



# St. John's

---

## Ev. Lutheran Church

901 SW Fillmore | Topeka, Kansas 66606-1445 | 785.354.7132 | [www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org](http://www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org)

**VOL. 117 NO. 5 MONTHLY**

**MAY 2018**

### **GOD IS GONE UP WITH A SHOUT!**

According to the law of gravity, what goes up must come down. According to the law of theology, what comes down must go up. Or, more to the point, He who comes down must go up!

This is what we confess in the Creed. “I believe...in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God...who for us men and for our salvation *came down from heaven...and ascended into heaven.*”

Now, we all know why He “came down”—it was by Cross and Passion to win salvation. But why did He “go up”?

The ascension is hardly just a seal or sign that the Father had accepted His work of salvation, as if the Father lets Jesus back into heaven because He’d done a jolly good job of it all. Rather, by His ascension the crucified and risen Lord Jesus actually *continues and extends His work of salvation*. We call what He did in His “coming down” *salvation won*. We call what He does in His “going up” *salvation distributed*.

And this is of critical importance. You can’t have one without the other. Without *salvation won* there’s no *salvation distributed*, and without *salvation distributed* precious little good does it do for anyone that *salvation* has been *won*.

Why? Because salvation is grasped *by faith alone*, and faith comes only by hearing—and hearing by the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). This is the same “Word of Christ” proclaimed to you on Sunday morning and that the Lord Himself has combined with water, bread, and wine. So if someone were to ask you what the ascension means, a very simple and excellent response would be, “It means that Jesus wants to bring the salvation He *won* even to *me*.” Or it means that you should read the “who for us men and for our salvation” not just with “came down from heaven,” but now especially with “and ascended into heaven.”

Indeed, this is exactly what the Bible teaches. In His ascension, from where He sits at the right hand of the Father, the Lord Jesus sends “gifts to men” (Ephesians 4:8). And those gifts Paul lists off include “one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:4-5) Those are the gifts of the ascended Christ through which He *distributes* the salvation that He *won*.

<b>The Gifts of the Ascended Lord Jesus Christ, Eph. 4:4-5</b>	
<b>Paul's List</b>	<b>Translation</b>
“one body”	the mystical Body of Christ, the Holy Christian Church
“one Spirit”	the Holy Spirit, who works through Word and Sacrament and by whom alone it is possible to call Jesus “Lord”
“one Lord”	<b>Christ Himself, the <i>winner</i> and now <i>distributor</i> of salvation</b>
“one faith”	faith worked in the heart of every believer in Christ, a pure gift from God
“one Baptism”	the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit through which the Lord offers and gives salvation
“one God and Father of all”	God given to us as our “dear Father in heaven” through our reconciliation to Him through the blood of Christ “so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear Father”

This year we're once again celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on the day it falls, 40 days after Easter, Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May at 7:00 p.m. At this Divine Service we'll also be re-consecrating the font from the 1888 St. John's building at which so many of the faithful who have gone before us received “the one Baptism.” Join us.

For He who came down has gone back up; and what He won He now freely distributes...*to you*.

**Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104**  
**Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101**  
**Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102**  
**Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz**  
**Associate Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson**  
**TLS Teachers - Ashley Brandmahl, Andrea Kosmicki, Edith Kerns, Rachel Kathman**

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR DEACONESS KINNETT**  
**JUNE 3, 2018**

Our congregation will honor *Deaconess Linda* and thank her for “twelve years of faithful service” to St. John's while enjoying a *Potluck Dinner* in Luther Hall immediately following the late service on June 3.  
 (Bring your favorite potluck dish!)  
 Drinks and table service will be provided.  
*A basket will be available for cards and gifts.*

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE & RE-CONSECRATION  
OF THE “OLD” ST. JOHN’S BAPTISMAL FONT  
Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m.**

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is one of the five major festivals of the church year: Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and the Holy Trinity. Christ’s Ascension took place 40 days after His Resurrection. Do the math, and you quickly realize that Ascension Day *always falls on a Thursday*.

This year—as we began last year—and every year hereafter we’re going to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on the day it falls, Thursday, May 10, at a 7:00 p.m. Divine Service. While that is good, right, and proper, there are also many other reasons for this, not least of which is that more of the ministry of Word and Sacrament means more strengthening of the flock here at St. John’s. Come and receive.

This year’s Divine Service on the Feast of the Ascension will be made all the more special by the blessing of the “old” St. John’s baptismal font. Mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SOUND WORDS ACADEMY COURSE LISTING: CURRENT**

**CHILDREN:**

**Rhythm of Faith Choir (3 January – 9 May, 5:30-5:55 p.m.; Bethany Johnson & Marcia Lange)**  
Rhythm of Faith uses God’s gift of music to confess the truth of His Word in song. Learn the rich heritage of Lutheran hymnody and liturgy.

