

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 75 — Number 05
May 2025 Jottings

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



Pastor Michael's Musings

May 2025

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.” Psalm 119: 105 – 107

May brings about the month of growth. Sure, April establishes vegetative growth as we can see in the phrase “April showers bring May flowers” but it is in the month of May that plants, flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, and such seem to really take root and push off in a more substantial way. What before may have been bare tree branches blowing in the cool early Springtime wind are suddenly transformed into thick and luscious forest swaths that hang lazily in a sultry, balmy heat. The death and loss of the previous Fall into Winter weather pattern, which stripped trees bare and leveled the soil to mud and snow have now given way to luscious, vibrant (albeit pollen and dust filled) greenery that spans as far as we can see. Trees and flowers have weathered the “suffering” of the declining late season of the year prior and now parade about in their Springtime garb awaiting another summer of living.

The verses printed above, penned by King David in a moment of great turmoil, himself unmoored in the wilderness, mirror the

changes that occur in our lives that we can see specifically in the turning of the seasons. Things are born, they are tried in a difficult world, they achieve their purpose and then suffer and change before they are once again born into the world for another go. We can see this in the lives of people, in the changing of the patterns of the seasons, in the history of humanity as it struggles with meaning and purpose in an uncertain age, and even in our own theological, faith-based struggles with God. David is telling us about his struggles with his faith considering his “banishment” to the wilderness because of the will of his son Absalom who desires to have him put to death. David has followed the will of the Lord by declaring to follow his word, while at the same time he admits to suffering, and resorts to pleading with God that his life be spared. Oh, how our lives mimic David’s at times. We too declare our belief and faith in God and in his providence, while we also suffer from the wiles and dangers of the world. If you have ever been in the hospital as a result of physical hurt, suffered injury from an accident, misjudged a situation and had to pay the consequences to those who were hurt by your mistake, had to admit your fault for something, or recognized you may have “over-reacted” about something, all the while maintaining your belief in God, then you can sympathize with King David in the verse above. Here is a believer in the ways of the Lord who had to suffer in a broken world that doesn’t seem to care. Just as the cold Fall rains and winds drive the tree leaves to death and lifeless piles on the ground, only to bud forth and be regrown again in the Spring on the bough, so too might we experience these types of stages in our lives.

The one constant is the power and wisdom of the Lord – the Lord’s word. Through all of life’s “ups and downs” may we also be led like David to an eventual future that reveals and fulfills God’s will in our lives. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Yea, Lord, let it be so!

EASTER!! He is RISEN...He is RISEN INDEED

Yes, EASTER finally arrived...April 20th this year. As always, we worked our way up to Easter with the 40 days of Lent (not including Sundays) and now, after a very meaningful and meditative Lenten Season, it's finally time to celebrate the resurrection!

Our Sunday Liturgy is back to FULL POWER! We can once again sing the joyous "Hymn of Praise" such as "This is the Feast", and include ALLELUIAs in our hymns! It's a time to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. In fact, those two words appear in the same sentences 75 times in the Bible, especially in the Psalms.

Easter is not just a "day", it's a season...50 days to be exact...starting on Easter Sunday and finishing 50 days later on Pentecost, which this year, will be on June 8th. The lessons in the Easter Season will be concentrating on Jesus preparing his followers to carry on his ministry. Here are some things we'll hear:

May 4th: The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

May 11th: The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

May 18th: Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Continued on next page...

May 25th: Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

So, let's keep the JOY of Easter going throughout the Easter Season and BEYOND! We are Easter People...REJOICE and be GLAD!

Mother's Day—May 11

May 11th is actually a day to celebrate THREE things:

1. It's the 4th Sunday of Easter
2. It's GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday
3. It's MOTHER'S DAY

The choir anthem will center around the Shepherd Sunday theme, with one of our Sunday School kids reading the 23rd Psalm during our anthem.

The Children's Sermon time will center on Mother's Day as our Evangelism committee and Sunday School Kids once again pass out fresh flowers to all the women.

Of course, the lessons and hymns will follow the EASTER theme.

It's also the LAST SUNDAY that the choir will sing before our Summer Break...we'll return in September.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP RETURNS JUNE 1st!

By popular demand, we will once again hold our Summer Sunday Worship services OUTDOORS in our shelter, with **ONE service weekly at 9 am.** In case of rain, we will move indoors.

These services are full communion services using "disposable" communion packets that you'll receive as you drive into the parking lot. We sing fun songs, accompanied by myself and Pastor (Piano and Guitar) from the shelter, as worshippers sit in their cars (Drive-in style) or picnic tables, or your own lawn chairs. Come early and grab a delicious donut and coffee and fellowship with others in the beautiful and visitor-friendly atmosphere of our shelter and park-like area. Invite your friends! This is the perfect way to introduce people to our church.

Until Next Month...

