



Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



“Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him, all creatures here below! Praise him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”

I would guess that as you read those words, many of you sang them or heard that familiar tune in your mind. For hundreds of years, Christian across many denominations have shared those words and that tune, singing praise to God together despite whatever other differences we may have. In our liturgy, it’s called a “doxology,” a word that is literally translated “glory-saying.” That’s simply what we do when we sing those words: glorify God by praising Him and proclaiming His name.

Remember what the Catechism says about the 2nd Commandment, to not misuse God’s name? “We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.”

Certainly there are so many examples all around us of people (many of whom don’t believe in Jesus or indeed in any kind of God) constantly misusing or casually, unthinkingly speaking about God. You don’t have to wait long to hear examples like “Oh my god” or “Oh, Jesus...” both in the media and from the people around us.

But Scripture teaches us how God’s name is meant to be used. God has revealed Himself to us, specifically that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He wants us to know who created and redeemed us, to call on Him personally and directly as His children, and to proclaim that name to the whole world. This doxology is a prime example of keeping the 2nd Commandment, praising and giving thanks to God.

And this is always good and right for us to do. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” The 2nd Commandment does not just

The Watchman



**May
2021**

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak" - Ezekiel 3:17

caution us against misusing God’s name, as if it’s better to be silent rather than risk offending the Almighty. It calls us to use God’s name often, to rejoice and pray and give thanks to the Lord who has created, redeemed, and sanctified us as His people.

I think we will be called to do this all the more as time goes on. We cannot be bitter or disillusioned -- we praise God who gives us so many blessings. We cannot be silent in the midst of our society -- we rejoice, giving thanks and praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So if, as you read this today, you are happy and content, praise God! If you are not, remember His blessings even in the midst of troubles, and praise God! It is truly good and right, at all times and in places, to praise our Lord.



April Anniversary & Birthdays

(Picture from 2019)

Derek Waffel, Jerold Shepherd,
Jannette Chisholm & Gerd
Gunnufsen



Elders & Lay Readers

- 2 Shawn Robbins (Eve W.)
- 9 Kevin Rademacher (Rita S.)
- 16 Bobby Trehern (Jay T.)
- 23 Jody Heusman (Dave G.)
- 30 Elders' choice (Jay T.)



- 16 David Lee & Tina Hamilton
- 16 John & Tyti Kooienga
- 31 Patrick & Courtney Davis
- 31 John & Aletha Schollian



- 3 Courtney Davis
- 3 Patrick Davis
- 14 Lindsey Hartwig
- 16 Peter Kooeigna
- 18 John Kooeigna
- 20 Laura Millette
- 23 Kolton Pellegrin
- 23 Tyler Schollian
- 24 Terry Pike
- 31 Angie Howard



Bible Treasure Hunt: Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

How many books are in the New Testament?

May Scripture Readings

	May 2	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 8:26–40	Psalm 150	1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)	John 15:1–8
	May 9	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 10:34–48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1–8	John 15:9–17
	May 13	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Psalm 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 16	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9–15	John 17:11b–19
PENTECOST	May 23	The Day of Pentecost	Ezek. 37:1–14	Psalm 139:1–12 (13–16)	Acts 2:1–21	John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15
	May 30	The Holy Trinity	Is. 6:1–8	Psalm 29	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	John 3:1–17



Mary Martha News

We will not be meeting on May 3.
Reminder to continue to collect your Mites!

LCMS Deaconess Ministry

LCMS Office of International Mission

\$39,523

Vacation Bible School Transportation

LCMS Deaconesses are women who are full time professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program will provide LCMS students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry. This grant will provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church bodies like the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.



Students in Philippines with resources purchased by LWML

Minutes 4/19/2021



Shawn called the meeting to order.

Reading of the previous meeting minutes was waived.

Pastor is on vacation. No report yet.