**Jr. Lutherans (3 January – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Daniel Sweet)**

This fast-paced Bible, Catechism, and Lutheran history trivia game places Lutherans aged 4 – 12 yrs. in competition with one another and eventually teams from other congregations. It’s trivia that is hardly *trivial*.

**ADULTS:**

**New Testament Greek (5:00-5:50 p.m.; Pr. Bruss)**

Continuation of last year’s New Testament Greek course.

**Hebrews (Spring Term; 5:55-6:55 p.m.; Dennis Hintz)**

Luther describes Hebrews as a marvelously fine epistle. It discusses Christ’s priesthood masterfully and profoundly on the basis of the Scriptures and extensively interprets the Old Testament in a fine way.

**Themes in Genesis (through 9 May, 5:55-6:55 p.m.; Pr. Kerns)**

Pr. Bruss says, “We can never get enough of Genesis!” He’s right. This class will cover five themes drawn from the book of Genesis. The themes include: The Fall of Man, Cain and Abel, the Flood, the Two Covenants and Justification by Faith.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS:**

**Book Study (through 9 May, 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Pr. Kerns)**

We are working our way through the wonderful book, *The Theology of Martin Luther* by Paul Althaus. This is a rich book, offering tons of Luther and even more discuss together.

**CATECHESIS:**

**Spring Adult Catechesis (14 weeks; 17 January – 9 May; 7:45-8:40 p.m.; Pr. Bruss)**

**Youth Cat I (3 January – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Dcns. Linda)**

**Youth Cat II (3 January – 9 May, 5:55-6:50 p.m.; Prs. Bruss & Kerns)**

**YOUTH NEWS**

**SAVE THE DATE!** The annual St. John’s GOLF SCRAMBLE to raise funds for our youth group will be held on **August 4** at the Forbes Field Golf Course (not in June as it has been in recent years). Details and registration information will be posted in June.

## THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS COMING SOON!

*Living a Life of Stewardship*—the 2018 stewardship campaign—begins the first week of June. Continuing through June, it will again be a time of *all-around* stewardship education culminating in an opportunity to indicate your financial commitment for the next twelve months. **Please mark June 24 on your calendar** for our Stewardship Sunday services at 8:15 and 11:00 AM. And pray that God will bless this emphasis as a time of spiritual growth for our congregation.

## BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: BUDGET AND RECEIPTS REPORT

In an effort to keep our congregation informed about our financial situation, the Board of Stewardship has agreed to publish monthly budget reports. These reports are designed to give you a snapshot of our congregational support of the budget adopted by the voter's assembly for 2018. We hope that you will find this information useful.

Through the month of March:

Budget through March	\$188,516.00
Actual Receipts through March	<u>\$148,191.26</u>
Surplus (Shortfall) through March	(\$ 42,324.74)

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

It's that time again. The Women's league of the LWML will be having a **Bargain and Bake sale Thursday August 23 (8 a.m. -5 p.m.) & Friday, August 24 (8a.m.-1 p.m.)** in Luther Hall. For the 3rd year in a row our profits will be given to the Paid in Full campaign. So clean out those closets, drawers and cupboards and bring your items on over to the church. There is some room to store items in the basement. We would ask that you not bring any electronics, which includes TV, computers, DVD or VCR players.

With this being a project sponsored by Women's League, but for the benefit of St. John's, it would be appreciated for as much help as we can gain from members of the congregation. If you are willing to help in set up, clean up and/or work the event, please contact Ruth Scott, 785-272-4971 or Nancy Scheurman, 785-246-0912. Ruth or Nancy will be glad to give you the details.

## JUNE GATHERING FOR ST. JOHN'S WOMEN

Ladies of St. John's, please mark your June calendars on Sunday, the 10th at 2 p.m., for an enjoyable afternoon in our relaxing Courtyard. It will be "A Time of Celebration" with our very own Carolyn Schneider's choral group, Heartland Harmony, performing songs from various decades of the 1900s. Refreshments will be served following their program. Come for fellowship, fun, and food!

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE CARING & MISSION

Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief will be prepared in April through June.

Items needed are:

- Light weight bath towels, dark colors: 2 sizes – 52" x 27" and 20" x 40"
- 2 or 3 bath-size soap bars (4 to 5 oz., any brand, original wrapper) totaling 8 to 9 oz.
- Sturdy combs
- Metal nail clippers
- Adult-size toothbrush in original wrapper

If you would rather let us do the shopping, monetary gifts will be accepted.



## TLS NEWS

**New Teacher for TLS Middle School.** God has guided Mr. Joshua Grass to accept the call to teach middle school math and science and a religion class during the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Grass has taught for the past four years at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Sedalia, Missouri, and is well regarded at his current school. Additional announcements will be shared in the upcoming weeks regarding new teaching staff for TLS.

**“Incredible Night” - Open House and Movie Night.** All families are welcome to stop by TLS on Friday, May 11, at 7:00pm to check out our incredible students' work and join in on a scavenger hunt. Concessions and The Incredibles movie (under the stars!) will follow at 7:45pm.

