

The King's

Business



Grace Lutheran

179 Holiday Island Drive
Holiday Island, AR 72631

479-253-9040

www.gracelutheranhi.org



May 2023

We at Grace Lutheran Church are called to reach, teach and be the people of God, as stewards of the Word and gifts of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Grace Family,

HE IS RISEN!

Wow! We are already entering into the 5th month of 2023. The Divine Services through Easter Tide had been great! We are now beginning to celebrate the second half of the Easter Season. As such we are quickly approaching the remembrance of the Ascension of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.



Ascension Day is the 40th day of Easter. It comes 39 days after Easter Sunday (This year, May 18). As a Christian holiday it commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. Some Christian Historians tell us that the Feast of the Ascension was the first Feast Day celebrated by Christians, even before the celebration of Christmas, Easter, and other Feast Days. This suggests the level of importance our early Christian brothers and sisters gave to the Ascension of our Lord into heaven as the culminating event of the saving work of Jesus Christ.

You can read the story of the Ascension in the book of Acts, chapter 1.

Eleven days after the celebration of the Ascension we will be gath-

ering for Pentecost Sunday (Sunday, May 28). The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth". The date for the celebration of Pentecost moves forward or backward on the calendar because it is observed 50 days (7 Sundays) after Easter. It is therefore listed as one of the "changeable holidays".



It was on this day we call "Pentecost" that the promised Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in what looked like tongues of fire. Before Jesus died, rose again from

the dead, and ascended into heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of John, verse 16:13, He told them that the Holy Spirit would then guide them “into all truth”. Because of this we have confidence that the Holy Spirit “call(s) us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and

keeps us in the true faith” as Luther’s explanation of the 3rd article of the Apostles Creed teaches us. As such He doesn’t leave us alone to defend for ourselves.

You can read the story of Pentecost in the book of Acts, chapter 2.

I look forward to seeing you all gathering around Word and Sacrament as we continue to worship through Easter Tide and beyond.

He Is Risen!
Pastor Schultz

The Church Word for May:

Holy



“Holy” is one of the most common church words. It is a part of the very fabric of the English language, used often even by non-Christians. We give very little thought to the word — most often we think of it as another way of saying “Godly.” We use it to connect something to God — or as a swear word or phrase to emphasize something. So, if we think about it, the phrases “Holy God” or “Holy Trinity” seem like we’re repeating ourselves — kind of like saying “Godly God.”

The Hebrew word for holy is קָדוֹשׁ (*kados* — Separate, devoted, pure). When we say God is holy, we mean he is completely sepa-

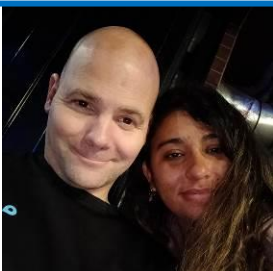
rate from all things, high above all things. Theologians use it to describe all of God’s qualities (*attributes*) Everything about God is absolutely pure and not mixed with anything else. When it comes to talking about God’s will and actions, the word holy means that God is absolutely good and without sin. Nothing impure can exist in his presence. That is why a sinful person cannot see God’s glory and live. That is why in the temple only the purified High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) once a year and then only to bring the blood of the sacrifice that brought the people of Israel the forgiveness of sins.

Because God is holy, anything set apart for his use is called holy. The temple, the sacrifices, his people. In the New Testament, the Word of God and the Sacraments are called holy: they connect God and his people. They are **Means of Grace**, the way that God in his grace and mercy creates faith in our hearts, forgives our sins, claims us as his own children and gives us life and salvation for the sake of the aton-

ing sacrifice of God’s son on the cross. In Baptism, Jesus makes us holy. (Ephesian 1:4, 5:27) Now we are his saints (“Holy Ones”). We are a holy nation, called to proclaim his good news to the whole world.

Now God calls on us, as his holy people, to be holy as our Heavenly Father is holy and perfect. (Leviticus 19:2, Matthew 5:48) As sinners, we will not be completely holy in our lifetime, but in faith, trusting in Christ, we can begin to do good works. Because of the cross, God sees only these works and remembers our sins no more. When we die and enter Christ’s eternal presence, we will then be purged of our sins once and for all and live as holy people in fellowship with our Holy God forever.

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We rejoice and give thanks with Chris Hardgrove that his wife, Alejandra, has finally been able to join him. This is an answer to many prayers — we look forward to seeing her regularly with Chris. Please welcome her as she adjusts to our community and congregation as you have consistently done with new people in the past. She is making more adjustments to us than most of our new members, but by the grace of God and the love our wonderful members, this will be easy and pleasant. Thank you! [ed.]

