



The King's Letter

From the Pastor's Desk - Why Does the Ascension of Jesus Christ Matter to YOU!

"When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven."
Luke 24:50-51

The church observes the Ascension of Christ Jesus this year on May 26th. Ascension Day is always 40 days after Easter and constantly on a Thursday. Regrettably, the Ascension of Jesus can be seen as a much lesser event than His Birth, Baptism, Passion and Death, and Resurrection. It is unfortunate since the teaching of Christ Jesus' Ascension is essential to our Christian life. The Ascension, after all, tells us who we are and what's going on all around us.

The Ascension of Christ Jesus isn't just about how He "went away" and is loitering around in heaven waiting for the nod from God the Father to return to Earth. The Ascension means that you, Christian, are always connected to God. Our exile from God, which started when Adam and Eve were ushered out of Eden, is over! We openly acknowledge that Christ Jesus is the Head of our faith and that we, as His church, are His body. Our head, then, is "seated at the right hand of the Father" (Heb 12:2), always in God the Father's presence and always in communion with Him. This is true of you always. That's important to remember in those moments when we feel as though God is so far away.

Sometimes when I am struggling or overwhelmed with doubt or fear, it's easy for me to feel as though God is far away. When that happens, my prayer life wanes and I teeter on the edge of despair. In my sin I assume that God's nearness is directly related to the strength of my faith or my ability to perceive what God is doing in my life. This assumption is based on the wrong idea that I can come to God without a Mediator. However, the Scriptures inform us that our nearness to God is ONLY available due to Christ Jesus and He hasn't moved (1 Tim 2:5). Oh Lord, have mercy!

The Ascension of Jesus means that our security and our future, while not visible to us, are secure in Jesus Christ. At the same time, they are hidden in Christ and are located "where Christ is, at the right hand of God" (Col 3:1). This ought to free us from worry. If you're like me, you tend to think through "worst-case scenarios" when difficulties or troubles are seen on the horizon. If you're in Christ, though, you are never in danger in your real life. Your real life is with Christ Jesus and He has all things in His care. The tricky part is that this is not visible to us at the moment, just as Jesus Himself is not visible to us in this temporal life. That's what it means to "walk by faith, and not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7).

Jesus is enthroned with His Father moving history toward His goal. His invisibility is no sign of indifference or ineffectiveness but of patience. He is preparing a kingdom for His people and He is patiently waiting "that all should reach repentance." (2 Pet 3:9). Therefore, the Ascension should give us confidence before God. As long as Christ Jesus is before God the Father, there is no condemnation for us. And the Ascension of Christ Jesus ought to give us confidence in our lives right now as Christ Jesus is always with us until the "end of the age" (Matt 28:20).

The tomb is empty; the throne is not. Alleluia!

In the name of the resurrected and ascended Jesus Christ,

Pr. Cary

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Senior Sunday, May 22
- Sunday School Kids sing May 8th





WOW servers for May:

For the WOW meeting, Saturday, May 14th, 9:30 a.m., the Joy group will serve and for Sunday morning Fellowship during the month of May, the Charity group will serve.

Year-To-Date General
Fund Budget Totals

G.F Offerings: \$52,554.46

G.F. Budget: \$60,716.28

Short: \$8,161.82

G.F. Offerings:\$52,554.46

G.F. Expenses:\$71,054.41

Short: \$18,499.95

**YTD & Carried Forward Designated Funds
(as of March 31, 2022):**

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Building:	1,381.01
Adult Education:	38.27
Sunday School:	(187.84)
Scholarship:	2,294.88
Youth Group:	(1,137.99)
Memorial:	5,999.62
Mission tithe:	7,214.59
Mission Offering:	558.00
Quilters:	1,165.30
Property:	2,162.21
Property Sub Account A.C. Fund:	0
Property Sub Account Building Impr.	550.00
Audio/Visual:	5,719.13
Evangelism:	1,750.00
Light House Band:	5,779.01
Worship Fund:	1,026.47



Mark your calendars:
 2022 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 JULY 31-AUGUST 4
 More details to come

**The Sunday School kids will sing Sunday,
 May 15th, at both services!**

Biblical Roots of Common Words and Phrases

Phrase: "Raising Cain!" or "Raising Hell!"

Meaning: To be causing trouble or creating an uproar, equivalent to "Raising Hell".

Origins: In the Book of Genesis we read how wicked Cain killed his brother Abel because the Lord valued Abel's gift "of the first born of his flock" over Cain's "offering of the fruit of the ground." In Genesis 4:8-10 we read: "Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?' And the Lord said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.'" (Lutheran Study Bible)

Note: When you are tempted to "Raise Cain" or to "Raise Hell or the Devil", remember that the Lord cursed Cain "from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand" and for his action Cain was "to be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." (Genesis 4:11-12) So, when you persistently make trouble, you are in fact raising up or conjuring up the accursed spirit of Cain. A similar phrase, but not Biblical, is "Raising Hob". It turns out that "Hob" was the familiar name of the spirit, Robin Goodfellow, who in English folklore was a household spirit full of mischievous, sometimes malicious, acts.

Thank you to our ushers:

May 1st Service: Trent Anderson

2nd Service: Jim Satterlund

THERE ARE MANY COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AT OUR CHURCH. ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS COULD USE MORE PEOPLE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. NO INVITATION NEEDED, JUST SHOW UP.

PROPERTY:
 MAY 3, 6:30PM

WORSHIP:
 MAY 4, 5:00 PM

CHOIR:
 MAY 4, 6:30 PM

MAY 14:
 MEN'S BREAKFAST &
 BIBLE: 7:00 AM
 WOW: 9:30 AM

STEWARDSHIP
 MAY 27, 6:30 PM

EVANGELISM
 MAY 24, 6:30PM

EDUCATION:
 MAY 24, 6:30PM

QUILTERS:
 TUESDAYS 10AM-3PM

USHERS:
 NEEDED MONTHLY .
 CONTACT GARRY HUCK-
 FELT OR CHURCH OFFICE

READERS:
 READ DURING SERVICES
 ON A ROTATION
 CONTACT CHURCH
 OFFICE

GREETERS FOR MAY, 1st SERVICE:

May 1: Elaine & Maynard Breck

May 8: Jerry & Jane

Guggisberg

May 15: Roger & Wendy Mann

May 22: Paul & Deb Brudelic

May 29: Naomi & Greg Easton

THANK YOU for being

Greeters!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Summer Worship Schedule will begin Sunday, May 29th. We will have one service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and the same service on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We will alternate the Traditional and Contemporary services like we did last year — one Sunday and Wednesday will be Contemporary and the next Sunday and Wednesday will be Traditional.



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Christ the King
Lutheran Church
309 6th ST NE
Waseca, MN 56093
507.835.9176
www.ctkwaseca.com



SENIOR SUNDAY

We have three graduating seniors this year: **Jarret Ahlschlager**, son of Chris & Jill Ahlschlager; **Lillian Dahle**, daughter of Carrie Dahle; and **Ralph Roesler**, son of Greg & Barb Roesler. Senior Sunday will be Sunday, May 22nd. Congratulations to our graduating seniors!!!!