



The Good News of Christ's Ascension:

Jesus has Re-Claimed His Throne!

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

*A hymn of glory let us sing; new songs throughout the world shall ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, ascendeth to the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand.
Alleluia! Alleluia! And with His followers they seem Jesus' resplendent majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*To whom the angels drawing nigh: "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia! Alleluia! "This is the Savior," thus they say;
"This is His noble triumph-day." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*"Again shall ye behold Him so, as ye today have seen Him go,"
Alleluia! Alleluia! "in glorious pomp ascending high,
up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Be Thou our Joy and Strong Defense, who art our future Recompense.
Alleluia! Alleluia! So shall the light that springs from Thee
be ours through all eternity. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to Thee let earth accord,
Alleluia! Alleluia! who art, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Thursday, May 21st was the glorious festival of our Lord and Savior Jesus' Ascension. Unfortunately, in many congregations, this glorious day has been abandoned and sadly forgotten by many in Christianity. My hope is to bring back the celebration of Christ's Ascension to St. John's because it is just as important as His virgin birth, the crucifixion and resurrection. We do confess Christ's Ascension weekly when we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. When we ignore the Ascension of Christ, we lose a great amount of joy we have as Christians and the peace we can carry daily in our lives. (continues on page 2)

Article continued...

At the beginning of this article, I have provided the lyrics to the great Ascension hymn, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!". It was originally a Latin hymn that is attributed to author Venerable Bede (673-735) in the eighth century. What a great blessing for us and for many others that this wonderful hymn was finally translated from Latin into English by Benjamin Webb in 1854 and is published in the Lutheran Book of Worship, (the green hymnal) hymn number 157. Bede, the original author of this hymn, wrote the entire hymn based of Saint Luke's account of Christ's Ascension in Acts, chapter one.

In this glorious hymn, Christians through the entire history of Christianity have sung this hymn, celebrating Christ's Ascension. Jesus Christ truly God and truly man has reclaimed his heavenly throne. This is wonderful news for us as Christians because it reminds us, that even in the most troubling of times we have in this life, Jesus Christ is truly the King of Kings and is in control of everything. Not only is Jesus Christ in control of everything good news, but even better news is knowing that the eternal King of heaven and earth loves you. In your baptism, He has forgiven all of your sin, has claimed as His very own and has given you the Holy Spirit so that you are never an orphan in this world even when life is at its worst.

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!" is a hymn that reminds us that our ascended Lord and Savior Jesus is still with us today. He hears us when we pray, He is truly with us in His Word in Holy Scripture when read or preached and is truly bodily present, strengthening our Souls when we eat His body and drink His blood when we receive His Holy Supper . Finally, He will be with us when we die, when He returns and reunites our body and soul in the resurrection. We will be with Him for all eternity where there will be no more Covid-19, no more politicians, no more quarantines and no more death.

Christ Jesus has Ascended into Heaven, is seated on His throne and what a wonderful day it will be when He comes again. Come Lord Jesus!! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Peace to you in Christ,
Pastor Ben Hollingsead

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – LCMC

Church Council Minutes

Date : 4/20/2020

Present : Vickey Nelson, Harvey Berg (in for Roxann Berg), Derek Fitcher, Pastor Ben, Jim Johnson, Bethany Hardy, Nicole Anderson, Linda Welch, Hal Satter, Patha Vue

Absent: Sue Lein, Paul Dahlstrom

Meeting held via Skype & called to order at 7:02 PM by Linda Welch.

- Pastor Ben opened with prayer and devotion.

- **Minutes Approved**

- Nicole Anderson motioned to approve the minutes from 3/23/20, Harvey Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Financial Report**

- March 2020 Financial Report Reviewed

- **Pastor's Report**

- Have some coming in for one on one communion.

- Facebook videos are getting many views and are being well received.

- Feeling hopeful that after this pandemic we are able to grow as a congregation after being away from each other.

- Barb Mudrick recently passed away and there will be a private burial this weekend.

Church Council Minutes Continued...

New Business

• Finances

- Discussion regarding our current financial situation and staffing.
- Derek Fitcher motion to eliminate the office secretary position until we are financially able to afford the position effective 4/24/2020, Vickey Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Presently no need to change Pastor Ben's salary.

• Update on Vanco

- Pastor Ben provided the council with some details regarding Vanco. This should be up and running later this week.

• Update on Payment Protection Program

- The money for the program ran out before our application was processed. It sounds like there should be more funding coming. Derek is looking into if we need to do anything to get in line if more money becomes available.

• • North Branch Schools

- North Branch is asking if they need to pay us for April and possibly May.
- Derek motion to accept North Branch Schools' request not to invoice April rent and May if necessary, Hal Satter seconded.
- Discussed that in the future, the tithed 10% of North Branch Schools rent will be sent to Little Angel preschool monthly rather than in one lump sum.

Nicole Anderson motioned to adjourn at 8:20 pm, Jim Johnson seconded, motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by, Bethany Hardy, Council Secretary

St John's Lutheran Church Financial Report

April 2020

Budget Offerings (4 Sundays)	\$14,071.76
Actual Offerings Received	\$16,463.00
<i>Offering Budget Overage</i>	<u>\$2,391.24</u>
Office Expense	\$599.00
Phone	\$80.00
Postage	\$4.00
Insurance-Bldg-Liability	\$1,799.00
Pastor Disc. Exp.	\$300.00
Worship&Music Flowers	\$30.00
Advertising/Evangelism	\$22.00
Computer Operations	\$125.00
Payroll Service Fee's	\$29.00
Administrative Expenses	\$2,988.00
Excel Electric	\$516.00
Gas	\$526.00
City Water & Trash	\$203.00
Building Repair&Maint.	\$135.00
Building Expenses	\$1,380.00
Employee Salaries	\$10,188.00
Visiting Pastors	\$0.00
Work comp Ins	\$308.00
Total Salaries	\$10,496.00
Christiain Outreach	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$14,864.00
End of Month Total	\$1,599.00
(offerings minus expenses)	
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Check Book Balance	\$83,742.00
Liabilities	\$0.00
Actual Cash Balance	\$83,742.00
Dedicated accounts balance:	\$92,628.00
Church Account Balance:	(\$8,886.00)
North Branch School Rental bal- ance:	\$8,100.00
General Offering Balance: Year to Date:	(\$4,816.00)

If you have any question regarding this report, please call
Patha Vue Treasurer at (651) 313-3165

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

We are proud to congratulate St. John's members

Paul Dahlstrom (Chisago Lakes), Tonya Tyler (North Branch) & Jules Horsfall (North Branch) who are part of the high school graduating class of 2020. We are proud of your accomplishments and pray our God's blessings to be upon you in your next chapter of life!

Welcome Lisa!

We are happy to welcome Lisa Loso (member of St. John's) as our new Office Secretary.

She will be in the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM .

◆ *Class of 2020*

◆ *Financial Report*

◆ *Council Minutes*

◆ *Pastor's Article*

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