



# St. John's

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## Ev. Lutheran Church

**VOL. 153 NO. 05 MONTHLY**

**MAY 2021**

### **JOB: A 30,000 FT. OVERVIEW: FROM THE BIG BIBLE BRUSH-UP**

More than being about suffering per se, Job is a theological argument. It details the two ways of being righteous before God, namely, by one's works or by being declared righteous by the heavenly council. If one does not keep this in mind, Job becomes difficult to follow. To make matters more confusing, at times Job's friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu make good points. Yet, for the most part they are used by Satan to get Job to curse God. So, we tread lightly listening to any of them.

The book begins in the Courtroom of Heaven, where God holds court with His angels. Satan is permitted to attend where he learns of Job. Satan's accusation is that Job is faithful to God only because God blesses him with material benefits. The truth is, Job is declared righteous by God, as a result of faith. However, to test this, Satan is allowed to strip Job of his possessions, then later, to take his health. Job knows nothing about this court case in heaven. Yet when his suffering begins, he knows God has brought it about (see 19:6). As the book opens (1:4-5), Job believes that God accepts the death of another in the sinner's place. Believing this by faith, he had the fruit of faith, namely righteousness, a righteousness not his own. As his sufferings intensify, will Job believe the voice that speaks from the altar or will Job believe the voice that speaks from his circumstances?

After being stripped of his possessions, Job worships (1:20). In all of this, Job does not sin, nor charge God foolishly. After his health is afflicted, Job is tempted to curse God by his wife. He gently rebukes her saying, "Shall we receive good from the hand of God, and not receive evil?" Job endures because of his faith.

Keep in mind, God is not the source or author of evil, but God will often hand someone over to it for His own reasons. God and the Devil have different purposes and goals with our trouble. If it comes from God, it comes from His love to strengthen faith, hope and love. If it comes from the Devil, it comes from his hatred, purely for our destruction. However, in the middle of it, it is hard to tell if our trouble comes from God or the Devil. Our temptation is to put our eyes on our trouble and try to sort out how God feels about us based on it. This is what Job will be tempted to do.

Next, three friends arrive to console Job, with a fourth to speak at the end. They want Job to look at his circumstances as they say, "God couldn't have declared you righteous, because look at all the bad stuff that has happened to you!" Again, they are doing the work of the Devil and Job knows it (see 13:4, 16:2,

19:2). The Devil is behind this council of friends just like the Devil was behind the serpent in the Garden. An outline of Job follows:

Round One: Eliphaz / Job, Bildad / Job, Zophar / Job

Round Two: Eliphaz / Job, Bildad / Job, Zophar / Job

Round Three: Eliphaz / Job, Bildad / Job, Elihu / without a response from Job

By Round Three, Job is w-e-a-r-i-n-g down. In chapter 31, he says, “If I’ve done this...if I’ve done that...God, punish me. Examine every minute of my life, and You will see that I have been a really good fellow and deserve none of this!” This is when Elihu chimes in. He says, “Job, you just made a serious theological mistake. You said that you are not merely righteous by faith, but that you are righteous in yourself! That’s bad.” Elihu is correct. The Christian is not punished by God’s wrath, Christ Jesus endures God’s wrath in the sinner’s place! The Christian though, at times, is chastened by God’s love.

At this moment, God comes from His heavenly courtroom preventing Job from doubling down on his argument of pride. God says, “Job, you had some pretty rough questions for Me. So, here are My questions for you (72 to be exact).” All Job can say in response is, “I’m done. You’re right. I repent. I should have kept my mouth shut and trusted You.” In summary God tells him, “I know what I’m doing.” And what Job should have said was, “Thy will be done.”

Job is then restored double all he lost. Regarding his children, you would expect Job to be given 14 sons and 6 daughters, for this would be double of what he lost. However, he is only given 7 sons and 3 daughters. The fact is, Job is given double! For seven sons and three daughters were given on earth, but he had 7 sons and 3 daughters sanctified by the sacrifice of Jesus, even though they died. They were not lost to him. They await him in the resurrection on the Last Day.

God then says to Eliphaz: “You and your buddies messed up the doctrine of Justification. Job will teach you about it. In fact, go to Job and he will deliver justification by grace through faith alone by absolving you of all your sins.” God absolves each one of them, declaring them righteous, just like Job was! And so, the book ends just as it began, with Job making sacrifice and absolving his friends, just like he originally did for his children.

In conclusion, Job is never told why he experienced what he experienced. We often think that if we can answer the “why” question we would somehow be comforted. However, the LORD knows this does not deliver comfort. What the Lord gives are promises for our condition, not the whys to our questions. Take for instance Job 19:23-27. This was God’s promise to Job, and it’s your promise too!



