

Salem Lutheran Church and School

Established 1849 Black Jack, MO

May 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

Rev. Martin Dressler, Pastor

828-206-4556
mdressler@salembjmo.org

Rev. Alger J. Tormoehlen, Honorary Pastor Emeritus

Church Office: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Monday-Thursday 314-741-6781
5180 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-1797

School Office: 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM –Jeff Burkee, Int. Principal 314-741-8220
5190 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-7242

Website: www.salembjmo.org

Church Email: salemchurch@salembjmo.org

Divine Services: Sunday 10:00 AM; Monday 7:00 PM

WELCOME to the Lord's House today! May God help us to worship Him in spirit and in truth! Before you leave, guests are requested to sign the guest book, which is located in the narthex. Both guests and members are asked to fill out an attendance card, located in the pews, returning it as you leave. We invite you to return and worship with us again. If you do not have a regular church home, then we invite you to join our family. May this celebration of the mercy of God enrich your spiritual life and be uplifting for each one of you.

A COMFORT ROOM is available during the Sunday services for young children and their parents. There are many toys and books available. If you need help, directions, or have any questions, please ask an usher. Parents, please do not leave your children unattended.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the narthex. The bags contain a coloring book, drawing paper, reading books, crayons, and a pencil. Parents are welcome to grab a bag for their children to use during the service. Please remember to replace the bag following worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. These feature a coloring sheet and activities for children based on the Scripture readings of the day. Please help yourself.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING ASSISTANCE SETS are available for those with impaired hearing. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available in the narthex.

*Sharing the caring CHRIST,
...here, there, and everywhere*

LIFE THOUGHT

We behold ourselves in both our unborn and our elderly neighbors, for apart from Jesus even we can do nothing (John 15:5). And we behold our Lord Jesus in their bodies as well because He has come unto us in a flesh like their own (1 John 4:2). Let us use our breath to defend them from abortion or assisted suicide and in this way praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6).

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: The Day of Resurrection (LSB 478)



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.
All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain;
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!
And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

INVOCATION AND OPENING RESPONSORY

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

P: "I am the true vine," Jesus said.

C: And the Father is the vine dresser.

P: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love," Jesus said.

C: But I have not kept His commandments perfectly.

P: "Abide in me," Jesus said.

C: But I have often wandered away from Him.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

**P: O almighty God, merciful Father,
C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have every offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

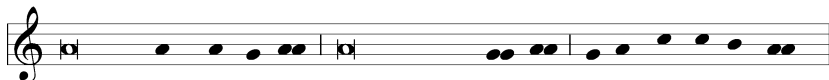
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



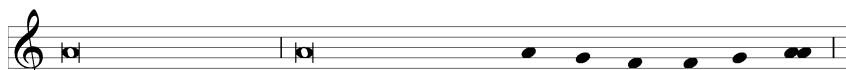
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



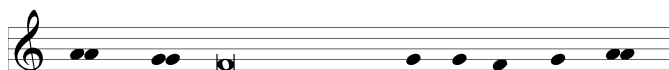
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

+ + +

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 150

The leader will sing through the refrain once. The congregation is invited to join the second time, and as indicated throughout.



Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple;
praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts;
Praise him for his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the blast of the ram's horn;
Praise him with lyre and harp.

C – Refrain

Praise him with timbrel and dance;
Praise him with strings and pipe.
Praise him with resounding cymbals;
Praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

C – Refrain

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1-21

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: His Banner Over Me Is Love

3. Je-sus is the vine and we are the branch - es; His ban-ner o-ver me is
 4. I am my be-lov - ed's and He is mine; His ban-ner o-ver me is
 love. Je-sus is the vine and we are the branch - es; His
 love. I am my be-lov - ed's and He is mine; His
 ban-ner o-ver me is love. Je-sus is the vine and
 ban-ner o-ver me is love. I am my be-lov - ed's
 we are the branch - es; His ban-ner o-ver me is love. His
 and He is mine; His ban-ner o-ver me is love. His
 ban - ner o - ver me is love.
 ban - ner o - ver me is love.

