



The Shiloh Informer

May
2016

Shiloh Lutheran Church
703 Lewisville-Vienna Rd/
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Lewisville, NC 27023

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Office Hours at Shiloh: Wednesday 9 am-12 noon

Thursdays 2-5 pm

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"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven' (Acts 1:6-11)."

Every year, 40 days after we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, the church celebrates another milestone in the life and ministry of Jesus- his Ascension. Always on a Thursday, this year the Ascension of our Lord falls on May 5. Throughout the season of Easter, the gospel readings always recount some of the events which the disciples witnessed after Jesus resurrection. The word "witness" carries with it a variety of different meanings and translations, all of which define our life of faith as the church.

Witnesses are, first off, *people who observe* any event of significance. At a baseball game, fans in the crowds serve as observers to what the players are doing on the field, but also experience the game through the atmosphere of excitement, the smell of hotdogs, and the sound of bat and ball echoing throughout the stadium.

We also think of witnesses as *people who testify to something*, particularly in a courtroom. Anyone who observes a crime, from murder to minor traffic accidents, can be called upon to recount what they see and hear so that those responsible for making judgment can hear an account of the truth which does not originate from someone with a vested interest in the outcome. Witnesses not only see or hear, but also testify and report what they have experienced.

Which brings us to a third way we understand "witness." Here, a witness can be *the testimony itself*, and not just the person who observed or reported what they saw. The stories we read in history books, scars on our bodies that represent past memories, the people who we see and immediately draw some deeper connection with- all of these things and people are themselves a witness to what was, what is, and what is to come. And so it is with the church: God's witness to the world of Jesus' Christ death, resurrection, and ascension.

That Jesus told those gathered on the Mount of Olives with him, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" shows the depth of the mission Jesus gives to his disciples, and to the church born on Pentecost. Jesus knew that we would all continue to *observe* works of wonder and grace and majesty throughout our journey with the risen Lord. Jesus knew that

we would *testify* to the things we see and experience, sharing the gospel of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension with all we encounter. But more than that, Jesus knew that we ourselves would be *living testimonies* to the entire world; a church joined together by the Holy Spirit, empowered to live and serve lives that are holy and set apart for the work and worship of God.

The angels who said to them, "why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" understood that though Jesus' human body is seated at the right hand of God, Jesus also had left his body to live in this world as the church. So we live and breathe to be the church; to witness ourselves God's continuing act of healing through Jesus, to testify to these things, and to embody God's testimony to the entire world. What are some of the ways you have witnessed Jesus being lifted up into heaven? How is God's mission for the world embodied in your daily lives?

Yours in Christ
Vicar Brandon Heavner

Prayer List: Calvin Dull, Leasa Cooper, Michael Dull, Joan Thompson, Paul Thompson, Joyce Wilson, Bill & Frances Lefler, Peggy Norris (she is staying with her daughter after being discharged again from the hospital), Debbie Kepley, Philip O'Toole, Maureen O'Toole (father and sister of Margaret Lualdi), Joe Youngblood, Dorinda Witty, Dr Claudia Huddleston

Items we are collecting for May

Lewisville Community Assistance Program (LCAP): Ranch dressing, canned chicken. A Donation Box for this project is located in the narthex. Thank you for your participation in this local community program

Operation Christmas Child (OCC): summer clothing: t-shirts, shorts, flip flops, outdoor games,(jump rope, jack rocks, marbles)



Pentecost Sunday, May 15

Christians celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The holiday falls 50 days after Easter Sunday

Our annual Pentecost luncheon will be held on May 15 following worship. Bring your favorite carry-in food and enjoy our birthday-of-the-church celebration. Be sure to wear Red, the color for the Day of Pentecost, the Coming of the Holy Spirit. Other Bright colors of orange or yellow if you do not have red are sometimes used.

You're invited to
Lunch Bunch!



Mark Your Calendars

June 12: The first outing for the Shiloh's "Lunch Bunch" following worship service will be the 2nd Sunday in June. The group will plan to go out to eat together at a nearby restaurant the 2nd Sunday each month except August. Look for upcoming information in the bulletin. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex with location of the first outing. Enjoy food & fellowship together and no cooking.

