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# ❖ NewsNotes ❖

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May 2017

Vol. 119 Issue 5

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## *Faith connects us to God's promises, says Luther*

**By Rev. Jeff Zell**

In his 1528 sermon on the Apostles Creed, Martin says this about the second article: *"It is because of this article that we are called Christians, for those who acknowledge and call upon Christ are called Christians."* (Luther's Works v51, 164-5)

The Creed is a summary of Biblical teaching. For Christians this is not a history lesson or an intellectual exercise. Christians trust in and have faith in what God has done for us by creating us and by giving us Jesus Christ.

In his explanation of the second article, Luther explains *"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord..."* (Small Catechism). The key here is "my Lord." Faith connects us

with the promises of God in Christ. Our faith makes God's actions in the world personal. What Jesus does through his incarnation, death, and resurrection becomes real to us through faith.

Through faith we receive THE Lord Jesus as OUR Lord.

Faith leads us to give thanks to our heavenly Father for the gift of Jesus. For Jesus redeems us from the clutch and everlasting consequences of sin, death and the devil. Jesus does this freely of his own accord. He who had no sin, gives his life for those who are corrupt. In Christ, we are forgiven, set free, and given a hope that the world cannot give.

Luther explains why we have faith in Jesus our Lord. *"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the*

### Hilltop to be host for Ascension service

We will again enjoy a combined Ascension Eucharistic liturgy with our Episcopal sisters and brothers at 7 p.m. May 25 at Hilltop Lutheran Church, 4114 South Ironwood Drive.

Bishop Douglas Sparks of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana will preach. Bishop Bill Gafkjen of the IN/KY Synod will preside.

We are grateful to Pastor David Russell and the congregation of Hilltop for providing the hospitality.

*Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned*  
(Continued on page 4)

### *Luther lessons resume May 10*

Wednesday morning study on Luther resumes May 10 from 10-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Gloria Dei.

Here are the topics of discussion:

- 10 – "Grace and Justification"
- 17 – "Luther and the Bible"
- 24 – "Luther and Erasmus"
- 31 – "Luther and Predestination"

### Synod say thanks for meeting pledge

On the Fellowship Hall bulletin board is a certificate of appreciation from the Indiana-Kentucky Synod office for our benevolence during 2016.

In response to our members' long-standing commitment to the work of the church at large, Gloria Dei's council has strived to fulfill its annual pledge, which last year was \$10,575.

## Junge, ELCA general secretary, to receive N.D. honorary degree

**By Rev. Jeff Zell**

I saw in the South Bend paper the announcement that the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Notre Dame during the commencement ceremony.

Our congregation is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which is a member of the Lutheran World Federation.

Pastor Junge has the distinction of being the first Latin American to hold this office. He was elected by the LWF Council at its 2009 meeting and assumed office at the beginning of November in 2010.

He is the former president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile.



Dr. Martin Junge

Our Synod, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, is in a relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile.

The current Bishop of the Chilean Church spoke at the 2016 Synod Assembly in South Bend.

# Imagine what Jesus' followers felt when, 'Poof!' he vanished

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author is a college teacher who has taught a variety of English and creative writing classes for the last 20 years. The following was published in Living Lutheran in May 2015.

**By Kristin Berkey-Abbott**

The Feast Day of the Ascension falls 40 days after Easter, 10 days before Pentecost. This feast day commemorates Jesus being taken up into heaven.

Imagine it from the eyes of those who have followed Christ: traipsing around Galilee, crucifixion, and then resurrection. They've just gotten their beloved messiah returned, and then, poof, he's gone again. What a whipsawed feeling they must have had.

*"... We don't get to stand around waiting for our chance to go to heaven. There's work to be done on earth."*

How do we celebrate this day, so many thousands of years later? Many churches have chosen to simply ignore it. We march on to Pentecost.

But let us take a minute to acknowledge the wonder of the Ascension. It's a fate reserved for very few in the Bible. And let us take a minute to think about Jesus, who has already suffered death, the fate which an ascension spared for the few others  
*(Continued on page 5)*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** April's Building on Faith report included figures that previously appeared in the March issue of NewsNotes. Below are accurate numbers as of mid-April.