The JOY of Easter continues, and reminds us to:

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..."

Matthew 5:12 (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-6th grade
Middle School
Adult

Kathy Ellis
Becky & Shannon Sanders
Patti Riley
Fred Rosenbohm
Eric Jones

Starting Sunday, March 9th and throughout the spring months, our lessons will follow the Year C Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

May 4th
May 11th
May 18th
May 25th
June 1st
June 8th
June 15th

Saul to Paul
Peter & Tabitha
Peter's Dream
Lydia
Paul & Silas
The Holy Spirit
Praise God

4th – 8th grade aged children are learning about Bible History, The Creed, and the importance of establishing their own unique faith journey.

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If you have questions and/or would like to enroll your child, please contact me at your convenience.

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

Homebound List (as of April 25, 2025)

Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Art Campen	4169 King St.	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
% Carrie Campen	Denver, Co. 80211		
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jo Ann Lambie c/o Pepper Bauer	Lutheran Hillside Village 5220 S. Cameron Ln. Mapleton, Il 61547
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jane Look	Heartis Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Shirley Cramer	7815 W. Plank Rd. Peoria, Il. 61604	Sharon Resler	The Loft 1500 W. Northmoor Rm. 415 Peoria, Il. 61614

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Congratulations: Congratulations to our Confirmands and our 1st Communion young people. God's Blessings on all these young individuals; **Confirmands:** Layla Bill. Easton Edwards, Noah Harken, Brody Lyons and Jake Schuster. **1st Communion:** Thomas Lennie, Alex Harken, Alex Smith, Allison Grafelman, Brady Edwards, and Morgan Daniels.

Outdoor Services: Outdoor Summer Services will be starting on Sunday, June 1st at 9:00am.

THANK YOU for Lenten Supper Offerings: The folks who came for this year's Lenten Suppers not only enjoyed great food and fellowship, they were also very generous with their donations. This year we took in \$420. As announced, that money has been sent off to the ELCA Good Gifts program, which funnels the money into things that help feed, educate, and support people in underdeveloped countries. Here's how your donations will be used: 4 broods of 10 chicks (to provide eggs and food), 4 roosters (to provide MORE chicks and eggs) 2 Fruit Tree Seedling (to help start an orchard), 2 Hives of Honey Bees (to provide nutritious sweetener or sell honey for money), 1 piglet (can provide food or money if sold), 2 Goats (provides milk and meat), 1 set of Seeds and Gardening tools (to help start and maintain a garden), 1 set of Mosquito Netting for a family (Malaria still runs rampant in 3rd world countries), 2 Vaccinations for a child (such important medical care is almost non existent in 3rd world countries). Your donations are helping us serve those in need as we live up to the ELCA reminder "God's Work, Our Hands."

In the Fall: This fall, on the 1st Sunday of the month, we will resume Holy Communion at the Communion rail. For those who do not wish to come to the rail, they may still receive Holy Communion at the center aisle after all have received at the rail.

Help: Sewing ladies need help. Can you tie a knot, iron, and any other help you can give us, like putting squares together for a top. We meet about 9:00am on Thursday mornings. We would enjoy your company.

Church Altar Flowers: HEADS UP: Sunday is the day we check our Flower Calendar & if you sign up for flowers during the week for the following Sunday you need to call Sue Moore @309-397-0507 to give her your order or they will be on the Altar the following Sunday. In order for the florist to give us their best service we need to give them ample time. Altar Guild Flowers are \$36. & make checks payable to Becks Florist & give to Jo Ann Brooks or the Altar Guild mailbox which is located in the Reception Room by the elevator. Sign up calendar for the flowers on the bulletin board in the West Entrance. You may take your flowers home after the 10:30 church service. Thank you for your help & beautifying our Altar.

Altar Guild,
Secretary Sheryl Bruninga

Readers:

May 04	Christina Jones
May 11	Pepper Bauer
May 18	Sandy Behrends
May 25	Tom Tate

Ushers:

May 04 (8:00) Roger & Elaine Shafer
(10:30) Eric & Sue Jones

May 11 (8:00) Lisa Suydam
(10:30) Dave & Teri Sammis

May 18 (8:00) Jodi & Bill Miller
(10:30) Shirley Schmitt

May 25 (8:00) Pepper Bauer
(10:30) Pat & Sally McGrew

Greeters:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 04 | (8:00) Open
(10:30) Patti Thornton |
| May 11 | (8:00) Janice Baumgardner
(10:30) Open |
| May 18 | (8:00) Levi Miller
(10:30) Mike & Cheryl Wabel |
| May 25 | (8:00) Betty & Brody Lyons
(10:30) Nick & Mary Bruletta |

St. John Lutheran Church
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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

Sunday, May 11th is Mother's Day.

Sunday, June 1st: Outside Service starts at 9:00am

Chori Rehearsal has finished until the fall.