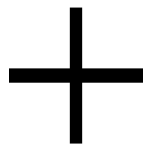


THE FESTIVAL OF
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD



May 28th, 2017



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701-255-1039 † www.oursaviourwels.org
Pastor Thomas M. Moldenhauer
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WELCOME

God welcomes you no matter who you are – and so do we. Thank you for joining us in God’s house today. Whether you are a first-time guest, a friend or relative of a member, or a curious observer from a different religious background, we are delighted to be with you in worship.

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP

We believe that Jesus is the Savior of all. By his life, death, and resurrection Jesus saves all sinners simply because he loves us. That is called the gospel, and it’s the good news on every page of God’s Word. Therefore, the Bible is not just information about God or rules from God, but the saving power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts and restore our lives. Lutheran worship places this good news at the center of the worship service with an order called *liturgy*. In both the Word and sacrament (Means of Grace), in specifically selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted and often ancient songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news of Jesus from start to finish.

Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out entirely. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal located in front of you. Parts marked **L** are spoken or sung by the worship leader, and the parts marked **C** and printed in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- **Quiet Bags** are for any parents with small children. They are on a stand in the back of church.
- **Weekly News & Notes** are printed in the back of this worship folder.
- **Restrooms** are to the left as you walk out the back of church or in the basement.
- **Website:** oursaviourwels.org

OUR CHURCH BODY

Our Saviour’s proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (wels.net). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod, as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).





THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Forty days ago, the darkness of Lent was dispelled when light of Easter. For forty days, the Church has cried, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” But forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he departed from his disciples and was enthroned with glory and power in heaven. From heaven he rules all things as our Lord and King. Today (though the festival was this past Thursday) we celebrate the day he ascended (“went up”) to glory. But he promised not to leave his disciples alone. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit. They waited ten more days, and then on the Festival of Pentecost (“fiftieth day”) they saw Jesus’ promise made good. Next Sunday, we will celebrate that 50th day, the day of Pentecost.

WORSHIP SERIES



- April 23 – Forgiveness through faith*
- April 30 – Hope from promises kept*
- May 7 – Full life through the gate (Confirmation)*
- May 14 – The only way to the Father*
- May 21 – The fruit of the Spirit*
- May 28 – A hidden but heavenly reality (Ascension)***
- June 4 – One lasting gift (Pentecost)*

For forty days during Lent, we followed our Savior in his battle against sin. Easter is the celebration of his victory over death, the devil, and hell for us. This triumph lasts a lot longer than one day; it lasts for eternity. We spend fifty days rejoicing on the victory parade that Jesus leads, showing the spoils of his war that are ours through faith in him. Today, we celebrate the day Jesus went up to heaven. After his work was finished, he had nothing left to do here on earth so he returned home as the victorious King to rule all things for the benefit of his Church. He may be hidden from our eyes, but he is never hidden from our faith. He has a home for us where he is, and he promises that he will come back to take us home. This is the reality we have in life no matter what happens here and now. It fills us with joy and it causes us to be bold in faith.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding & Preaching	<i>Pastor Tom Moldenhauer</i>
Organist	<i>Jim Fors</i>
Our Saviour’s Choir	<i>Lisa Weippert, director</i>
Ushers	<i>LeRoy Humann, Dave Gross, Dexter Demaray, Chad Keech, Aaron Cook – Elder</i>

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God’s right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PASTOR’S WELCOME



WELS CONNECTION

From 673-735 AD,
lived an
Englishman known
to history as the
Venerable Bede.
He was a devout
man of God. He
divided history
into BC (“before
Christ”) and AD
(“anno Domini,”
which is Latin
meaning “in the
year of our Lord”).
He died on May 26,
735, which was the
Festival of
Ascension that
year.
This hymn is
ascribed to him
and clearly
outlines the
importance of our
Lord’s ascension.

OPENING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | # 171 v 1, 2

Please remain seated.

