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Honor Your Mother

If I asked you what the greatest holiday in May is, what would you say? The culture around us would certainly say it's Mother's Day (May 9), with its emphasis on buying her

cards, flowers, candy and gifts as well as taking her out to eat. And it is most certainly important to show love and honor to our mothers; after all, the Fourth Commandment enjoins us to do just that. Yet, showing such love and honor to our mothers shouldn't happen only one day a year; it should happen every day. And the love and honor we show our mothers doesn't depend on whether they are still living or not. For we show love and honor for our mothers as we live as they taught us and lead lives that would please them.

Now, society has its holidays, and the Church has her holidays (holy days). Both have their place in their proper contexts - i.e. society's holidays are best celebrated in societal ways, though we can recognize them in the Church and often do (usually in the prayers), and Church holidays are what the Church focuses on, especially since they direct us to Christ.

This year the Church celebrates three holidays in May. First of all there's Ascension Day (May 13 – service @ 7 p.m.), when we celebrate our Lord Jesus' ascension into heaven forty days after His resurrection. Then, there's Pentecost (May 23), to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and what some call the birthday of the Church. And finally there's the Festival of the Holy Trinity (May 30) when we celebrate the Triune God and confess the Athanasian Creed. There certainly is a lot to celebrate in May.

For now, though, I want to draw a connection between Pentecost and Mothers' Day. After all, on Pentecost Peter preached a powerful sermon that convicted many people of their sins. He boldly proclaimed the Lord Jesus' death and resurrection. When the people had been cut to the heart, they cried, "What shall we do?" They were terrified that they had killed the Messiah, their Savior. In answer to their question, Peter said,

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

(Acts 2:38-39)

Then we're told, "those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41). And yet that wasn't the end of things. For they then "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42). What a marvelous miracle wrought by the Holy Spirit!

So, what is the connection between Pentecost and Mothers' Day? Consider Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Creed in his Large Catechism:

⁴⁰ Learn, then, to understand this article most clearly. You may be asked, "What do you mean by the words *I believe in the Holy Spirit?*" You can then answer, "I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as His name implies."⁴¹ "But how does He accomplish this, or what are His method and means to this end?" Answer, "By the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."⁴² For in the first place, the Spirit has His own congregation in the world, which is the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God's Word [Galatians 4:26]. Through the Word He reveals and preaches, He illumines and enkindles hearts, so that they understand, accept, cling to, and persevere in the Word" [1 Corinthians 2:12].¹

So, you see, the Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church is the mother of every Christian as the Holy Spirit continues to conceive and bear children and nourish them through Baptism, preaching, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. So we honor our mother not just one day a year, but every time we gather in God's house to receive His gifts of forgiveness and life. That's how our

¹ Concordia : The Lutheran Confessions. Edited by Paul Timothy McCain. St. Louis, MO : Concordia Publishing House, 2005, S. 403

mother, the Church, gives birth and that's how she sustains us in this life-giving faith. Thus we show love and honor to our mother and to our Savior as we gather faithfully and frequently to be fed by her as she feeds us Jesus. God grant us to show such love and honor to our holy mother Church.

And, by the way, that makes our earthly mothers happy too.

God bless you always.

Pastor Pelsue

Adapted from Rev. Tim Landskroener, Epiphany Lutheran, St. Louis, MO



SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICE
THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
Divine Service
Thursday, May 13th
7:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social to follow

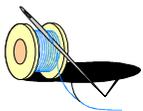
WOMEN'S GUILD

MEETING

The Women's Guild Meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 4th, at 12:30p.m.** The program will be a book review by Barbara Mannes. Devotion will be given by Yvonne Spitz and the hostess is Helen Matta.

CARE & SHARE

Care and Share will meet on **Thursday, May 27th, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**



Ice Cream Social

All are welcome to come and enjoy ice cream sundaes or cones with a variety of toppings in the parish hall immediately following the Ascension of Our Lord Service on **Thursday, May 13th.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the June newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, May 17th.** Articles may be e-mailed to secretary@reformationstl.org, faxed to (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.

