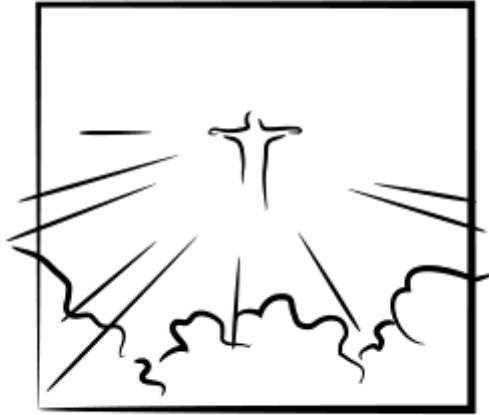


May Newsletter 2017



The Ascension of Our Lord May 25 – Services 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
9100 Highway YY Leslie, Missouri
Parsonage 573-459-6432 Church 573-459-6431
Rev. William F. Zastrow, Pastor
Mary Sprick, Secretary
ebenezerlutheran@hotmail.com
ebenezerlutheranchurch.wordpress.com

From the Pastor's Desk:

Celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:4-5, 8-9 – ⁴*While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

⁸*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

May 25 is the day set aside for remembering that our Lord Jesus Christ ascended unto heaven.

Jesus Christ was born. Jesus Christ lived. Jesus was arrested, tried and crucified. He was buried and then rose; appearing first to the women, then to the disciples and many other faithful witnesses. Lastly, he ascended unto heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Before ascending unto heaven, Jesus made a promise unto his disciples. The promise was that he would not abandon them but give them his Spirit which would abide with them and empower them. On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, we'll be celebrating how this gift came upon the disciples and now is with us.

For Ascension Day we focus upon Jesus ascending unto heaven. Jesus now would take his leave from his disciples. They would be alone once again. Yet it seems that now they have a better understanding of why Jesus came and what their mission in life was and would be, to share the good news of their Lord first in Jerusalem, then in the surrounding region and finally to the ends of

the earth. This work continues to go on as our ascended Lord sends us out unto the world.

The world? I immediately think of places like Africa, yet today Christians from Africa are coming to the U.S.A. to share the gospel. The world? I believe this is right where we are. Our calling is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in places like our area of Port Hudson, our very own neighborhood and often with simply our neighbor.

This day, visualize Jesus risen from the dead and now ascended unto heaven. He's gone so that his Spirit might truly come upon us. Through Jesus' life, death, resurrection and now ascension death has truly lost its sting and we can fully trust God who gives us life now and promises it forevermore.

Read once again the good news of the gospel:

Jesus Christ was born.

Jesus Christ lived.

Jesus was arrested, tried and crucified.

He was buried and then rose, appearing first to the women, then to the disciples and many other faithful witnesses.

Lastly, he ascended unto heaven and is seated on the right hand of God.

Prayer: *O Jesus, now seated upon heaven's throne, may I hear your command and choose to do as you ask, share your love with others this very day. Amen.*

Thrivent Dates for 2017

May 14 – Mother's Day Recognition

June 18 – Father's Day Recognition

July 23 – Potluck - Watch the bulletin for details.

September 10 – Potluck - Watch the bulletin for details.

December 3 – Senior Citizens’ Dinner

We will be working with the youth and their families to serve and help prepare the food.

Watch the bulletins for changes. There may be deletions and/or additions as the year progresses. Hope to see you at the dinners and other activities!

If you have any fund raising project and would like to have \$250 for seed money to buy supplies, it is available to any Thrivent member just by applying for an Action Team card. It can be done by going to Thrivent.com and click on Action Team. This money is available and relatively easy to get as long as a service is done for some church, some community organization, charity or raising funds for an individual. Hope you give it a try!

**Monthly Treasurer’s Summary
March 2017**

Beginning checking balance	\$30,044.50
Receipts	\$14,311.11
Disbursements	\$14,138.34
Ending checking balance	\$30,217.27
LCEF savings balance	\$30,456.85
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,659.53
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$1,200.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	\$-3,084.49

Recycle Update - We are pleased to report the addition of \$25.00 for recycle aluminum and \$304.00 cash from Easter Breakfast offering to our recycling for missionaries project. This allows us to send \$1,000.00 to support Robin McCoy and Rob Hilbert in their missionary work. Each will receive \$500.00. Thanks to everyone for their support of our missionaries.

Ascension Day
May 25, 2017

**Ebenezer Lutheran Church –
Port Hudson
9100 Highway YY
Divine Service With Holy Communion
10:00 AM
Picnic Dinner – 5:30 PM
Worship – 7:00 PM**



*“And I,
if I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all peoples to Myself.”
(John 12:32)*

Ascension Day Worship Service will be held at Ebenezer Lutheran Church at the lake pavilion Thursday, May 25, 2017, 7:00 PM. A picnic supper will be held in our fellowship hall also at 5:30 PM. Drinks, Bread, Meat (Hamburgers and Hot dogs) and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish or two to share. Area Pastors from our Lutheran Churches will be participating. The congregations of our Circuit are invited to join us in this worship and meal.