Text: Psalm 40:2; John 5:5; author unknown. Tune: anonymous. All God's People Sing! Stanzas 3-4

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

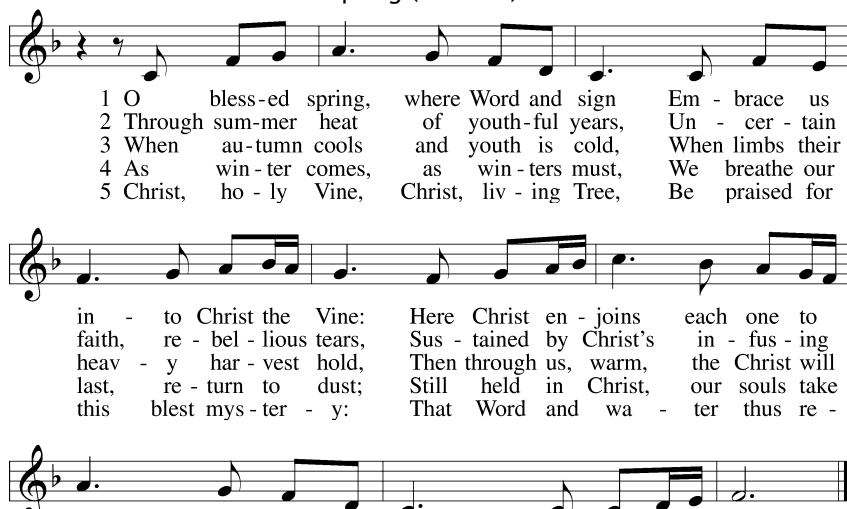
**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: O Blessed Spring (LSB 595)



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win-ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for

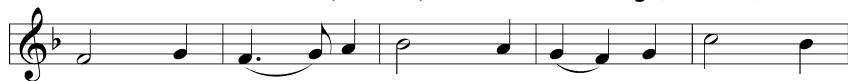
in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -

be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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SERMON: "You and Me and Christ in the Middle" John 15:5 Pastor Dressler

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling (LSB 700)



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

OFFERING (prayer requests)

OFFERING VERSE - "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"
 Psalm 150:6

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,
 C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

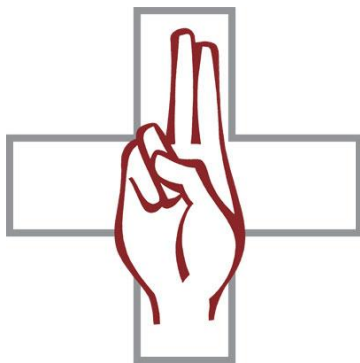
C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

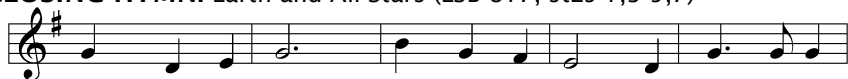
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN: Earth and All Stars (LSB 817, stzs 1,3-5,7)



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the
 5 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes! Sing to the
 7 Chil - dren of God, Dy - ing and ris - ing, Sing to the



Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing
 Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming
 Lord a new song! Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing
 Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing
 Lord a new song! Heav - en and earth, Hosts ev - er -



ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 work - ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 peo - ple! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 last - ing, Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

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Please turn in your attendance card as you leave.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK - "Likewise, as long as man remains in Christ and receives and retains sap and strength from Him through faith - Christ works in him with His power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit - the weakness still inherent in him and incited by the devil and his evil nature cannot harm him. But man must constantly resist and combat this with the weapons of faith. He must remove such vermin." -Martin Luther

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS
For the week of May 2 through May 9

TODAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE 10:00AM

MONDAY: Sewing Circle (Quilters) 8:30AM
DIVINE SERVICE 7:00PM

TUESDAY: Women's Bible Study 4:15PM
VBS Meeting 7:00PM

THURSDAY: Sewing Circle (Quilters) 8:30AM

FRIDAY: Gospel of John Bible Study 10:30AM

NEXT SUNDAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 10:00AM
Elders 11:15AM

A MEASURE OF LOVE FOR OUR LORD
For the week of April 25, 2021
Sunday School 6 students, 3 teachers/helpers
Adult Bible Class 19
Friday morning Bible Class 8

Worship Service Attendance
April 25 - [81]; April 26 - [10] =91

Online views
April 25 - [52]

Tithes and Offerings
April 25: \$4,404.00
Weekly Offerings Budget: \$8,100.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NEW BIBLE STUDY! Temptation . . . sometimes it's obvious, sometimes it's so subtle that you don't even realize it's happening. Regardless, EVERY Christian is tempted, and usually even more than the non-Christian. Join us for a study of the spiritual battle we all face as we read through C. S. Lewis' classic *The Screwtape Letters*. As we bring this book together with Scripture, you will have a greater understanding of what temptation is and how to war against it. Pastor Dressler will provide a copy for \$8 if you do not have one. Just let him know, or call the office, if you would like one. Alternatively, PDF versions are available online.

