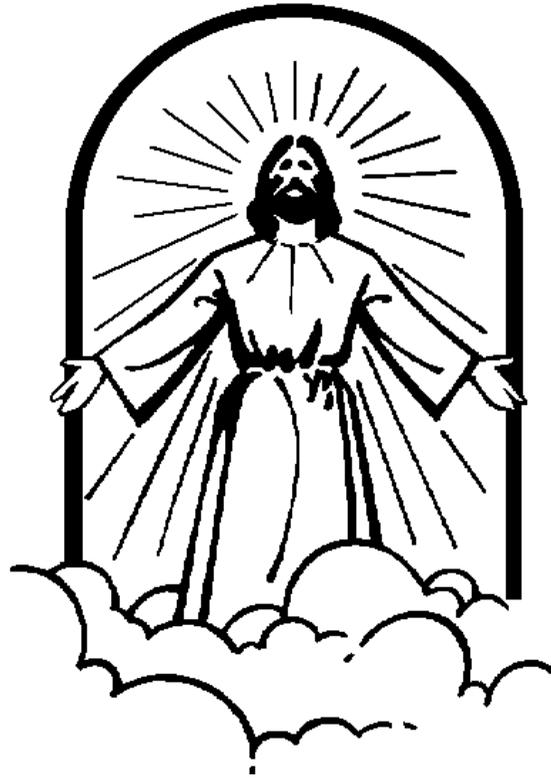


October 22, 2017



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 20th Sunday After Pentecost

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 119:XII-XIV (pages 150-151 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 262 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

Service Of Word And Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12, Worship Supplement)

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 3:4-14

⁴ If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the Church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 119:124ff.

M: Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes.

C: I AM YOUR SERVANT; GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING, THAT I MAY KNOW YOUR TESTIMONIES.

M: Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

C: THE ENTRANCE OF YOUR WORDS GIVES LIGHT; IT GIVES UNDERSTANDING TO THE SIMPLE.

M: Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name.

C: DIRECT MY STEPS BY YOUR WORD, AND LET NO INIQUITY HAVE DOMINION OVER ME.

M: Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts.

C: MAKE YOUR FACE SHINE UPON YOUR SERVANT, AND TEACH ME YOUR STATUTES.

M: Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments.

C: YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND YOUR LAW IS TRUTH.

SECOND LESSON: John 8:31-36 *rise*

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.

³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

The Apostles Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 296 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth*"

SERMON: Isaiah 37:31-32

GOD'S ZEAL FOR HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE

1. He makes us take root downward

2. He makes us bear fruit upward

³¹ And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. ³² For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and those who escape from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 477 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*Lord Jesus, Thou The Church's Head*"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 294 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*O Word Of God Incarnate*"

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 Rick Louderman. We have a VOTERS MEETING immediately following this morning's service. NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE:

3:00 PM; BATAVIA REHAB CENTER SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

THURSDAY: Adult instruction class at North Aurora Care Center: 10:00 AM.

FRIDAY: North Aurora Care Center Bible study: 10:00 AM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. NO BIBLE STUDY after church next Sunday.

There is a JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE at 3:00 PM at Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, Wisconsin.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday's offering was \$81.12 (needed each week:

\$1,200.00); attendance was 12. Our current General Fund

balance is +\$5,395.00.

CLC NEWS: Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dowagiac, MI, has

returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, to serve as co-pastor. Installation of Pastor Mark Weis as the new pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lemmon, SD, is planned for November 12 at 5:00 PM.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE VISITORS DAY is November 10th beginning at 10:05 AM in the ILC gymnasium for

chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 PM. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. We will attempt to provide lodging, if needed, Thursday or Friday nights for those attending College Visitor's Day and these visitors will be our guests at meals. (No special activity is planned for Thursday evening.) Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall musical: "Anne with an E." It will be performed both Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM. A band concert will precede it Friday night at 7:00 PM, and a variety of student musical performances on Saturday night at 7:00 PM. Please convey attendance information and any housing requests to Prof. John Ude, the ILC academic dean, by November 7th. Office: 715-836-6631, home: 715-600-6210, e-mail: john.ude@ilc.edu.

[God] gave us His Son, poured out His great treasure most generously and sank and drowned all our sins and filth in the vast sea of His great goodness so that the heart cannot but let this great love and blessing draw it to love in return and then be prepared willingly to fulfill the divine Commandments. Otherwise the heart cannot love; it must find that it has been loved first. One cannot love first. Therefore God comes, takes hold of the heart, and says: "Learn to know Me." – "Why, who are You?" – "I am Christ; I have plunged into your wretchedness, have drowned your sin in My righteousness." – This knowledge softens your heart. Therefore you cannot but turn to Him. In this way – when one learns what Christ is – love is taught. (Martin Luther)