**Senior Pastor - Rev. J. S. Bruss, ext. 104**

**Associate Pastor – Rev. D. M. Kerns, ext. 101**

**Kantor - Bethany M. Johnson**

**TLS Teachers - Andrea Kosmicki, Rachel Kathman, Joshua Grass, Erin Grass**

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**  
**Thursday, May 13, 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 Ascension falls on Thursday, May 13, and we'll be celebrating it at a 7:00 p.m. Divine Service. As in past years, we plan on special music and will have this Divine Service in the Courtyard at the "old" St. John's altar, with its painting of Christ ascending.

Mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you there.

**HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR MAY**  
**"Christ Is the World's Redeemer" (LSB 539)**

The battle stage is set: Christ, the Lord of all and our leader in battle, fights against the deadly foe, Satan, to win the victory for us. The host of saints and martyrs surround Christ in the fight and wave in triumph while encouraging us who remain on earth to cling to Christ for our redemption. This redemption of Christ is articulated clearly in the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, found in Luther's Small Catechism (LSB p. 325), and it points to Christ's fight against sin, death, and the devil by His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

The hymn "Christ Is the World's Redeemer" (LSB 539) provides a lyrical summary of the Second Article of the Creed, as well as a strong sense of confidence in the Gospel, both by its text and the tune. The text was written by St. Columba as a translation of "Christus redemptor gentium," which was part of a larger work in Latin. It was then translated by Duncan MacGregor.

The first stanza provides a number of metaphors to describe Christ as our Redeemer. He is the "lover of the pure," namely those purified by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7) and the "font of heavenly wisdom," which is a picture of Holy Baptism. It continues to describe Him as our "trust and hope secure," the "armor of His soldiers," "Lord of earth and sky," our "health," and our "life when we shall die." Christ is the object of our faith and the source of all truth. The confidence that He gives us in faith prepares us for the battles we face against sin in our earthly life.

The second stanza describes the host of heaven surrounding the host of believers here on earth. Their "palms in triumph" gives us a picture of Palm Sunday as the songs of "Hosanna" point to the victory of Christ won on the cross. We continue to sing "Hosannas" every Divine Service in the Sanctus and celebrate heaven coming down to earth in the Lord's Supper. The heavenly host of martyrs and many other saints prepare us for the fight against sin by pointing us to Christ who fights for us. His death upon the cross was accomplished to "save a world undone" by sin.

The third stanza describes Christ's descent into hell, His resurrection, and His ascension, as we confess them in the Creed. All of these are a part of His "full redemption." And now Christ "sits upon the throne," working at God's right hand to deliver the gifts of life and salvation to His people on earth. The fourth and final stanza ends the hymn with doxological praise to the Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It finishes with a strong "Amen! So let it be." May God continue to keep us firm in the faith with this confession.

*Bethany M Johnson*

## RHYTHM OF FAITH MUSIC CAMP

### “In Thee Is Gladness”

**What?** This music camp is a week-long opportunity to use your voice and hands to sing and play music, while learning more about music technique, hymnody, theology, architecture, and more. Snacks, games, and fun with friends included!

**Who?** Children entering grades K-8

**When?** Monday-Friday, **June 7-11, 2021, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.** We will have a performance for family on Friday.

**Where?** St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church (901 SW Fillmore, Topeka)

**What now?** Fill out the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/RQZdFte17wS6DZ9e6>) by **June 1** or contact Bethany Johnson for registration. Payments by cash or check can be made prior to or on the first day.

**Cost?** \$20 per child

**Questions?** Please contact Bethany Johnson at [bjohnson@stjlcms.org](mailto:bjohnson@stjlcms.org) or 469-400-4382.

### 2021 SJELC WORSHIP CONFERENCE

**Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m.-- 4:00 p.m.**

“History and Theology of Lutheran Liturgy”

Dr. Christopher Boyd Brown, keynote speaker

Stay tuned for more information on the website.

This conference is for lay people, musicians, and pastors, so we encourage you to attend!

Questions? Contact Bethany Johnson ([bjohnson@stjlcms.org](mailto:bjohnson@stjlcms.org))

### 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 2021. We hope that you will find this information useful. Several annual pledges have already been received in full – giving a very good financial picture to date.

