



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 1, 2024

Brothers and Sisters, greetings in the name of the Lord! He is risen!

Let me begin by thanking Joan Liddle for her many years at the helm, assembling the newsletter. Her years of faithfulness graced the church with a regular flow of edifying and informative pieces of information.

Secondly, if you would be willing to pick up the mantle for editing the newsletter, please let me know. It's easier than it looks, that is, unless you want to get all fancy! It's up to you.

Thirdly, He is risen! It's still Easter season, and I get to say those three words to remind myself and you and the world that Jesus conquered sin, death, and the devil until we begin Pentecost! (And I might just say it again, anyway!) He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Important Sundays in May:

- Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12!
- Pentecost is Sunday, May 19—wear red!

Of course, the first Sunday is always **Food Drive Sunday**, and the last Sunday is always **\$5 Mission Sunday**. **Confirmation class** will be on Sundays, May 5 & May 19. And every Wednesday there is **Praise Team practice** at 5:30 p.m. (with a **songfest** on the 3rd Wednesday, beginning at the same time).

Please see the attached calendar for birthdays & anniversaries!

The month of May will finish with a long weekend as we honor the memory of the men and woman who gave their lives while serving in our country's armed services. Memorial Day, the last Monday of the month, is a day to give thanks for the freedom we enjoy, a freedom which cost another man, another woman their life. I remember family members who died in war for my freedom, and I can't help but reflect on how my Lord Jesus did the same. He set me free from eternal death; they set me free from mortal tyranny. Let us give thanks for that gift and pray that they did not die in vain. Amen.

He is risen!

With love in Christ,

Pastor Richard Ross

CHURCH PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

Greetings family and friends of MSLC,

It's back! It's May, it's college graduation month, and it's a month away from the start of summer vacation. The newsletter is back and there will be details in the president's section.

As I was reading my morning devotion back in February, the theme of the devotion came from John 5:1-15:

Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Have you ever started to read a devotion, the author has chosen a particular passage, the theme, and then tells a story, and you see something totally different than what the author is describing? As I read the devotion, there are some weird things that happen in this passage that caused me to stop.

Jesus and HIS entourage enter Jerusalem through the Sheep Gate and encounter the Bethesda pool area, which is surrounded by the lame, and paralyzed and diseased. Anywhere else that I can turn to in the gospels where any healing is about to take place, I will read about shouts of mercy directed toward the ‘son of David’. You can recall the lepers who shouted at HIM because of how far away HE was. HIS reputation had spread though out the land, but it had not reached the Bethesda pool.

As I searched the gospels, I tried to find an instance where Jesus is the one to initiate the conversation. Most people knew that HE could heal them, and the conversation encounter usually consisted of 'help me' or 'have mercy' on me and Jesus would respond with the healing and a variety of replies.

At the pool, since no one knew who HE was, HE initiates the conversation by asking the lame man if he wants to be healed. Rather than simply say yes, we get the story of why he is still an invalid. We know the Jesus can simply heal him, but this man has something totally different in mind. Jesus was traveling with several people, and this lame man suddenly saw the help that would be required to get him into the pool first when it stirred, and he would finally be cured. Instead Jesus heals him, without knowing who had done it. It wasn't until later on that Jesus found him in the temple and revealed who HE was.

I was struck by this story in several ways. I wonder if Jesus might have been surprised that there were no cries for mercy as HE walked by the pool. Can Jesus be surprised? HE is also human. HE initiated the healing because no one there knew who HE was. Whether I ask for HIS help in prayer or not, am I already being helped, or does GOD wait to be asked?

Sola Scriptura Sola Fide Sola Gratia

Jerry Grambow

CHURCH NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you, Joan. What a great job you did in putting the newsletter together, so much so, that I believe some were intimidated to volunteer to do this. If not for you, or rather the Holy Spirit using you to get to me, I'm not writing these, because I don't write.

Since the newsletter took a month hiatus hoping that someone might volunteer, the question raised by me at the meeting was whether to continue or discontinue the newsletter. Dick can't remember there not being one and so we figured out a plan 'b' if plan 'a' didn't happen

We had a board meeting and a voters meeting

Besides the newsletter, I was moved by the spirit to address our lack of an alarmed church. The company that was giving us an alarm went out of business, and we've had sound and that's it. The voters approved alarming the entire property, not just the sanctuary.

May 2024

Morning Star Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 PM Praise team practice	2	3	4 Kai J J Gonzalez-bd
5 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation 10:00 AM Adult Bible FOOD DRIVE	6 6:30 PM BOD meeting Jacob Farmer-bd	7 Evelyn Bertelsen-bd	8 5:30 PM Praise team practice Alicia Grambow-bd	9	10	11
12 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study Mother's Day	13	14	15 5:30 PM Song Fest with Praise team practice	16 Fred & Joan Liddle-annv Kameron McFeron-bd	17	18
19 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation 10:00 AM Adult Bible PENTECOST SUNDAY	20	21 Carolyn Casbier-bd	22 5:30 PM Praise team practice	23	24 Ben & Carol Casbier-annv	25 9:00 AM -11:00 AM LARC Ham Radio testing Aurora Lewellen-bd
26 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible \$5 Sunday for Missions Newsletter Deadline	27 MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED)	28	29 5:30 PM Praise team practice	30	31	