



OUR MISSION

Creating a Christ-Centered community gathered together...To joyfully worship our God... To grow in faith and knowledge...To love one another...And to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

MAY WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY, MAY 2 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY, MAY 9 – 9:00 AM
with Communion
SUNDAY, MAY 16 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY, MAY 23 – 9:00 AM
with Communion

**Online Services will continue on Facebook and
YouTube**

Pastor's Message

Out of Sight . . . Out of Mind?

“Out of sight, out of mind” is an old saying that suggests when people are absent for some time, we tend to forget about them. If taken seriously, the idiom might create serious anxiety and concern when a friend or loved one utters their “good-bye”. If I am now “out of sight,” will he or she also put me “out of mind”?

Today's greeting card industry exploits the same concern with their advertising strategy. People are encouraged to send their endearing memo in order to stay in touch. A few years back AT&T encouraged us to “reach out and touch someone.” Today Facebook urges us to “friend” those long-lost relationships and to “like” and “share” our favorite

photos and memories. It's our chance to keep that person “in mind” if they're currently “out of sight”.

As we celebrate the ascension of our Lord, Jesus offers the believer a distinctly different message. Yes. He has ascended into heaven *out of sight*. But far be it for him to put us *out of mind*. Although we cannot see the person of Christ in his Church today, he is just as present as ever.

Of course, it's one thing to acknowledge that Jesus has not left us, and another matter to believe he's still actively involved in our lives. When Jesus first disappeared from the sight of the disciples, they felt lost. The clear words of the angels did not seem to register: “*This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.*” Until this time, the disciples had believed the Lord would establish a visible kingdom for his chosen ones. But now that Jesus was no longer visible, they would have to alter their thinking.

And so it is with us. Sometimes we assume things about Christ's ascension that we should not. We imagine that our Lord is watching us from a distance, that he maintains his care over us from another world and that he's no longer with us in the flesh. But nothing could be further from the truth. We may not compare Jesus' ascension to the workman returning home after a hard day on the

job. His ascension was a victory celebration. As the God-Man, he had completed his work of earning our salvation. And what a wonderful day this was! For years he had humbled himself. In order to redeem us of our sins, he had made minimal use of his powers as God. He allowed himself to be arrested, mocked, scourged and crucified. But now it was time to return to heaven in glory and sit at the right hand of the Father and reign eternally!

Was he destined, however, to celebrate all by himself? Not at all! To say that Jesus ascended to heaven is not to say that he's out of sight and no longer present with us. To the contrary! Jesus can leave us and be with us at the same time. "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*", Jesus declares. This is his assurance that his victory celebration is ours. Although the Lord is absent in the visible sense, he is present and active through the preaching and hearing of his Word. He is present and active when we receive, with his body and blood in the Sacrament, the forgiveness of sins. And he is present and active through our Baptism, as we share in his victory over sin, death, and the Devil.

What a joy to remember the ascension of our Lord, Jesus! By this final act performed in the presence of his disciples, he gives his Word to every believer. We're not out of mind any more than we're out of sight. The significance of the ascension, after all, is not that Jesus went to *heaven* to get *away* from us. Rather, he came to *earth* to *remain* with us. And so is he with us today and we with him.

As I conclude my ministry to the family of believers at Concordia, I am comforted that although we may no longer see each other on a regular basis, we will remain in each other's thoughts and prayers. We may in fact carry on our Lord's victory celebration. For we are his chosen ones. Through his Word and Sacraments, he will do more than "friend" us or "reach out and touch" us. He will remain with us and sustain us in our faith until he returns visibly and in glory on the last day.

Pastor Peter Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – May 2021

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).

Many Thanks

A big thank you to Kevin Huebscher for providing the palm leaves and various other adornments for our Palm Sunday service. Our church was exceptionally beautiful as we praised God in a declaration of victory over sin.

Thank You

We would like to thank John & Marcia Lally for all the time and effort you gave to make our altar so very beautiful and joyous for our Easter service.

Dear Brothers & Sisters In Christ

Thank you to all the anonymous givers to our Go Fund Me Fund for my medical hardship. I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I am totally blown away by all the love showed to me.
Bruce & Gail Avenson

Thank You From Darcy At Neighbors

Thank you to everyone at Concordia for the very generous MN FoodShare donations. Amazing and so wonderful!!

The results:

The amazing & wonderful members of Concordia donated **6,763** Dollars/Pounds to Neighbors Inc.!

It was an honor to deliver this gift from all of you. Thank you for all of your support!

Concordia's Physical Contents

With the fast-approaching Woodbury merger deadline of June 1st, we will be downsizing the church's physical contents, such as wall artwork, books, hymnals, and furniture among other things. In an effort to be sensitive to everyone's feelings, we ask you to please call the church office at 651-451-0309 or e-mail the church office at concordiachurch@qwestoffice.net to let Miriam know if you have donated an item to Concordia in the past and would like it back. Arrangements will then be made for you to pick it up. Certain specific church-related items will be donated to other churches/organizations in need. Otherwise, all other items will be offered to the congregation when they are organized and ready. Items will be displayed in the Narthex in the coming weeks. Please see Sue Ogorek, Kimberly Olson or Cindy Stoltenow with any questions.

Concordia's Celebration

We will be having a joyful celebration recognizing Concordia's 69 years of God's grace on **Sunday, May 23rd**. The worship service will be at **10:30 a.m.** followed by a catered luncheon in our Fellowship room. You can also call the church office at 651-451-0309 or e-mail the church office at concordiachurch@qwestoffice.net for more information.

Notes of Appreciation

If you would like to share a note of appreciation to Pastor Preus, Beth and Miriam, baskets will be set out [on May 23rd](#) for you to do so. Or, please mail them to the church office at [255 West Douglas Street, South St. Paul, MN 55075](#), and we will forward them on. Thank you.

Online Worship Service Still Available

You can watch our Concordia services and listen to beautiful organ music just by going to our Facebook page at [concordiassp](#) and choosing Concordia Lutheran, on the left hand side of the page click on videos and choose the one you want to watch or watch it on YouTube by searching Concordia Lutheran Church SSP, be sure to hit the subscribe button. Thank you to everyone involved in making this available to the congregation!

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Board of Community Activities – Sue Ogorek
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SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

Bruce & Gail Avenson and Cathy Johnston

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Concordia Lutheran Church 255 W. Douglas St. South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309						1
Worship Service each Sunday 9:00 am 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	3	4	5	6	7 8:00 am Church Cleaners	8
Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship w/communion 	10	11	12	13	14 8:00 am Church Cleaners	15
9:00 am Worship	17	18	19	20	21 8:00 am Church Cleaners	22
Concordia's Last Worship 10:30 am Worship w/communion with luncheon to follow	24	25	26	27	28 8:00 am Church Cleaners	29
30	31 Memorial Day					



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
255 WEST DOUGLAS STREET
SOUTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55075



Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:28-29