**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**May 2019**

**Fifty Days of Easter**

***Jesus says, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”***

* **Revelation 1:17-18 ESV**

When most people think about Easter, they think of one particular Sunday in the spring of the year. But the season of Easter actually lasts for a total of fifty days. There are seven Sundays in Easter. When we gather for worship, we continue to say, “Hallelujah, Christ is risen!” all throughout the season, well into the month of May.

The length of this season serves as an important reminder to us: we live in the presence of the risen Jesus Christ. The message of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead filled his disciples with “a new birth into a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3). They were able to face all manner of hardships, including death, with the faith that Jesus had died and had risen. By raising Jesus from the dead, it was God the Father’s way of confirming to them that Jesus’ death on Good Friday was indeed good news for the world. It was also God’s way of giving them a foretaste of their own future. Because Jesus lives forevermore, as our lives are connected to him by faith, we also have the hope of resurrection life in the world to come.

So, happy Easter! Even though the big holiday has come and gone, we live each day in the joy of Easter. In fact, the Christian practice of worshipping on Sunday morning comes from Easter. Each Sunday is meant to be a “mini Easter.” All throughout the year, we need a reminder of the source of our hope. We experience the presence of the risen Jesus Christ in his Word and in receiving his life given for us in his sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Christ has promised to be here for us and calls us to walk with him.

Just as Jesus’ disciples faced uncertainty and danger in the world because of their faith, even today Christians face persecution. On Easter Sunday, as only one example, Christians in Sri Lanka were attacked and killed because of their faith. In our part of the world, let us not lose sight of these situations; more importantly, let us not lose sight of the One who died and lives forevermore!

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



This May of 2019, we look at the life of **Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria.** He is commemorated on May 2.

Athanasius was born in Alexandria in Egypt, around 295 A.D. At the time, Christians were divided on the important question of how to understand who Jesus is. This was a topic of intense debate, and the Roman Emperor Constantine, interested in unity in his empire, wanted Christians to resolve it. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. while still a deacon, Athanasius defended the divinity of Christ, the belief that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is “of the same substance as the Father.” This is the foundation of our belief in the Holy Trinity, that we have one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

From that time on, Athanasius championed Christian orthodoxy (right belief) against Arianism, which believed that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was created by the Father and therefore less than God the Father. Consecrated as the bishop of Alexandria in 328 A.D., Athanasius’ five-year tenure as bishop was one of turmoil caused by civil authorities and heretical churchmen. He was exiled a number of times by his opponents. By his tireless defense of the faith, he earned the title “Father of Orthodoxy.” The third of our three creeds (the Apostles’ and Nicene being the first two) in our church, the Athanasian Creed, is named for him, though Athanasius himself did not write it.

Athanasius left a legacy in the Christian Church in a few other important ways. Athanasius is known for being the first person to come up with a complete list of books that comprise the New Testament in our Bible. Of course, the books of the New Testament were in circulation before that time and used by Christian communities, but Athanasius is the first one who provided a list of what would become officially recognized as the New Testament.

Athanasius also promoted the practice of Christian monasticism. Some Christians felt called to devote their lives to solitary or communal prayer and service. This became known as “monasticism.” In his book “The Life of Anthony,” Athanasius described the life of one such monk named Anthony, thereby encouraging others to take the life of prayer seriously.

Perhaps most importantly, Athanasius was known by a nickname, *Athanasius contra mundum*. In Latin, that means, “Athanasius against the world.” His life is an example of the importance of Christians standing for right even at great personal cost.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Featured Hymn for May 2019**

***Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 166*

1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord, with all your graces now outpoured on each believer’s mind and heart; your fervent love to them impart. Lord, by the brightness of your light in holy faith your Church unite; from every land and every tongue, this to your praise, O Lord, our God, be sung. Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Come, Holy Light, guide divine, now cause the Word of life to shine. Teach us to know our God aright and call him Father with delight. From every error keep us free; let none but Christ our master be, that we in living faith abide, in him, our Lord, with all our might confide. Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Come, Holy Fire, comfort true, grant us the will your work to do and in your service to abide; let trials turn us not aside. Lord, by your power prepare each heart and to our weakness strength impart, that bravely here we may contend, through life and death to you, our Lord, ascend. Alleluia! Alleluia!

* Martin Luther, 1483-1546

*Note: Luther wrote this hymn for the ordination of pastors, and it has been used for Lutheran ordinations ever since. It speaks, however, of the gift of the Holy Spirit for the whole Church.*

**Monthly Watchword for May 2019**

“Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you.”

* 2 Samuel 7:22 ESV

**Ushers for April:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Keith and Donna Nielsen
* Ushers:
  + Marlin and Patty Kumm
  + Brad and Cindy Sage
  + Norman and Margo Poppe
  + Red Branstiter

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Lord’s Prayer: The Seventh Petition**

*But deliver us from evil.*

*What does this mean?*

*We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our heavenly Father would deliver us from every type of evil—whether it affects our bodies or souls, property or reputation—and at last, when our hour of death comes, would grant us a blessed end to our earthly lives, and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.*

**Birthdays for May**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* May 2: Jamie Doerr
* May 3: Jacob Stewart
* May 10: Hope Stewart
* May 13: Venita Sage
* May 20: Mark McManigal
* May 23: Rydder Eckmann

**Baptismal Anniversaries for May**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* May 4: Jeff Hanson
* May 8: Jamie Olson
* May 9: Jerrick Grabber
* May 11: Trenton Guenther
* May 14: Randy Hanson
* May 19: Patience Teboe
* May 20: Leah Poppe

**Worship Schedule**

May 5: The Third Sunday of Easter with Holy Communion at altar rail (White)

May 12: The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday (White)

May 19: The Fifth Sunday of Easter with Rite of Confirmation and Holy Communion with continuous line (White)

May 26: The Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

**Important Announcements**

* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM. This month, it will be on May 26.
* The Church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM.
* The Women of the Word/Women of the North American Lutheran Church will meet at the usual time of 10:00 on Wednesday May 15.
* The final confirmation class of the year will be on Wednesday May 15.
* The Rite of Confirmation for eligible students will be held during Sunday morning worship on May 19
* The last day of Sunday school for the year will be on May 5.

**May 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  | 1  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5  Sunday School, 9:30  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)  White | 6 | 7 | 8  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45  Church council, 7:00 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12  Worship, 10:30  Good Shepherd Sunday  White | 13 | 14 | 15  Pr. Tom in Lindy  WOW/WNALC meeting, 10:00  Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)  Rite of Confirmation  White | 20 | 21 | 22  Pr. Tom in Lindy | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  White | 27 | 28 | 29 30 31 | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

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