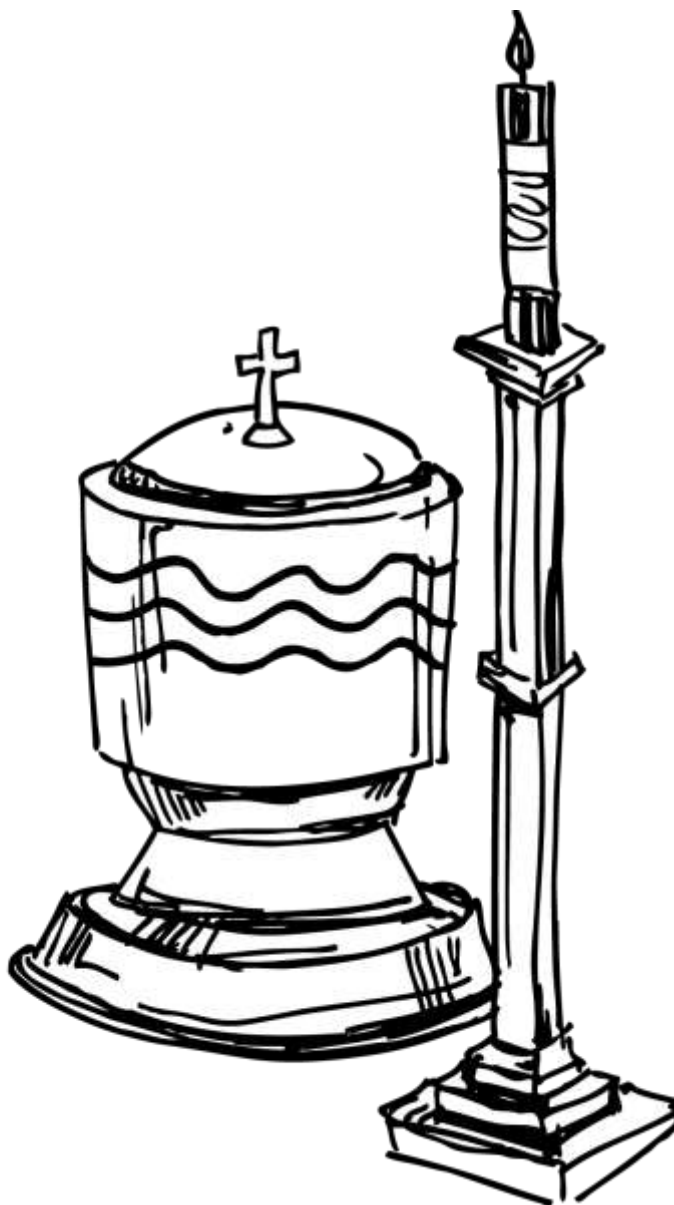


Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2016



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

Vicki Fronk, Preschool Teacher

Office: 724-443-3890/Cell: (724) 810-1813

5155 N. Pioneer Rd., Gibsonia (Hampton Twp.), PA 15044

HYMN— #229—*This Day at Your Creating Word*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M: 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.

***Praise the Lord,
O my soul,
and forget not
all his Benefits***
Psalm 103:2

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

(Continues on next page.)

You are seated at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 13:44-52 (NIV)

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

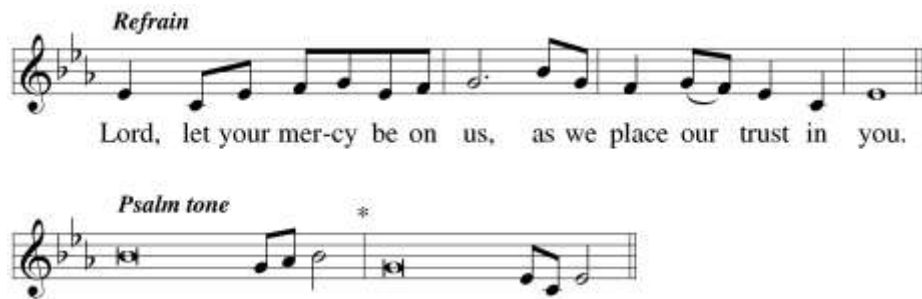
⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium.

⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 145



Refrain

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;*
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation will commend your works to another;*
they will tell of your mighty acts.
The LORD upholds all those who fall*
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Refrain

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.*
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
The LORD is near to all who call on him,*
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;*
he hears their cry and saves them.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 2: 9-14 (NIV)

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (*John 14:6 cf. NIV*)

STAND

GOSPEL

John 13:31-35 (NIV)

Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY #294—Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

SERMON (*sermon text Colossians 2:9-13*)

"A Baptism Not Performed by Human Hands"

STAND

Cre - ate In me a
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Our sister in Christ Tammy Farbacher desires to publicly affirm the baptism of her infancy, with Ron and Betty Neumann standing as her godparents. All worshippers are invited to join in the congregational responses to confess their faith and remember their own baptisms as a precious gift of the Triune God.

M: Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says in Romans chapter six: "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." In Holy Baptism God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

M: I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

M: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

C: Yes, 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.

M: Do believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, 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.

