

| JUNE 2025   |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
| <b>1</b><br>9:30am—D.S. I<br>11:00am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School<br><b>Confirmation Sunday</b>                                 | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b><br>6:30 pm —Elder's Meeting<br>7:00 pm —Trustee's Meeting  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br>Office Closed  | <b>7</b><br>8:00—Men's Bible Study  |
| <b>8</b><br>9:30am—D.S. III<br>11:00am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School<br><b>Pentecost Sunday</b><br><b>H.S. Grad. Recognition</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br>Office Closed   | <b>14</b>   |
| <b>15</b><br>9:30am—D.S. III<br>11:00am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School  | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br>Office Closed<br><br><b>First Day of Summer</b>   | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>22</b><br>9:30am—D.S. III<br>11:00am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School  | <b>23</b><br>Pastor out of office<br>Higher Things | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br>Office Closed   | <b>28</b>   |
| <b>29</b><br>9:30am—D.S. III<br>11:00am—Adult Bible Study & Children's Sunday School  | <b>30</b>  | <b>Elders</b><br>1st—Brien Lindstrom<br>8th—Ron Schill<br>15th—John Lee<br>22nd—Dave Vetter<br>29th—Matt Perkovicvh | <b>Ushers</b><br>1st—S. Loy, Z. Carey, D. Vetter<br>8th & 15th—A. Lund, M Reetz<br>22nd & 29th—C. Jannsen, Bob Kramp | <b>Acolytes</b><br>1st—Jack Wedin<br>8th—Miles Lindstrom<br>15th—Isaac Lindstrom<br>22nd—Zoe Schuldheisz<br>29th—Amelia Vetter | <b>Counters</b><br>1st—Todd & Terry<br>8th—Mike & John<br>15th—John & Mark<br>22nd—Todd & Steve<br>29th— |  |



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Church Office Hours  
Monday—Thursday  
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

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# The Messenger

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Preschool



## June 2025

— Volume 18, Issue 6

“Jesus’ Ascension is For You”  
by Pastor Schuldheisz

Have you ever wondered what it was like to see Jesus’ ascension? Was it like Buzz Light Year – to infinity and beyond – or was Jesus like Superman, leaping tall clouds with a single bound? Or was Jesus’s ascension like a royal coronation in a movie – maybe Lord of the Rings or Narnia, something truly fantastic to behold? Now that’s a bit closer to the truth of the matter.

It seems that St. Luke must have had the same questions about Jesus’ ascension that we do. He includes it at the end of his gospel and its sequel, right at the beginning of Acts. Of course this wasn’t just to satisfy Luke’s own curiosity; He wanted to report the eyewitness accounts and events as they happened. So, this is what he reports in Acts:

...As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “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.”

That’s it. No rocket-man-Jesus burning out his fumes in the stratosphere or riding the magic carpet off into the clouds. Remember the angel’s words: “This Jesus...will come in the

same way...” Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh – in his life and suffering, in his death and resurrection, and in his ascension and reign in heaven. Jesus keeps his humanity and exalts it to the throne of God. Yet, Luke keeps the dramatics on low.

Because Luke wants us to know more than just the manner in which Jesus ascended. He doesn’t want us to miss out on the reason why Jesus ascended. And part of the answer to that question can be found in the short writings of one pastor who wondered what Jesus’ ascension was like from God’s perspective. Here’s what he wrote:

“Now he was going home....In seven words the years of labor and sorrow end: “While they beheld, He was taken up.” ...There were no bells and banners on earth, but surely all the trumpets on the other side sounded as they had never sounded before...

Surely the chiming golden bells of heaven sang their welcome, and angel choirs intoned the song of the throne: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength.”...On the anvils of God the nails had been forged into the scepter of a king.... “He was taken up.” The angel hosts sweep to either side, leaving the way clear to the Eternal Light that no longer blinds the eyes of us who stand gazing after Him....He leads a

procession from the ends of time and space, all the harvest of all the white fields the world has ever known, the pilgrims of the night who come at last to the dawn of an everlasting day.... "He was taken up." The child of the manger, the praying heart on the starlit lanes of Galilee, the hunger in the wilderness, the weariness of the Sychar Well, the tears of the Garden and the Hill, the thirst of the Cross – all over now....The robes of; the Transfiguration once momentary, now clothe Him forever, and angels and archangels sound the great doxology of His waiting Church: "Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever." ...

