

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. King Street
York, PA 17401-1307
Phone: 717-843-8597



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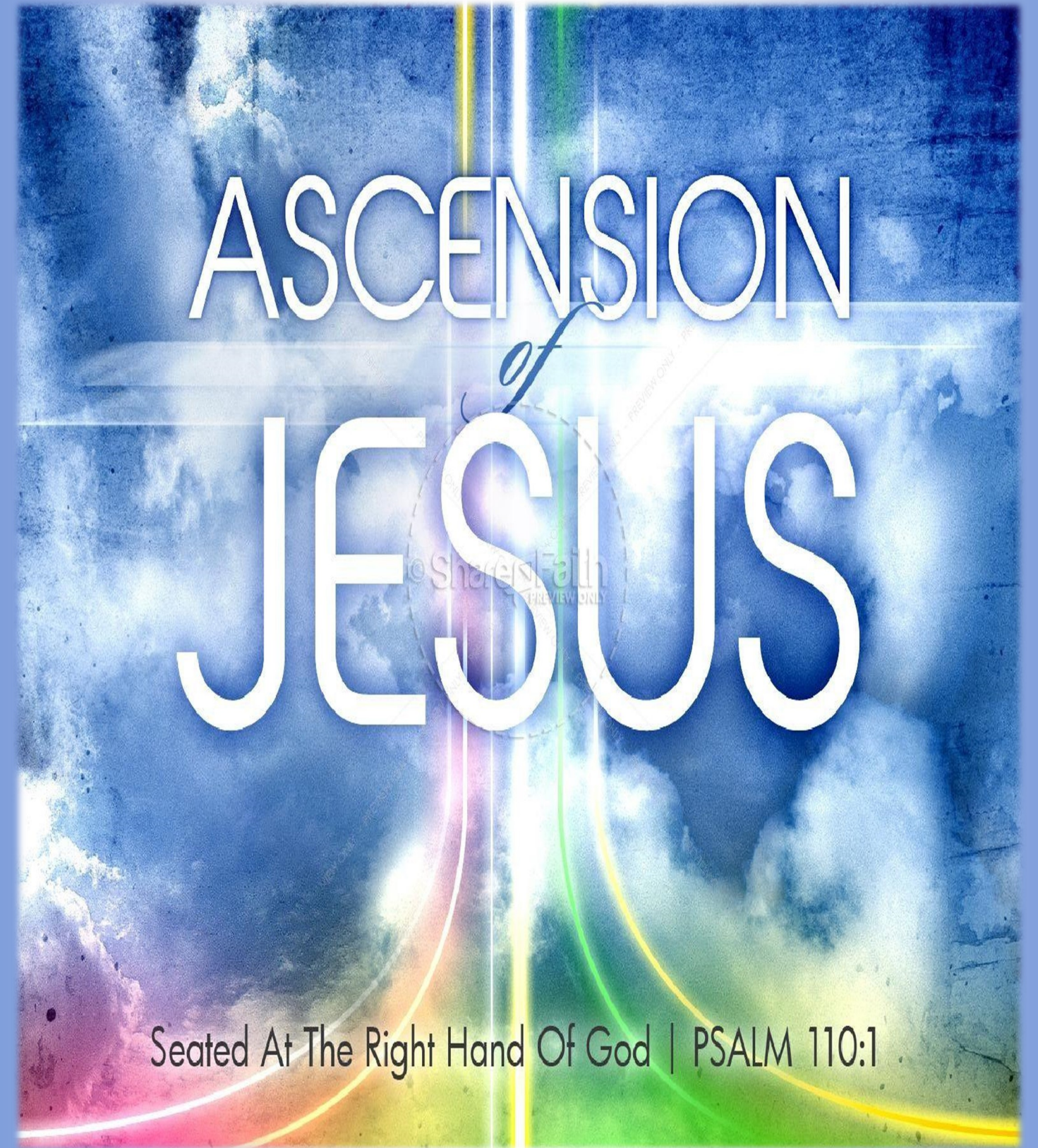
PARISH VISITOR

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 55-ISSUE 5

Website: www.firststjohns.org

MAY 2023



ASCENSION
of
JESUS

Seated At The Right Hand Of God | PSALM 110:1



SUNDAY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM

SERVICE 11:00 AM

"Till all have heard! Thanks be to God!"

