

The Witness

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

Ascension Lutheran Church

LCMS

Phone: 847.647.9867

E-Mail: office@ascensionniles.com

Website: ascensionniles.com

FaceBook: Ascension Lutheran Church
Niles, IL

+ + +



April 2021

The Witness

April 2021

Volume 6 No. 4

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

NEWS & VIEWS

by Rosalie Streng

The pre-Lent weekend hit us with both barrels of snow from Sunday on, playing havoc with those who enjoy "paczkis" on Tuesday, Madi Gras or Karneval Tuesday or in Germany it's Faschingsdienstag. Jelly filled doughnuts are the order of the day there as well. Most of us were fortunate to get out of our garages and to the main streets on Tuesday. We are experiencing a one of a kind winter in Chicago but other parts of the country are also dealing with very unusual weather. Snow in Houston? No power in Dallas?

The very cold weather and the fear of the virus have lately affected our Sunday worship attendance. We are so grateful to the ladies who are still tending to the altar duties such as changing paraments and setting up communion. Thank you, Kim, for seeing to the flowers as well. We welcomed fresh young faces to worship twice in February. Students from Trinity International School in Deerfield attended worship. This is a small Christian liberal arts college which has a strong theology department. The students took an active part in our worship. A little on-line search will tell you more about this school.

Valentine's Day, February 14, brought red paper hearts with John 3:16 printed on them and chocolate hearts. Thanks to the ladies of the Board of Christian Ministries. And we sang Happy Birthday to Monty. We gave him the following week off.

We were stunned to learn of the passing of Shirley Leparski on February 18. A former intrepid square dancer and more recently key board player at Glen Bridge (pre-pandemic) for those worship services, Shirley was one of a kind. She was active in the women's group at Ascension and attended church regularly. Her friendly and personal demeanor is much missed but we know she is with her Savior. A visitation and service were held at Ascension on February 22 with Rev. Chris Browne from Our Saviour Chicago officiating. Pr. Browne had held services at Glen Bridge before the pandemic and we know Shirley would have liked having him officiate at her funeral.

The weather did not respect Ash Wednesday, and the possibility of more snow and ice thus made it wise to cancel the evening service, especially since Pr. Anderson drives in from the Milwaukee area. A Lenten Devotion booklet was distributed at worship the following Sunday.

Did you know that Concordia Publishing House (CPH) which publishes most of the worship and study materials we use as Missouri Synod Lutherans was founded in 1870? Do you think that could be a good Jeopardy question?

Bible verse of the month: Jesus said, "...Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36) At what time in Jesus' earthly ministry did He say this and to whom? Could this apply to us in 2021?



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

Where Mites Go

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas — \$98,400

LWML Grant #20 for the 2019–2021 biennium is “Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border.” The current classroom space for this ministry is tucked into Ysleta Lutheran Mission offices wherever space is available. Funding of this mission grant will permit renovations to dedicated classroom space, enabling increased class size, secure storage of instruments and equipment, and a more professional atmosphere for these valuable classes. For more information, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-20.

**Testimonies from Around the World:
Kenya**

I have two teenagers in my house. Last night, my kids and I prayed together to welcome in the new year. I was so silent, then they all prayed, “God, we don’t know who it was that you used to send this literature, but you used them and as a result our relationship with you has gotten closer.” Now this statement came from both of them. I am so happy that my kids have, without me pushing them, decided to be students of the Word and allow God to work through them. Well, after distributing the literature in several counties of Kenya, there is much need for more.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
Tenebrae
7:00 p.m.

Easter Day
Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.



Time & Talent

Greeters

April 4	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
April 11	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
April 18	Gail Bujnowski Judy Darville
April 25	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten

Deacons/Ushers

April 1 Maundy Thursday	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
April 2 Good Friday	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
April 4	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
April 11	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
April 18	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
April 25	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald

Altar Guild

April	TBA
-------	-----

* * *

The Light of Salvation



My eyes have seen,
salvation's Light
they have been given
a new glorious sight.

For once they were closed,
to the Truth and the Way
but now they observe
God's mercy each day.

My eyes were shown,
Jesus' Love and Grace
they have seen the light
now the Life they embrace.

For once they were shut,
but now they clearly see
the promise of peace
God has awaiting for me.

My eyes have observed,
the Light of salvation
and now they hold hope
in Christ's resurrection!

~~~~~

Ephesians 5:14

*Wherefore he saith,  
Awake thou that sleepest  
and arise from the dead  
and Christ shall give thee light.*

King James Version  
Public Domain



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

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| April 1  | Hedy Schwenn                      |
| April 7  | Marion Herzog<br>Christine Marzek |
| April 12 | Sophie Krumins                    |
| April 26 | Justine Aragosa                   |
| April 29 | 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.

## But what about Easter breakfast?

As we read in John 21, Jesus, in his third post-resurrection encounter with a group of His disciples, shared breakfast on the beach. The menu everyone enjoyed was bread and fish served to them by their Savior. Following the meal, John recounts the powerful conversation between Jesus and Simon Peter. The shared meal and the ensuing conversation brought reassurance to the disciples.

Like the disciples, we can continue with a shared meal and conversation this year. It won't be the usual Easter breakfast fare shared with others around decorated tables in the fellowship hall — or, as in many churches, prepared and served by the youth group. But whatever the menu and setting, our Easter breakfast can still provide connection and comfort around the table.

Whatever may be served at your Easter breakfast table, may you and those you love join with the Psalmist in saying, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8). He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

James Lohman  
The Reporter  
April 7, 2020

## 2021 ASCENSION COUNCIL 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)<br>Hal Downs<br>Tom Friedewald<br>Jim Jenne<br>Jonathan Schultz<br>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)                                                                            |

\* \* \* \* \*

## OFFICIAL ACTS

**Funeral**  
Shirley Leparski  
February 22, 2021

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!**

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Ascension Lutheran Church #106244  
7429 Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, IL 60714

TELEPHONE

847 647-9867

CONTACT

Audrey Schultz

SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2016  
Adobe Acrobat Standard DC  
Windows 10

PRINTER

HP Photosmart 7510

EMAIL

office@ascensionniles.com

TRANSMISSION TIME

Thursday 4:00pm

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 8

NEWSLETTER DATE

April2021

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

# of copies: 200

Expected delivery: Thursday, March 25, 2021