RETIREES TAKE A FIELD TRIP



Everyone is invited to join the Retirees group on **Tuesday, May 25th** to visit Jefferson Barracks. Hear about the rich history and its citizen soldiers. Established in 1826, hundreds of thousands have passed through the Barracks including Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. The Retirees will carpool from church at 9:30 a.m. to the Barracks. They will have lunch at a restaurant nearby after the visit. More details will follow in the church bulletin. All our welcomed!

THANK YOU SO MUCH !!!

- ❖ To all of you who so generously donated items for the New Life Festival! The gift baskets & gifts, candies, the eggs (plastic and real), decorations, Kool-aid, the egg dye, Easter grass, moneys, etc. The event was a great witness to our community. 41 children attended from 21 families in the area. There is potential for one if not two future baptisms and possible adult new members because of the New Life Festival. Follow up efforts are under way. Check out the article from South County Times on the Youth Bulletin Board.
- ❖ To Seminarian Aaron Meyer and Evangelism Chair Debbie Gawlik, Secretary Sheri Passanisi and the 27 volunteers from COR who worked so hard and so well together to get the Gospel Good News out through this event! Great Job! To God be the glory!

Dear Reformation Lutheran,
My wife and I thank the Lord for your thoughtful donation of Easter eggs to the Concordia Seminary food bank. We thank the Lord that he has given you all thoughtful and compassionate hearts to reach out to the seminary community and help them continue Easter family traditions as a way to celebrate the life that our Lord has given us at a time when financial resources are thin.

In Christ,

Josh and Tabitha (seminary student)

I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes, cards and prayers. Thank you. *Mike Hediger and family*

BRUNCH AT THE SEM

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will host Brunch at the Sem on **Mother's Day, May 9th**, in Koburg Hall on the Seminary campus. Brunch will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The menu for Brunch at the Sem includes carved ham, fried chicken, carved roasted turkey, jumbo cocktail shrimp, garlic mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, honey glazed baby carrots, mostaccioli, salad bar, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, Eggs Benedict, omelet bar, hash browns, bacon, sausage, Belgian waffle bar, dessert bar, assorted juices, soda, coffee, and tea.

The price for adults is \$22; children (4-10 yrs.) are \$5.00; and children 3 and under are free. Cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express cards are accepted. Space is limited. For reservations, call 314-505-7369.



FLOWERS & BULLETINS

You can "say it with flowers or a bulletin cover." Several dates are still available in 2010 on our 'Flower Calendar' and 'Bulletin Booster Chart.' Celebrate a birthday or an anniversary, honor a dear family member or friend, or remember a loved one by ordering altar flowers or sponsoring the bulletin for one week. Flowers are \$25.50 for two beautiful bouquets and bulletin boosters are \$18.00. If you have any questions – please call the church office, 314-352-1355. Thanks.

Church Office

MAY FEED MY PEOPLE MEAL-A-MONTH



Corned beef hash, canned tomatoes, fruit cocktail, Biscuit Mix, powdered milk (opt.)

Please take a bag out of the shopping cart located in the narthex and fill it with the grocery items stated above or with any food items you would care to give. Place bag of groceries in the narthex shopping cart. Please - no glass containers or clothing. Thank you for your donations!



OWLS Meeting

The next meeting of the "Older Wiser Lutherans in Service" (OWLS) will be on **Wednesday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m.** at Laclede Groves Senior Living Community, 723 S. Laclede Station Road. This is the "Senior Service in Christ Awards Luncheon" and they will honor a number of volunteers who have served their church and community in the Lutheran St. Louis Area. The speaker will be Rev. Vernon D. Gundermann, LCMS International Center Chaplain and he will speak on "Volunteerism in the Church." To make a reservation, please call Vicki Polk at 314-446-2403 or email vpolk@lssmo.org. Lunch is \$9.



MISSOURI'S LARGEST DIAPER SHOWER

Lutherans for Life of Missouri is once again sponsoring Missouri's Largest Diaper Shower which began on **May 9th (Mother's Day)** and ends **Sunday, June 20th (Father's Day)**. Bring disposable diapers of any size to church as a way to thank your family for giving you life. A baby bassinet will be set up in the narthex for your donations. The total number (not packages) will be submitted to Lutherans for Life of Missouri. Disposable diapers seem like a luxury to those of us who laundered them in earlier generations. However, most of these recent mothers served by Pregnancy Resource Center are struggling with trials and tribulations far beyond reasonable. They need this one manageable thing in their lives. Please consider helping us overflow the bassinet this year with diapers.

