support for the seminary in Novosibirsk remains as strong as ever. There is no talk of stopping this important work, even as Russia and its neighbors clash. We stand with Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin of the Siberian Lutheran Church when he says, "whether it is cold or warm here, in any weather, the Church continues her salvific ministry to people, warming them with the Word and Sacrament." Russia and neighboring countries, including Ukraine, need pastors now, and it will need pastors when the current international conflict ends. We are committed to assuring our Siberian friends that we will do everything in our power to make certain the seminary will be there, standing with them and helping them prepare pastors to carry God's Word and Sacrament to people in Siberia, other parts of Russia, and surrounding areas. Please continue to pray for the seminary and the *Save the Seminary Campaign* efforts. Your prayers mean so much, and your financial support is a genuine encouragement for the campaign team as we continue to build an endowment for the seminary.



Sunday Morning Bible Study! – Grab a cup of coffee and please join us each Sunday at 10:40AM in the Fellowship Hall! We are currently studying the Augsburg Confession from the Book of Concord.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study! – Please join us for Wednesday Morning Bible Class – we will study the pericopes (*readings*) for the upcoming Sunday. Please join us.

Wednesday Night Bible Study - At the Wednesday night Bible study we are studying how we got the Bible and how the Bible is on Trial. Please consider joining us Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Fireside Room, and a Zoom link will be available to anyone who would prefer to attend remotely.

Sunday School! We are studying the “Enduring Faith” curriculum, Unit 8. Sunday School opening is at 10:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. All children are encouraged to join us!

Easter Celebration

We had a wonderful Easter Celebration! From a delicious breakfast, to resounding music, to an Easter Egg Hunt. He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!!



A HUGE thank you to Robin Warnken and Cindy Stahly for the creation of our beautiful new Easter banners.



Congratulations Confirmands



Congratulations to Micah Anderson, Levi Hinrichs and Mikayla Richardson.

We will continue to keep you in our prayers as you commit yourself to God and His kingdom forever.



REMINDERS

The Deacon's Fund supports Emergency Family Assistance, ULC, and other charities as well. All of these funds will be used to alleviate the needs of people who are in very vulnerable circumstances. The agencies have expressed great gratitude. We are only able to do this because of the generous and faithful contributions of you, our dear members, to the Deacon's Fund! Please consider contributing via your offering envelopes or in the Deacons' Fund collector in the Narthex! Thanks!!!

Please be responsible!!! For everyone who has access to the church building, it is your responsibility when you leave to make sure that all lights are off, the heat/air-conditioning/fans are turned back or off and all of the **doors are locked and secure!!** Please do double checks before you leave.

We ask that all members of the congregation please be conscious of protecting their valuables while at church. Many times, the doors are left unlocked, and people are downstairs. This gives easy access to someone who may not be a member. We will try to remember to lock the doors after service.

Sign Up to Receive Text Messages - Eternal Savior is building a text message list for urgent communications. i.e. Service is cancelled due to a blizzard. If you would like to receive notifications like that via text message, please text **ETERNALSAVIOR** (one word, no space) to 84576. Contact Laura Raben if you need help signing up.

The **2023 Flower Chart** is now available on the bulletin board. Please look to see if there is a service you would like to provide flowers. Also include if the flowers are for a special occasion.

Parking spaces in front of the church should be reserved for those members and visitors that need to park close to the building due to health concerns or weather. Please be considerate and leave these spaces to those who need them most.

Large print worship service folders and assisted listening devices are available. Please ask an usher if needed.

SERVING IN MAY

Sunday, May 7

Organist /Pianist	Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Ryan Lambrecht, Roger Landowski
Greeter(s)	Bob and Brenda Vieyra
Counter(s)	Mark and Mary Bunge
Elder(s)	Dave Sherrets, Keith Cowley
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Nick Mayer
Lawn	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 14

Organist /Pianist	Linda Innes
Cantor	Dave Sherrets
Acolyte	Micah Anderson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson, Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Keith and Polly Cowley
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Cindy Stahly
Elder(s)	Wayne Thomas (r), Dave Sherrets
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Laura Raben
Lawn	Bob Vieyra
Flowers	OPEN

Sunday, May 21

Organist/Pianist	Linda Innes
Acolyte	Mikayla Richardson
Usher(s)	Kirk Anderson and Marc Ertle
Greeter(s)	Kirk and Melisa Anderson
Counter(s)	Polly Cowley and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson, Ryan Lambrecht
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Tom Stahly
Lawn	Tom Stahly
Flowers	Raben

Sunday, May 28

Organist/Pianist	Linda Thompson
Cantor	Pam Mayer
Acolyte	Levi Hinrichs
Usher(s)	Keith Cowley, Tom Stahly
Greeter(s)	Sam and Lynn Kelley
Counter(s)	Cindy Stahly and Katherine Crane
Elder(s)	Kirk Anderson (r), Jeff Reuer
Altar	Mary Bunge
A/V Booth	Dave Sherrets
Lawn	Sam Kelley
Flowers	Griffin

We have many ways in which our members can share their gifts with others each Sunday. Some of those are Greeters, Offering Counters, Ushers, Livestream and Audio Engineers, Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal. These are all listed on the Servant Calendar on our web site. Please reach out to Mary at the church office if you can serve. We so appreciate and thank God for your service!