

❖ NewsNotes ❖

June 2017

Vol. 119 Issue 6

‘Found and forgiven’: that’s the promise of salvation

By Rev. Jeff Zell

I do not like being lost. When I travel I like to know where I am going, how I am getting there, and how long it will take me to get there. Details are important. Saying, “go west until Chicago, then hang a left” does not work for me. Neither does that fabulous statement of faith, “You can’t miss it.” Yes, I can, and I have.

I am old enough to have used paper maps when I traveled and visited people in the hospital and homes. Now, I use the GPS on my phone. Regardless of how I get those directions, I need them.

My need to know where I am and where I am going conflicts with Martin Luther’s explanation of the second article of the Apostles Creed. “*I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human*

being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being...”

Lost? Am I really lost? I know exactly where I am right now. Then, there is that additional word after “and.” Condemned? But, I am a good citizen! I am free. I obey the laws. What do you mean lost **and** condemned?

Luther speaks of me theologically, not ontologically. Before God, I am a sinful person without any hope of satisfying or appeasing God. Before God I fall far, far, short of divine expectations. I cannot do better or make it better no matter how hard I try. Our heavenly Father knows this too. In his great compassion, he gives us Jesus. Jesus redeems us through the cross and resurrection. On account of Jesus, our heavenly Father no longer looks at us as lost or condemned.

Summer and new service times arrive

Summer worship schedule commences June 10. The 5:30 p.m. Saturday worship in the chapel will be June 10 through Aug. 26.

Sunday worship time remains the same: 9 a.m. at First English and 10:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei.



On June 25 we will enjoy a combined 10 a.m. worship service at First English Lutheran Church, 16495 Ireland Road, Mishawaka. Potluck dinner will follow. Watch bulletin for details.

Through our Lord’s atonement, we are declared to be found by God AND we are declared “forgiven.” In Christ we are no longer lost or condemned. We receive this good news through faith.

Coptic Christians, target of terrorism, have deep roots

On Palm Sunday, April 9, two Coptic Churches were bombed, resulting in the deaths of 44 people and more than 100 others injured. The question is asked – what is a Coptic Church?

The word Coptic is closely associated with Egyptian. It is a church that is found in Egypt and North Africa. The Coptic Church became a separate church with its own Bishops following the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451.

Bear in mind that in 451 there is only one church and its center was in Constantinople. The primary cause of the separation relates to a different

understanding of Christ’s nature after the Incarnation of Christ.

We Lutherans (along with Roman Catholics and Orthodox) believe that after the Incarnation Christ has two natures, human and divine, in the one person of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Coptic Church had a different way of understanding the Incarnation. They believe that there is one nature in the one person of Christ. This one nature may be divine only or a mixture of human and divine.

The theological word that describes this understanding of Christ’s Incarnation is monophysite.



The Coptic Church argues that it is misunderstood. See www.coptic.net/EncyclopediaCoptica/ to read things from their own perspective.

The Coptic Church today is not in fellowship with either the Bishop of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul, Turkey) or the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). Neither is the Coptic Church in fellowship with any Lutheran church.

—Pr. Zell

Pictured is a modern form of a cross used in the Coptic Church and which is made up of two bold lines of equal length that intersect at the middle at right angles. At each angle are three points, representing the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. All together, the cross has 12 points symbolizing the Apostles whose mission it was to spread the Gospel message throughout the world.



With quill in hand, Luther defines our works and faith as inseparable

“Faith is a living and unshakeable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake. This kind of confidence in God’s grace, this sort of knowledge of it, makes us joyful, high-spirited, and eager in our relations with God and with all mankind.

That is what the Holy Spirit effects through faith. Hence, the man of faith, without being driven, willingly and gladly seeks to do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of hardships, for the sake of the love and glory of the God who has shown him such grace.

It is impossible, indeed, to separate works from faith, just as it is impossible to separate heat and light from fire.”

Martin Luther, Preface to Romans, 1522.



BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT

To April 30, 2017

YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for April	\$ 800
Mortgage paid for May	2,379
Loan principal on May 1	73,062
Mutual Bank balance on May 1	16,156
Total paid from scrip sales	56,200

At present, 87% of each payment reduces the principal. Current interest rate is 4.95 percent. Mortgage termination date is June 2020. Thirty-eight payments remain. Pledges totaling \$150,543 were received in a 2014 fund drive. Congregation should continue making regular contributions and purchasing scrip.