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed!**

L God reigns over the nations,

C **God is seated on his holy throne.**

L Come, let us worship!

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | # 171 v 3, 4

CONFESSION OF SINS

L Before he ascended, Jesus commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

L As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

L God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

God forgives us through Jesus. We don't have to be afraid of him but run to him again and again as his cleansed and forgiven children.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Victoria Kachena



Please stand.

L Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our risen and ascended Lord watches over his church and wants us to teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Victoria may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C Yes, as God gives me strength.

L We pray: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of Christ's righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Victoria and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

Baptism is not something we do for God, showing our dedication or acceptance of him. But it is God working miraculously through simple water and his saving Word to bring forgiveness and a new life.

The Prayer of the Day for Ascension was words which The Venerable Bede spoke as he died on this festival day in 735 AD. These words flow from the texts of Ascension and prepare us for the work of the Spirit as he blesses us in them.

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing | # 171 v 5, 6

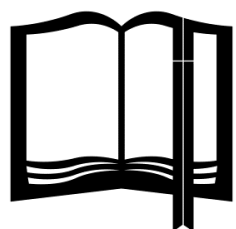
PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray.

Pastor says the prayer printed on page 3, after which the congregation responds:

C Amen.

Please be seated.



THE WORD

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

– Romans 10:17

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited up front for a brief devotion with Pastor.

Christ's ascension proves that faith in him does not provide an earthly utopia. Rather, we receive Spirit-power to be heralds of the impending kingdom of heaven.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.



¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Under inspiration from the Holy Spirit, the Sons of Korah composed this prophesy psalm for Israelite worship around 1000 years before it happened.

PSALM

Psalm 47 | pg. 85

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Christ is the head of the Church.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Amazing Grace
Arranged Lou Leaman, 1971

Written by former slave trader turned Christian, John Newton, in 1779.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build | # 173



Written by Josua Wegelin in the 1600s, this hymn was penned for his former congregation in Augsburg, Germany. He had served there until the Thirty Years’ War forced him to leave.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Ascended Jesus Has a Witness Protection Program for Us.

Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The members of Our Saviour's Lutheran join together to do the Lord's work in Bismarck and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*Please help us be a friendly church by taking a moment to fill out the **Friendship Register** located at the end of the pew.*

The Apostles' Creed (meaning "I believe") was not written by the apostles but summarizes their teaching and the Biblical faith, refuting any other kind of Christianity.

As the offering is brought to the front, please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Throughout the prayer, when Pastor says, "... Lord, in your mercy," the congregation responds by saying, "**Hear our prayer.**"

LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

Christ High-Ascended | #558

Please stand.

L Lord God, your power amazes us and motivates us. Help us be faithful supporters and bold witnesses until our King returns on the last day to take us to your heavenly kingdom. We pray through Jesus Christ our King, who rose to life and reigns eternally with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C Amen.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

The Aaronic Blessing has been spoken over God's people since the Old Testament. God watched over his people then and the ascended Lord still does today. Be at peace in God's loving arms.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

NEWS & NOTES

THIS WEEK

Today – Choir Practice 8:15am
Worship @ 9am
Bible Hour @ 10:15

Monday – Memorial Day

Wednesday – Movie Night Potluck @ 5pm
Luther Movie @ 6:30 (Carmike 8)

Sunday – **Worship @ 9am (Lord's Supper)**
Bible Hour @ 10:15

MOVIE NIGHT

Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy.
Carmike 8 Theater (AMC Classic 8)
Wednesday, May 31 @ 6:30pm
68 tickets are available for the next 10 days and must be preordered at this website:
www.tugg.com/events/a-return-to-grace-luther-s-life-and-legacy-srm7

LUTHER MOVIE TICKETS DONATED

20 tickets have been donated on a first come, first served basis. (still a few left.) There is a sign-up sheet for those who may not be able to afford the tickets or who want to invite a friend to come for free.