*The Ascension did not take Jesus away....It brought heaven near....His homecoming has made heaven a home for us who still walk far from home" (O.P. Kretzmann, Homecoming in The Pilgrim, Concordia Publishing House, 1944: p. 14-15)*

Sometimes we're tempted to think of Jesus' ascension like it's his going away party. But that couldn't be farther from the truth. Jesus' ascension isn't Jesus leaving his church. Jesus isn't gone. Jesus ascends to the right hand of God. A position of power and authority. It's a grand homecoming. A victorious, joyful day.

Christ's saving work is completed. He sits down because he's finished his course. Ran the race. Won the battle. Charged into the jaws of our sin and death and come out alive on the other side of the grave. And he did it all for you.

Yes, Ascension is Jesus' homecoming, but it's also yours. Jesus doesn't ascend alone. Miraculously and remarkably, in Jesus' exaltation, our humanity is exalted along with him. Jesus doesn't shed his humanity like a snake skin, but he rules and reigns in heaven as the God-Man; the Word remains flesh.

"Because He has taken all you are into all He is, and made it everlastingly His own, you ascend with Him. God "raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus," (Eph 2:6). God's throne is not unmanned; it is occupied by the man who contains all men within himself. The divine throne is crowded with humanity. One small sitting down for Jesus, one giant uplifting for mankind".

As the famous Christian apologist and writer (G.K. Chesterton) once said, Christ is the Everlasting Man. And so in Christ each one of us is an everlasting man. In Baptism you die and rise with Christ. And in Jesus' ascension you ascend too.

Jesus Ascension is good news for you, for the church, and for the world.

Jesus isn't gone. He's ascended. He rules and reigns in heaven for you, as your brother in your humanity. As your savior in his death and resurrection. As your advocate before the Father. As your mediator and great high priest.

Jesus' ascension means that He is at the right hand of God. That means Jesus is wherever His Gospel is being preached. The Gospel is Good News. That Jesus has taken away your sins by His death on the cross and that He has conquered sin, death, devil and hell by his death and resurrection. That in our Lord's Ascension you are safe and secure.

For Jesus has taken to the Father all of our righteousness and salvation and the Devil can't take it away from Him. It's like the big kid who holds the ball up in the air so that the little kid can't jump up and get it away from him. Just so, the Devil would love to snatch us and our righteousness away from Jesus, but he can't do it. He's powerless now that Jesus has ascended and been crowned with glory. Now that's Good News – the best news! Your sins are forgiven. Jesus paid their price. Nothing stands between you and God anymore. And if the Devil wants to get to you, he's got the ascended and glorified Son of God Himself to deal with!

This is what Jesus' Ascension is all about. When Jesus ascends to the right hand of the Father, what He's really doing is now going all over the earth through the preaching of the Gospel. Though hidden to our eyes, He is everywhere the Gospel is preached to the ends of the earth. Jesus' Ascension is your guarantee that where Christ's Word is preached and His sacraments given, there He Himself is forgiving and saving sinners.



Graduating from Auburn Senior High School this June




Cora Emily Last, daughter of Sarah Last

Her High School activities were:  
Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Pep Band, Floral Club & Theatre

Cora plans attend Central Washington University.

Men's Bible Study Saturday,  
June 7th, 8:00 a.m.



Sunday Adult Bible Study

Pastor is leading us in a study on "The Christian's Mission"



Pentecost  
June 8th

The name "*Pentecost*" comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth." In the Old Testament, Pentecost was a harvest festival, the ingathering of winter wheat (known as Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks). It began on the fiftieth day after Passover. It was also a day to celebrate Moses receiving the Law and God's Covenant on Mt. Sinai amidst wind and fire.

In the New Testament, Acts 2 records the first Pentecost after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Once again there was a mighty rushing wind, fire, God's word, and a harvest. Only, this time, the fire came in flaming tongues over the disciples' heads. God's word was declared by St. Peter to thousands gathered in Jerusalem from around the Mediterranean. Each person heard in their own language that Jesus had died and rose for them. It was a joyous harvest – not of wheat for winter – but of people, from all nations for eternal salvation! After all, God shows no partiality. Jesus died for all nations. These were the signs that the Holy Spirit had been sent to the Church as Jesus promised (John 14:15-26 and 16:12-14). Pentecost is a yearly reminder that the Holy Spirit gives you ears to hear God's word and mouths to pray, praise, and give thanks. God speaks and we hear the word of God, each in our own language: Jesus died, rose, ascended, and sends the Holy Spirit for you!



