



May 2020 Newsletter
Sponsored by
Bob & Lorna Alberg

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!!!

from Pastor Sharon

May Newsletter

As I look at my Facebook feed, I see that I have sent out many pictures of flowers. Their color and unique beauty remind me that God continues to create new life every day. We live more fully as we find reminders of how Jesus' life and death and resurrection changed everything. God raises us up to new life, even when we feel trapped. God in Jesus continues to surprise us with true freedom: **freedom from** the fear of death, trouble or hardship and **freedom for** a life that becomes willing to give up in a way that considers first the needs of our neighbor. No longer do we as Christians live for ourselves and for our own happiness, but we are called beyond individual goals to a life in community. God's Word shows us what is good and right and just for the whole world. Living this Easter life is not a single or simple undertaking. It's a lifelong commitment to each other as the Spirit opens our, eyes, ears and hearts!!! This Word of God speaks to us and guides us, at all times and in all places - where we gather **and** where we scatter - in our homes and families and jobs and towns! "Church" happens daily as you and I carry on the work of God's kingdom in the world!

How are you doing after about 40 days into this pandemic? Who could have known that we would still be fighting this vicious virus? Who would have guessed that we would still be showing our love for each other, especially for those vulnerable among us, by sheltering at home? Who could have imagined Holy Week and now every Sunday that we could not gather in our buildings for worship? I would never have believed that I would be leading worship and preaching on Facebook live. Thank you all who helped that happen; thank you all who are still worshiping virtually. Your feedback is welcome. Please share on your pages, invite friends, and when safe share with your loved ones who may not feel computer savvy. You can watch at least 6 recorded services on YouTube; the link is on our websites. If you or someone you know would like a paper copy of my last sermon, let me know so that I could send it via email.

Returning to worship in our sanctuaries depends on many factors. A leader from the Wisconsin Council of Churches who meets with statewide and national ecumenical groups gave us local pastors an overview of how the pandemic is changing church for the near future. Guidelines to consider opening: 1. The severity of the virus in our area based on more accurate numbers of deaths, illnesses and hospitalizations. 2. Greatly increased testing which could give us better knowledge of who is contagious and who, with no apparent symptoms, is still a carrier. 3. Political concerns 4. Amount of human cooperation. Physical distancing and hand washing are still the best ways to "box in the

virus". As we increase testing and contact tracing, we will then be able to gradually open more businesses and activities. Social and church gatherings require extra care and prudence.

As your pastor I ask each of you to cooperate with patience and trust during these next months. Count on week by week changes. Until May 26, we shelter in place unless you are given permission to return to your work. We then hope to move on to **Phase 1 of the "Badger Bounce Back" plan**. Groups of 10 or less can gather (June?). **Phase 2**, when things get much more under control, up to 50 people can gather. (June or July?) **Phase 3** (fall??) allows large gatherings. Our church councils will discuss what each phase means for our two churches. In any case, we can still practice social distancing and sanitizing all touch areas. At first, we can gather in small groups for Council/ Committee meetings, Bible Studies, and coffee/tea conversations. When we are safe to worship back in our sanctuaries, we will consider use of masks, how we can sit 6 feet apart, having our offering in one stationary place, "no touch" greeting or passing of the peace. Singing and communion may not happen immediately until we know that we can do so safely. Outdoor worship this summer could be an option. Your councils will discuss possibilities that best fit our individual congregations, even as we lean on the advice from experts. We will continue to send updates as we learn them. Questions, concerns, call your council president or me 715-507-0618.

As the church, you and I need to focus on patience and prayer! Bind us together, Lord and help us to see You in all this change to a "new normal". May the good news of Jesus Christ shine in this age of disease and dis – ease! God, guide the medical experts to find and produce a vaccine soon! People everywhere have mixed feelings... so do you and I: impatience, fear, loneliness, anxiety, lack of clear purpose, loss of financial stability, anger, sadness. God, help us to withhold our judgments or blame. May we put the best construction on everything. (8th Commandment)

Remember that we are rainbow people, trusting that God's promise is true! We are not abandoned. Christ has risen! Death has been overcome; it has lost its power. Led by the Spirit, you and I live out our faith by listening, by trying to understand and honor the greater good, and by pointing the way to the Easter life. As people of hope, trust in the God who is with us and for us on this journey!

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Ps 30:5

God who loves the world turns our mourning into dancing! Ps 30:11

Time to get outside and smell the flowers!!!