LUTHER MOVIE POTLUCK

We will be hosting a potluck before the Luther movie from 5:00-6:15 on Wednesday, May 31. Sign up to bring a dish. Those from area WELS congregations who are attending the movie have been invited to join us, as well.

PARSONAGE UPDATE

This past week insulation and drywall was installed. Taping and texturing will hopefully be done by June 10. That means tentatively there will be a painting party on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 & 11. After that time, doors, cabinets and trim can be installed. Thanks for your willingness to help.

LUTHERAN LEGACY WORSHIP SERIES

From June 11-September 3, worship will focus on the basics of Biblical doctrine. These teachings formed the basis for the Lutheran Reformation that began 500 years ago.



11-Jun	Trinity
18-Jun	Sin & Grace
25-Jun	Faith & Works
2-Jul	God's Word
9-Jul	Sacraments
16-Jul	Creation & Preservation
23-Jul	Eschatology
30-Jul	Christian Home
6-Aug	Christian Life in Society
13-Aug	The Church & your church
20-Aug	Christian Prayer
27-Aug	Stewardship
3-Sep	Evangelism

GRADUATION

If someone is part of the graduating class of 2017 from high school or college, we'd like to print that in the June news. Please let Pastor know or email oursaviourwels@gmail.com

CHURCH LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL

A roster is on the bulletin board. Please indicate which games you WILL PLAY. We want to have 7-8 players for each game. Games take place between 6-8:30 pm on Sundays. First game is June 4.

BIRTHDAYS

Jane Lang – May 29

WELS DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT MISSION WORK IN WILLISTON

Your District Mission Board (DMB) has put in a request to our WELS Board for Home Missions (BHM) to start a mission in Williston, ND. While the BHM has approved this request in the past, there have never been enough synodical funds available. (For example, this year there were 16 requests sent in to the BHM but enough funds for only 7.)

What your DMB, working with the group at Williston, submitted this year could be called “The Six Month Plan.” This plan involves calling a semi-retired pastor to work with them for six months (summer through Christmas). After Christmas, we would sit down together to decide whether it is time to ask for a fulltime home missionary.

The 21 WELS members in Williston still think this is a good plan, as does your District Mission Board and the WELS Board for Home Missions. But this kind of plan, called an exploratory mission, does not fall under the BHM’s umbrella.

So, the 21 WELS members in Williston, through our DMB and with our District President and BHM’s blessing, are asking for your help—both with your prayers and with your gifts.

The total cost of The Six Month Plan is \$35,568. The group in Williston is able to promise \$16,100 for this effort. This leaves a gap of \$19,468. We are asking the congregations and individuals of our district to help fill the gap.

If you would like to help, please send your check to Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church, 4800 Southeastern Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Make it payable to Good Shepherd. *Please write on the memo line, “For Williston.”* Gifts will be received from now until Reformation Day.

May our Lord richly bless his work among us!

Pastor Jonathan Werre, Dakota-Montana DMB chairman

jwerre@gswels.org

605.359.6650

FAQ

What if the special gifts that are sent in for Williston fall short of the \$19,468 needed?
Or substantially exceed it?

If gifts are less than the goal, we will first try to adjust the budget to fit with the funds available. If that is not realistic, then we are asking those who sent in gifts to let the funds support some other mission effort in our district. Likewise, if gifts exceed the goal, we are asking those who sent them in to let the funds be used for some other mission effort in our district.

How will these funds be administered?

They will be received and acknowledged by Good Shepherd Lutheran, Sioux Falls, SD. They will be deposited into our district’s checking account. They will be distributed to Lamb of God, Williston, when the Six Month Plan is enacted.

Can individuals or church groups also give gifts?

Yes. Not only can congregations support this effort, but individuals and church groups (for example, a Sunday School might designate its offering for this effort) can as well. Simply send a check to Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls, being sure to note that the gift is for Williston.