

# The Witness

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

*Ascension Lutheran Church*

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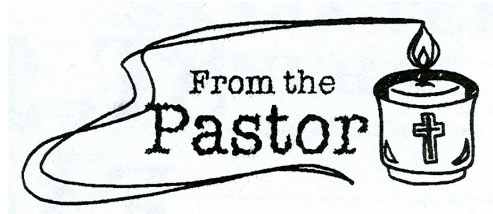
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**April 2020**

# The Witness

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Volume 6 No. 4

*This year, Pastor Gunia will be writing on piety and spirituality. The intention is to help you live your life with increasing joy, closeness to God, and love for others. Don't take these as the Law, but rather think of them as suggestions from someone whose been working on his personal piety for quite some time now and who would love to see your faith grow stronger.*

The Small Catechism and countless things published by Concordia Publishing House instruct us to “remember our Baptism.” What does that mean and how do I do it.

We begin each service with the words “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” These are the words spoken over you at your Baptism. The opening moments of our worship harkens back to the very first time you were called a child of God. And these words take us all back to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our forgiveness. As we say these words, many people cross themselves and I make the cross upon the assembled congregation.

Each morning, the Small Catechism instructs you to remember your Baptism by crossing yourselves and saying, “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Each evening, right before you go to bed, you are again instructed to remember your Baptism by doing the very same thing and saying the very same words.

There is a reason for this. At these key times, we remember the promises of God and the great things he has done for us.

In a worship service, here we are “poor miserable sinners” entering into the presence of the Holy and Almighty God. You can't just walk into someone's house uninvited; there will be huge trouble for you. This is especially true of the homes of the powerful. Try to walk into Buckingham Palace or the living quarters of the White House and see what happens to you.

So, if we're not worthy or authorized to walk into the homes of Queen Elizabeth, Donald Trump, or even your neighbor down the block, what in the world gives us the authority to walk into the house of God? The answer is your Baptism.

Sinful you can enter the presence of a Holy God because you are Baptized (“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”). Your Baptism authorizes you to enter into God's presence because your sins are washed away in the waters of Baptism. In God's eyes, you are pure, holy, and worthy to be near him.

You can walk into the Father's house because you are Baptized. At your Baptism, you were adopted into the household of God. Therefore you don't approach Him as an uninvited stranger; you approach Him as His child and His heir. You are worthy to be there because you're part of the family.

You approach Him because you are His disciple—His student. You are there to learn from God and be transformed by Him. You are His disciple because of the words of Jesus, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The teacher welcomes His students.

You remember your Baptism when you go to sleep because you are united to the crucifixion of Jesus. Paul writes in Romans 6, “do you not know that all of us who have been Baptized into Christ Jesus are Baptized into his death? We were buried with him, therefore through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might be raised to newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united in a resurrection like his.”

As you go to sleep, you remember your Baptism, that you will sleep the sleep of death, just as Jesus did.

As you wake up, you remember your Baptism, that you will be raised from death, just as Jesus was. When you are tempted to sin, you may cross yourselves and speak the name of God, remembering that (through Baptism) you are a new creation. The old, sinful, rebellious you is drowned in the waters of Baptism and died. You are now a new person, created in the likeness of Christ. Sin has no fellowship with the new you.

When you do fall into sin (as we all do), we remember what Peter writes about Baptism: "Baptism now saves you." Through Baptism, you are forgiven, restored, and the promises are continually renewed.

We constantly remind ourselves of the work God has done to us at our Baptism. We remember the new identity he bestowed upon us. We remember the authority we received as God gave us Baptism. We remember the death and resurrection of Jesus, to whom we are united. We remember in humility God's suffering and death so that we might be forgiven. And we remind ourselves that we are new creatures intended for good works, not works of wickedness.

Your Baptism wasn't a one-time event; it is a continuous, ongoing reality unto life eternal.

Pastor Gunia

## News and Views from Ascension

The season of Lent is upon us. Services this year are Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with a period prior to the service devoted to an opportunity for private confession and absolution with the Pastor. Yes, we have confession and absolution as part of our worship service each week. This is indeed a chance to unburden one's self from the troublesome action that seems to sometimes lurk around every corner in one's life. The absolution pronounced by our pastor should be as a weight removed from one's soul. We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Lenten worship includes all the wonderful hymns composed in a minor key but so moving in word and melody. Packed with allusions to God's word and Jesus' actions leading to the crucifixion, these hymns have often become a big part of our worship, especially if we learned them in grade and high school. Who can forget "thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus unto Thee." Churches nowadays often play down the somberness of this time, retaining the upbeat rhythms that we tap our feet to. There is time for all that after Resurrection Sunday. Jesus' suffering and death on the horrible cross should give us pause. The Alleluias are stilled; we look forward to them on Easter.