President: Shawn Robbins

- Nursery—we are hoping to have a nursery attendant for children 4 y/o and under, will ask for volunteers. We will discuss at the congregational meeting.
- Shawn is investigating options for small point of use water heaters for the Fellowship Hall
- Donna Krebs volunteered to will assist Janet in secretarial duties Church cleaning—will present ideas at the congregational meeting
- We will also discussed the proposed endowment fund at the congregational meeting

VP-no report

Elders-Jody Heusman Would any adults like to serve as acolyte or crucifer?

Lin Jacobson has investigated building a cremains garden here. This will be discussed at the next congregational meeting.

Trustees-Jerold Shepard: North and south doors for Fellowship Hall need to be replaced. Planning to repair the steeple, and also need to repair breezeway fascia, and replace outdoor light on the Fellowship Hall.

Financial Secretary-Carl Erichsen:

- March total: \$11302.00
- April so far: \$8169
- YTD contributions: \$41755.73

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson: \$7759.96 checking balance, all bills are current.

Evangelism-Rita Shepherd: Rita suggested a tour of the altar room and demonstration of procedures for elders

Mary Martha-Kyndel Torries: Spaghetti dinner take out this Sunday! Plates are \$10 each

Education-Donna Krebs – we need to divide the children into two classes and need additional teachers

- We will discuss VBS options at congregational meeting

Social Ministry Team: Melonee Crews —the team sent birthday cards to retirees, made calls to homebound, and sent Easter cards to homebound members

Stewardship Jay Torries—no report

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council April 2021



Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Bud and Susan Villarreal want to join the church. They moved to Ocean Springs about a year ago, and have been watching the online services since then. Also, Kevin Rosamund and Anna Claire Howard were confirmed Palm Sunday, March 28.
- Organ: we have purchased the Concordia Organist package, and we are ready to test it out during a service once somebody volunteers to run the computer and I can train them.
- Last month, we tentatively said we'd loosen our current covid restrictions effective the beginning of May, and based on a show of hands from those attending on Sunday April 11, there are only a small handful of people who want to be vaccinated but have not been yet. Mississippi case numbers also continue to fall. Early May still seems like a good target.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services are a good outreach tool! I encourage everyone to share these on your own pages, as some of you already have. The services stay available after the initial premiere, so anyone can go back and watch older ones too.

Circuit, District, and Synod

- I am planning to attend a pastors' retreat near Wichita, KS on May 24-26. This retreat is hosted by an LCMS organization called Doxology; there is no cost to the congregation.

Travel

- Vacation time for 2021: 10 days out of 21 total (2 Sunday out of 3).
- Planned travel for April: we are taking a vacation near Gatlinburg from April 14 to 19. Pastor Adam Cooper agreed to cover the service on April 18.
- Planned travel for May: attending the pastors' retreat as mentioned above, May 24-26.

Other Activities, General Information

- As a reminder, we are able to accept offerings/donations online through PayPal or by credit/debit card. The link is at the bottom of the home page of our website.
- Cleaning the church: Hanna Dunlap had volunteered, but with her pregnancy we need other volunteers or another solution.
- I completed an online training course March 23-25 in "critical incident stress management," designed to provide a form of "psychological first aid," short-term/acute counseling help for first responders coping with their experiences at serious accidents, disasters, etc.
- Work on the bell tower: last week, a contractor stopped by the church and offered a quote. Ricky Bryant (228-627-4750, RickyB1016@icloud.com) Copies of the written quote are in the fellowship hall for the council meeting; the total, for steeple repairs and for painting the front (Pascagoula Street side) of the sanctuary is \$9,000.

A Thought about Stewardship

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.



And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



Congratulation Preston Michael Robbins Graduating May 20 from Vancleave High School

A Word on the Equality Act

**To the Pastors, Called Workers and Members
of the 6,000 Congregations of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
March 11, 2021**

The words of the apostle Peter apply to us now:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. (1 Peter 1:3–8)

The church’s task is not political. It is the proclamation of the Gospel of free salvation in the cross and resurrection of Jesus for all (1 Cor. 1:23; John 18:36). “The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered” (AC VII 1).