M: Will you continue steadfast in this baptismal faith and, as a member of the Church, be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, and especially godparents, our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to **all who are baptized. Jesus also commanded us, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."** Christian love, therefore, urges all of us to encourage one another spiritually, in whatever manner possible, so that each may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

C: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and sing-

ing the song of victory:

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BE SEATED

HYMN #297—*Baptized in Water*

STAND

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

EIGHT NEW WELS HOME MISSIONS APPROVED

(From the 4/19/16 Together newsletter.)

The WELS Board for Home Missions authorized eight new mission starts, three ministry enhancements, and one relocation during a meeting on April 15.

“Planting eight new churches is a tremendous blessing,” says Rev. Keith Free, administrator of the Board for Home Missions. “These are eight new locations where the gospel will be proclaimed.”

The new ministries that will now be supported include new starts in Lehi, Utah; Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Rockwall, Texas; Fredericksburg, Va.; Atlanta, Ga.; Victoria, Texas; Meridian, Idaho; and Stevens Point, Wis. Five of these ministries will be second sites for established congregations.

Home Missions will also support ministry enhancement at three congregations—Centennial, Milwaukee, Wis.; Abiding Grace, Henry-Newton County, Ga.; and Risen Savior, Lakewood Ranch, Fla. These existing congregations will receive funds from Home Missions to support projects that will allow the congregations to reach more people with the gospel.

In addition, Home Missions will help Peace, Holiday, Fla., with some transition costs as it moves to Trinity, Fla. This established congregation is already seeing God’s blessing on the new location. Twenty-five adults have been confirmed at Peace during the past 18 months.

We thank God for the opportunities to expand our work in Home Missions and for providing the resources to carry it out.

Serving in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder



Latin American Lutherans meet for first conference

WELS

2016-04-19
11:23:43

Twenty-three men from eight different countries attended the first Latin America regional conference of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) in Medellin, Colombia, April 3–7.

While at the conference, attendees were able to grow together through a series of essays on "The church under the cross." They also learned about mission work in Spanish-speaking countries and in other areas around the world and encouraged each other in that gospel ministry.

The conference highlighted academiacristo.com, an online teaching and training tool for Spanish speakers developed by WELS in 2015. Rev. Mike Hartman, field coordinator for Latin America, talked about what is available now as well as discussed future video-based leadership courses. Attendees then were asked to provide feedback on upcoming potential courses.

"We want to get input on how it is going, how we can use this better, and how we can use this to reach more people and plant more churches in Latin America," says Rev. Nate Seiltz, director of Multi-Language Publications and conference attendee. "It has to be driven by the nationals."

Attendees—as well as members from Most Holy Trinity, the local congregation sponsoring the conference—also practiced singing new culturally relevant Spanish songs and parts of liturgy that are being developed to add as resources through iglesialuteranacristo.com, a live-streamed, Christ-centered worship site.

While attendees were mostly leaders of missions and national church bodies in Latin America that are in fellowship with WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, two attendees—one from Argentina and one from Colombia—were contacts made through Academia Cristo and online worship.

"What was really encouraging to me was [the attendees'] excitement to work together using Academia Cristo to share the gospel wherever they are," says Seiltz, "and to see them talking with each other about challenges. It's hard to get that any place else than at a conference like this. And then their realization: 'We're not alone. We have other people whom we can connect with, and we can encourage each other.'"

The CELC—composed of 29 member churches worldwide—provides a forum for confessional Lutherans who are in fellowship with one another. The next triennial international conference will be held in 2017 in Germany. Learn more about the CELC and our sister church bodies at www.celc.info.

CURRENT TOGETHER ISSUE

View all the articles in the full issue.

WELS IN THE NEWS

WELS churches and schools featured in their local media.

© 2016 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. All Rights Reserved.

News And Notes

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. Pastor, the ushers, and all members of our Bethany family stand ready to serve you. May the Lord bless your worship!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

BETHANY'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 25-29

Bethany's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 25—29, 2016. We will need volunteers to help with this annual outreach event. We are seeking help in planning/coordinating, teaching, cooking, and in helping/assisting. If you are willing and able to help, please consider setting aside one, several, or all of those days to be part of this ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church. Many hands are needed to make this go smoothly, as we anticipate somewhere between 25 and 30 students, which has been the norm in recent years. THANK YOU for considering this important ministry.

WEST DEER COMMUNITY DAYS AUGUST 5 AND 6

Bethany congregation has in recent years manned a booth at West Deer Community Days, which this year will take place Friday and Saturday, August 5th and 6th. We will be looking for people who are willing to help us plan the event. This involves determining what we will do, what we will hand out, and how we will recruit volunteers. In recent years, many good community contacts have been made at this event. If you can help plan, let Pastor know, and if you would like to be the coordinator... that is all the better! Thank you,

LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

In last Sunday's worship, 34 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God and 22 took communion.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." — Hebrews 10:24,25

Our Walk For God

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25 <i>Happy Birthday Hanna Neumann and Luann Ringler!</i>	26 <i>7:00p Bible Study</i>	27	28 <i>7:00p Bethany Council Meeting</i>	29	30 <i>Happy Birthday Hannah Kluender!</i>	<i>May 1 9:00a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30a Worship</i>

Serving next Sunday: Altar: M. Stadler; Greeter: Neumann Ushers: Team: E (G)