## **BUILDING ON FAITH REPORT**

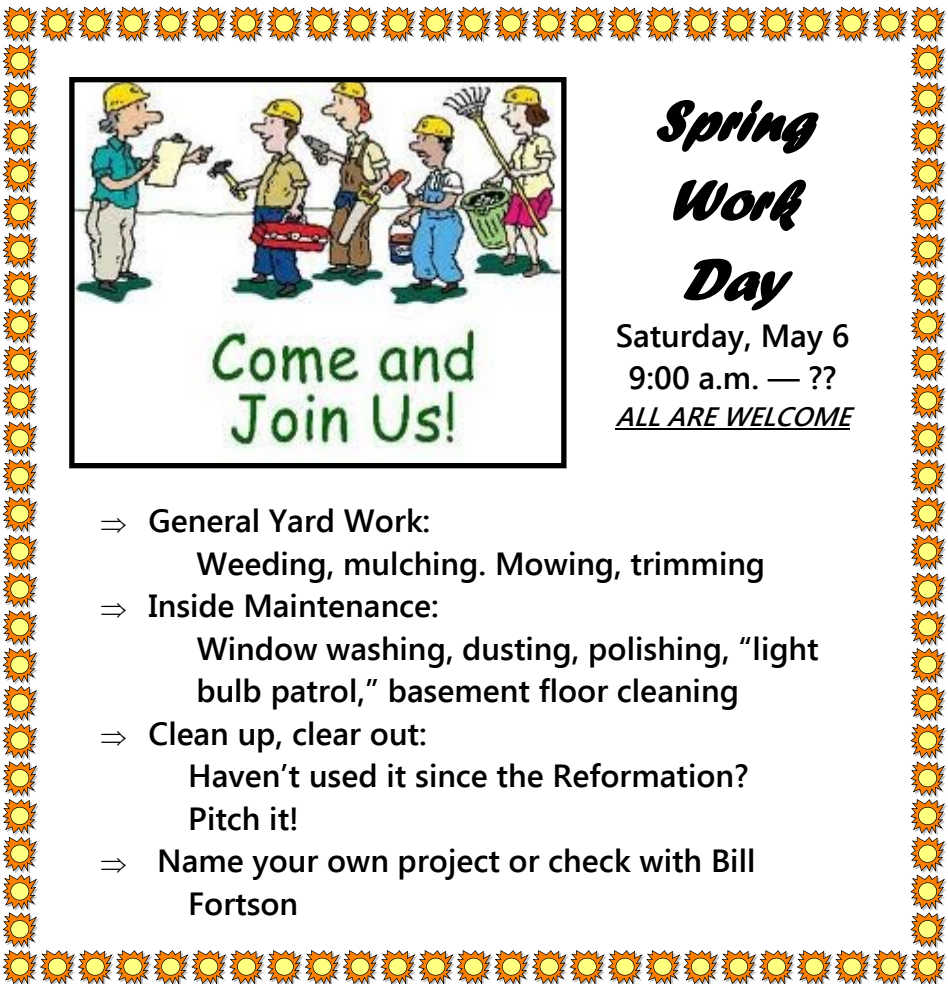
To March 31, 2017

### YEAR TO DATE

Receipts for March	\$ 1,405
Mortgage paid for April	2,379
Loan principal on April 1	75,132
Mutual Bank balance on April 1	17,655
<b>Total paid from scrip sales</b>	<b>56,200</b>

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*



## *Spring Work Day*

**Saturday, May 6**  
**9:00 a.m. — ??**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

- ⇒ **General Yard Work:**  
Weeding, mulching. Mowing, trimming
- ⇒ **Inside Maintenance:**  
Window washing, dusting, polishing, "light bulb patrol," basement floor cleaning
- ⇒ **Clean up, clear out:**  
Haven't used it since the Reformation?  
Pitch it!
- ⇒ **Name your own project or check with Bill Fortson**

## Shenemans named assembly delegates

This year's I-K Synod Assembly will be held June 1-3 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington. Gloria and John Sheneman are our elected delegates, and will join Pastor Zell to represent Gloria Dei.

