

## ANNOUNCEMENTS WEEK OF MAY 15, 2022

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jim Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Darlene Welsh; Ken Keily; Brenda LeFever; Nicholas Hull; Linda Crawford

**THE WOMEN'S GROUP** meets this Saturday, May 21, at 9:00am. Join us!

**ASCENSION FESTIVAL SERVICE** next Wednesday, May 25, at 7:00pm.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** held at Faith next Thursday, May 26, 1-6pm.

**VBS:** our first VBS evening of the year will be Tuesday, June 14, beginning with a potluck supper at 5:30pm. Bring the whole family! There will be activities and Bible lessons for all age groups! If you're interested in helping out, please talk with Pr. Mullet. Thank you!

**TURTLE DAYS PARADE:** 11am on Saturday, June 18. We'd like to have even more from our congregation participate in the parade this year! Perhaps a truck and trailer so we can sit? Let Pr. Mullet know if you're interested, if you'd like to lend your services as a driver, or if you have any other ideas!

### CALENDAR

Sun. May 15 (Easter 5 - Cantate)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Choir rehearsal
Tue. May 17	8:30am Greek Study
Wed. May 18	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. May 19	7:00pm Bible Study (Ephesians)
Sat. May 21	9:00am Women's Group
Sun. May 22 (Easter 6 - Rogate)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study 11:30am Choir rehearsal
Wed. May 25	7:00pm Ascension Service
Thu. May 26	1-6pm Red Cross Blood Drive

## THE BACK PAGE

Let me draw your attention to a new furnishing in our sanctuary. After consulting with the Elders, the Council, and myself, one of our members graciously donated the funds to purchase a new crucifix for our altar. A crucifix might raise questions in your mind or in the minds of others. It might be helpful to talk about why having a crucifix is a good thing by responding to some of the most common concerns.

1. *“We worship a risen Jesus, not a dead Jesus.”*

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! But even an empty cross is a symbol of death. A better symbol for the resurrection is an empty tomb! Consider also St. Paul’s words: “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

2. *“Isn’t there a commandment about graven images?”*

Sort of. We recognize the prohibition of graven images to be included in the First Commandment. In any case, Ex. 20:4-6 makes it clear that the prohibition is against *worshipping* such images as if *the image itself* was God! God is not opposed to the construction of images, as the bronze serpent in Num. 21 demonstrates. We might also consider the change in the way images are understood after the Incarnation. Old Testament Israel could not make an image of God because they didn’t know what He looked like! Now we do: He’s Jesus!

3. *“That’s too Catholic.”*

This is a common objection to many things, including chanting, vestments, and the Lord’s Supper. I imagine it comes from the anti-Roman sentiment in our American Lutheran context. But none of these are Roman Catholic in origin. All of them predate Roman Catholicism by centuries! These are Christian things, used throughout history and around the world to teach the faith in worship.

To take a positive angle, a crucifix is a good thing because it shows the love of God for us in sending His Son. Your sins were paid for on the cross, not in the resurrection. A crucifix also holds up the importance of the human body, made in God’s image. In a culture that’s getting weirder and weirder about our bodies, a crucifix is a helpful reminder of how important we are *in body and in soul* to our Father in heaven. A crucifix is also distinct. Crosses are everywhere, even among unbelievers. But a crucifix makes a statement of sorts: this is a people that believes something! And what we believe is that Jesus was a real man who really died for the sins of the world. So a crucifix also teaches the faith. We do not believe in—nor worship!—an abstraction of Jesus or a symbolic Jesus, but a real, flesh-and-blood Jesus! There’s much more that could be said. Please feel free to ask. God’s peace be with you!