We pray... O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

Richard Rohr

Our Monetary Discipleship for April 2020

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
4/1		\$ 1185				\$1185
4/8		\$2210			Newsletters Alberg \$60 Philipp \$60	\$2330
4/13		\$ 2080				\$2080
4/20		\$2540				\$2540
4/27		\$1020				\$1020
TOTAL		\$9035			\$120	\$9155

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space. Please use an envelope with your offering and **write your name and amount on the envelope** if you include cash. Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church.

ALTAR GUILD:

January & February: Gail Koehler & Ruthie Olsen
 March & April: Dianne Long & Kari Zeinert
 May & June: Dave & Shirley Schmidt & Linda Evje
 July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke August: Miriam Nelson
 September: Peggy Hartleben & Peggy Emmel October: Deb Rieck
 November & December: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow

The duties include set up and clean up of communion, changing the altar cloths (when needed) and watering the plants.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to all the newsletter sponsors:

January, 2020 **Carleton & Jean Benz** – In honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary and in memory of sons Larry and Brian
 Arletta Crowell – In memory of her husband, Elmer

February, 2020 **Roland & Karen Hendrikson** – In memory of Roland's sisters Margaret, Carol and Karen

March, 2020 **June Norrbom** – In memory of Carl and Loren

May, 2020 **Bob & Lorna Alberg**

June, 2020 **Lee & JoAnn Innerebner**

August, 2020 **Carol Klinner and family** – In memory of Hilbert Klinner

September, 2020 **Sharon Philipp** – In memory of her husband John Philipp

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for 2019, please make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church for \$60.00 and write a note with your name and the month you would like to sponsor. Please include on the note in honor of or in memory of (if you wish). This can be put in with the weekly offering or mailed to the church office. The monthly sponsorship covers the cost of those newsletters being mailed, along with the monthly fee for our website. Thank you to all who sponsor the monthly newsletter!

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ... (a facebook message that rings true)

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Unknown author

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER ♥ ♥

God hears and welcomes our prayers, gently and kindly changing us for good!!!

☪ ☪ God's Promises ☪ ☪

YOU SAY:	GOD SAYS:	BIBLE VERSES
"It's impossible"	All things are possible	Luke 18:27
"I'm too tired"	I will give you rest	Matthew 11:28-30
"Nobody really loves me"	I love you	John 3:16
"I can't go on"	My grace is sufficient	2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15
"I can't figure things out"	I will direct your steps	Proverbs 3:5-6
"I can't do it"	You can do all things	Philippians 4:13
"I'm not able"	I am able	2 Corinthians 9:8
"It's not worth it"	It will be worth it	Romans 8:28
"I can't forgive myself"	I forgive you	1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1
"I can't manage"	I will supply all your needs	Philippians 4:19
"I'm afraid"	I have not given you a spirit of fear	2 Timothy 1:7
"I'm always worried and frustrated"	Cast all your cares on Me	1 Peter 5:7
"I'm not smart enough"	I give you wisdom	1 Corinthians 1:30
"I feel all alone"	I will never leave you or forsake you	Hebrews 13:5

HELPFUL QUOTATIONS

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you are living. Women of the ELCA

May we grow back, not to what was, but instead towards what we can become!

www.radicistudios.com/store

At the end of the day, at the end of the week, at the end of my life, I want to say that I contributed more than I criticized. Brene Brown Clergy Coaching Network

Something will grow from all you are going through. Wild Woman Sisterhood

Broken clouds pour rain,

Broken soil set as fields,

Broken crop yields seeds,

Broken seeds give new life to plants,

So, when you feel broken with your situation right now,

Be rest assured that God is planning to utilize you for something great.

God's Word for You Today GODTV.COM

I PRAY THESE SAYINGS GIVE YOU HOPE AND DIRECTION...WHO KNOWS, REDEEMER and ZION, HOW GOD WILL SURPRISE US AND LEAD US IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS AHEAD.....

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD!!!

ESPECIALLY FOR FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS!!!!!!

KEEP THOSE MASKS COMING, PLEASE....