The theme is FORMED, RE+FORMED, TRANSFORMED to support observances of the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in parish, judicatory, and church-wide settings.

Highlights of the assembly include: Celebrating leaders and communities within the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, inspiring worship, a celebratory banquet, motivating and informative plenary sessions, election of Synod Vice President, Synod Council, board and committee members, along with all the other aspects of assembly that help us to be the church gathered together as we are formed, reformed and transformed for God's mission of hope, healing and reconciliation for the sake of the world.



# May



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Mary Circle, 6 p.m., Legends of Notre Dame	3 No Bible Study	4	5	6 Spring Work Day 9-noon 
Pastor at St. Meinrad's for STS retreat						
7 <b>Easter IV</b> First English council, 1:30 p.m.	8	9 Congregation Council, 6:30 p.m.	10 10 a.m. Bible Study	11	12	13
14 <b>Easter V</b> Last Day of Sunday School, "Choraliers" concert during liturgy	15	16 Ministerium, 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity	17 10 a.m. Bible Study	18	19	20
21 <b>Easter VI</b> SOCIAL MINISTRY	22	23	24 <b>NN Deadline</b> 10 a.m. Bible Study	25 <b>The Ascension of Our Lord</b> , 7p.m., Hilltop Lutheran; Hope Ministries Meal	26	27
28 <b>Easter VII</b>	29 Memorial Day, Office Closed 	30 <b>NN Mailed</b>	31	<b><i>Every Sunday at Gloria Dei:</i></b> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School*; 10:30 a.m. Sung Liturgy; Coffee Hour follows.</i> <i>*Last day is May 14</i>		

### May Ministry Schedule

	<b>May 7 Easter IV</b>	<b>May 14 Easter IV</b>	<b>May 21 Easter V</b>	<b>May 28 Easter VI</b>
<b>Liturgical Assistant</b>	Patty Carr	Brian Saine	Leslie Miller	Dan Lindborg
<b>Servers</b>	Thomas Zell	Tyler Marek Dylan Marek Amelia Marek	Thomas Zell Garrett Miller Mackenzie Miller	Colin Dreher Liam Boyd
<b>Lector</b>	Jean Petersburg	John Miller	Ginny Brummitt	Patty Golichowski
<b>Sunday School</b>		Donald Holmberg		
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Mary Ann Sorocco	Dolores Miller	Michelle Megyese	Melinda Foley
<b>Greeters</b>	Carol & Bob Larson	Dorothy Anderson Jean Petersburg	Dolores & John Miller	Mary Ann & Joe Sorocco
<b>Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp</b>	F: Saines and Shenemans L: Open	F: Pastor Jeff and Marie Zell's Anniversary L: Shenemans' birthdays	F: Open L: Open	F: Open L: Open
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Mary Ann Sorocco, Dolores Miller, Sheryl Taghon	Lindy Dreher, Phyllis Thompson	Lindy Dreher, Phyllis Thompson

**Ushers:** Harvey Holmes, Stephen Saine, Russ Buysse.

**Counters:** May 7: Sorocco and B. Saine; May 14: Lindborg and Fortson; May 21: Forslund and Taylor; May 28: 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)

### *God's promises*

(Continued from page 1)

*creature, purchased and won [delivered] me from all sins, from death, and from*

*the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting*

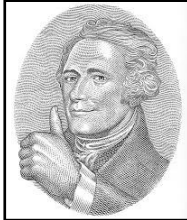
*righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."*

(bookofconcord.org).

## Scrip sellers announce return of ‘five & ten’ cards for limited run

The “five & ten” stores may be a memory of the past, but our faithful scrip sellers are doing their best to preserve the tradition of great value at an exceptional price.

Returning by popular demand: The \$5 & \$10 scrip cards! From now until May 26, many popular merchants are offering small denomination gift cards—and just in time for graduations, Mothers Day and Fathers Day gifting.



It’s the best thing that’s happened to Lincoln since Gettysburg, and the best news for Hamilton since “Hamilton.”

Available in multiples of \$5 are Barnes & Noble and Starbucks. The following merchants are offering \$10 cards: Amazon.com, Applebees, AMC Theatres, CVS pharmacy. IHOP, Meijer, Olive Garden/Longhorn/Red Lobster and Target.