By the time you read this, the annual St. Patrick's Day lunch will be history. We made a change again this year and we will be feasting on March 19 at Hackney's in Glenview at lunch. Their offerings were the most suitable and reasonable and one does not have to order corned beef! We have about 20 persons signed up, mostly ladies. Hope everyone wore green.

On Saturday March 7, Arletta and John Stuebe, Lois Marten, Karen Hepburn and Rosalie Streng journeyed to Joliet to sister church Our Savior for the annual LWML Lenten Inspiration service. Featured speaker was the Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, current president of the NID. His address was encouraging. The Mission speaker was Bill Indelli, Executive Director of Walcamp. He shared information about spring and summer programs and how the camp site has improved this year. The box lunch was filling and there was room for sweets. We had been invited to bring Ziploc plastic bags, dinner size paper plates and Menard's gift cards for the camp, and there was a large pile of such for Walcamp. This wonderful camp has served as a gathering place for so many of us from the area over the years.

As you know, Pr. Gunia received a Divine Call to Ironwood, MI. The town of 6,000 is in the upper peninsula, at the WI border, a truly "fur piece" from Niles, IL. We pray that the Lord will lead Pastor to the right decision as we await his decision. We need him here, but.....

Hot off the press: Pastor shared with us this Sunday, March 9, that he had just communicated with Ironwood and thus declined the Call. A sigh of relief and silent prayers of thanks arose from the pews. We are stuck with him for the foreseeable future. Thank you, Lord.

Our congregation is gathering items for hygiene kits (tooth brushes, dental floss, combs, etc.) for Christ the King Lutheran church on the South Side of Chicago. This brave little church offers Sunday worship and a day school and meals for all the children who come to school. In addition, the church feeds multitudes of homeless and older people from the neighborhood. The children are offered a full curriculum as well as religion. A teacher shows all the children how to play a musical instrument and to use their young bodies in meaningful dance. They are a blessing. We will be telling you more about them.

Rosalie Streng



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League**  
Lutheran Women  
In Mission

**Lenten Inspiration**

Five people from Ascension attended the Lenten Inspiration this year. We enjoyed the worship, Bible study, and speakers. Also got to know people while having a tasty lunch. Thanks to those who contributed to the Gifts from the Heart to help Walcamp where renovations are continuing.

**Zone 11 Spring Rally**

Plans are being made to have the Spring Rally at Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Cornelia Ave., Chicago. A **tentative** date being considered is Sunday, April 19th, at 1:00 p.m. Watch for further information which will be published in *News and Notes* as it becomes available.

**LWML NID Convention**

The 2020 District Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Gurnee on September 11 and 12. Reserve the dates for an event packed with activity. Theme will be "Led by the Spirit." Deb Burma will be the Keynote Speaker and Bible Study Leader. Also we will be enlightened about the food pantry at the seminary in Fort Wayne. Sept. 11 from 1 - 10 p.m. includes a servant event, Bible study, the Opening Worship service, and fellowship. Sept. 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. includes Bible Study, Deb Burma's keynote address, other speakers, and LWML NID business & elections. More information as it becomes available.

**Where Mites Go**

**Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God's Love  
Lutheran Braille Workers**

Grant: \$8,000

Letters arrive weekly from visually impaired inmates asking for the Bible in large print. Due to the size of the Large Print Bible and the spiral bindings (which can be used as weapons) rarely are they permitted into the correctional institutions. Therefore, a grant from the LWML NID will be used as seed money to purchase the necessary equipment to start on a new Work Center that will produce the 14 point APhont English Standard Version of the Bible for visually impaired inmates throughout the United States. These Bibles will be given free of charge.

**Love Packages**

**Testimony from South Africa**

"Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29. The Group Studies, especially for youth, are becoming more and more popular. The leaders appreciate the constructive and Bible centered topics that can be followed throughout the year. Leaders and preachers in the poorer communities can now possess and Study Bible and Theology materials which they cannot afford to purchase otherwise. The Church in Africa is growing so rapidly that Operation World informs me there are still 100 million church goers in Africa who do not yet have a Bible or even a New Testament. The needs are great. The opportunities are extraordinary.