CONCERT FOR LIFE

Lutherans for Life invites you to Concordia Seminary for a Classical Music Concert for Life by Dr. Mark Laverty on **Sunday, May 23**. It begins at 4 p.m. A reception will follow. Tickets are \$20 per person. Dr. Laverty is an award winning concert pianist. To register go to www.lutheransforlife.org, click on "Laverty Concert." You may also purchase tickets at the door. Funds raised will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Chapters. For more information call 515-441-6571 or 1-888-364-LIFE.





TRIVIA NIGHT FUND RAISER FOR BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE!

Boy Scout Jamboree Troop 1115 (member Staas Wolter) will travel to Fort A.P. Hill near Washington DC for the 2010 National Jamboree. This year the theme is the Centennial of Scouting in the US. On **Saturday, May 15th**, a Trivia Night will be held to raise funds for the travel and supplies associated with the trip (the trip itself is already paid for) and will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 12345 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO. Tickets are \$20 each, and tables will have 8 chairs. There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 drawing and attendance prizes. If you would like to attend, you can contact Derek Wolter at 636-634-6656.

WITNESSING—A LIFESTYLE SEMINAR

On **Saturday, May 15th**, Kay Meyer of Family Shield Ministries will present: *Witnessing—A Lifestyle* at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 9907 Sappington Rd, St Louis, from **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Participants will learn basic witnessing skills allowing them to share their faith in daily life interactions with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and the community. Kay will share her stories and those of others who told of God’s love to their families and many others. Each participant will receive a copy of Kay’s book as part of their registration fee. The presentation will touch on the four segments of Meyer’s book *Witnessing—A Lifestyle*. They include: *Witnessing Basics*, *Witnessing Begins At Home*, *Witnessing During Holidays*, and *Witnessing Through Schools, Congregations, and in the Communities*. To learn more or to register, contact 314.772.6070.



SUMMER ARTS CAMP

Peace Lutheran Church Music Ministry is sponsoring a Summer Arts Camp for children on **June 14-18 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** All children entering grade 4 through 8 for the 2010-2011 school year are welcome to attend. Registration forms are available in church office or by calling Sherry Bierwagen, Director of Music Ministry, Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road, 314-892-5610. Registration deadline is Tuesday, June 1, 2010. See the church bulletin board for more information.

THRIVENT NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

Attention all members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Your vote today can help raise vital funds for LCMS global ministries! As a member of Thrivent Financial you are eligible to vote to help Thrivent distribute \$1 million among 10 nationwide Lutheran and non-Lutheran charities. An additional bonus \$1 million will be included if more than 15% of Thrivent members participate.

LCMS World Mission and LCMS World Relief and Human Care are among the ministries selected to receive funds. The amount each charity receives is based on their total number of votes.

You have until May 21, 2010 to vote. Voting can be done online at Thrivent.com/choicevote or complete the reply card in the spring issue of *Thrivent* magazine. For more information, see the church bulletin board.

LUTHERAN SOUTH HOSTS MUSIC CONCERTS

The Music Department at Lutheran High School South announces their 2010 spring events. The community is invited to all performances and a free will offering will be taken. The events are:

Band Concert with Concert Band, Wind Symphony, and Junior Winds on Friday, May 7th at 7:30 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO.

“On Broadway,” a Choral Concert on Saturday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. at LHSS.

VITAE FOUNDATION’S ANNUAL ST. LOUIS SPRING PRO-LIFE BENEFIT DINNER

Vitae Foundation is hosting a Special Pro-Life Benefit Dinner to be held **Tuesday, May 18, 2010** at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac, 1335 South Lindbergh Blvd. The featured speaker is Tim Tebow, Heisman Trophy winner for 2007 and accomplished athlete. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$100 per person (\$50 is tax deductible). Seating is limited. To make a reservation, please call 800-393-5791. For more information about Vitae Foundation, please visit www.vitaecaringfoundation.org.