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS AND WORSHIP

Sunday - 9:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Sunday Worship

Monday-
Panera bread distribution 9:00-11:00 AM

Wednesday
6:30 PM - Adult Choir (September through May/June)

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.firststjohns.org

WELCOME

Our calling is for all to know Jesus as Lord and be an effective magnet involving lives for Jesus Christ. Worship should always be focused on God, the time honored traditions of worship are observed here, we want worship to be glorifying to God, honoring to God and reminding us of the greatness and glory of God. People say that they have truly worshipped after our Sunday morning service.

We are a very welcoming church and we want to help you to know Jesus.

Contact Us

Phone 717.843.8597

E-Mail: firststjohns@verizon.net

First St. Johns Lutheran Church
140 W. King St., York PA 17401

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Communion and Non-Communion, Services are held during the month, Non-Communion services are held on the 5th Sunday of months with 5 Sundays.

We print bulletins in English (small and large print), and Chinese for morning worship. Please contact us in advance if you need a Spanish bulletin.

PHONE: (717) 843-8597

COME
WORSHIP
with us!



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter by email please contact the church office at (717) 843-8597 or send an email to

firststjohns@verizon.net.



If you or someone you know is a shut-in, has an illness or is unable to worship with us due to other circumstances, please call the church office.

The church phone number is: 717-843-8597

OR

EMAIL: firststjohns@verizon.net



(continued)

1. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" ([Acts 2:2](#)). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" ([Acts 2:4](#)).

This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ ([Acts 2:14](#)). By the end of the day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people ([Acts 2:41](#)). This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.

John Gill expresses the significance [in his commentary](#):

"Through this baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, the apostles became more knowing, and had a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel, and were more qualified to preach it to people of all nations and languages."

2. The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in [John 14:26](#), who would be the Helper for his people.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in [Joel 2:28-29](#):

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

The Significance of Pentecost Today

In a [video for Christianity.com](#), Phillip Nation explains why Pentecost is significant for Christians today. Read the transcript of that interview below:

The significance of Pentecost to the church is something that we need to walk through carefully, and we shouldn't ignore, because Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. And so in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did.

But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended. And he had promised during the gospel narratives, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the spirit came, and he empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter, who is almost a comedic personality in the gospel narratives.

He is the one who constantly puts his foot in his mouth, constantly is having to be corrected by Jesus, but is in the inner circle. And because of grace and mercy, he is chosen to be the one who stands up in front of this throng, probably thousands, maybe tens of thousands of people to proclaim the gospel, there in the midst of a Hebrew celebration that was intended to remind the Hebrews of how God had always protected them.

And here Peter stands up and says, "And let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protection for all of humanity. Let me tell you who he is." And so Pentecost becomes this marker in history to really what many people would say, "And that's the moment that church is born."

That is when thousands come into the faith. And it goes from this little sect of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church breaks forth into the culture. Suddenly it is that unstoppable force that no one can really deny any longer. Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. It, at one point, is just a historical memory. Now it is the living reality of the moment that the spirit of God seemingly burst forth.

What Is Pentecost and Where Did It Come From?

If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that **Pentecost** was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned in five places in the first five books — in **Exodus 23**, **Exodus 24**, **Leviticus 16**, **Numbers 28**, and **Deuteronomy 16**.



Pentecost in the Bible

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

*Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." (**Acts 2:1-13**)*

What is the Origin of Pentecost?

Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was **Passover**, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost.

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest.

Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Why Is Pentecost Important to Christianity?

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in **Acts 2**.

Continued Page 13 (next page)

FIRST RESPONDERS

**2nd quarter Alms
Donations will benefit
First Responders of
York, PA**

Join Us Sunday Morning
at 11:00 A.M.
for
SERVICE & WORSHIP

Bible Study



9:00 AM

**MAY 2023
PARISH VISITOR**

JUNE 2023 DEADLINE

[Articles Due](#)

Friday, May 19th

[Send Date](#)

Thursday, May 25th

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN APRIL

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council –

Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 pm



UPCOMING MAY SERVICES

May 7th- Communion (5th Sunday of Easter).

May 14th-Non-Communion (6th Sunday of Easter).

May 21st-Communion (7th Sunday of Easter).

May 28th-Non-Communion (The Day of Pentecost).