To access by phone: 415-762-9988 or 646-568-7788. Follow the prompts once you dial in to enter the Meeting ID when asked (798 4070 1280#). When asked to enter participant code hit the # key, and then it will ask for the password (5180#).

To access online: Go to Zoom.com. Click "join a meeting" at the top of the page, and enter 798 4070 1280 in meeting ID box. The passcode is 5180. If you've not used Zoom on your computer before, it will ask if you want to download and install it. You do, and it's okay to allow it to make changes to your computer. NOTE: You can do this part ahead of time, so you're all ready to go before Sunday morning. Questions? Call the office! 314-741-6781.

2. UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS: Recently most of us received another COVID stimulus payment. I'm sure there are many ways you could put it to good use. I encourage you to consider tithing a portion of that money to the ongoing Gospel ministry of Salem. If you think about it, it's an eternal investment! Not a bad use of funds!

3. E-GIVING IS POSSIBLE for making your gifts to Salem! You can download the Abundant app on your smart device and search for Salem Lutheran Church, you can text SALEMBJ to 73256 to receive a link to make your donation, or you can go to:

<https://abundant.co/salemlutheranchurch>

If you have any questions, please call Lisa Briggs (314) 330-2674.

4. THIS WEEK ON KFUO AM850, begin studying 2 Peter on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), hear about 1 Kings 8-10 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.), and worship with us in Daily Chapel at 10:00 a.m. Find your favorite podcasts on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app!

5. SALEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL needs substitute teachers! If you think this might be a good fit for you or someone you know, please get in touch with Susan Scherer in the school office. She can be reached at 314-741-8220 or through email at sscherer@salemchurch.org.

6. VBS IS BACK IN-PERSON!!!!: June 21-25, 2021. We are looking for some volunteers to help out. We are having a planning meeting **THIS TUESDAY**, May 4 at 7:00PM in the church basement. The meeting will also be via Zoom if you feel more comfortable that way. We will be socially distanced and wear masks at the in-person meeting. Hope to see you there!

Log-in info for Zoom is the same as it is for Bible Study. See page 17.

7. HUMANITRI TRIVIA – This Friday, May 7, 2021 – Support families facing homelessness in the St. Louis community by joining Humanitri for an exciting night of virtual trivia! The evening will be hosted by Trivia Riot and will include 6 rounds of trivia, lottery tree raffles, 50/50 raffle and a Covid Relief raffle. Host your “bubble” of 8 locally or invite your friends and family from around the globe to join your virtual team. A Zoom link will be e-mailed to teams prior to the event. Zoom opens at 6:30, with trivia starting at 7:00. Tickets are \$25/each or \$200/group of 8. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.humanitri.org/events>.

COVID VACCINE UPDATE: All Missouri residents ages 16 and older are now eligible to be vaccinated. The Department of Public Health has launched a new vaccine appointment site: stlcorona.com/vaccineappt. Anyone 16+ can visit that site and schedule an appointment.

In addition to the new website, FEMA is operating a daily mass vaccination site at The Dome starting. This opportunity is for St. Louis County & St. Louis City residents. Registration and appointments are not required, but are strongly encouraged. You can register with Missouri's COVID Navigator at covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator. Once registered, you will be invited by the Department of Health and Senior Services to schedule an appointment. The Dome vaccination hours are 8AM-6PM, 7 days a week. Your 2nd dose will be scheduled at the same location, after receiving your 1st dose. **Enter at Entrance C at the corner of Cole St & Broadway. FREE PARKING is also available at those cross streets.**

If you have any questions or challenges with registering or scheduling an appointment at The Dome, contact the Navigator hotline at 877-435-8411. If you need help with either website, please don't hesitate to call Elin in the Church Office (314-741-6781), and she will help you.