August 14: 239th Homecoming Celebration

A n n o u n c e m e n t s



**American
Red Cross**

Lewisville Community Churches American Red Cross Blood Drive

Unity Moravian Church will be the hosting Church for the Blood Drive on Saturday, May 14, from 9am-1:30 pm. The church is located at 8300 Concord Church Road. If you can help with providing any baked good items or volunteer, please contact Gayle Walker @ 336-945-9130 or Becky Norman, Unity Moravian: 336-403-1169

Reminder: Volunteers Needed

2016 NC Synod Assembly, June 3-4, 2016 at the Renaissance Suites Airport

Shiloh may send two members to represent the congregation. Let Vicar Brandon Heavner or Calvin Dull know if you would be able to attend. Additional information is available on the Synod website:
<http://www.nclutheran.org/about/assembly.php>

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, 2016 @ 8:00 am – 8:45 am
Jerry Long Family YMCA (Clemmons)
1150 S Peace Haven Rd
Clemmons, NC 27012

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The prayer gathering will be led by the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Chapter of West Forsyth High School, 336.712.2000

The **National Day of Prayer** is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". Each year since its inception, the president has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The constitutionality of the National Day of Prayer was unsuccessfully challenged in court by the Freedom From Religion Foundation after their first attempt was unanimously dismissed by a federal appellate court in April 2011.

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

"We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love." (1 John 4:16) "We love God because He first loved us." (1 John 4: 19)

Easter showed us just how much God, in Christ, does love us! In fact, the whole Bible is about God's love. *"His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again." (PoetAnnieJohnsonFlint)*

loves us unconditionally. No matter how much we "mess up", Christ loves us anyway. We can't earn our salvation because Jesus has already paid for our sins. But we can thank Him by loving others and helping them know His love!

A sign in a church yard reads, "Receive love. Give love. Repeat". Giving love to others can be challenging in some situations, but it's possible because of the love God has first given to us. Real love is helping others for Jesus' sake—even if they can never return the favor.

Christ's love has no bounds, and our love for others should have none either—just "Receive love. Give love. Repeat!"

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

Nepal One Year Later

Renuka Shrestha recalled the moment when the earthquake hit her Nepali village: "I was reading a book. Suddenly everything was shaking and I was so afraid. I tried to escape, but my home was gone and there was nowhere really to go. It was such a difficult a time. I cried a lot with my family. Even though we were together, we couldn't do anything, we didn't know what to do." Ever since the earthquake on April 25, 2015, the strongest in recent memory at magnitude 7.8, life is different—even as relief and rebuilding continues in this impoverished country.

More than 8,460 were killed and 480,000 homes destroyed, many in remote areas of the country. ELCA partners in Nepal—the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief and the United Mission to Nepal—reached out after the disaster to care for those affected, providing temporary shelter and emergency food assistance to more than 30,000 individuals. Gifts from ELCA members and congregations to Lutheran Disaster Response helped fund some of this work.

One year later, we continue to walk alongside those impacted by the earthquake. Together with our partners, we are planning to rebuild damaged or destroyed homes, schools, water and sanitation structures, provide training, seed and farming tool distribution, grants and loans to self-help groups, and more – all empowering communities and meeting critical livelihood needs. But we still need you. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to helping communities in Nepal be resilient to future disasters. Your gifts are still needed to help continue to serve those most impacted. Your gifts designated for the "Nepal Area Earthquake" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted until this response is complete. Gifts from people like you made it possible for the church to respond – bringing help, hope and healing to our Nepal neighbors in their time of need. Please continue to pray for those affected in Nepal as they continue to not only rebuild their homes but their lives as well.

Give through your congregation or send directly to Lutheran Disaster Response International and send it to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 write "Nepal Area Earthquake" or "Where Needed Most" on your check's memo line.

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Augsburg Lutheran office: [336-722-8144](tel:336-722-8144)

Vicar Brandon Heavner

Email: shilohlutheran@gmail.com

Cell #:1-980-429-6275

Office Hours: Monday & Friday at Augsburg.

Tuesday: off, but available in the event of an emergency.

Wednesday morning (9-12) in the office at Shiloh, visitation for the afternoon

Thursday: morning visitation & afternoon office at Shiloh 2-5pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday School: 09:15 am

Worship Service:10:45 am

**May
2016**

May 15: Pentecost Sunday
Cover-dish Lunch in
Fellowship Hall following
Worship Service



The Shiloh Informer

is distributed the first Sunday of every month. Information is due the **20th** of each month

Announcements for each Sunday's bulletin is due by **4 pm Thursdays**

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