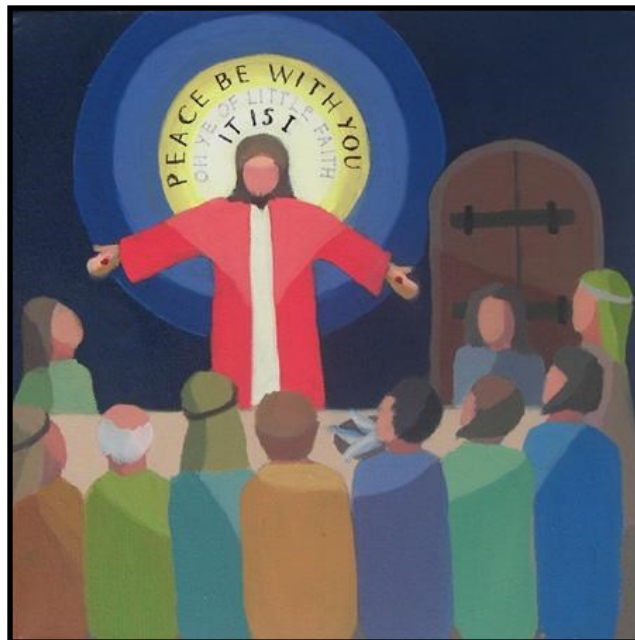
*Report prepared
By Dan Lindborg
April 11, 2017*

Hopes shattered, disciples faced an unclear future until the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following article, reprinted from the Living Our Baptism Bible study series on the ELCA Web site, describes the anxiety the disciples experienced as they waited in Galilee after the crucifixion, as Jesus had instructed them to travel and await the promised Advocate.

When a baptized Christian affirms the faith (often called confirmation) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: To live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the



earth?

Pentecost is an ideal season of the church year to emphasize living our baptism and discovering the five gifts of discipleship listed above.

Background: Each year on Pentecost Sunday, the assigned scripture text for

worship is from Acts 2.

The story occurs after Jesus had been crucified, risen from death, and ascended to heaven. The disciples were in one place in Galilee as Jesus instructed.

Although Jesus had warned them about his death and predicted his resurrection, they were unprepared for all that had transpired.

Their hopes were shattered—their future was unclear. What was next?

Jesus had tried to instruct them for when he no longer would be able to be with them on their

earthly pilgrimage.

Jesus had promised to send the Advocate to be with them.

And so they waited. Scared and with no vision of the future, they waited.

“When the day of Pentecost had

(Continued on page 5)


Jesus appears to his disciples in a locked room. Oil illustration by R. Stevenson
http://community.saa.co.uk/gallery/artwork/6-jesus-appears-to-his-disciples-in-a-locked-room-by-r-stevenson_34359.html



June



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
<p><i>Every Summer Sunday at Gloria Dei:</i> <i>5:30 p.m. Saturday, said ; *10:30 a.m. Sung Liturgy; Coffee Hour follows.</i> <i>*Begins June 10</i></p>				<p>I-K Synod at Covington, Ky.</p>		
<p>4 Day of Pentecost</p> <p>First English council, 1:30 p.m.</p>	5	6	<p>7 10 a.m. Bible Study</p>	8	9	<p>10 5:30 p.m. Said Rev. Dr. Max Johnson</p>
<p>11 Holy Trinity</p>	12	<p>13 Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14 10 a.m. Bible Study</p> 	15	16	<p>17 5:30 p.m. Said</p>
<p>18 Pentecost III Fathers Day</p> <p>SOCIAL MINISTRY</p>	19	20	<p>21 NN Deadline No Bible Study Summer begins 12:44 a.m.</p>	22	23	<p>24 5:30 p.m. Said</p>
<p>Confirmation Camp at Lutherwald, June 19-23</p>						
<p>25 Pentecost IV Joint service with 1st English, there, 10 a.m. Carry-in meal to follow.</p>	26	<p>27 NN Mailed Pastor at Shared Ministry meeting 10-2, Synod office</p>	28	29	30	

June Ministry Schedule

	June 4 Day of Pentecost 10:30 a.m.	June 10-11 Holy Trinity 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	June 17-18 Pentecost III 5:30 p.m./10:30 a.m.	June 24 Pentecost IV 5:30 p.m.
Liturgical Assistant	Leslie Miller	5:30 Brian Saine 10:30 John Miller	5:30 Patty Carr 10:30 Dan Lindborg	5:30 Brian Saine
Servers	Thomas Zell Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Colin Dreher Liam Boyd	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek	
Lector	10:30 Dan Lindborg	5:30 Ginny Brummitt 10:30 Patty Golichowski	5:30 Jim Carr 10:30 Darlene Scherer	5:30 Patty Carr
Communion Assistant	Mary Ann Sorocco	Dolores Miller	Michelle Megyese	Joint service with First English, there, at 10 a.m.
Greeters	Dorothy Anderson Jean Petersburg	Phyllis Thompson Lindy Dreher	Dolores & John Miller	
Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp	F: Joan Forslund birthday L: Open	F: Carol and Bob Larson L: Open	F: Jeanette and Larry Taylor anniversary L: Gloria and John Sheneman in honor of parents	
Altar Guild	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski	Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer	Gloria Buysse, Jill Seifer

Ushers: Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

Counters: June 4: Sorocco and B. Saine; June 11: Lindborg and Fortson; June 18: Forslund and Taylor; June 25: Miller and C. Saine.