Arletta A. Stuebe, President

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\* \* \*

**Remember!**

**"One man's junk is another man's  
treasure. . . . .  
and sometimes it's just junk!"**

While we appreciate all the items people bring from home to donate to our church, please ask the Trustees or other appropriate individual to make sure we need them and have room to store them. Thanks!

# Time & Talent

## Altar Guild

April

Lois Marten

### Deacons

April 5	Tom Friedewald
April 9	Jim Jenne
April 12	John Stuebe
April 19	Jonathan Schultz
April 26	Tom Friedewald

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### Ushers

April 5	Ron Albrecht Nick Giannopoulos Bonnie Schultz John Stuebe
April 9	Jim Jenne John Stuebe
April 10	Jim Jenne John Stuebe
April 11	Jim Jenne John Stuebe
April 12	Tom Friedewald Steve Galka Jim Jenne Sarah Lindahl
April 19	Lance Ahlgrim Tom Ahlgrim Bonnie Schultz John Stuebe
April 26	Ron Albrecht Nick Giannopoulos Jonathan Schultz John Stuebe

### Greeters

April 5	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
April 12	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
April 19	Judy Darville Gail Bujnowski
April 26	Lois Martin Rosalie Streng

## HOLY WEEK



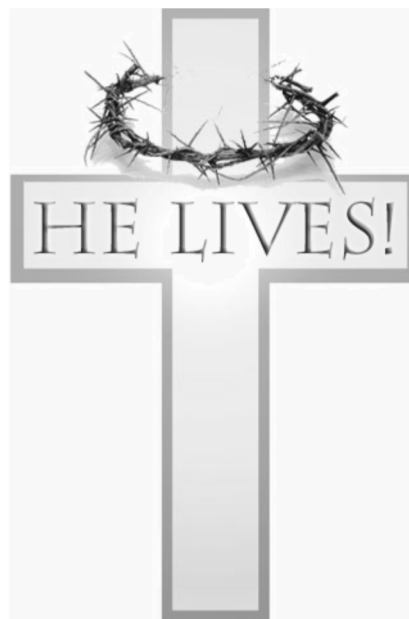
**Palm Sunday/HC**  
April 5 @ 9:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday/HC**  
April 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
April 10 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil**  
April 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday/HC**  
April 12 @ 9:30 a.m.





We congratulate the following members of Ascension as they celebrate their **birthdays** in April.

April 1	Hedy Schwenn
April 2	Tana Uffenbeck
April 7	Marion Herzog Christine Marzek
April 12	Sophie Krumins
April 27	Christina Limas
April 29	Craig Schwenn John Stuebe



And we congratulate the following couples as they celebrate their **wedding anniversaries** in April.

April 18 Tom & Sheila (Kolbe) Ahlgrim

These are the **birthdays** and **wedding anniversaries** recorded in our church records for the coming month. If any birthday or anniversary was omitted, please notify the church office.

\* \* \*

### Money Principle #13: Grow What You're Given

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[e] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”—*Matthew 25:14–30*

Here's another example of a financial parable that Jesus uses to communicate a spiritual truth. Here he wants to teach us stewarding the gifts he has entrusted to us. These could be talents and abilities or they might be the very message of grace that he has entrusted us with. We don't all receive the same gifts, but we're all expected to return our master's investment.

This parable's point rests on a real-world example of stewardship. High-level slaves in the first century would be responsible for the stewardship of the master's resources. Moneylending was a fairly ubiquitous way for people of means to help others while increasing their own wealth. If they didn't have enough money to lend, they could at least keep it in temple banks where it would be secure and earn a small amount of interest.

Jesus' use of the parable helps us understand a spiritual principle while giving us a peek into the financial practices of the day—and the wisdom of wisely investing your capital.

## ASCENSION 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b>	Tom Friedewald
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Jenne
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Coby Mueller
<b>Secretary:</b>	Audrey Schultz
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Sandy Friedewald
<b>Board of Deacons:</b>	Jim Jenne (Chair) Hal Downs Tom Friedewald Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz John Stuebe
<b>Board of Christian Ministries</b>	Lois Marten (Chair)
<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Jason Romano (Chair)
<b>Board of Youth:</b>	Sarah Lindahl (Chair)

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### **OFFICIAL ACTS**

None on record

Do you have an announcement to share about your family such as a birth, death, engagement, graduation, etc., **let us know! We'd love to hear from you!**

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