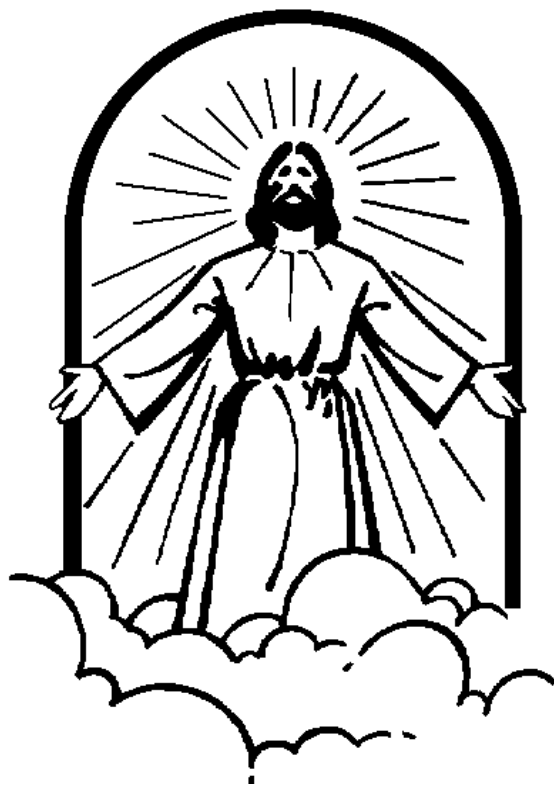


July 16, 2017



*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
*(clclutheran.org)*

*oS850 Wenmoth Road*  
*Batavia, Illinois 60510-9711*  
*(630) 879-9455*

ascensionbatavia.org – ascensionbatavia@gmail.com

Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – terrel\_k@yahoo.com  
650-933-7386

Organist: Peggy Kesterson

Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and His victory over death

## The 6th Sunday After Pentecost

*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*  
(Luke 9:23)

**VISITORS:** It is a blessing to have you join us for worship today. We want you to be aware that because God’s Word urges us to be instructed and agreed in faith before taking the Lord’s Supper together, we kindly ask those who are not in fellowship with the CLC to first meet with the pastor before coming to Communion. We want to share in this blessing with you and do so on the basis of a united understanding of Christ and His teachings. If you would like more information, the pastor would be happy to meet with you. You can read more about our practice of “Close Communion” in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entryway. Thank you for your understanding. *1 Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:18-29*

**PRESERVICE MEDITATION:** Psalm 86 (page 140 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

**HYMN 764** (Worship Supplement) *“God Of Grace And God Of Glory”*

The Order Of The Confessional Service, pages 46-48 (The Lutheran Hymnal)

**FIRST LESSON:** Exodus 3:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” <sup>4</sup> So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Moreover He said, “I *am* the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> So He said, “I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He

said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'"

PSALM OF THE DAY (*responsively*) – from Psalm 51

M: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;

C: ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF YOUR TENDER MERCIES, BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS.

M: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

C: FOR I ACKNOWLEDGE MY TRANSGRESSIONS, AND MY SIN IS ALWAYS BEFORE ME.

M: Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight –

C: THAT YOU MAY BE FOUND JUST WHEN YOU SPEAK, AND BLAMELESS WHEN YOU JUDGE.

M: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: MAKE ME HEAR JOY AND GLADNESS, THAT THE BONES YOU HAVE BROKEN MAY REJOICE.

M: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

C: O LORD, OPEN MY LIPS, AND MY MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH YOUR PRAISE.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 9:1-22 *rise*

<sup>1</sup> Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads." <sup>6</sup> So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." <sup>7</sup> And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. <sup>12</sup> And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." <sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." <sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who

appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. <sup>19</sup> So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup> Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

The Nicene Creed (page 5, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 32 (alternate tune: #473) (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven*"

SERMON: John 21:15-19

### **FOLLOW JESUS**

- 1. We often don't follow Jesus as we should**
- 2. Jesus forgives us and enables us to follow Him**

<sup>15</sup> **So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."** <sup>16</sup> **He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."** <sup>17</sup> **He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.** <sup>18</sup> **Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish."** <sup>19</sup> **This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."**

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 423 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (page 17, Worship Supplement)

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT – *Nunc Dimittis sung* (page 20, WS) Luke 2:29-32

THANKSGIVING (page 21, Worship Supplement) *sung* Luke 7:50; Psalm 100:2

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 416 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways*”

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WELCOME, VISITORS! We’re very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our USHER is Tyler Louderman. In our BIBLE STUDY we’re on Psalm 37:16.