Source: Saint Louis County Department of Public Health

May
2021




lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

A letter sent by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the pro-abortion American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) indicates that the agency plans to “exercise enforcement discretion” in the dispensing of the abortion pill by mail during the COVID-19 pandemic. In other words, the FDA intends to continue to allow the distribution of these dangerous abortion drugs by mail for the duration of the pandemic. The decision follows ongoing litigation filed by ACOG against the FDA asserting that requiring mifepristone (the abortion pill) to be dispensed to abortion clients in person during the COVID-19 pandemic is an undue burden. Under FDA’s REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy), the abortion pill mifepristone (used in a regimen with misoprostol) must be dispensed by a certified prescriber at an approved hospital or clinic and is prohibited from being sold online or in a pharmacy. (*Live Action News*, 3/13/21; *CLR LifeWire*, 4/15/21)



For those who
have had an
abortion—a
**Word of
Hope.**

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Speaking up For Life

“Moms embody grace. God gives each of us an immediate friend and automatic defender even before birth. This He does—and so does she—without our earning or deserving it. As much as daughters and sons bring His blessings to their parents, so much also do mothers mediate His mercies to their little ones.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemk, LFL Executive Director of Mission and Ministry*

“Ascension Day, a holy day falling inconspicuously on a Thursday in May, is the conspicuous declaration that we are not left as orphans. In the same post-resurrection body that He invited Thomas to touch, Jesus invites us to full humanity even today. He ascended with a body, He shares in our humanity, extending His own body even now, promising to return for our own bodies. Christ is preparing a room for us, and we can know it is real because He Himself is real.” *Jill Carattini*

“It was many long years before Elizabeth had the joy of seeing, in her own body, that God had not forgotten her. ‘He looked on me,’ she said. The proof was the baby growing inside her, though she was an old woman by that time ... God has looked on us, too. The proof is the baby growing inside of Mary—God’s own dear Son Jesus, Who came to be your Savior. In Jesus, you can see that God has remembered you. He has looked on you with love—He has even made you His own child. You are not forgotten. You are beloved.” *Dr. Kari Vö, Lutheran Hour Ministries*

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER: Week of May 2, 2021

- OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES: Anthony Jr and Josiah Stovall; Chayse Strickland; Aubrey Sullivan
- OUR MEMBERS: Regina Meyer; Robert Meyer; Dee Meyerhoff
- OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Melvin Meyer; Lois Niehaus; LaVerne Schnelle
- OUR ILL / HOSPITALIZED: Don Seay, Norman Loebs, Jan and Rodger Altevogt, Gena (Stellhorn) Neece, Linda Garrison (daughter of Teddy Smith), Jon Smith (son of Teddy Smith), Paul McWilliams, Bill Lichtenberg, Todd Fuller, Cliff Fuller, Jennifer (niece of Cindy and Dale Schulz), Alicia Waller, Marilyn Patterson, Leo Russavage, Anthony Mueller (grandson of Larry Riedisser), Bernie Pikal (son-in-law of the Gronemeiers), Karen Becker, and Steve Ziegler.
- OUR SISTER CONGREGATIONS: Zion Lutheran Church in Palmyra, MO; St. Paul's Chapel in Iowa City, Iowa; and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Island, Illinois.
- ANNIVERSARIES: Lonnie and Billie Waller (5/4)
- BIRTHDAYS: Eric Delisle (5/2), Andrea Huels (5/2), Faraji Miller (5/4), Chelsey Obrock (5/4), Nat Pattin (5/4), Joe Henderson (5/5), Kierstin Buck (5/5), Megan Knabach (5/6), Judy Benne (5/8), Becky Jackson (5/8), Alicia Brinker (5/8), Jerrell Coleman (5/8), Titus Dressler (5/8)
- EMPATHY, PATIENCE, MERCY, and an END to racism and violence in our nation

DEVOTION: *Portals of Prayer*

LEARN BY HEART: John 5:28-29

DAILY READINGS:

- Sun: Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54
- Mon: Leviticus 21:1-24; Luke 12:1-12
- Tues: Leviticus 23:1-22; Luke 12:13-34
- Wed: Leviticus 23:23-44; Luke 12:35-53
- Thurs: Leviticus 24:1-23; Luke 12:54—13:17
- Fri: Leviticus 26:1-20; Luke 13:18-35
- Sat: Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44; Luke 14:1-24