MAY

**Sunday⁺
Services**

CHURCH OFFICE
Phone Number 717-843-8597

First St. John's Lutheran Church
140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597

MAY 2023

OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW JESUS
Bible Study 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	2	3 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6
7 5th Sunday of Easter C / White	8 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	9 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM	10 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	11	12	13
14 6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day NC / White	15 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	16	17 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	18 Ascension Day	19	20
21 7th Sunday of Easter C / White	22 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	23	24 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	25	26	27
28 Pentecost NC / Red	29 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am MEMORIAL DAY	30 LAY READER Dick Sindlinger	31 Adult Choir 6:30 PM			
			USHERS Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	ALTAR GUILD Lois Stambaugh		

Significance of Jesus' Ascension

1. The ascended and enthroned Christ pours out his Spirit on the church.

Jesus himself had told his disciples that it was good for him to go away, because only then would he send them another Helper, the Spirit of truth ([John 16:7-16](#)). And that's exactly what happened on the Day of [Pentecost](#), ten days after Jesus' ascension. The Spirit descended on the church with power, inaugurating a new age in the history of salvation.

That's why Peter connects Jesus' exaltation and the outpouring of the Spirit in [Acts 2:33](#):

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

2. The ascended and enthroned Christ applies the blessings of salvation.

Having accomplished redemption through his suffering on the cross, the risen and exalted Christ now applies the salvation he has won, by granting the gifts of repentance and forgiveness of sins.

As Peter says in [Acts 5:31](#):

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

3. The ascended and enthroned Christ cares for his suffering people as they bear witness to him.

We see this in [Acts 7](#), when Stephen becomes the first martyr of the Christian church.

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ([Acts 7:55-56](#))

All of this should give us great encouragement! When feel weak in ourselves, Luke reminds us that the exalted Christ has given us his Spirit, who equips us with the power, boldness, and courage we need to accomplish our mission.

When we feel cynical about evangelism and fear no one will respond to our message, Luke reminds us that the exalted Christ is the Leader and Savior who grants repentance and forgiveness of sins. He is the King who seeks and saves the lost. That means we don't have to manipulate and that we can be confident that some people will in fact respond.

And when we're paralyzed by fear at the thought of the risks entailed in taking Jesus to the hard to reach nations and neighborhoods of the world, and tremble when in contemplating potential rejection or persecution, Luke reminds us that the exalted Christ cares for his suffering people and *stands* to welcome them home.

Content provided by [Christianity.com](#).



THE ASCENSION OF JESUS WHAT WAS THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE?

BY JOEL B. GREEN

The ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven is one of the most important events recorded in the New Testament. But though it occupies a vital place in Scripture, it doesn't get a lot of attention today, even among Christians. My guess is that you probably haven't read any books about it or heard many sermons on it. Usually we focus on the crucifixion and the [resurrection](#). But the ascension is pivotal, especially in the writings of Luke.

Luke wrote a two-part history of the origins of Christianity. Volume one is the gospel that bears his name. Volume two is the book of Acts. And the ascension was so important for Luke, that he ended volume one with it ([Luke 24:50-51](#)), begins volume two by reporting it again ([Acts 1:9-11](#)), and then refers back to it several times in the book of Acts.

As Joel Green, a New Testament scholar who specializes in Luke's writings, comments, "Luke presents the exaltation (i.e. resurrection & ascension) as *the* salvific event."

Why is that?

For one thing, the ascension accounts for why the appearances of Jesus during the forty days following his resurrection ceased. The ascension also foreshadowed the final event in salvation history: Jesus' personal, physical, glorious return.

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" ([Acts 1:11](#)).

But there's more to it than that. For the ascension of Jesus was also the climatic, crowning event of his exaltation, and the necessary precursor to his continuing work through the Spirit and the church.

In [Acts 2](#), the Apostle Peter reflects on Jesus' resurrection and ascension in light of [Psalm 16](#) and [Psalm 110](#), and tells us that Jesus was exalted to "the right hand of God." When we trace this phrase through Acts we see three things that the ascended and enthroned Christ does for his church.

Did Jesus Really Ascend to Heaven?

If the resurrection be denied, then of course there is no room for ascension. If, on the other hand, it be established that Jesus of Nazareth did indeed rise from the dead, then it is equally certain that He ascended into heaven. No time need be taken in argument with such as believe in the authenticity of the New Testament story, and with those who question this, argument is useless.

