



ASCENSIONNEWS

April 2025

"60th anniversary look back"



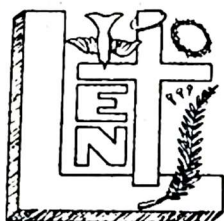
Ascension Lutheran Church
Kansas City, Missouri

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NEWSLETTER

Lent, Easter, and Our Holy Baptism



We are in the midst of the Lenten Season, the 6-week time set aside for the church to reconsider the love of Christ for us, to repent of all our sinfulness as well as for all our sins, and to reconsecrate ourselves to His service.

We know that He is our Friend, who gave His life for us. We know that we are sinners, who with all mankind, brought the pains of hell upon our Lord. Lent is a time for us to acknowledge this, and to cry from the depth of hearts, "Lord, have mercy."

Lent culminates in the celebration of Easter. While the motif of Lent may be solemn joy, the mood of Easter is loud rejoicing: "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" "Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Everything I have said so far is familiar to every Lutheran Christian. What is not so well understood is that the Lenten and Easter emphases are all very closely intertwined with our Baptism. This can be shown by a brief review of what Baptism is and means.



In Baptism God acts to give us the forgiveness of all our sins which Christ won for us on the cross. He also by His Spirit gives us the faith (faith=trust; it is always a gift) to believe it. This is true both for infants and for older people. In Baptism water is applied to a person "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This means that we are made God's own children, by virtue of the saving work of the whole Triune God. At Holy Baptism we did indeed receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Thus the Lenten emphasis is contained in Baptism. Lent points to the cross of Christ. Baptism is a means by which the benefits of the cross of Christ--forgiveness of sin--is conferred upon us.

Further, both Lent and Easter call for repentance and living a completely new life. So does Baptism. For as St. Paul says "We were buried...with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).



That means that when we were baptized we "died" with Christ. Our sinful nature died. And when Christ arose from the dead we arose with Him to live a new life of faith and love.

This has profound implications for our entire life as Christians. Here are some of them:

1) Baptism may happen only once in our lives, but it must be remembered and renewed every day of our lives. For every day we sin; every day we repent; and every day we need by the Spirit's power to "walk in newness of life."

2) Being baptized means that we always have the comfort of knowing that we are forgiven children of God. It helps assure us of our salvation. But it does not mean that we can then forget about God and live as we please, and still hope to go to heaven. God will not forsake His gracious covenant of forgiveness He made with us at our Baptism, but we indeed sometimes do forsake Him.

3) Rather, being baptized means that every day we will remember that we are God's children and live accordingly. We will live "new" lives because we also participate in Christ's new resurrection life.

4) When we begin to see and appreciate the meaning of our Baptism, we begin to understand that it encompasses our whole life with God from new birth to everlasting salvation. Every Christian thing we do, we do because of, and by virtue of our Holy Baptism.

It is my prayer that the emphasis of the Sunday services this Lenten season, which culminate in our Easter celebration, will help us to understand more fully and more deeply to appreciate our Holy Baptism.

Pastor Luke



SIGNIFICANT DATES – mark your calendar!

- **SHINE! Service Project at Harvesters, Saturday, April 5 – 8:30 – 11:30.** List your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- **SPARKLE!** Help beautify our church property on **Saturday, April 12 – 9-noon.** Lots of areas that need extra attention, indoors or out.
- **SING HOSANNA! Palm Sunday is on April 13** with worship service at its usual time – 9:30 AM.
- **SACRAMENT!** Holy week continues with **Maundy Thursday communion worship** at our church at **6:30 PM, Thursday, April 18.**
- **SACRIFICE!** Jesus died on the cross for us. Join us for **Good Friday worship** here at church, **6:30 PM on Friday, April 19.**
- **SAVIOR!** He is risen indeed! Celebrate our risen Lord on **Easter morning, April 20, 9:30 AM worship.**
- **SWEET! Easter Breakfast-** the Elders will serve a continental breakfast on Sunday morning, **April 20, beginning at 8:30.**
- **STRENGTHEN! Sunday, May 11** is the tentative date planned to mark the **confirmation of Mr. Patrick Kautz and Miss Charlie Nance** during the worship service at 9:30.
- **SPRINGTIME! – Voters’ Meeting Sunday, May 18** after the worship service, followed by a potluck feast.
- **SEEK HIM!** Join us on **Thursday, May 29 for Ascension Day of Prayer.** The church will be open for silent prayer from 5-7 PM
- **SPIRIT!** Pentecost marks the day the Holy Spirit was given to Christ’s followers. We celebrate on **Sunday, June 8.**



Butterfly garden? Bird sanctuary? Outdoor walking trail?

These are a few of the ideas we’re considering as we look to refresh our outdoor spaces. Our landscaping has been lovingly maintained, but after 25+ years, it’s time for an update. Watch the bulletin board in the narthex for suggestions and ideas on ways we can use native plantings around the property to the glory of God. There are projects of varying sizes and lots of ways for you to help.





2025

Ascension Lutheran Church
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KC MO 64133

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Walkers M-F, 7-10am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Mid-week Lenten Service @Ascension 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	3	4 Bible Study 10am	5 Basketball 9-11am LWML
6 New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am Bd of Elders following worship	7	8 Church Council 6:30pm	9 Mid-week Lenten Service @St. Paul 4pm 1 st Service 5pm Meal 6:30pm 2 nd Service	10	11 Bible Study 10am	12 Basketball 9-11am
13 Palm Sunday New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm	18 No Bible Class Good Friday Service 6:30pm	19 Basketball 9-11am
20 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 8:30am New Dimensions of Praise Fellowship Hall 10am	21	22	23	24	25 Bible Study 10am	26 Basketball 9-11am Youth Trivia Night 3pm
27 New Dimensions of Praise 10am Mite Box Sunday	28 Dorcas Circle 6:00pm	29	30	Sunday Worship Schedule: Bible Study 8:15am Sunday School 8:30am ~ Worship Service 9:30am		

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:55-58