Reports from the Mission Field For May

Dear Grace Family,

As a means to help us be better connect to the work that goes on in the Mission Field, and the work of our LCMS Missionaries, I've asked the Rev. Christian Tiews permission to reprint some of his reports in our monthly newsletter. Many of you have met Rev. Tiews as he came to Grace to give one of his presentations considering demonic oppression and possession. Not long after he visited us the LCMS Mission Board issued a Call to him to be a Missionary to Germany and specifically to the many Islamic immigrants arriving in Germany. Again, this month, I submit the following.

Pastor Schultz



Wrapping up our baptismal preparation class at Zion Lutheran Church (SELK) in Hamburg last Thursday, we met in the children's

Sunday school room, which is well stocked with Legos, building blocks, and other toys. We discussed the ending of the Second Article of the Creed in the Small Catechism (Farsi translation): "From thence He

will come to judge the living and the dead." One of the catechumens asked: "In Christianity, is there a Judgment Day like in Islam, where everyone will be held accountable for what they did in their lives?" "Yes," I replied. "In that respect, both religions are similar. But regarding what *happens* on that day, Islam and Christianity are quite different. In Islam, everyone will be judged according to whether they did enough good things in their life to have earned Allah's favor and be allowed into Paradise. "Yes," one of them added, "Muslims believe that after you die, you enter 'barzakh—a kind of limbo, in which everyone will have to wait in line, nervous about how Judgment Day will turn out for them.'" [Yet another similarity between Islam and Roman Catholicism—with barzakh being comparable to the latter's teaching of purgatory]. "But Christianity is quite different...", I explained, rummaging through one of the shelves and collecting about a dozen wooden pins. I set them up on the table and arranged them in two groups. "At the Last Day, Jesus will raise everyone from the dead—and will also assemble those still living. He will separate them into two groups--those who believed in Him on earth and those who rejected Him (Matthew 25:32-34). For those who were baptized and believed in Jesus, their future is certain: He covers all their sins because He had already redeemed them on earth. No barzakh, no nervous waiting in line..." After a moment of reflection, one of the students exclaimed, "What would we do without Jesus...?"



Diana and Randall Senica have been gracious to invite our members of our church to their home --Saturday --May 6th—Kentucky Derby day. Their address is: 5909 HWY 62 W. ES **2:00 – 5:00** p.m. This will be a time where we as members of the church can get to know Diana and Randall and visa verse.

(Directions --as you leave Eureka Spring in going toward Berryville drive around 4-5 miles --when you get to a steep hill there will be a big yellow house on the right at the very top.) The driveway appears after you pass the house.

Not only will be celebrating Kentucky Derby there are many activities you can participate in: pool; darts; board games; pin ball machine; ping pong. Women who wear hats celebrating Kentucky Derby will be given a prize.

Snacks will be provided.

They are going to rent a recent movie which is I understand is very good: **Jesus Revolution** Those who wish to watch the movie it will be shown in their theater area. Popcorn and treats will be provided while watching the movie.

The Women's Guild

The Women's Guild enjoyed an outing to **Keeter Center** for lunch and a visit to 'Hoge Greenhouses'. With some great finds. We also visited a couple other locations. I think everyone would agree that we had a wonderful day.

We are also having some scheduling issues in May and have decided to forego the May meeting as well. May 16th is now a free day.

We have received a number of recipes for our sharing cookbook. Please be aware that it will not be available until this Fall. Thank you to those who participated. We are looking forward to our next gathering of 'Sisters in Christ'.

With that thought, our next gathering is another luncheon, scheduled for June 13, 2023. Time and location are yet to be determined however I remember some talk about the Thai House. We will verify if

that is the consensus and make arrangements prior to that date.

Praying each of you are well and enjoying all of the blessings the Lord provides.

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In His Grace,

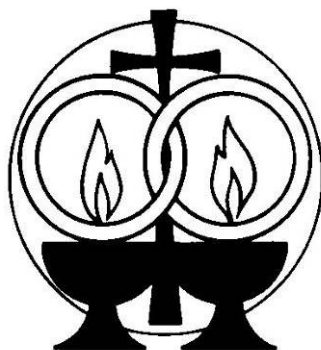
Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Herring, Secretary



April

Birthdays

Dean Bennett	7
Mike Quinly	6
Sherry Steichen	13
Bruce Bleser	18
Ramona Koch	20
Linda Riggin	30



March

Anniversaries

None listed



Bruce & Jane Bleser
Dean & Lisa Bennett
Ken & Bernie Haydon
LaVerne & Terri Herman
Bob & Barb Herring - 2
Myles & Sharon Schultz
Joe & Sherry Steichen
Tony & Janice Willmuth - 2

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C.S. Lewis
From: *The Problem of Pain*