

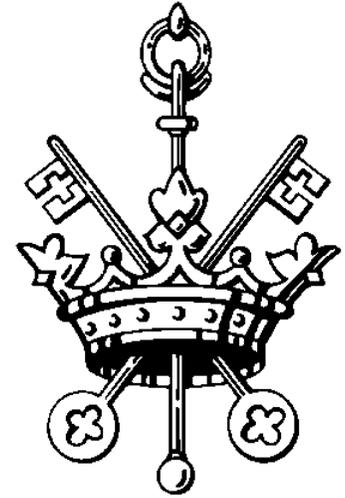
May 2018

Volume 55, Number 5

brings judgment. "I am here," he says, "because you are unfit for immortality. Your sins have cost you the right to go on living." There is no one so good, so holy, so truly pious that death will not visit him. Death came even to our Lord Jesus. Death found Jesus guilty and Jesus died. His heart stopped. His breath ebbed away. His brain simply quit. His friends were inconsolable and His mother wept. Death is nothing if not bold and after thousands of years of victory why shouldn't he be. It may well be that life exists nowhere else in the universe than on Earth, but all that means is that this is only place where people die. Death is the obvious master of this world.

"In the midst of bitter death, sharp the hell-drawn harrow. Who will break its teeth and save faith's most inner marrow?" On Good Friday death took our Lord. This year, unnoticed by the world and, unthinkable to those left behind, many of our brothers and sister will fall asleep and be buried. Our hymn continues this way, "Through the midst of hells of fear our transgressions drive us. Who will help us to escape, shield us and revive us?"

But something else happened to our Lord. Even into this month of May Christians on every continent and those at sea will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord as the Easter season continues. Death did take Him. But death could not hold Him. Jesus died but Jesus rose again, not merely in spirit but in flesh and blood. Death sank his undefeated fangs into the flesh of our Lord and Jesus broke his



teeth, then burst from the tomb. "Lord, You alone, our Savior. Your shed blood our salvation won; sin death and hell are now undone."

Death will still stalk us. Our fear is still real. Our grief is still great. But so is our victory. We have a new certainty to add to death: the promise of the resurrection. Death can end our lives. He can drain some of the joy from our time in this world by taking those we love but his teeth are broken and he has no real power. In time we will be with those we love and we will be with God in glory. Our sins will be forgotten and our lives will be all they were meant to be and more than we ever knew they could be. Death will be gone from us and we will never be sad again. It is for this very reason that Jesus was born, that He lived and suffered and that He died, that He rose from the dead: that you may have life and have it to the full. May God our Father gently revive those of you who are grieving. May He strengthen and encourage those of you who are afraid. May He kindle in all of us that love for one another which warms this world and dazzles in the next. Amen.

Pastor Varsogea

"In the very midst of life death has us surrounded." Hymn number 755 in your hymnals bears that title. It is a Luther hymn which means that Pastor Trouten and I love it and that you'd probably want to sing something else. Nevertheless, I encourage you to sing or at least read this hymn.

Death is a reality we all will face. Sometimes death seems to be on a rampage and nothing we do is able to stop him from taking those we love one by one. We aren't alone in our suffering though. People are killing each other here in America and around the world. The war in Syria grinds on and the number of deaths grimly rises day after bloody day.

We all like to think that we're basically good and that we're living pretty good lives. We don't seem to be as bad as others and a fair number of people like us and admire the way we live. We might even believe that after long years of prayer, self-discipline and spiritual warfare we've gotten the better of sin and the devil, at least for the most part. But death will tolerate no self-deception. Like God, he will not be fooled. Sinners belong to him and he will take them all. It is only a matter of time before he comes for you and for me. The wages of sin is death.

Death, when he comes,



Bethany
Lutheran
Church

FISH FRY

invites you to
our annual

Fish Fry & Tenderloin Dinner

Saturday, May 19th
4:30 to 7:00 pm.

Adults: \$9
Children: \$5
(age 4 & under are free)



May Mile Stones

| Birthdays: | Date | Baptisms: | Date |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Jane A. Clayton | 10 th | Gina K. Smith | 8 th |
| Hayley A. Ramsey | 10 th | Alexander M. Varsogea | 14 th |
| Brennon D. Ramsey | 10 th | Alexis G. Harris | 17 th |
| Rev. C. E. Varsogea | 18 th | Marilyn L. M. Dalman | 22 nd |
| Pamela S. Pitsch | 28 th | Greggory A. Dalman | 29 th |

| Anniversaries: | Date |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Robert E. & Vicki D. Lee | 2 nd |
| Jane A. & H. Thomas Clayton | 4 th |
| Dain W. & Deborah L. Christensen | 10 th |
| Geremy M. & Margot D. Stricker | 28 th |

These are listed so that you can celebrate these milestones with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

“If one member is honored, all the members rejoice.”