## June Birthdays

|                         |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 7th—Peggy Lundin        | 17th—Andrew Uetter      | 26th—Rev. Arnold Walta |
| 11th—Pat Allison        | 18th—Bill Kolzow        | 26th—Jim Blokzyl       |
| 11th—Theodore Perkovich | 18th—Jim Mendez         | 26th—Penelope Hepola   |
| 12th—Karen Kramp        | 19th—David Uetter       | 28th—Hannah Duncan     |
| 12th—Zoe Schuldheisz    | 20th—Louise Dunn        |                        |
| 17th—Amelia Uetter      | 21st—Jeraldine Simonson |                        |

## June Anniversaries

June 2nd—David & Nodira Uetter

June 3rd—Terry & Sue Lueck

June 18—Russel & Joan Weber

## June Baptismal Birthday's

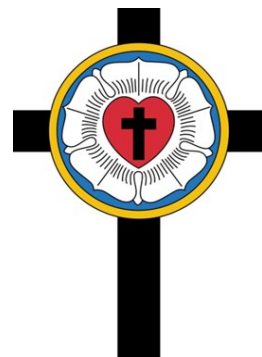
|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st—Loretta Gieck       | 13th—Katherine Last  |
| 9th—Sally Bartels       | 14th—Emily Roland    |
| 12th—Daniel Uetter      | 19th—Jackson Young   |
| 12th—Michael Gulbranson | 25th—Jim Mendez      |
| 12th—Leetta Luce        | 26th—Zoe Schuldheisz |
|                         | 27th—Abigail Duncan  |

June 1st ~ Our confirmands are:

Matthew Oldenburg

Naomi Oldenburg

Jack Wedin



Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## In the Library...



We were recently studying *mission* in Bible class and complementing the topic are several books in the library. The first, *Speaking Boldly: Sharing God's Word Every Day* by Rev. Dr. Edward O. Grimenstein, is a worthwhile read that's short and easy. Until 2017, Pastor Grimenstein oversaw the training, deployment and care of missionaries for the LCMS. His message is a simple one: We are all called as Christians to speak God's Word to our neighbor, and God will provide the words for us to speak. There's no gimmicky sales pitch, no seven or eight steps to memorize to "sell" the product, just a relaxed presentation of Law or Gospel—the Word does the work. That takes the pressure off *us*. There's a good discussion on when to use Law and when to use Gospel when speaking with people, and he helpfully points out that you can also speak God's Word through means other than Bible passages, such as a hymn, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creeds, and the Catechism.

A quote from the book:

...Each of you has a "pulpit" in your daily lives. Your pulpit may be around the dinner table with a husband, three kids, and two dogs. Your pulpit may be a car ride home with your teenage daughter. You may find yourself speaking Law and Gospel from the pulpit of a folding chair on the side of a soccer field as you speak with another parent. Your pulpit may come from a different chair, a wheelchair as you are set next to another resident who just came to your new residential living home. Your pulpit could be a changing table as you multitask proclaiming God's Word to your four-year-old while at the same time changing your one-year-old's diaper. Your pulpit may be packed on a school bus with a friend sitting next to you, or it could be a lonely subway ride home from work with a total stranger.

Backing up a bit, we come to LCMS District President Lucas V. Woodford's excellent book *Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?: The Mission of the Holy Christian Church*. While Pastor Grimenstein specifically looks at sharing the Gospel, Pastor Woodford examines the mission of the Church as a whole. Spoiler alert: While Pastor Woodford views mission as an extremely important task, "Putting it simply, the primary task of the church is Gospel proclamation. In fact, in its simplest form, that is the *missio Dei* [mission of God]. Yes, seeking and saving the lost is also central, but that cannot be done without proclaiming the Gospel." His careful historical analysis of the Great Commission demonstrates that Matthew 28 "was not used as a directive for the early church or even for subsequent centuries of church history.... It was not until the late eighteenth-century that the Great Commission was first considered as a mandating text." Pastor Woodford goes on to show how the Church Growth Movement and the ideas of the Emerging Church have further transformed Matthew 28 into a Law-motivated whip for mission. So if the Great Commission is not our key for mission, what is? You'll find that in a place you might not think to look—in the Divine Service. Here Woodford quotes Pastor Hal Senkbeil:

There is no separating the liturgical life of the church from the mission of the church; they are organically one piece. The two find common nourishment in the incarnate flesh of Jesus Christ, who is our life. As the Father has sent Him, so He sends His church, cleansing her by the water and the Spirit to be His Holy Bride. And so, for as long as she is in this dying world, the church proclaims her heavenly Husband's life-giving invitation.

Woodford continues: "The nature of the liturgy becomes significant, not because it's what we have always done, though I suppose that could be part of it, but because it's the story that forms us. Much more than a mere mundane order of a formal worship service, it's the narrative that tells our story, or rather, the story of Christ which, by faith, is now our story." "Thus, it can be said that to live by the liturgy is nothing other than to be called by the Gospel, gathered around Christ's Word, served by His sacraments, and dispersed into our vocations to serve our neighbor and give witness to our Savior. It is the mission of the church."

Pastor Woodford also tells us what can happen if we get our mission priorities crisscrossed: "But to bear the burden of everything theological being absolutely missional and, therefore, every practice of theology necessarily missional is enough to crush a man, not to mention a congregation." We definitely don't want to go there!

Our third book is *Mission from the Cross: The Lutheran Theology of Mission*, written by Fort Wayne seminary professor Klaus Detlev Schulz. There's a lot of meat in this book. I took twenty-seven pages of notes when I read it. So you don't suffer from reader's cramp though, I'll keep it short by lifting Rev. Dr. Andrew K. Pfeiffer's comment from the back cover: "Detlev Schulz reads Luther and the Lutheran Confessions, especially the Augsburg Confession, with missiological eyes. He explores the trinitarian nature of the mission of God; the role of the Church and the Sacraments in mission; and aspects of pastoral minis-

try, Christian vocation, and ethics related to mission. The work of Christ on the cross is presented both as a central principle of a theologically synthetic approach to mission and as the key stimulus continually invigorating the missionary church.”

Here's a couple of tasty slurps from the drip pan:

Mission is the act of extending the gift of righteousness and forgiveness to the world through its preaching of the Word and administering of the Sacraments.

Affirming the Holy Spirit as the subject of mission from the cross frees Lutheran mission from seeking ambitious goals of expansion. Rather, the Church concentrates on one major activity: the proclamation of the Gospel from which the Church as community emerges and lives. The full extent of the Church's mission is the correct preaching of God's Word, and just this constitutes God's mission. For what goes on beyond our preaching activities lies in the hands of the Holy Spirit, including the growth and expansion of the Church. This understanding summarizes the Lutheran contribution to missiology.

Though this book is a little more academic in nature, it can still be read with profit by a layman. There's the occasional Greek or Latin phrases, but they're always translated, giving you opportunity to up your theological game. Plus, now you'll be able to drop an H bomb like *Heilsgeschichte* into your next casual conversation.

All three of these books share the belief that conversion, and therefore mission, come solely from the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word, which is why, of course, *it's great to be a Lutheran!*

Scott Diekmann

## Sunday School

It's hard to believe that we find ourselves in June already. The weather is warming and becoming less wet. The flowers are blooming, and the grass needs mowing. The daylight hours are extending, and the kids are getting antsy as they count down the days until summer break. We've also been preparing for the summer months in the Sunday School. Regular classes will continue each Sunday through the end of June, with our last regular classes taking place on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The younger children have started a new unit entitled "Jesus Sends the Church". We are diving into the book of Acts and learning about the growth of the early Church and the teaching and miracles done by the apostles, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word. The youth class continues their "Journey through Church History", now covering post-Reformation church leaders and the formation of the LCMS in America.

The Sunday School will be taking a bit of a break during July and August so that teachers can have a much-needed break from their weekly responsibilities. Attendance varies greatly from Sunday to Sunday in the summer, so we're going to try something new this year. Older youth who stay for the education hour after the Divine Service are welcome to attend the adult Bible class. Younger children are welcome to join us in the preschool room for supervised drawing/coloring, reading Bible stories, listening to music/singing songs. Then we will have a more structured "family Sunday School" time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of July and August (7/20 and 8/17) with planned activities for all the Sunday school children and youth and their families. Specific plans are still being made, but we will likely plan to host a potluck lunch these days, followed by games and playtime together outside (weather permitting). So please mark these days on your summer calendar and plan to join us! More details to come.

Lisa Lindstrom

Sunday School Superintendent

## Children's Coloring Page



~Pentecost~

The gift of the Holy Spirit