That there is an unconscious questioning of this fact of ascension is evident from the way in which reference is sometimes made to the Lord Jesus. It is by no means uncommon to hear persons speak of what He did or said "in the days of His Incarnation." Such a phrase, even when not used with such intention, does infer that the days of His Incarnation are over. This, however, is not so, any more than it is true that Abraham, Moses, and Elijah have ceased to be men. Jesus ascended in bodily form to heaven, being Himself as to actual victory First-born from the dead.

The stoop of God to human form was not for a period merely. That humiliation was a process in the pathway, by which God would lift into eternal union with Himself all such as should be redeemed by the victory won through suffering. Forevermore in the Person of the Man of Nazareth, God is one with men. At this moment the Man of Nazareth, the Son of God, is at the right hand of the Father. Difficulties arising concerning these clear declarations as to the ascension of the Man of Nazareth must not be allowed to create disbelief in them.

Bonnie Abendschoen
138 Crown Pointe Drive
York, PA 17402

Kim Thompson
30 South Beaver Street
York, PA 17401

Dawn Frey
382 West North Street
York, PA 17401

Becky Lupp
1180 Ruxton Rd.
York, PA 17403

Joyce Devan
2408 Lovegren Court
York, PA 17404

If you are aware of any changes with those on the list please contact the church office.

We encourage you to drop a card or letter to our shut-ins to let them know that they are missed and a valued member of the congregation.





PRAYERS

Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home
 Joyce Devan-Health issues
 Kim Thompson-Health issues
 Susan vanDyk-Baum
 Ed Hanes (Nancy Hildebrand's brother)-Health issues
 Jeanne Noll-Health issue
 Ed Abendschoen-Health issues
 Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues
 David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen)
 Fran Shoff-Health issues
 Tom Gibson-Health issues
 Bonita Bollinger-Undergoing treatment for breast cancer
 Mark Parent-Husband of Candy Parent (Bill Lupp's niece)-
 Heart transplant
 Anna vanDyk-Health issue
 Vicar Geoff Abendschoen-Health issue
 Karl vanDyk-Health issue
 Lois Stambaugh-Health issue
 Dave Stambaugh-Health issue
 Candy Parent-In hospital with cancer (Bill Lupp's niece)

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Dawn Frey-Health Issues

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Joyce Devan
 Dawn Frey
 Kim Thompson
 Becky Lupp
 Marguerite Beck

LEADERS

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay
 Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso,
 Pastor Seifferlein, Pastor Merrell, Pastor Banach, Pastor Robert-
 son, Pastor Schaefer. Sally Hiller, David Maack. District President
 Bill Harmon

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For all of God's Gifts

**We remember in
 prayer those who are
 in need of God's spe-
 cial presence in their
 lives due to special
 needs:**



1st - Daniel Stambaugh
10th - Rodney Billet
29th - Rebecca Taylor



Early June Birthdays

10th - Jaime Rohrbaugh

PRAYER LIST (cont.)

SPIRITUAL NEEDS

For all those who do not know Jesus as Lord
 For our "action" committees/task forces
 Our Community and Families



MILITARY



POLICE

Jonathan



MEMORIAL DAY...
 ...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET
 ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH
 GRATITUDE AND PRIDE
 ALL THOSE WHO SERVED
 AND DIED FOR OUR
 COUNTRY AND OUR
 FREEDOM.
 MAY YOUR DAY BE
 FILLED WITH
 MEMORIES AND
 PEACE.
GOD BLESS AMERICA

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’s 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.



FREE BREADS AND DESSERTS **DONATED WEEKLY BY: PANERA BREAD**

to First St. John’s Lutheran Church
140 W. King St., York, PA 17401

EVERY MONDAY

From 9:00 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM



FIRST ST. JOHN’S MEMBERS AND GUESTS

WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.
ENJOY OUR “LIVE” WORSHIP.



Women's
Care Center
Pregnant?

WOMEN’S CARE CENTER

**Formerly Pregnancy & Family
Resource Center**

40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285



Music & Worship Notes



The month of May has several special commemorative days. Some are religious and church related. Others are civic and family related.