Budget Receipts through March, 2021	\$214,090.00
<u>Actual Receipts through March, 2021</u>	<u>\$174,246.00</u>
Over (Under) Budget Year to Date	\$ 39,844

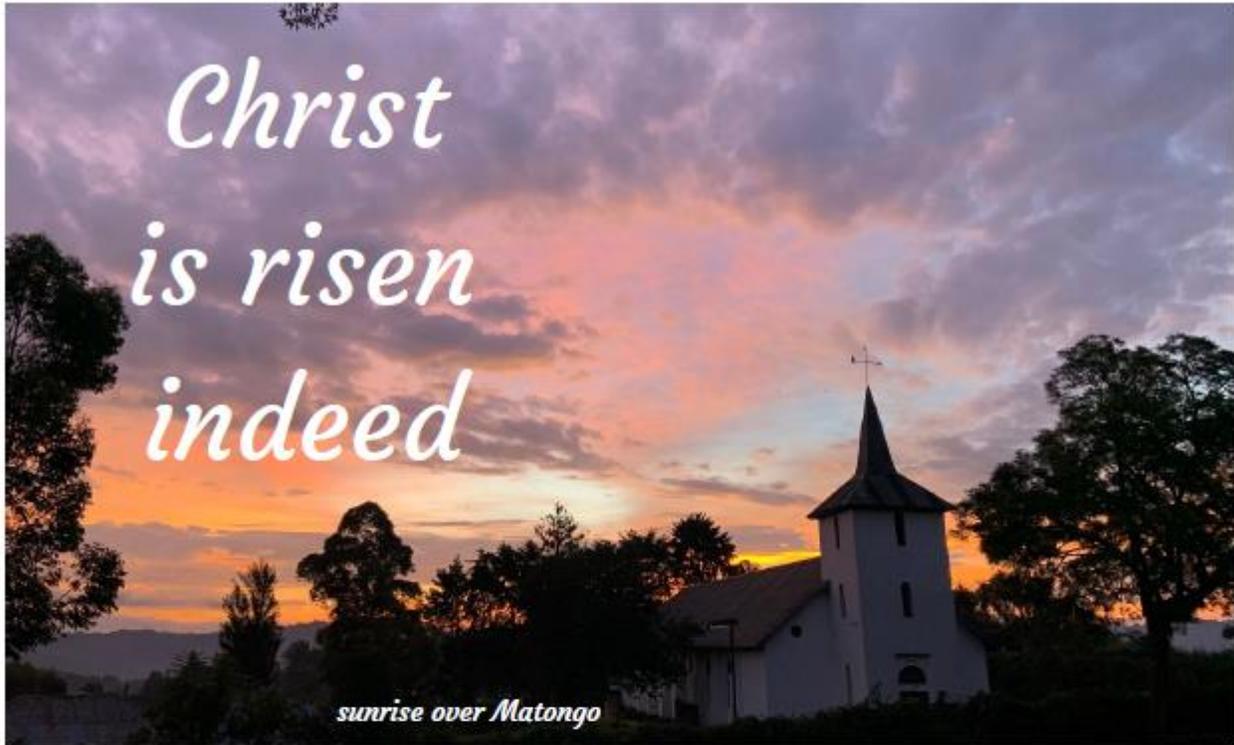
### SUPPORT OF THE EAGLE FOUNDATION

Support of the Eagle Foundation “Building Maintenance and Enhancement Fund” that was established to address large, specific, and known future building maintenance, repairs and Capital Enhancements to the church are always welcome. If needed this fund can also be used to supplement the general operating budget. Use your Building Maintenance and Enhancement, “Eagle Foundation” envelope or write BM&E on the memo line of your check. Donations directed toward this fund are highly beneficial to the longevity of St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church. Thanks in advance for your support.

### 2021 FLOWER CALENDAR

We have had a great response in signing up for the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board outside of the church offices. There are still open dates available if you would like to provide flowers for a service this coming year. To sign up, locate the flower chart in the church office above the printer, sign your name next to the date of your choice. Upcoming dates available: May 9, 23 & 30; June 6 & 20; July 4 & 18.

LCMS MISSION UPDATE



*The Good Shepherd has  
laid down His life for the sheep  
and has taken it up again.*

*Therefore, even though we walk in the  
shadow of death, we will fear no evil.*



**Thank You!**

for your prayers and financial support.  
Blessed Easter season to you  
and all of yours.

Vance and Linda Becker in Kenya

**lcms** INTERNATIONAL  
**MISSION**  
[www.lcms.org/Becker](http://www.lcms.org/Becker)

## LUKE SAVAGE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament this year will be held on Saturday, July 10, at the Great Life Shawnee Country Club at 913 SE 29 Street. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with a shotgun start to follow at 9:00 am. The tournament is a 4-person scramble and is almost full at this time, however, hole sponsorships and silent auction items are gratefully accepted! For questions or donations, please email dkmsavage@yahoo.com.