**8th Grade Graduation.** Join us on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, for graduation services for Colton Cattoor, Brooklynn Fienhage, Ben Francik, Lorelei Humphrey, Gabby Kinnett, Alex Lehmann, and Trustin Schafer. We pray that God continues to bless these young students as their time at TLS draws to an close. A reception will follow in the courtyard.

**TLS Success Story.** We are pleased to share a TLS Success Story from alum Leslie (Bolz) Campbell, Class of 1996. Her story is shown at the end of this newsletter.

**TLS Foundation Capital Campaign.** Tim Kurth with LCEF Ministry Support has been approved as consultant to guide the capital campaign efforts for TLS. He will meet with members of the Foundation and LSAT Boards and TLS Principal Francik and staff on May 2 and 3 for the initial governance review and assessment phase. Please contact the TLS Foundation Office if you have any questions.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Trustees would like to make the congregation aware that donations to the Capital Improvement Fund would be greatly appreciated. These funds may be used for unexpected maintenance issues that arise throughout the year—along with assisting with long-term maintenance and repair needs of the church.

## THANK YOU'S

A tremendous THANK YOU to St. John's members for their generous support of the recent Smorgasbord dinner through volunteer time, donation of pie, cake, coffee, and purchase of tickets. Your response was truly amazing and appreciated. The information on proceeds will be included in the June newsletter since the event was late in April. Without the amazing volunteer response, this type of mission fundraising could not occur.

## 2018 FLOWER CALENDAR

The following services are available in the next few months if you would like to provide flowers for any of them: May 6 & 27; July 22; and August 12.

## DOORSTEP NEWS

**Topeka Gives 2018 is Tuesday, June 5** at Fairlawn Plaza Mall from 7am - 6pm. Doorstep will be there again this year with a table. Please stop by and see them and make a donation for Doorstep! Donations must be made in person. You can donate \$25 - \$1,000 to Doorstep on this day at Fairlawn Plaza, and the Topeka Community Foundation will match it proportionately. This year there is \$65,600 available for the match. Last year Doorstep made \$17,404 from their donors to help with agency needs. Donations were

down in 2017, and they have had to make some hard decisions this year, such as the recent closing of the Dovetail Shop. If you can, plan to attend Topeka Gives on June 5 and **Give to Doorstep!**

Topeka Gives – a fun day of giving is sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation.

### **CEMETERY PLOTS FOR SALE**

This isn't something we would normally have in our newsletter, but a family member of long ago members of St. Johns has contacted the church. His grandparents, Carl and Marie Zwonitzer purchased four cemetery plots in Mount Hope Cemetery here in Topeka. Carl and Marie were members here starting back in the 20s. They are buried at Mount Hope, but the two remaining plots have passed down to family members. All family members live away from Topeka, so this individual was wanting to know if anyone at St. Johns would be interested in purchasing the plots. He said the plots were in the Martin Luther section of the cemetery. He doesn't know what to charge for the plots, but would be interested in talking with anyone interested. If you are interested, contact Dave Graversen in the church office to get contact information.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MAY, 2018**

We recently discovered an exciting new Sunday School curriculum for grades 1 – 8 titled “The Acceptable Year of the Lord”, which follows the one-year lectionary. This means that the children will be studying the same Scripture lessons that the pastors will use for the text of their sermons. This reinforces the Gospel lesson and encourages the children to listen more carefully to the sermon.

May 6 Rogate Sunday: “Ask the Father in My Name.” Through Jesus death, resurrection and ascension, we now have access to the Father, to ask Him for gifts. John 16:23 – 30

May 13 Exaudi Sunday: “He will Testify of Me.” The Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus, and so will the apostles. John 15:26 – 16:4

May 20 Day of Pentecost: “The Holy Spirit will Teach You All Things.” The Holy Spirit reminds us of Jesus' words and gives us peace. John 14:23 – 31

May 27 Holy Trinity Sunday: Jesus teaches Nicodemus about heavenly birth. The Trinity is One God; Three Persons. The Gospel reveals the role of each Person. John 3:1 – 15

### **ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF**

Our quarterly meeting will be held in the library on Saturday, June 2, at 10:00 a.m. We will discuss the summer curriculum and VBS.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING**

**July 16 - 20, 2018** is the week of learning, fun, and worship in Vacation Bible School, for children age 3 through those going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All kinds of helpers are needed, so prayerfully consider your gifts and talents and share them with the children. Please contact Andrea Kosmicki if you can help with any of the following:

\*Registration table \*Teachers and Leaders for Bible Story \*Crafts \*Kitchen  
\*Recreation \*Preschool Assistants \*Set-up



## THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20a)*  
 So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. (*Augsburg Confession*, Article 5)

FOR  
 GOD  
 SO  
 LOVED THE WORLD  
 HE  
 GAVE  
 HIS  
 ONLY  
 SON