Holy Communion service on Ascension Day will be a 10:00 AM at the church.

A Special offering will be taken for **Faith Cometh By Hearing Military Biblesticks.**

Mission Society Meeting

The Ebenezer Mission Society will hold a meeting on May 22nd. We will once again be making rice warming bags for Mercy Hospital. All ladies are welcome to join us!

May Birthdays

Anthony Allmeroth	5-1
Helga Bopp	5-4
Samantha Monzyk	5-4
Bonnie Gardner	5-7
Dawn Brunkhorst	5-7
Kelsee Ann Crego	5-8
Kim Becerra	5-9
Paul Patterson	5-11
Karen Sprick	5-12
Estelle Brunkhorst	5-13
Jeff Wettling	5-13
Brent Thurmond	5-13
Kevin Brunkhorst	5-14
Gail Meyer	5-14
Jacob Alexander	5-15
Brian Brune	5-16
Tyler Kasmann	5-16
Albert Bade	5-17
Michelle Kasmann	5-19
Rick Scheer	5-20
Richard Meyer	5-21
Becky Summers	5-21
Samantha Summers	5-21

Deborah Pick	5-21
Paula Brune	5-22
Derek Meyer	5-22
Judy Creek	5-23
Jacqueline Wesselschmidt	5-23
Joseph Kassebaum	5-24
Mary Sprick	5-27

May Anniversaries

John & Mary Wesche	5-1
Paul & Paula Gleitz	5-8
Donald & Melissa Hoemann	5-10
Don & Pat Kappelmann	5-13
Elmer & Patty Kellmann	5-19
Roland & Denise Walkenhorst	5-20
Ron & Judy Wettling	5-23
Steve & Jennifer Thurmond	5-24
Steve & Wanda Gilbert	5-26
John & Jane Redhage	5-26
Tyler & Meredith Gardner	5-29
Lowell & Sue Kassebaum	5-31

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed correctly or not listed at all, please let Mary know.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Birthday and Anniversary!!!

Altar Guild for May

Nancy Quinn and Mary Sprick

Usher Schedule for May

- 1: Doug Eckelkamp
 - 2: Eugene Scheer
 - 3: Tyler Gardner
 - 4: Albert Bade
 - 5: Joe Kassebaum
- Alternate: Phil Pelster
Head Usher: Lee Kassebaum

Bell Ringer Schudule

- May 7**
Corey Adams
- May 14**
Jeff Hohlt
- May 21**
Trent Huellinghoff
- May 28**
Cody Adams

Vacation Bible School

Plans are under way for Vacation Bible School this summer. The dates are from July 24 -28, 2017. Our theme this year is A Mighty Fortress - In Jesus the Victory is Won! We are looking forward to a fun week. More information will be in the June newsletter and bulletins. If you would like to help in any way please contact Pastor or Margaret.

Stewardship Thoughts

“It is more blessed to give than to receive,” said St. Paul, quoting our Lord (Acts 20:35). How can this be?

Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a mountain by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The crowds followed them, for the Lord had just showered upon them the gift of His teaching, the gift of His Word. But the day was waning; the sun was setting, and it was getting late. Looking upon the crowds, Jesus had compassion on them and asked, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat” (John 6:5)? Philip said that two hundred denarii (a day’s wages for two hundred men) could not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.

But Andrew, Peter’s brother, brought a young boy forward, who had five barley loaves and two small fish. “But,” Andrew asked, “what are they for so many” (John 6:9). Jesus replied, “Have the people sit down” (John 6:10).

Then Jesus, the Son of God, gave them a second gift, a gift from what only He could give—a gift from above. He took the bread and the fish, gave thanks, blessed them, and distributed them to the crowd. Then came the miracle. As these five loaves and two fish were given out, they multiplied. He fed the hungry crowd until they were all full. And twelve baskets full were left over.

But Jesus was not the only one who gave that day. There is one person who also gave from what he had. It was the boy with the five loaves and the two fish. All the others, including the boy, received the gift of a miraculous feast. And they would look back

on it with wonder. But the boy, when he would look back on it, would look back and remember not just what he received. He would look back with wonder and delight when the Son of God made his gift into something miraculous. For it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This our Lord does for each of us. He presses our gifts, no matter how big or how small, into His service and works wonders with them. He provides through what we give: water for baptism, bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, a man called and sent for the preaching of the Gospel and Absolution. He provides a building in which we can gather as His children, lights so that we might not gather in darkness. He provides funds for the care of the poor and struggling, for missionaries who preach and teach beyond our borders. He makes Christians, disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in our midst by bringing them to faith and nurturing them in that faith. He takes our gifts and turns them into something miraculous.

Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thus we give. We give of what we have. And the Lord works His wonders.

Paul Brune's Trip to Honduras

I was asked to write an article on my 2017 trip to Honduras. First I will give you a little background on the Washington Overseas Mission group that I go with.

Dr. Tim Long 25 years ago went down to Honduras with a dentist to do some humanitarian work with the guidance of the Sisters of Notre Dame of St. Louis.

