

# 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](mailto:office@ascensionniles.com)

Website: [ascensionniles.com](http://ascensionniles.com)

FaceBook: Ascension Lutheran Church  
Niles, IL

+ + +



**September 2022**

# The Witness

August 2022

Volume 7 No. 8



We will be observing The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29) on September 25th. Before the age of the so-called “Enlightenment” in the eighteenth century, when “rational” and naturalistic explanations for everything in the world became the fashion, St. Michael’s Day was a very big deal in the Lutheran Church.

Major choral works were composed by the great baroque masters of the Lutheran Church especially for this observance. In the golden age of Lutheran liturgical practice in the seventeenth century, the observance of St. Michael’s Day almost always included a festive Vespers on the evening before the festival itself, a festive Divine Service on the morning of the festival (“Michaelmass”), and a festive Vespers on the evening of the festival.

The special music that was performed and sung in these services made such an impact on the overall history of sacred music, that modern musicology and music history scholars have in recent years produced two “liturgical reconstruction” CDs that serve to recreate the sequence of hymns, anthems, and chants of a classic St. Michael’s Eve Vespers service, and of a classic St. Michael’s Day Vespers service. They give us a glimpse into an almost forgotten world of the high church culture that the orthodox Lutheranism of the past inspired and lived-out in its worship life – again, before the advent of the rationalism and large-scale loss of faith that came about with the so-called “Enlightenment.”

Our Lutheran forbears did not observe St. Michael’s Day in such grand ways just so that they would have an excuse for composing beautiful music, however. They observed this day with a firm belief that the world in which they lived was a world in which angels and demons were a profound reality – locked in an invisible struggle for souls, and for the prevailing of the good and gracious will of God in the earth.

Think of the many sober references to Satan and other devils that can be found in the great Reformation hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” But our Lutheran forbears also knew that Jesus Christ their Lord had overcome the power of the old evil foe by his death and resurrection.

They knew as well that Michael the archangel, and all the angels who with him serve the Lord, were constantly watching over and protecting the church, and God’s people within the church.

The difference between their time and ours does not consist in a different level of demonic and angelic activity in the world. There is just as much of this taking place now as then. The difference lies in the fact that we are often blinded by our modern materialist worldview to the reality of this activity. We don’t live out each day as our ancestors did, with a conviction that what the Bible teaches about these things is true. But it is still true. *This is still true:*

“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him” (Revelation 12:7-9)

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. ... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved” (Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5).

“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out” (John 12:31).

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

“Jesus Christ...has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him” (1 Peter 3:21- 22).

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 18:10).

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2).

When we observe St. Michael’s Day in our congregation, let us think on these things. Let us think on these things every day of the year! There are great supernatural and personal forces of evil surrounding us on every side. But the divine Christ is our Savior, and our Lord. As we in repentance continually turn away from sin – where the devil is always trying to find a point of entry into our lives – and as we continually cling to Jesus and his gracious Word of pardon and life, we are safe. St. Michael, and all of God’s powerful angelic servants, will protect us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matthew Uttenreither

**Saint of the Month:** Cyprian (A.D. ca. 200–258), was acclaimed bishop of the north African city in Carthage around 248. During the persecution of the roman Emperor Decius, Cyprian fled Carthage but returned two years later. He was then forced to deal with the problem of Christians who had lapsed from their faith under persecution and now wanted to return to the Church. It was decided that these lapsed Christians could be restored but that their restoration could take place only after a period of penance that demonstrated their faithfulness. During the persecution under Emperor Valerian, Cyprian at first went into hiding but later gave himself up to the authorities. He was beheaded for the faith in Carthage in the year 258.

Today's Collect notes that "You gave Your servant Cyprian boldness to confess the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, before the rulers of this world and the courage to die for the faith he proclaimed" and asks that we also be given constant strength "to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The *Treasury of Daily Prayer's* writing is a beautiful meditation by St. Cyprian that includes these words: "If we are the sons of God; if we are already beginning to be His temples; if, having received the Holy Spirit, we are living holy and spiritually; if we have raised our eyes

from earth to heaven; if we have lifted our hearts, filled with God and Christ, to things above and divine, let us do nothing but what is worthy of God and Christ..." (*Treasury*, p. 728)



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

### **Where Mites Go**

The Littlest and Least of These  
Dallas, Texas  
Grant: \$42,000

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy is located in a poor Dallas community of mostly unchurched families and offers the only Christ-centered preschool, before and after school care, and adult academic and Bible classes. The Academy uses Christian books, music, and Bible stories. There are regular devotional services, and families are encouraged to attend worship. St. Paul is outgrowing their current facility after a single year of operation. Going forward, more space is needed for the preschool, nursery, and after-school educational enrichment. The kitchen serving meals needs to be upgraded to a commercial kitchen. The funds will help with these expenses and will allow the Academy to further expand their mission in the community and bring more to Christ.

### **Testimonies from Around the World: Sierra Leone**

Thanks so much for the privilege to serve as one of your Distributors for Love Packages in Sierra Leone. Kindly convey our kind sentiments to all at Love Packages for the study Bibles, other Bibles and teaching materials. Most of our members had lost touch with the Bible, but the coming of the Bibles we received from Love Packages has brought a dramatic revolution in the attitude of our members towards the Word of God.



## What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: "A manager." That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into the God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.



September 5, 2022

## ***Time & Talent***

### **Deacons**

September 4	Jonathan Schultz
September 11	Tom Friedewald
September 18	Jim Jenne
September 25	Jonathan Schultz

### **Greeters**

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

### **Altar Guild**

September:	Sue Gunia Lois Marten
------------	--------------------------

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. The three-day weekend it falls on is called Labor Day Weekend.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty states in the U.S. officially celebrated Labor Day.

Canada's Labour Day is also celebrated on the first Monday of September. More than 80 countries celebrate International Workers' Day on May 1, the ancient European holiday of May Day. May Day was chosen by the Second International of socialist and communist parties to commemorate the Haymarket affair, which occurred in Chicago on May 4, 1886.





We congratulate the following members of Ascension as they celebrate their **birthdays** in September:

- September 2            Gay Stensland
- September 13        Megan Giannopoulos
- September 14        Gianna Aragosa  
                              Lauren Schultz
- September 15        Christina Aguilera
- September 18        Rev. Matthew Uttenteither



We also congratulate the following couples as they celebrate their **wedding anniversaries** in September:

- September 10        Tom & Sandy Friedewald
- September 21        Bradley & Sarah Lindahl

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.



### Around Ascension . . .

As summer is coming to a close, things are resuming around Ascension. Bible Study resumes on September 11th. Check News & Notes for information about Ascension Women’s Circle.

Remember the church office has new hours! Audrey will be in the office 9:30 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. She has moved! Her new address is:

2703 Grouse Lane  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Thanks to everyone who worked to make “God’s Promise to Noah” happen. Unfortunately however, Vacation Bible School was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. We look forward to next year!

If you have any news you would like to share in **Around Ascension...**, just let the office know and it will be included in the next issue of *The Witness*.



Fall Equinox  
September 22, 2022

## 2022 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 (Emeritus) 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)

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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!**

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

Friday 3:00 pm

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 8

NEWSLETTER DATE

September 2022

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

# of copies: digital

Expected delivery: Thursday, August 26, 2022