FRIDAY: No North Aurora Care Center Bible study this week.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Glenn Libby. No Sunday School, Bible Study, North Aurora service, or Batavia Rehab Center service next Sunday.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday’s offering was \$881.00; attendance was 18.

CLC NEWS: Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has called Teacher Katie Naumann to teach grades 3-4 in its school. Teacher Ross Kok of St. John’s Lutheran School, Okabena, MN, has accepted the call to Holy Cross Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY PROGRAM: The 2016 CLC Convention approved the Partners in Ministry Program which is designed to link

active CLC called servants who have obligations to repay ILC Student Aid Fund loans with sponsors who agree to provide matching funds for payments on those loans. The donor and recipient would remain anonymous to each other. This program is now ready for implementation. There are about a dozen eligible account holders who will be contacted directly to see if they are interested in participating and would then need to fill out an application annually. While donors may get involved with this at any time, it would be helpful to have the initial slate of donors in place by August 15. Those interested in being donors or those who have questions may contact the ILC Business Manager, Jim Sandeen, 715-836-6622/jimsandeen@gmail.com.

CLC CONTRACTORS: Our ILC Facilities Manager is seeking contractors within the CLC willing to be on a list available to the Immanuel Maintenance

Department. The list could include contractors for roofing/building, electrical, plumbing, concrete, etc., who could be called upon for expertise or to submit bids on large projects to save money for Immanuel. Some of the work would require the contractor to be licensed and bonded. Those interested can contact Paul Heinze (715-456-7194/ilcmaintenance@ilc.edu).

NORTH HALL UPDATE AND CLEANING: The boys dormitory on the Immanuel campus, North Hall, is being updated this summer.

Parts of the solar heating system had to be removed in order to install a more efficient natural gas boiler system. New windows are also being installed. The project is progressing as planned. When it is finished, there will be a small window of opportunity to clean the

dormitory prior to the opening of the school year. Those willing to help with cleaning during the first two weeks of August are encouraged to contact the Facilities Manager, Paul Heinze (715-456-7194/ilcmaintenance@ilc.edu).

Let us be calmly confident in this case which has to do with God’s Word. Christ, whose cause it is, will staunchly defend and uphold it against the cunning of the vile devil and the tyranny of the wicked and deceitful world. For those who confess Him before this evil and adulterous generation must suffer much thereby. Christ in turn will confess them before His heavenly Father and requite them for their suffering with the delights of eternity (Matthew 10:32). God Himself says, 1 Samuel 2:30, “He who honors Me, I will honor.” Even if the waves of the sea are strong and huge billows rise up and roar furiously as though they would drown us, the Lord is still on high and has begun a kingdom as wide as the world which He now rules and has decreed that it shall endure. He is greater, yes, almighty, and He will accomplish it. Amen....

Therefore the only thing necessary for us to do is to believe and to pray most confidently in Christ’s name that God will give us strength, since He has erected His kingdom and this is His doing. It is He who without our help, counsel, thought, or effort has brought His kingdom forth and has advanced and preserved it to this day. I have no doubt that He will consummate it without our advice or assistance. Because “I know in whom I believe,” as St. Paul says (2 Timothy 1:12), I am certain that He will grant me more, do far more abundantly, and help and counsel us beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). He is called the Lord who can and will help in a wonderful, glorious, and mighty way, particularly when the need is the greatest. We are meant to be human beings, not divine. So let us take comfort in His Word and, trusting His promise, call upon Him confidently for deliverance in time of distress, and He will help. (Martin Luther)

#### ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH STRIVES TO BE:

A church which exists to proclaim, to preserve, and to spread the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A church which values faithfulness to the Word above any seeming organizational advantage.

A church which has but one Master, Christ, bowing to no human authority or tradition in any matter of faith.

A church which fosters Christian unity by combating error even while teaching the revealed truth of the Bible.

A church which gives priority to Christian education on all levels of age.

A church which respects your privacy in giving.

A church which refuses to become a political pressure group.

A church which motivates people to function in matters of social concern as individuals, each according to his or her judgment.

A church which seeks people in order to serve them.