Cinco de Mayo is on Friday, May 5, the day when Mexico gained its independence. Then on Sunday, May 14, we honor our mothers on Mother's Day. On the last Monday of the month, we celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who gave up their lives in the armed services of our country, fighting for the freedoms we hold so dear!

As Christians, we also celebrate special events in our Lord's life and in the life of His church. On Thursday, May 18, we remember our Lord's Ascension into heaven and the directive He gave to His disciples and us as recorded in Matthew chapter 28. Then, on Sunday, May 28, we celebrate the birth of the church otherwise known as Pentecost, the day that The Holy Spirit was sent.

For those of you who have a copy of the LSB hymnal at home, please take a moment to look at the prayers in the front of the book. They can be found on pages 305 through 318. For specific church days, pray the words of one of the hymns for that day.



Lois Hollinger, Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh, Beverly Card, Ding Wang, Zihong (Andy) Su.

Ken Sanders, MINISTER OF MUSIC



CINCO DE MAYO HAS A DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

His salvation and presence are with you in the face of all earthly troubles.

We remember how God can empower us to triumph when we feel outnumbered.

Pray for those we know, our families, and perhaps ourselves who need God's power.

I learned something new this week. You may already know this and perhaps I had at one time and just forgot but, did you know that Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican army victory over the superior French forces on May 5, 1862, in the Battle of Puebla?

The Mexican forces were outnumbered, outgunned, and not as well trained, but were able to defeat the French army, which was considered one of the best in the world. An outnumbered Mexican army led by Ignacio Zaragoza, (who was a 33 yr. old Texan) defeated the invading French forces at the small town of Puebla de Los Angeles during the Franco-Mexico War. The retreat of the French troops represented a great victory for the people of Mexico, symbolizing the country's ability to defend its sovereignty against a powerful foreign nation. It was a great moral victory for Mexico and gave them hope, determination, and encouragement to fight against the French and to eventually be victorious.

According to Wikipedia Cinco de Mayo was first celebrated in the US by Mexican miners in California and has been celebrated continuously since 1863 in the US emphasizing Mexican culture, music, and food.

In Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is not as much a celebration but more a day of remembrance, commemorating Mexico's victory over the French during the Battle of Puebla.

While the typical Cinco de Mayo celebrations may focus on margaritas & tacos I believe there is a great spiritual lesson for us on this day. We too can make it a Day of Remembrance. We can remember how God can empower us to triumph when we feel outnumbered and less powerful than the problems we are facing in life.

Although Cinco de Mayo is not a religious holiday, we can remember to pray for those we know, our families, and perhaps ourselves who need God's power in face of overwhelming odds.

I invite you to pray this with me today. I think it is a good way for us to begin our Cinco de Mayo celebration!

God of all nations, tongues, and tribes I come to you today on Cinco de Mayo to pray. I pray for my family, friends, loved ones, and even myself as we face times of struggle against forces that are much bigger than our own strength and power. We shall remember the account of David and Goliath and how David defeated the giant with a single stone and a slingshot. May we have David's confidence and trust in you like when he said, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." ([1 Samuel 17:32 NIV](#)) In prayer now I pray for increased strength, encouragement, and faith to fight with the Sword of the Lord, the Word of God, and not give up in the battle because we fear we are not strong enough. Help us instead to proclaim with David, "You come against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...This day the Lord will hand you over to me ...and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel...for the battle is the Lord's." ([1 Samuel 17:45,46,47](#))

I thank you, God, that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." ([Philippians 4:13](#)). In my personal life, in the battles and struggles I and my family, and loved ones are facing, I declare and swing the Sword of the Lord proclaiming over my life, my family, and friends these promises from your Word.

[Luke 1:37](#) For nothing will be impossible with God.

[Mark 9:23](#) And Jesus said to him, "If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes."

[Mark 10:27](#) Looking at them, Jesus *said, "With people, it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

[Matthew 17:20](#) And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

[Isaiah 41:10](#) 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Glory to God! May the Sword of the Lord and the power of the Name of Jesus defeat every enemy and bring us victory in the battle. Father, I thank you that you are helping us today who need your protection, strength, and encouragement. Amen.

As you watch or join in the joyous celebrations of Cinco de Mayo remember the goodness of your God, and that His salvation and presence are with you in the face of all earthly troubles past, present, and future.

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