

# 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

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**May 2021**

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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).

# NEWS & VIEWS by Rosalie Streng

Our Martha Sichau made page one of the Chicago Tribune in March as she was pictured at the United Center waiting for her covid shot. A reader could not miss her in the large color photo. We hear that her many friends sent copies of that picture for her memory book. And she got her shot as well.

The great Festival of the Resurrection is just around the corner with Holy Week services preceding. Pr. Anderson will preach at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services. We are grateful that he will be there and of course on Easter Sunday, this time with his family. We love seeing his boys and little girl.

We were extremely shocked and saddened at the news that our Coby Mueller was taken to heaven very unexpectedly in March. Coby served St. John and Ascension in various capacities for many years. Recently she had been dealing with the offering and other bookkeeping duties in the office. Coby's brother lives in Nevada and will come back to Niles to help deal with Coby's affairs and home. Franny, Coby's cherished rescue Beagle, is being cared for by friends. We wish to thank Audrey Schultz who spent much time helping Coby with the medical problems she was having and seeing to her needs at home. Coby will be sorely missed at Ascension.

It is encouraging to see our Sunday attendance gradually climb to over 30. It is so good to see fellow worshippers back in their favorite places once more. One of these days we may even resume after worship coffee and....And maybe even real handshakes.

One of the many things missing during this awful pandemic year plus has been the lack of festival music for our big religious holidays, such as Christmas and Lent. Yes, there are hymns of the season but no special music by our people in choir or by instrument. We hope that will gradually change as time goes on and we all have our shots. Monty has done his best, and we love Pr. Anderson's chanting of the communion liturgy, but there is still something missing.

Pastor Anderson's Sunday Bible class is quite worth attending. If you have not reviewed your catechism in a generation or two, you will find Sunday's lessons thought provoking and a kick back to those confirmation lessons of yore. Aside from the lack of "Thou shalt nots" replaced with "You should nots..." things are quite familiar. We have covered Genesis and the Lenten events leading to the crucifixion of our Lord and of course the great Resurrection.

We don't have many young persons worshipping with us these days, but we think our people have some grandkids that they see at their home. Have you thought about having a hymn sing with them after a pizza or a birthday celebration? Almost everyone knows, or you can teach them, Jesus Loves Me. This might even be the beginning of a discussion about what that means. It is so vital these days to lead our young people to Jesus and to teach them His ways. And don't forget to pray for them and with them. Especially as grandparents, you have a special vocation for those young folks. Tell Bible stories, have little devotions before they head for home, teach them to love Jesus and God's Word. You will be blessed in your work with them.

Finally, don't forget to check the book shelves in the narthex for something to take home to read. If you forget to bring it back, we will never charge a fee. God's blessings!

Bible Verse of the Month: And then from death awaken me, that mine eyes with joy may see, O Son of God, Thy glorious face, my Savior and my fount of grace....and I will praise thee without end.

(This is not a Bible verse but the last stanza of hymn 708 in LSB. Text by Martin Schalling, translated by Catherine Winkworth. Composer J.S. Bach used this hymn in one of his compositions. Magnificent to hear.)



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

**Where Mites Go  
Women's Witness And Mercy  
Asia — \$100,000**

Asia is a harvest field ripe for the gospel. Women in Mission realize that our grants to missionaries in the field bring God's Word to a dying world. Asia is predominately secular with Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and other false religions. Throughout Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau and Southeast Asia, ten women do various mission works such as teaching, acts of mercy and witnessing the gospel. Some have husbands and families working alongside of them while others work with a team or alone. One missionary teaches 242 students about Jesus in Taiwan while another has served for 10 years planting seeds of mercy and witnessing in Southeast Asia. Whether teaching English as a Second Language in Thailand or building relationships to open doors for sharing the gospel, each woman in the mission field helps in the growth God's Kingdom. This grant will help support these women in their unique mission setting in Asia.

**Testimonies from Around the World:  
Uganda**

I expect to reach out this month to the Ugandan military base which sends military troops for the peace keeping missions in Somalia. The conference and outreach will be conducted by the Association of the African Military Christian Fellowship in Uganda. The conference will analyze among other things, the strategies for effective Christian outreach methods for effective evangelism among the military troops. So far our efforts have resulted in the Military planting a church in Mogadishu, Somalia.