Order on Sunday, pick up your order the following week.

## Many contribute to magnificent Holy Week

The NewsNotes editor overheard many wonderful comments about the remarkable series of liturgies and events that took place here and at First English during Holy Week and the Three Days. Many, many individuals and groups worked diligently and devotedly to make those events happen, and at the risk of overlooking some one or ones, we wish to thank the following:

Music director Dr. Kevin Vaughn, the combined choirs, guest vocalists and trumpeter, our own Riley Suter; Mary Circle, for sponsoring the Easter breakfast, and Joe and Maria Lutz for

preparing the main course of egg casseroles; The Seifers and Saines for sponsoring wine and cheese repast after the Easter vigil; Pastor Zell for presiding over the marathon schedule of services and his inspiring homilies; Dolores Miller for preparing, proofing and coaxing the office copier to crank out all the various bulletins; Everyone who contributed for the beautiful flowers that graced our Easter altar and the heavenly music that enriched our liturgies; and, of course, all who came to fill the pews and be blessed and nurtured in Word and Sacrament.

## Pentecost

(Continued from page 2)

who experienced it.

Just like the first followers, just like Jesus, we don’t get to stand around waiting for our chance to go to heaven. There’s work to be done on earth. The coming Sundays of the time after Pentecost remind us



that we’re not put on earth to wait to die. We are here to be part of the ultimate redemption of creation. Jesus began that work. We are here to further it along, at least as much as we can during our very short time here.

And how do we do that? The possible answers to that question are as varied as humanity. Some of us will pray without ceasing. Some of us will fight for social justice. Some of us will create works of art that point others to God. Some of us will visit the lonely and the sick. Some of us will give away our money so that others have the resources to do the creation redeeming work that needs to be done.

Whatever we choose, it’s important that we get to work. We don’t want to get to the end of our time here, only to be asked, “Why did you stand there slack-jawed and idle, when there was so much work to do?”

For those of us who feel like we can’t do much, consider this language from the Gospel story, the latter part of Luke 24:49: “so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

I love that language: clothed with power from on high – how would we behave if we truly believed we had been clothed with power from on high?

Pentecost [is] the holiday that commemorates the first clothing with fire. But we’ve all been clothed in that way. We have all been clothed with power. Believe in that force, and then get to work in the claiming of creation.

*Those who have asked for our prayers include ....*

Sara & Lorraina Doolittle, Al Saari (D. Scherer’s brother-in-law), Judithellen Larson, Jordan Cone, Samantha Croymans, Nelson, Ken, David Post, Judy Kepner, Roland Sheneman, Jaime Owen, Shirley Brunt, our shut-ins.



**For Page 6**

**The IK Synod  
Newsletter,**

**See separate  
.pdf file**

**For Page 7**

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Newsletter,**

**See separate  
.pdf file**

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# NewsNotes

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*Celebrating 136 years of faithful ministry of Word and Sacrament.*



**Rev. Jeff Zell, pastor**  
Hours by appointment  
[Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeff.Zell@yahoo.com)

**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.  
Office phone: (574) 288-5266

**[www.gloriadei-in.org](http://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](mailto:jdmiller10@hotmail.com)



*Please notify the church office if a special occasion is missed*

*Those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in May include...*

### May Birthdays

Darlene Scherer	May 1	Bob Suter	May 16
Gloria Sheneman	May 1	Blake Miller	May 17
Pat Holmberg	May 5	Riley Suter	May 21
James M. Schleis	May 6	Dylan Marek	May 22
Brian Saine	May 7	Tyler Marek	May 22
Mackenzie Miller	May 7	Sarah Fortson	May 25
Nancy Lindborg	May 10	Sheila Beitler	May 26
Linda Tetzlaff	May 11	Ryan Suter	May 27
John Sheneman	May 12	David Post	May 28
		Shelby Seifer	May 29

### May Anniversaries

Linda & Don Tetzlaff	May 12	Marie & Pastor Jeff Zell	May 23
Gloria & John Sheneman	May 12	Gertrude & L.G. Von Myers	May 26
Sheryl & Greg Taghon	May 15	Kristin & Doug Sorocco	May 27