Ushers scheduled by Russ Buysse, counters by finance committee;
Altar Guild by Patty Carr, all others by Jack Seifer (mlkusa@sbcglobal.net)

Hopes shattered

(Continued from page 2)

come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

Degrees, diplomas, thanks and more miscellanea

Thank you to John and Gloria Sheneman in joining Pastor Zell as voting members at the Synod Assembly in Covington, KY June 1-3.

Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Maxwell Johnson, recipient May 14 of the degree Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* by Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Congrats and best wishes to Thomas Zell, who is graduating from Riley High School, South Bend. He extends thanks for all the cards, gifts and good wishes extended at the May 21 coffee hour in his honor.

Thomas is enrolled at Indiana University South Bend for the 2017-

(Acts 2:1-4 NRSV)

Today: The Festival of Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter Sunday and typically falls between mid-May or early June.

It is the longest season of the church year, extending to the season of Advent.

Whereas the other seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter) emphasize some aspect of the life of Jesus, Pentecost emphasizes the life of the Spirit-infused church—disciples in action.

2018 year.

Congratulations to Amanda Megyese for graduating from Iowa State University.

Congratulations to Kate Neff for graduating from Marian University Indianapolis, College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Thanks to those who prepared and served the May 25 meal at Hope Ministries included Ginny Brummit, Roni Hobkirk, Suzanne Kjoller, and Harvey Holmes. Thanks also to our dessert and corn muffin bakers.

Pastor Zell will be at Lutherwald's Confirmation Camp with Cora Kazmierzak June 19-23.

Communion minister training in September

Is God calling you to serve as a Holy Communion Minister? On September 17 from 5-6 p.m., Pastor Zell will lead a training session for those who are called to this ministry.

The time commitment will be one Sunday a month between 15-45 minutes to bring communion to someone who is not able to come to church. Please speak with Pr. Zell if you are interested in serving.



Barnyard animals eager to report; ready to erase world hunger

The check is in the mail, and Old MacDonald's menagerie is ready to get to work.

Thanks to the beneficence of our members during the Lenten season, we collected \$414.50 for God's Global Barnyard.



That's enough to "employ" two sheep, one goat, three beehives, and two broods of chicks in developing nations.

Gloria Dei has been participating in the Global Barnyard, a project of the World Hunger arm of the ELCA, for the last seven year years. Each year, we have contributed several hundred dollars—in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters—to attack the root causes of hunger in 60 countries around the world, including here in the U.S.

According to the ELCA Web site, "Cornerstones of this work include hunger education, advocacy and projects focused on agriculture, livestock, water, health care and job training to help people lift themselves out of hunger and poverty for the long-term."

Those who have asked for our prayers include

Sara & Lorraina Doolittle, Al Saari (Darlene Scherer's brother-in-law), Judithellen Larson, Jordan Cone, Ken, David Post, Judy Kepner, Cheryl Barker (Joan Forslnd's sister), our shut-ins.



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NewsNotes

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Hours by appointment
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Dolores Miller, office administrator

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday
1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Dolores is off on Wednesday.
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www.gloriadei-in.org

NewsNotes is a monthly publication for members and friends of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 225 E. Haney Ave., South Bend, IN 46601. The deadline for submissions is printed in the monthly calendar.

Please submit information for the weekly bulletin in writing by noon each Wednesday.

NewsNotes Editor: John Miller
e-mail: jdmiller10@hotmail.com



Please notify the church office if a special occasion is missed

Those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in June include...

June Birthdays

Joe Sorocco	June 3	Bev Trone	June 17
Joan Forslund	June 10	Bob Larson	June 24
Clayton Henderson	June 10	Jill Seifer	June 24
James A. Schleis	June 11	Jack Seifer	June 27
Jenn Weldy	June 12	Allison Keltos	June 27
Len Jepson	June 12	Nikole Oliver-Scherer	June 28

June Anniversaries

Carol and Bob Larson	June 4	Kathy & Kevin Marek	June 12
Sheila and Bob Beitler	June 6	Pat & Don Holmberg	June 24