

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 63 – Number 05
May 2024 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

May 2024

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”

--- Proverbs 31: 25 – 30

King Solomon, the writer of Proverbs, is lifting up ideals. All through the book of Proverbs, which was originally written for the tutelage of young men entering into the ministry, we see Solomon lifting up examples of the way people and things should be. Proverbs is a wonderful book in that it gives stark warnings of the consequences for negative and self-destructive behavior in a loving and caring way, and it lifts up the roles of women to the pinnacle of what should be desired; Sophia, or in English, wisdom. It should be no surprise, then, that the book of Proverbs points to the ideal mother, the verses listed above, that direct one's thinking towards a model of femininity that is strong, hard-working and pure. As polly-annish as this might sound, it conjures up a powerful and positive image for the female gender that young men probably needed to hear the most at that time in their lives. Look at the first verse: “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.” This is hardly a description of the shrinking violet who meekly cowers in the shadow of

the almighty MALE. This is a crucial and positive message not only for girls and women, but for the young boys and men who are learning at the feet of King Solomon. How you treat your mothers, sisters, and any other woman for that matter, will be indicative of the kind of culture you will produce as a people Solomon teaches. The ability to “laugh at the time to come...” describes a person who can properly put matters into perspective, weeding out the trivial and the bombastic from that which is real, true and inevitable. It is not a call to regard life with silly frivolity, but instead is a call to make sure that proper matters are given proper attention, and the trivial be discarded from the realm of seriousness. Wouldn't it be nice if we could all be more like the mother figure mentioned in the above verses?

The month of May brings us Mother's Day, that holiday in which we are invited to lift up our mothers, or women who fulfilled that role in the absence of a mother. We celebrate the nurturing, loving, and caring power of the one we call mother as we remember her life's sacrifices on our behalf, and the way with which she also had to stand firm in our raising. Mothers are crucial for bringing a different energy to a family than the father does. The power of nurturing, the presence of the comforter, the obedience to the disciplinarian, the reliability of the one who makes the household run; these are all ways in which we celebrate the sometimes-thankless job of what it means to be a mother. Oftentimes taken for granted, but ever-so-crucial in our upbringing and formation, we lift up our mothers in praise and thanksgiving as a true gift of God. King Solomon lifts up the ideal image of just about *everything* in the book of Proverbs, but this does not make it unrealistic or dreamy in its scope. Much to the contrary, like all good scripture, we are invited into the story of wisdom, into the very presence of Sophia, and are asked to sit at her feet and learn a thing or two. The envisioning of Sophia is one of the ways that Solomon chooses to teach the young men in his classrooms about the over-arching wisdom of God, and he teaches us in the same way when we read the book of Proverbs for ourselves.

Hopefully, you will think of reading the Book of Proverbs if you haven't already. Written in manageable chapters, broken down into succinct verses (many which stand-alone according to subject matter for the purposes of mentally digesting) the Book of Proverbs tells the story of us all; what it means to be a human being. Within it motherhood is celebrated in all its glory. May we remember our mothers this month of May and celebrate before God the blessing that they have been.

Mothers, Memories, and More

May is a month when a LOT happens. We're STILL in the Easter season (for the 1st two Sundays). May 12th is Mother's Day. Our Evangelism Committee will have little flowers to pass out to our mothers. May 19th is PENTECOST SUNDAY (Wear RED if you have it to represent the "tongues of fire" that appeared on that day!) May 26th is Trinity Sunday and Memorial Day.

Wow—a LOT of activities. First, we are still in the EASTER season, so we will continue to sing all those "CHRIST AROSE" hymns that are so full of JOY. Then, Mother's Day reminds us of the importance of honoring our Mothers and Fathers, which (as you should recall) is one of the ten commandments. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then, we end the month on Trinity Sunday. Since Pentecost represents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the following week we formally celebrate the TRIUNE God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This year, that date is also Memorial Day Weekend (more on that later).

Many Christians don't realize that the festival of Pentecost is NOT a "New Testament Festival". It was instituted hundreds of years before Jesus's birth. Originally called the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew), the celebration started 49 days after Passover (see Lev 23 and Deut 16). So, it's 50 days after Easter (thus, the PENTE in the name representing 50th). It was a festival marking the beginning of the first-fruits of the upcoming harvest. In the New Testament, we see that Jesus and his followers were "in town" specifically for the festival. The Biblical references to this and its meaning are prevalent and found in many books of the Bible.