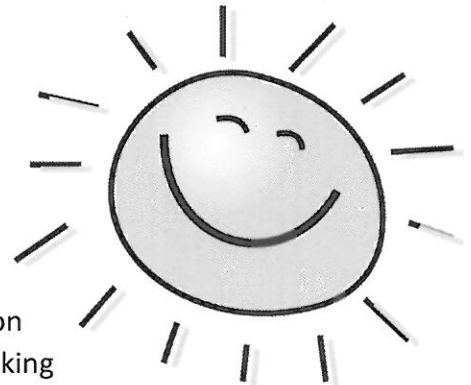
BOGENS BOUGHT A HOUSE

We did it. After deciding to quit looking for a house, due to Pandemic craziness, our realtor called and invited us to look at a 3-bedroom ranch near St. Clare's Hospital. We had all of 20 minutes to run through it wearing masks and gloves. And it seemed just right for us. After 4 failed offers on other houses, we were stunned when this went through. Now what have we done!! But, after plenty of jitters and tears and long talks, all is well.

3606 Sternberg Ave, Weston is ours - well will be - after closing on May 18. It is less than a mile north on X or Camp Phillips Rd. and 2 blocks west on Sternberg. We will do some painting, flooring, and cleaning while we slowly move our boxes in May/June. The big move is July 6.

PASTORAL CARE DURING OUR SUMMER VACATION

My husband Phil has extended his retirement to the end of September so that he can serve his congregation through this unprecedented time of ministry. I will serve as your pastor, hopefully, for years to come. You can call, text or e-mail me with any pastoral needs, small or large. I am at church regularly on Wed. at Zion and on Thursday at Redeemer, visiting, or lately, making phone calls to our homebound and nursing home residents. Look for my car and stop by for a visit - 6 feet apart- or call for an appointment, 715-507-0618. I work at home on Tuesdays and Fridays doing sermon prep, correspondence, coordination with council leaders, mail and phone calls, zoom text studies and meetings with our Synod leaders. We record a worship every Saturday evening which you can watch live or watch anytime thereafter by going to our websites and clicking there or on the link for YouTube.



I am working with our church council presidents to settle on a vacation time...likely May 20 - June 3 and July 8-15. You can expect to see substitute leadership on Sundays, May 24, 31 and July 12. Should you need emergency care during my time off, please check with your presidents or secretaries Susan Drews or Lois Anderson for the pastor on call.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

**Thank you to all for your continued support for Redeemer Church. Even though we are not able to worship together as a group, we remain strong as a congregation. Offerings may be mailed to : Redeemer Lutheran Church

PO Box 220
Wittenberg, WI 54499
Attn: Peggy Hartleben

**Included in this newsletter are articles and ideas to read and reflect on. Pastor Sharon has included her Easter sermon and we have added the lessons for the first 3 Sundays in May. May 24th and 31st prayers and lessons are:

May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Gospel: John 17:1-11

May 31 Day of Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgement in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace,

through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

****Just a reminder that our worship times change with**

May, June, July and August.

Worship at Zion is at 8:30 and worship at Redeemer is at 10:30.

Pastor Sharon and Pastor Phil lead worship each week on You Tube.

You can access the service beginning on Sundays by going to the Redeemer website, choosing this month at Redeemer, then clicking on the service.

Pandemic Time for Redeemer, Zion, Trinity and St. Peter Churches

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! **Let us pray.** Good and gracious God come with us now. Open our ears to hear your words. May your presence and your promise burn anew in our hearts so that we might see more clearly the beauty of all creation. In these times of fear and peril, anger and disappointment, show us signs of new life. Resurrect our love, our faith, and our joy! Amen.

We are right around Day 40 in our long walk towards healing from this vicious virus! It seemed a short walk in the beginning, this living safer at home. **Sure**, we can all sacrifice for the sake of our vulnerable population. At first, it seemed like a nice rest from our overly busy schedules. But now, the road seems arduous, all uphill, too long and too tough with no end in sight. We miss our daily routines, our paychecks, our freedom to come and go and to plan get-a-ways, graduations, weddings, vacations... I want my routine back. I want time with all of you in person - in worship- singing and praying together, sharing confession and communion. The skeptic in me wonders, will we stay dedicated to our congregations when this is all over or will good habits die all too easily? I was looking forward to summer activities: VBS, outdoor worship, Crossways Camp and meeting you at outdoor music gatherings. Does anyone else miss meeting friends or family at your favorite restaurant? Carefree conversations and laughter!!!