God rules His church by His infallible Word, the Holy Scriptures (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:15–16). God rules the state by His eternal law, reason and reasonable laws for the common welfare. “Our churches teach that lawful civil regulations are good works of God” (AC XVI 1; see Rom. 13:1–7). The church should not meddle in government affairs, especially in matters upon which the Word of God is silent. It is also wrong when governments act against

God's eternal law, reason and the basic civil rights of all people. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution enshrines this truth. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Throughout history, governments have acted unjustly — sometimes in the name of race, atheism, communism, religion and even Christianity — and curtailed or denied the rights of conscience and the free exercise of religion. And governments continue to do so. Our Lutheran and biblical confession is that "it is necessary for Christians to be obedient to their rulers and laws. The only exception is when they are commanded to sin. Then they ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)" (AC XVI 6–7; see 1 Peter 2:13–14).

St. Paul made use of his legal right as a Roman citizen ("I appeal to Caesar" Acts 25:11). "Christ's kingdom allows us outwardly to use legitimate political ordinances of every nation in which we live, just as it allows us to use medicine or the art of building, or food, drink, and air" (Ap XVI 54). Our Lutheran Confessions commend the seeking of public remedy for injustice. "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work, according to Paul (Romans 13)" (Ap XVI 59). Our God-given right to act as citizens is very important, especially now.

The Equality Act is before Congress. It sounds innocent. All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals.

Jesus referred to Genesis 2:24, when He stated:

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matt. 19:4–6)

In fact, those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman, and that sex outside of that institution is contrary to the word of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament (1 Cor. 7:2), could be punished for simply standing on our consistent, ancient Christian beliefs. The Equality Act effectively outlaws the words of Christ, the sublime doctrine of Creation, the First Article of the Creed, and our "free exercise of religion" based upon the Bible and Apostles' Creed. The biblical teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman is to be labeled forever a mere "sex-based stereotype."

The Equality Act expands the definition of "public accommodation" and puts an ultimatum to individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others: "Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment."

Religious schools (K-12 and universities) are a prime target of the Equality Act, which will make it difficult to maintain standards for admission and codes of Christian conduct for students, faculty and staff. The Equality Act will forbid college students from using federal tuition assistance at schools that maintain standards of conduct on the basis of the Bible regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sex-specific facilities and female-only spaces could be eliminated. Biological males will have the right to participate in female sports, unjustly denying female athletes at our schools a fair competition and the due rewards of accomplishment.

The Equality Act will eliminate the significant protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress and signed into law in 1993. This law has provided strong protections for “free exercise of religion” in the face of overzealous officials.

The Equality Act contains no conscience protections for medical staff who choose not to perform abortions, even if they have religious objections. Because of its broad definition of “health” services, the Equality Act threatens the Hyde Amendment, which limits public funding for abortion. It also threatens Christian hospitals with elimination of funding for not performing “health” services, including abortion or genital mutilation.

The Equality Act was recently passed by the House and is currently pending in the Senate. The margin is razor thin. If it does not become law now, we can be assured that it will be pressed again. We encourage all LCMS people to:

1. Treat all people with kindness and respect (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31), while holding firmly to “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).
2. Become informed about the Equality Act and the issues of gender dysphoria. (See “Additional Resources” below.)
3. Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials, particularly in the U.S. House (house.gov/representatives) and Senate (senate.gov/senators/index.htm).
4. Pray for our officials, government and the church in these challenging days.

Martin Luther once said, “Christ dwells only in sinners.” We recognize ourselves as sinners constantly in need of Christ’s forgiveness. We recognize the truth of the apostle Peter’s words, “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). We know that Jesus’ opponents grumbled against Him by saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). This comforting verse applies to us sinners, and we welcome all others to join us at the feet of Jesus, the sole Savior of all (John 3:16). As Christians, we believe that God has created all people, and all are infinitely valuable and accountable to Him. As Christian citizens, we recognize and demand basic God-given civil rights for all people, even as we insist on the First Amendment rights of Christians.

No matter the course of this or any legislation, Christ will sustain His church. Our hope is not in laws, Congress or courts. Our hope is Christ. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).


Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:8–9, 13–17)

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00	Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30					Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Elders	Council 6:00					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						
30	31					
Adult Bible class 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt:  27