### ST. JOHN’S WOMEN’S LEAGUE

**Sarah circle** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, at 6:00 p.m. for bible study, a short meeting and fellowship. All women of the congregation are welcome. We would love to see you. May is the last meeting until September.

**Dorcas circle** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for bible study, a short meeting and fellowship. All women of the congregation are welcome. We would love to see you. May is the last meeting until September.

The Women’s League continues to collect **Best Choice labels**. Best Choice products may be purchased at Apple Market in Topeka. Ask your friends and family to save them for you. Place them in the box labeled stamps **along with any stamps you collect**. Please do not leave stamps in the church office.



**LWML National Convention, Date: June 24–27, 2021, Location: Lexington, Kentucky**  
**Theme: *Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus, Hebrews 12:1-2.* For more information go to [LWML.org](http://LWML.org).** Please pray for the convention and the safety of those attending.

Join us at the Lutheran Women in Mission Christian Life Retreat Featuring *Patti Ross, Past LWML President 2015-2019* as the speaker. **“Keeping the focus on Jesus” *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... Hebrews 12:2.*** The date is November 12-13, 2021, Double Tree by Hilton, 2098 Airport Road Wichita Kansas. Registration forms are now available. This is open to all women of the congregation and friends.

Women’s League is planning to hold our **Annual Bargain and Bake sale** Thursday, August 19, 8-5 p.m. and Friday, August 20, 8-1 p.m. Our project this year is still undecided. You may bring your items starting Monday August 16, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, August 17, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Wednesday, August 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. You may bring baked items on Wednesday or early Thursday morning. We ask that you do not bring any electronic items please. More information to come later.

It’s that time again, The Women’s League, Caring Mission committee, (LWML), is collecting the following items for personal care kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. We are doing this through the months of April-June: Light weight dark colored bath towels (sizes 52” x 27” or 20” x 40”), 2-3 bath size bars of soap, (4-5 ounces, and any brand in original wrappers) totaling 8-9 ounces, sturdy large combs, metal nail clippers, adult size tooth brushes in original wrappers. We have found that the best buys are at the Dollar General store. If you would rather let us do the shopping, momentary gifts will be accepted.

Caring Mission committee, (LWML), will be collecting the following item for School Kits: 40-70 page spirals note books (4 for each kit), plastic rulers, #2 lead pencils, blue or black ink pens (no gel), 24 box crayons, pink erasers, small pencil sharpeners and blunt end scissors. Bags for these items have been provided. We will collect these items July through September 2021.

## DOORSTEP NEWS

Doorstep has been assisting with clothing and hygiene items needed for the new state of the art trailer that will provide showers, laundry and restrooms to Topeka's unsheltered populations and other individuals. This is the first component to the Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) which is the collaboration of Valeo Behavioral Health and the Topeka Rescue Mission. Later this year, there will be a mobile food pantry and mobile health service unit. This is a collaborative effort with many agencies and churches in our community coming together to help the unsheltered and at-risk families and adults. The ribbon cutting for the new program and trailer will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am, St. John AME Church at 701 SW Topeka Blvd.

Doorstep continues to keep items and clothing on hand for those coming to Doorstep for assistance. There may be times in the future when they may request specific items as the new project needs them, if they don't already have them at Doorstep. This is a big community effort, and Doorstep is proud to be a part of it and grateful for all the donations.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR MAY 2021



**We All Believe**  
Vacation Bible School

### Save the Date!

What the Father abundantly promises, Jesus the Son graciously provides in His death and resurrection for you, and then the Spirit joyfully brings all that to you in the Word and Gifts of Jesus. That's what the Apostles Creed confesses from the Holy Scriptures.

Join us for **Vacation Bible School** June 21-25, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details in next month's newsletter. If you are able to volunteer, contact Andrea Kosmicki.

## TLS NEWS

**TLS 8th Grade Graduation.** Join us Thursday, May 27 at 7:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church for graduation services for Sam Francik, Kiley Gibson, Logan Glinka, Natalie Hogg, Jacob Marchant, Kayli Muse, and Kaydee Wills. We pray that God continues to bless these young students as their time at TLS draws to a close.

Marlene Shellenberger, Director  
TLS Found

### Long-Term Substitutes Needed

From mid August to mid October, Topeka Lutheran School will need one long term substitute for every other school day. One position is for Kindergarten through eighth grade music. The other position is half day 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade afternoon position involving two grammar and writing classes, a math class, and a study hall period. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Chris Francik (785)357-0382 or francik@topekalutheran.org.