Forty days and 40 nights, Noah's family, building the ark and then living in isolation on the ark, probably had some of the same yearnings. Some similar questions and doubts! How about those Israelites, led by Moses and Aaron, for 40 years in the wilderness? I am sure that they wondered why had God saved them, only to leave them to die along the way. Worried about food and health and leadership, they whined and argued and began to lose faith. Jesus, too, knew temptation and hunger as he spent 40 days in his own wilderness. Are you beginning to see a pattern in Biblical stories? Trials and tribulations! Crooked paths....faith tested....

Today, in the Gospel of Luke, we meet the disciples on the road to Emmaus. A 7- mile journey on Easter Sunday. They had lots to talk about. They were sad about the crucifixion and about all the cruel events that led to it. So much suffering and loss! So many hopes dashed! A time of fear and trembling for all who knew Jesus. Their lives were endangered. And then the women astounded

them - Jesus was alive! How could this be? Was it true? It was all too much.How could this stranger who shows up on the way not know these things?

What questions and worries are you dealing with lately? How much longer can you isolate? When can many go back to work? How can our economy recover? What is the best way to "love our neighbor?" Will more testing show us the way? When will we discover a vaccine? Will I get sick? Will anyone I know die? I even heard some kids are wishing they could go back to school. They miss their teachers and their classmates! Kudos to teachers! Where is God in all of this? Why doesn't God fix it all? Who is to blame for this virus?

God's Word speaks to our questions. We learn in Luke today that Jesus shows up and walks alongside the sad, doubting disciples. He does not fully reveal who he is until they break bread together in their home. It is then that their eyes were opened and they recognize Jesus. Then their hearts are burning! Along the journey, Jesus interprets Scripture to them, unfolds the meanings of stories told by prophets of old. First, there will be suffering and then comes the glory! This is the way and the truth of the Easter life, given to us in Jesus' death and resurrection.

We, too, need our eyes opened! We need to listen again to God's Word! Now, our gracious God, in Jesus, walks with each one of us through our pain and suffering. When we feel lost, the Holy Spirit shows us the way. Through the Word and through the stories, old and new of God's people! This arc of Biblical stories speaks truth to our broken lives. As we struggle or wander aimlessly at times, God shows up, revealing the Godself in hidden ways. And sets are hearts on fire! When have you felt this burn? Or suddenly realized God was right there with you, listening and teaching you?

Phil and I are with you in this pandemic journey, the suffering and the joy. We have been sad that we cannot be the pastors we want to be, present with you, holding your hands through it all. We wonder daily if what we are doing is enough, if you are having your faith bolstered regularly. We pray that God's word is sustaining you and leading you! We care about your health and wealth and relationships. And we hope that each one of you reaches out to each other.

We also have had our own personal worries as we plan and readjust for Phil's retirement. It has not been joyful to purchase and plan for a new house with so many uncertainties facing us. Suffice it to say, we have not seen eye to eye on many decisions or timing or methods of getting all the details done. I am

the planner and risk-taker, and Phil is the “steady as she goes” guy who focuses on one detail at a time. Not the easiest road for us to travel together. Suffering before glory, right? Jesus might say to us what he said to the disciples, “how foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared.”

Dear people of God, we need each other. We are differently gifted. On this journey we call life, it is good to stop and listen more carefully, see more clearly, and sit down to have a meal together. As we hear God’s word and enter holy conversation, we will learn again that God is good beyond our understanding. Yes, there is trouble in life, but in Christ Jesus, joy follows suffering. The people listening to Peter in Acts were cut to the heart. They came to repent and believe with certainty that God made the crucified Jesus our Lord and Savior! This “promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” This promise is for Phil and for me. This promise is for Trinity and St. Peter, for Redeemer and Zion, for all the earth.

I saw two pictures on Facebook of rainbows that made me think that this pandemic has already brought some freedom for God’s creation. One arc was complete from end to end, you could see every color; the other picture showed 4 rainbow arcs in a row, a new vision for me. Maybe with less gas emissions from our usually overcrowded highways, creation is getting a much-needed rest. During this time, may we can see more clearly that God’s rainbow promise is true. God’s presence and incredible grace shine every day, especially now when the 40 plus days and nights seem too long and too hard. God hears your voice. God knows your name. God in Jesus is forever your great surprise!!! Amen



Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

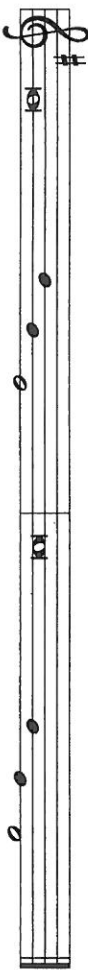
Acts 2:42-47

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and dis-

tribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23, tone 11



for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they I comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
²The Lord makes me lie down
in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways
for your name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

TODAY'S READINGS May 3, 2020

Volume 51, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

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Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020

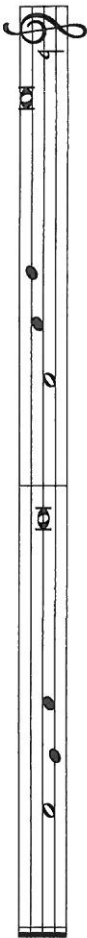
Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began

to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16; tone 4



In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me from your righteousness. ²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.** ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me. ⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth. ¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.** ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus

said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

TODAY’S READINGS May 10, 2020

Next Sunday’s Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter May 17, 2020

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In our great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What heretofore you worship as unknown, this proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where

they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Psalm 66:8-20; tone 6



less our 'l God, you peoples;
let the sound of 'l praise be heard.

'l m'ong the living

and has not allowed our 'l feet to slip.

For you, O God, have 'l tested us;

you have tried us

just as sil- 'l ver is tried.

You brought us in- 'l to the net;

you laid heavy burdens

up- 'l on our backs.

¹³You let people ride over our heads;
we went through 'l fire and water,
but you brought us out

into a place 'l of refreshment.

¹³I will enter your house

'l with burnt offerings

and will pay 'l you my vows—

those that I promised 'l with my lips

and spoke with my mouth

when I 'l was in trouble.

Psalm, continued

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings

of fatings with the 'l smoke of rams;

I will give you ox- 'l en and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you 'l who believe,

and I will tell you

what God has 'l done for me.

¹⁷I called out to God 'l with my mouth,

and praised the Lord

'l with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil 'l in my heart,

the Lord would 'l not have heard me;

¹⁹but in truth 'l God has heard me

and has attended to the sound

'l of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God,

who has not reject- 'l ed my prayer,

nor withheld unfailing 'l love from me.

1 Peter 3:13-22

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the un-

righteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

TODAY'S READINGS May 17, 2020

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

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Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

May Birthdays

Marcia Tellock	5-1
Kim Norrbom	5-5
Ashley Backes	5-7
Mark Carlson	5-7
James Brabender	5-9
Jordan Hartleben	5-10
Grace Czerwonka	5-11
Linda Meisner	5-12
Maddelyn Hull	5-14
Stephanie Meisner	5-16
Jim Netzler	5-16
Sally Johnson	5-17
Curt Low	5-17
Paul Pehlke	5-18
Shondel Hansen	5-20
Amber Hull	5-20
Nancy Luber	5-23
Jenna Meisner	5-25
Paul Hartleben	5-27
Jerry Nelson	5-27
Melana Schlueter	5-28

Roger & Marlis Mathison	5-17
Derek & Tracy Dombeck	5-18
Clint & Sara Horne	5-19
Paul & Nancy Pehlke	5-20
Bradley & Arla Block	5-23
James & Faith Kristof	5-25
Mark & Joan Carlson	5-30
Robert & Lorna Alberg	5-31



Happy Mother's Day May 10th



Memorial Day May 25th



I BELIEVE. . .

I believe in God the Father Almighty. Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From Thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Can you find 17 words from the Apostle's Creed in the word search below? The words to look for are underlined in the Creed above.

P	H	I	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	J	H
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	O
H	S	O	F	S	K	H	N	C	S	E	L
C	A	P	L	A	L	M	I	G	H	T	Y
N	I	O	C	I	T	V	A	H	I	A	S
O	N	L	N	P	H	H	J	R	X	L	P
I	T	T	O	T	C	G	E	K	Y	I	I
T	S	B	N	R	F	D	S	R	I	P	R
C	U	N	A	T	D	E	U	J	O	S	I
E	C	E	I	N	B	D	S	E	C	U	T
R	B	V	T	N	E	N	K	S	G	I	M
R	V	A	S	C	F	E	B	O	J	T	P
U	D	E	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	N	P
S	M	H	R	B	L	S	J	O	P	O	K
E	J	L	H	S	T	A	M	Z	O	P	P
R	M	I	C	G	R	V	U	O	P	V	S

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit .