



# CURRENTS

+ May 2021 +

The Newsletter of All Saints Lutheran Church, Lagrangeville NY &  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hurley NY



### *From Pastor's Pen:*

In the Apostles' Creed, we confess "I believe in the Holy Spirit..." What does this mean, Luther's Small Catechism asks. The answer: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me..." [SC II 3]

*Enlightened me...* That is another way of saying convicts me, points something out, show me the way. And the Holy Spirit certainly does that. He opens our hearts and minds to the Word of God – the Law to show us our sin, the Gospel to comfort and show us our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit brings us together in the one true faith, given at our Baptism and nurtured through the Word preached within the fellowship of the Christian Church. And in this Christian Church, the Holy Spirit shows us the way to share this Gospel with others by providing His gifts of service [I Corinthians 12:4-11] that His fruits may be seen in us all [Galatians 5:22-23]. All this, and so much more, is Pentecost – not just 50 days after Christ's glorious resurrection, but every day! Every day we pray the Holy Spirit to "enlighten me with His gifts, sanctify and keep me in the true faith... so that on the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true!" [SC II 3, emphasis added]

## *Worship Among Us*

### **Why list the monthly Lectionary?**

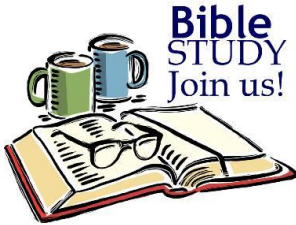
The worship of God centers around one thing – the Word of God. We hear it proclaimed in the the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings, as well as the sermon. The liturgy helps in our hearing of the whole counsel of God. Even the hymns sung reflect God's Words throughout its verses. The Word of God is the power of God, able to save through the work of the Holy Spirit, who bestows on us God's gifts through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, made effective only through that same Word. The Word of God is the feast presented to us each week; and just as we prepare for dinner in our homes, we should prepare for the feast of God's Word in our worship, and thereby as Dr Luther exhorts us to do, "read, mark and inwardly digest His Word."

**Therefore, the monthly Lectionary and sermon reference is listed with every edition of our Newsletter than you might include them in your daily devotion and preparation for Sunday worship, for "God wants to be worshiped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers" [Ap IV 49].**

## *Lectionary + May 2021*

May 2 + Easter V	Isaiah 12:1-6	James 1:16-21	John 16:5-15
	Sermon: "Executive Assistant" – Pastor Albrechtsen on John 16:5-15		
May 9 + Easter VI	Numbers 21:4-9	James 1:22-27	John 16:23-30
	Sermon: "Don't Forget" – Pastor Albrechtsen on James 1:22-27		
May 16 + Easter VII The Ascension of our Lord	II Kings 2:5-15	Acts 1:1-11	Mark 16:14-20
	Sermon: "I'll Miss You" – Pastor Albrechtsen on Mark 16:14-20		
May 23 + Feast of Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
	Sermon: "Fire From Above" – Pastor Albrechtsen on Acts 2:1-21		
May 30 + Feast of the Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-7	Romans 11:33-36	John 3:4-15
	Sermon: "We Three" – Pastor Albrechtsen on John 3:4-15		

## Study Among Us



### *The Word of the Lord Endures Forever...*

We resume our Wednesday evening ZOOM Bible Study on 5 May, with “Praying the Psalms” – a look at using the psalms as a central element of our personal devotions, as well as a worship tool. Join us each week, beginning at 7:00 PM – the link to the ZOOM meeting will be published each week via email, or ask Pastor Albrechtsen for more details.

Good Shepherd Sunday School continues to be up and running each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Please enter through the Fellowship Hall doors, and provide a snack for you Sunday Schooler.



## The Catechetical Corner

Pick and Choose... One from Column A, One from Column B.

In this age of multi-media access, proliferation of talking heads and pundits, it is easy to become even gently confused concerning the “basic doctrines of the Christian Faith”, as Martin Luther designated the purpose of the Small Catechism. Even after celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017 with Scriptural and catechetical studies, many continue to question or be confused concerning the Lutheran Distinctions. Some practice buffet Christianity – taking doctrines and practices from several sources and claiming it as their personal theology, often stepping away from Scripture in the process in order to appease others, explain themselves or refute a debated argument.

The danger in such practice is to have no real personal theology, to believe in nothing, to have no true anchor of faith in this tempest tossed world of ours. Holy Scripture provides that anchor. The collected works of the Reformers, as assembled in the Book of Concord [1580], presents a true exposition of that Word, in turn presenting the mysteries of the faith as best we can within the limits of human understanding of the Divine.

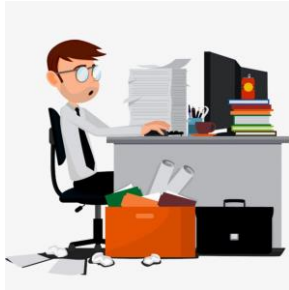
The initial statements of doctrine contained in the Book of Concord are the Three Ecumenical Creeds: the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian. Perhaps the one we are most familiar with is the Apostles' Creed, It was first mentioned in various third century correspondence that reference the beliefs of the twelve Apostles – hence its name. The text as we know it dates back to the fifth century, further refined and adapted as a Creed of the Church in the eighth century. It is divided into Three Articles, each addressing a person of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with each statement rooted in Holy Scripture.

The First Article of the Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

As in all parts of the Creed, this statement is a true reflection of Scripture. “I believe in God” is based in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, *Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. [44:6;] and, I am the LORD and there is no other, besides me there is no God; [45:5].* The second part of the First Article, “the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth,” is found in Genesis 1:1, as well as John 1:1-3, Acts 14:15. These are all central Scriptural references, but certainly not the only ones.

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed is pivotal in understanding our relationship to God. He is the Creator; we are His creatures. As such, we depend upon Him for all our needs of body and soul. The Explanation to the First Article in the Small Catechism states: “I believe that God has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them. In addition, He has given me...all that I need to support this body and life...” [ excerpts, SC I] This acknowledgment of the Creator-creature relationship is foundational, to our understanding of other tenets of the Christian Faith, including the Ten Commandments, which will be examined in the next segment of the Catechetical Corner in the June edition of Currents.

# Koinonia + Life Among Us



## Pastor's Schedule

**Sunday Schedule** – Pastor returns to a regular worship schedule, being with both congregations on the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month, and only at All Saints on the second and fifth Sundays of the month.

**Office Hours** – All Saints: Tuesday – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Good Shepherd: Thursday – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Visitations** – By Appointment; call Pastor at 518-488-4991.

## May Schedule of Events

### All Saints

- Sat May 8 10:00 AM Book Club
- Sat May 15 10:00 AM Spring Clean-Up
- Sun May 16 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting
- Tues May 18 7:00 PM ZOOM Council Meeting

#### Worship Opportunities

- + Divine Worship each Sunday 9:00 AM;
- Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday unless otherwise posted.

### Good Shepherd

- Sun May 9 12:00 PM LWML Meeting
- Mon May 10 6:30 PM ZOOM Council Meeting
- Sat May 15 10:00 AM Spring Clean-UP
- Thu May 2 6:30 PM ZOOM Constitution Mtg

#### Worship Opportunities

- + Children's Sunday School each Sunday at 10:00 AM
- + Divine Worship each Sunday at 11:00 AM
- Holy Communion is celebrated in May on the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

*Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Luke 6:21*

Our Lord invites us to come to His Table for our spiritual nourishment. Therefore, in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, Holy Communion will be available to all worshippers at both our congregations each Sunday when Pastor Albrechtsen, or other ordained minister of the LCMS, is present.

## May Birthdays

### All Saints

- 14 Christa Ploschke
- 15 Audrey Linich

### Good Shepherd

- 6 Mabel Tangney-Decker



*And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so....And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1;11-12*

## All Saints' Community Garden Is Open for Clean-Up!

Come join us on each **Saturday in May, beginning at 10:00 AM**, as we continue to prepare for this year's Community Garden, and continue each Saturday throughout May – until planting. Projects include: General Clean-up, preparing individual planting beds, expanding the garden to include a portion for flowers, and installing new fencing.

Speak with Pastor or Bob Boyle for more details and to reserve your spot in the Garden.

**Don't forget your Congregational Meeting**

All Saints Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, 16 May 2021

Meetings will take place in the Sanctuary.  
immediately after worship



It's Spring and, the "to-do" list has truly grown. Answering our Lord's call to be good stewards of all that He has given us, a Church Work Day has been scheduled:

**All Saints + Saturday & Good Shepherd  
Saturday, 15 May, 10:00 AM**

Work Lists are being compiled, with specific attention being given to opportunities for single person projects, particularly on the grounds. Please sign up, and bring your own tools for the job – rakes, shovels, et c. Afterwards, we will take the opportunity to fellowship with each other as we have done in the past with a **TailGate Party** – Bring your lunch, a beverage, and lawn chair. We can compare aches and pains!

**JUST FOR LAUGHS**

**Church Mice**

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A one dollar bill met a twenty dollar bill and said, "Hey, where've you been? I haven't seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I've been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise and did the rounds of the ship, back to the United States for a while, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one dollar bill said, "You know, same old stuff ... church, church, church."

## Stand Ready, Clad in the Armor of God ...With Prayer



*Therefore... pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working + James 5:16*

In your personal prayers this month, please include...

- + Pray for the revival of the Church and all its people through the power of the the Holy Spirit, igniting our faith.
- + Pray for the Pentecost miracle of old be renewed in our words so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be heard.
- + Pray for an end to the scourge of COVID-19 and the return of life in fellowship with one another, our neighbors and those we love, and that people everywhere will have a renewed confidence in the science of medicine to become vaccinated against the coronavirus.
- + Pray for the Leadership of our District especially for Rev Derek Lecakes, Bishop and President of the Atlantic District, the Praesidium, our Regional Vice President, Rev Mark Mueller, and our Circuit Visitors, Rev John Young [Circuit 3] & Rev Marty Tyce [Circuit 4]
- + Pray for the leadership of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, especially President Matthew Harrison, that God would grant a clear vision of His will for our church.
- + Pray that the Lord of Church would send faithful pastors to fill the vacancies throughout our Synod, especially within the Atlantic District.
- + Pray for our government and its leaders. May they chart the course for this nation in accordance with the will of God, serving those whom He appointed them to protect..
- + Pray for all seeking relief from pain and illness. May our Lord, the Great Physician, heal and grant comfort to all who ask in His name.
- + Pray for all care-givers, whether family members or professionals, that God would grant them patience and rest.
- + Pray for all shut-ins that they would be remembered in our hearts with phone calls and prayers
- + Pray that we might answer the clarion call to greater stewardship of God's gifts of time, talent and treasures in service to Him.
- + Pray for all grieving the loss of loved ones that they know the comfort of our Savior and the sure hope of the Resurrection.
- + Pray that we would pray more often and most fervently.



### A Steward's Prayer

Father of all mankind, throughout this day help me to remember that a vert real portion of Your Kingdom has been placed in my keeping. Therefore, teach me to love Your:

**With all my heart...** that I may love those You love, giving back to the most unlovable and difficult Your own everlasting mecry and compassion.

**With all my soul...** that I may seek fresh ways in which Your divine power may surge through my commonplace routine from morning till night,

**With all my strength...** that my hands may work Your works, that my energy may be poured out for the needs of Your family until all I own or earn or gain may be spent in a stewardship of loving kindness, and,

**With all my mind...** that I may think Your thoughts from moment to moment, making each expenditure beautiful and significant, always placing You first, that Your Kingdom may come through my sharing, my caring, my daring... for Your glory and in Your name. Amen.