Since then WOM works with Dr. Raul a medical Dr. and the mayor of Pimienta to help set up our trips.

In Pimienta we built a Bodega, which we use for storage of shipments that we send down and also has sleeping areas. We can sleep up to 40 people in the Bodega.

WOM sends down 4-6 containers a year of Medicines clothes and misc. supplies per year.

WOM has one major trip a year which is normally in mid-March. We typically go down for 8-10 days. The group has Doctors, Dentists that are split into 2 or 3 groups that go to different locations and see 2-300 people per day.

I started going to Honduras about 10 years ago with WOM group and work with the construction team.

For the last number of years we have built a home for a very needy family. Dr. Raul makes the decision on which family that we will build the home for. What these people are living in before would not be considered a home. Typically it is whatever they can find or scrounge up to have a shelter of some sort. Normally a few pieces of old tin tied to some sticks to shield them from the weather. Pieces of cloth are used for doors and they have a dirt floor.

What we build is a block building that we pour footing for and tie everything together with rebar. We pour a concrete floor and put a metal roof on. We put in a bathroom and bathing area. Off of the bathroom we put in a Pilla (a water storage) because they only have running water for maybe an hour per day. The Pilla is used to flush the toilet, wash clothes and bathe with.

All of the work is manual. We mix cement on the ground and carry it in buckets. We get gravel from the river and use a screen to filter out the sand for the mortar.

We do put electric in the home for lights and a few outlets. Typically they do not own much that they would need to plug in.

The average wage in Honduras is about \$2 per day. I pay the skilled workers about \$20 per day and the laborers \$10 per day. Most family's try to raise some beans and corn to eat. Most cook with wood and their stoves are made from clay.

The materials for the home are paid by WOM. This past year the materials and labor to build the home was \$3300. Everyone that goes to Honduras on these trips pay 100% of their own way. This year the cost was \$1850 per person. That includes flights, food & transportation.

If anyone has any questions about making donations to WOM or more about the trip I would be more than happy to talk to them.

www.overseasmission.org

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonOverseasMission>

Paul Brune
314-650-8575

Request from Mercy Hospice

We have received the following request from Stephanie Marquart, Volunteer Coordinator at Mercy Hospice. She is currently seeking volunteers to serve in the community because of growth in our patient population. Mercy Hospice serves terminally ill patients and their families throughout the area. Volunteers are provided with free training before they are asked to serve any patient and family. Volunteers are matched with opportunities to serve according to their schedules, skills, comfort levels and geographic area. Volunteer opportunities include: caregiver relief, emotional support, life review videos, bereavement support, Mercy Companions, administrative assistance, sewing and many other great opportunities. The next free training will be Wednesdays May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. For more information please contact Stephanie Marquart, volunteer Coordinator at 636-239-8862 or stephanie.marquart@mercy.net.

Picnic Requests

It was voted to have a picnic again this year, so there will also be a Silent Auction. **Please be thinking about things that you might want to donate.** If you have some craft that you do, perhaps you might consider an item you made. If there is a business or a restaurant that you frequent, perhaps you could ask them for a donation. There are donation letters on the table at the back of

Church. The auction has been successful in the past because of your help! **Please consider helping again this year!** If you need more information, please contact Karen Sprick.

Faith Comes By Hearing – Military Bible Sticks

Over the years Ebenezer Lutheran Church has been cooperating with Faith Comes by Hearing bringing the Bible to our military men and women throughout the world and every branch of our armed services using audio sticks. Military Chaplains are currently asking 2000 each week. The demand continually exceeds Faith Comes by Hearing ability to produce enough for all the needs. With every military stick given to a soldier it will also impact a service member's family, as each Bible Stick includes a card that offers free MP3 Bibles for spouses and children. God's Word in this unique format could change the life of a service member forever! We will have videos after church after the church service that will highlight the work of Faith Comes By Hearing and their use of the Military Bible Sticks. A special offering will be received for this project during our Memorial Day Worship on May 28th and for our Ascension Day offerings on May 25th.



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Elders 7:00 PM	3	4 Pastor to St. Louis	5 Ladies Luncheon with w/ Rev. Jim and Peril Rhiver	6 Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion
7 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM with Holy Communion	8	9 Pastor and Margaret to Branson, MO	10 Pastor and Margaret to Branson, MO	11 Pastor and Margaret to Branson, MO	12 Pastor and Margaret to Branson, MO	13 Worship 5:00 PM
14 Mother's Day Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM	15	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:00 AM	19	20 Cub Scouts Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion
21 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM with Holy Communion	22 Ebenezer Mission Society Sewing Rice Bags 6:30 PM and meeting 7:30 PM	23 Sunday School Teachers'/Education Meeting 7:00 PM	24	25 Ascension of our Lord. Worship Holy Communion 10:00 AM Picnic 5:30 PM Worship 7:00 PM	26	27 Worship 5:00 PM
28 Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Memorial Day Worship	29 Memorial Day	30	31 Pastor to St. Louis			