[1st Corinthians 12:26]

The congregations of Zion and Bethany will meet at Zion Lutheran, 2313 S. Hanna, at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 10th, to celebrate the Festival of the Ascension of Our Lord.



Ascension
Day



Worship Anew airs Sunday mornings at 7 AM on channel 21.2 EPTA, Sunday at 8 AM on Comcast 252 or Frontier 9, and on Comcast 55 or Frontier 25 at 4:00 PM on Sundays and Mondays at 10 AM. This month's schedule is:

- 6th – on Jn. 15:9-17 by Rev. P. Shoemaker
- 13th – on Jn. 17:17 by Rev. Dr. D. Brege
- 20th – on Jn. 16:14 by Rev. T. Ahlersmeyer
- 27th – on Jn. 3:1-17 by Rev. J. Elsner



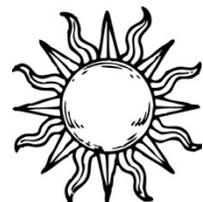
Game Night!

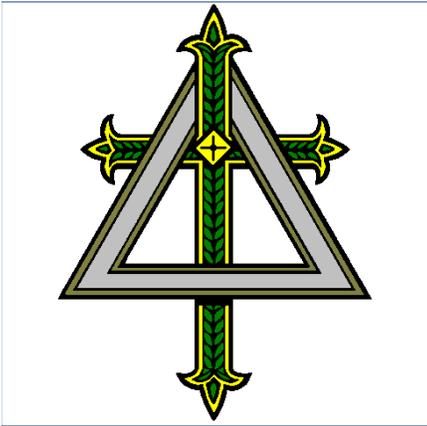
Bethany will host
her monthly
Game Night,
Saturday,

May 12th, starting at 7pm.
We need volunteers to sign up & help.

Sunshine Corner

Please remember in your prayers
our shut-ins: Stella Westerfield,
Jerry Greene, Florine Sievers,
Marilyn Dalman, &
Mary Allmandinger.





The Life of the Church

The Feast of the Holy Trinity

On May 27th, the first Sunday after Pentecost, traditional western churches (including those coming out of the Reformation) honor the Holy Trinity. In the early Church no special day was assigned for the Holy Trinity. In the fourth century, when the Arian heresy (which denied the Trinity) was spreading, a service setting with canticles, responses, a Preface, and hymns, to be recited on Sundays, was prepared. In the Sacramentary of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604 AD) you can find these prayers and the Preface of the Trinity. By 1085 AD, some congregations used the Office of the Holy Trinity on the first Sunday after Pentecost, other places the Office was used on the Sunday before Advent. Pope Alexander II (1061-1073) refused a petition for a special feast, explaining that such a feast was not customary in the Roman Church which daily honored the Holy Trinity by the Gloria Patri, etc., but he did not forbid the celebration where it already existed. More than 200 years later, Pope John XXII (1316-1334) ordered the feast for the entire church on the first Sunday after Pentecost. The feast was raised to the dignity of a primary feast of the first class, July 24, 1911, by Pope Pius X. The traditional eastern (Greek) churches have no special feast.

- Adapted from The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume XV

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The Confessions

On the Ascension (celebrated on May 10th with a service at Zion)

In Luther's day, as in ours, there were false teachers who said that, because Jesus ascended into heaven, He cannot be present in His Body and Blood in the Supper. Luther called these false teachers "Sacramentarians"; we call them "Reformed" (Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, etc.). In response to such false teachers, our Confessions state:

"Accordingly, with heart and mouth we reject and condemn as false, erroneous, and misleading all errors . . . such as,

". . . when it is taught that because of His ascension into heaven Christ is so enclosed and circumscribed with His body in a definite place in heaven that with the same He cannot or will not be truly present with us in the Supper, . . . but that He is as far and remote from it as heaven and earth are from one another, as some Sacramentarians have willfully and wickedly falsified the text, Acts 3, 21 . . ." [FC, TD, VII:107,119]

"The grounds . . . on which we stand against the Sacramentarians in this matter are those which Dr. Luther has laid down in his Large Confession concerning the Lord's Supper.

"The first is this article of our Christian faith: Jesus Christ is true, essential, natural, perfect God and man in one person, undivided and inseparable.

"The second: That God's right hand is everywhere; at which Christ is placed in deed and in truth according to His human nature, being present, rules, and has in His hands and beneath His feet everything that is in heaven and on earth, where no man else, nor angel, but only the Son of Mary is placed; hence He can do this [be present in His Body and Blood in the Supper].

"The third: That God's Word is not false, and does not deceive." [FC, Ep, VII:10-13]

| April | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

May 2018

| June | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----|--|--------|--|-----------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood | | | | 10:00 AM Ladies' Study | | |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 18 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Ladies' Study | | | | | | 7:00 PM Game Night |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 19 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class | | 6:30 PM Edlers' Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg | | | | 4:30 PM Fish Fry |
| | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 20 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class | | | | | | |
| | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| 21 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood | | | | 10:00 AM Banner Folding | | |