### 2021-2022 Enrollment Open

Would you like to have your child receive instruction from God's Word and see a Christian lifestyle modeled every school day? Would you like your child to learn in small class sizes? If the answer is yes, Topeka Lutheran School should be at the top of your list for school choices. Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school is ongoing at TLS. Please communicate with Mr. Francik, TLS principal, at (785)357-0382 or francik@topekalutheran.org, speak with any TLS teacher, or visit topekalutheran.org for more information about Topeka Lutheran School and how to enroll.



*Growing God's Children*  
for generations to come  
Topeka Lutheran School

## A PRAYER

Lord God, our Maker and Redeemer. We come to you with empty hands and sinful hearts pleading for Your Mercy that you so freely give us each and every single day. We are thankful for the children that you have blessed us with as we continue to teach them about You at Topeka Lutheran School. We ask that you bless our school, the principal, teachers and staff that work each and every day as they instruct the children about the world around them but especially telling them the Good News about Your Son, Jesus Christ, whom You sent into the world to save us so that we may live forever in heaven with You.

In Christ's Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

## SUPPORT TOPEKA LUTHERAN TODAY! CLICK TO DONATE.

<https://www.topekalutheran.org/pledge-tracker>

## TOTAL COMMITMENTS

Growing God's Children for Generations to Come  
Capital Campaign Fund:

Total Amount Committed: \$834,743

Total Pledged Gifts Received: \$636,641

Total Pledge Cards Received: 124

Thank you Alumni, Donors, and Friends!

## EVENTS TO COME

TLS All School Concert, May 18 at 7:00 pm

- Join the staff and students for this end of school year event - an all school concert.
- TLS Carnival, May 22 from 4-7 pm
  - The school is so happy to bring this tradition back, this time to end the school year. Thank you TLS families for all your support this year.
- Luke Savage Memorial Golf Tournament
  - Saturday, July 10, Great Life Shawnee Country Club - 4-person scramble
  - Teams almost full but hole sponsors and silent auction items are appreciated.
  - This amazing and generous event is back at it again this year so please join in on the fun!
  - For questions and donations, please contact [dkmsavage@yahoo.com](mailto:dkmsavage@yahoo.com)

## THANK YOU!

- Thank you to those who registered for the recent Virtual 5K Run/Walk and to those parents and grandparents who pledged gifts to the students' Walk-a-Thon held late April. Both events were held to raise additional funds for the capital campaign. Please watch for updates on how many participated and the impact it made - coming soon.
- Thank you to Mr. Eckhardt and Pastor and Mrs. Goetz for the generous match gifts and to those families for the special gifts to help "boost" the funds raised for the 5K and Walk-a-Thon events.
- Thank you to the Thrivent members who designated TLS and Foundation for your CHOICE dollars! Thanks to you, approximately \$7,500 has already been received in 2021, This money will be directed to the Grant-in-Aid for tuition assistance.
- Thank you to the students, teachers, families, and friends who helped with the recent TLS Clean-up Day at the main campus. Your hard work greatly improved the appearance of our campus and was appreciated very much!

# May 2021

# St. John's Lutheran Church - Topeka, Kansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25		26	27	28	29	30
1		2	3	4	5	6
8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYO 6pm - LITURGICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING	1pm - DORCAS CIRCLE	8:10am - TL&S Chapel on FB 10am - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 5:45pm - CATECHESIS/JR 8:30pm - RHYTHM OF FAITH 7pm - EVENING PRAYER	7pm - TL&S Bob	C.F.W. WALTER, DR.	
2		3	4	5	6	7
9am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYO 6pm - SARAH CIRCLE	1pm - DORCAS CIRCLE	8:10am - TL&S Chapel on FB 10am - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 6:30pm - BOARD OF ELDER/S 7pm - DIVINE SERVICE		
3		4	5	6	7	8
9am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYO	4:45pm - PARISH ED 5:30pm - STEWARDSHIP 6:15pm - MISSIONS/IEVANG 6:30pm - TRUSTEES	8:10am - TL&S Chapel on FB	NEWLETTER DEADLINE		
4		5	6	7	8	9
8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	12pm - DIVINE SERVICE CTYO	9:30am - MATINS in Nave 6:30pm - COUNCIL	8:10am - TL&S Chapel on FB	7pm - TL&S GRADUATION AT ST JOHN'S		
5		6	7	8	9	10
8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE	MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED) OFFICE CLOSED					
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8am - DIVINE SERVICE 9:15am - DIVINE SERVICE 10am - BIBLE CLASS/S 11am - DIVINE SERVICE						



## 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)