



# The Evangel

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

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## The Pastor's Desk:

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### Dear Beloved in Christ:

In April, we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, here in May we celebrate His ascension to the Father.

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven.

It is plain from Scriptures that Jesus' ascension was a literal, physical, **bodily** return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's **return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go"**.

### The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:

- 1) It signaled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
- 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration ([Matthew 17:1-9](#)).
- 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father ([Ephesians 1:20-23](#)). The One with whom the Father is well pleased ([Matthew 17:5](#)) was received up in honor and given a name above all names ([Philippians 2:9](#)).
- 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us ([John 14:2](#)).
- 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#)) and Mediator of the New Covenant ([Hebrews 9:15](#)).
- 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds ([Acts 1:11](#); [Daniel 7:13-14](#); [Matthew 24:30](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)).

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honor and authority ([Psalm 110:1](#); [Ephesians 1:20](#); [Hebrews 8:1](#)). Christ is the Head of the Church ([Colossians 1:18](#)), the giver of spiritual gifts ([Ephesians 4:7-8](#)), and the One who fills all in all ([Ephesians 4:9-10](#)). And He did, give us but His ALL!

God's Blessings Always,

*Rev. Donn Woolweber*



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY !**

05—Ross Betts  
08—Dorothy Carlisle  
13—Lynn Betts  
18—Seth Swanson

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !**

13—John and Marcy Zacharias

### **PASTOR'S AWAY**

Pastor Woolweber will be out of town beginning Saturday, May 14 and return on SATURDAY, MAY 21. The worship service on SUNDAY, MAY 15 will be held by our Elders and Director of Doctrine and Worship. For any pastoral issues that come up during this time, please contact Rev. Dr. Hahn at 412-821-6266

### **STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION**

This year the Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus, under the direction of Ruth Miller, will be presenting the *Station of the Resurrection* to three Concordia Lutheran Ministries locations. Through scripture and songs they will focus on the various appearances of Jesus during the 40-day period between His resurrection and His ascension.

SUNDAY...May 15.....Rebecca Residence....2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY...May 15.....Highpointe.....4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY...May 22.....South Hills.....3:00 p.m.

### **ASCENSION SERVICE**

There will be a n Ascension Day worship service on THURSDAY, MAY 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethel. Zion and St. John's are invited to join us in this time of celebration.

## LWML—Lutheran Women Missionary League

Debbie Woolweber and Donna Heintz recently attended the area's LWML Rally at Christ Lutheran Church. Bethel use to have a very active woman's group called the "Bethelites". We would like Bethel and Zion to join together and create a group called "The Women Worker BeZis) ("Be" for Bethel and "Zi" for Zion). Our first meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel. All woman are invited to gather together with the mission of spreading the Good News around the world. Pick up your MITE BOX in the narthex.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.



Overs the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6651.31 in 1930.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank offering boxes." Empty all your loose change into the box . This money will be taken to each LWML Rally and join with other societies to go to mission work.



Dear Lord—We remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms which millions enjoy every day. For all who serve the cause of freedom and peace, please cover them and their families with Your sheltering grace and presence. Amen.