**How Mother's Day Began**

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) first suggested a national observance of an annual day honoring all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities in the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then it had become customary to wear a white carnation to honor deceased mothers and a red flower to honor the living—a custom that continues to this day.



# Time & Talent

## Greeters

May 2	Judy Darville Rosalie Streng
May 9	Pam Hrajnoha Lois Marten
May 16	Gail Bujnowski Rosalie Streng
May 23	Pam Hrajnoha Judy Darville
May 30	Gail Bujnowski Lois Marten

## Deacons/Ushers

May 2	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
May 9	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald
May 16	Tom Friedewald Jonathan Schultz
May 23	Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
May 30	Jim Jenne Tom Friedewald

## Altar Guild

April	Gail Bujnowski Judy Darville
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## Bethesda Seeks Partners

In August 2020, Bethesda Lutheran Communities — an LCMS Recognized Service Organization — broke ground on Cornerstone Village in Victoria, Minn. The village, comprising 52 villas and apartment homes, will serve people with disabilities as well as adults of all abilities who are 55 and older.

The goal of the new development is to offer comfortable and convenient housing while encouraging independent living and fostering connections among residents. Cornerstone Village will feature a chapel, along with regular Bible studies and other events facilitated by local congregations.

“Cornerstone Village presents an opportunity for residents and local congregations to connect with people of all abilities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, service projects, Bible studies and prayer. It’s truly an exciting effort,” said Deaconess Kimberly Trombley, Bethesda vice-president of religious life and church relations.

Tom Campbell, vice-president of real estate for Bethesda, said, “We’ve had tremendous interest so far from prospective residents. ... We have also had outstanding initial conversations with local LCMS congregations about ways we can support each other as neighbors.”

One leader who believes strongly in the concept behind Cornerstone Village is the Rev. Mark Shockey of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Edina, Minn. Shockey recalls his late Aunt Marcia, who had a disability and lived in an institutional setting, taking the bus back and forth to a job making pay phones. While she stayed connected to her Lutheran faith through Bible classes, Shockey believes she could have had a much richer experience in a place like Cornerstone Village.

In fact, Shockey sees Cornerstone Village as a place where Lutherans, especially seniors, can help “build the Kingdom.” “There is potential to ... re-energize churches within communities,” he said. “So many families can be reached and blessed with the love of the church.”

For more information about Bethesda Cornerstone Village, contact Tom Campbell at [tom.campbell@bethesdalc.org](mailto:tom.campbell@bethesdalc.org) or 414-828-6697, or visit [bethesdacornerstonevillage.org](http://bethesdacornerstonevillage.org).



## Portrait of a Mother

A mother can be almost any size or age, but she won't admit to anything over thirty. She has soft hands and smells good. A mother likes new clothes, music, a clean house, her children's kisses, a new microwave, and Daddy.

A mother doesn't like seeing her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud arguments, or bad report cards. She can read a thermometer (much to the amazement of Daddy) and, like magic, she can kiss the hurt away. She can also bake good cakes and pies, but she likes to see her children eat vegetables.

A mother can stuff a chubby baby into a snowsuit in seconds and a kiss a little face and make it smile. She is underpaid, works long hours, and gets very little rest. She worries too much about her children. And no matter how old they are, she still likes to think of them as her babies.

A mother is the guardian of the family, the tender hand of love. She is the best friend anyone could ever have. A mother is love.

~Author unknown

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

May 1	Michael Powyszynski
May 2	Robert Galka Charles Schwenn
May 4	Elaine Wallace
May 12	Karen Aragosa
May 14	Steven Galka
May 19	Tom Friedewald
May 22	Harold Hasselman



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

May 16	Marc & Audrey Schultz
May 19	Michael & Janice Fleck
May 29	Harold & Janice Hasselman
May 31	Tom & Kim Giannopoulos

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.



*Sunday, May 9, 2021*

## 2021 ASCENSION COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President:</b>	Tom Friedewald
<b>Vice President:</b>	Jim Jenne
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sandy Friedewald
<b>Secretary:</b>	Audrey Schultz
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Carolyn Jannusch
<b>Board of Deacons:</b>	Jim Jenne (Chair) Hal Downs Tom Friedewald Jim Jenne Jonathan Schultz
<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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