After celebrating the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we celebrate the Triune God on Trinity Sunday, which this year, coincides with Memorial Day. While Memorial Day (previously called Decoration Day) isn't an official church holiday, The Bible does mention honoring our parents, and that concept applies to this holiday too. While it was originally created in 1868 to honor and remember military personnel who died while serving in the US Armed Forces, most families

expand the day to remember all the friends and relatives who have passed on to their eternal reward.

I recently played for a funeral at St. Mark in Chillicothe and Pastor Sipf said something that really caught my attention and seems to fit for Memorial Day celebrations. He said it has been said that a person dies not once, but three times. The **FIRST** death is when our body dies. The **SECOND** death is when our bodies are laid to rest (either buried, cremated, or whatever), and the **THIRD** death is when the last person who ever knew us dies.

How true! Each of us can live remarkable lives, as did millions before us, but after a few generations, that memory is lost and our accomplishments are forgotten. That thought is found in the Bible, First, we are reminded of God's eternal love for us, "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*" (Ps 116:15), yet we also see "*The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no more reward, and even the memory of them is lost.*" Ecc 9:5, and finally, "*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died...For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.*" 1 Thes 4:13-14, and for that, we rejoice and remember!

OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP RETURNS JUNE 2nd!

"By Popular Demand" we will once again move worship **OUTSIDE** to our park/shelter area starting June 2nd. We will have **ONE** worship service each week at 9 am, with Sunday School following. In the event of rain, we will move inside, still meeting at 9 am. This is the perfect opportunity to invite your unchurched friends and neighbors to join us for informal worship. Sit in your car, or bring a lawn chair or grab a picnic table...and enjoy worship in the beauty of God's creation!

Until Next Month...

As we spend time honoring our Moms and remembering those who have died, take comfort in these words from Romans 14:

"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

Romans 14: 7-8 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

3 years old-PreK
Kindergarten-3rd grade
4th grade
Middle School

Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith
Becky & Shannon Sanders
Patti Riley
Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, February 18th and throughout the late winter/spring months, our lessons will follow the Year B Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermons.

May 5th
May 12th
May 19th
May 26th

The Holy Spirit Came Down
Matthias the Apostle
The Holy Spirit
Isaiah's Call

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer
christian.reichert@att.net
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of April 01, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Russ & Jane Look	Hearts Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Study: We will gather on May 8th and 22nd at 6:00pm to continue our studies of Thessalonians.

Jane Rosenbohm (309) 645-9009

Greeters Needed: We are in need of greeters for both services. This is an easy rewarding service you can provide to St. John “Community”. If you can arrive 15 minutes early, smile, say “welcome” and hand out a bulletin you qualify! Sign up sheets are at the back of church beside greeters. If you have questions contact Shirley Schmitt (309) 232-9484.

New Pew Bibles: The new pew Bibles are in place. The council is asking for donations to help cover the cost of \$12 per Bible. If you'd like to make a donation to help with the expense, please put your check or cash in an envelope and clearly mark it PEW BIBLES.
Thank You

READERS

May 05 **8:00am** Pat McGrew
 10:30am Pat McGrew

May 12 **8:00am** Pepper Bauer
 10:30am Pepper Bauer

May 19 **8:00am** Sandy Behrends
 10:30am Sandy Behrends

May 26 **8:00am** Marilyn Hartseil
 10:30am Marilyn Hartseil

USHERS

May 05 **8:00am** Lonnie Catterall /
 Marla Kumpf
 10:30am Roger Shafer

May 12 **8:00am** Tim Sammis
 Jodi Miller
 10:30am

May 19 **8:00am** Joe Baumgardner
 Denny Dougherty
 10:30am

May 26 **8:00am** Pepper Bauer
 Eric Jones
 10:30am

GREETERS

May 05 **8:00am** Dan & Deb Sammis
 10:30am Marilyn Hartseil

May 12 **8:00am** Betty & Brody Lyons
 10:30am Mike & Cheryl Wabel

May 19 **8:00am** open
 10:30am open

May 26 **8:00am** open
 10:30am open

St. John Lutheran Church
6614 W. Smithville Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436
(309) 697-1440



Current Resident or:

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
Permit No. 704

Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, May 15th at 12:00 noon.

Sunday morning Service - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 9:00am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.