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**Whoever you are...However you come...You are welcome here!**

**The Journ-E** (our weekly email newsletter)

May 5, 2017

This issue:

[\*\*Birthdays & Anniversaries\*\*](#)

[\*\*Bible Studies & Groups\*\*](#)

[\*\*Until Next Week\*\*](#)

Check out our Facebook page,

YouTube page, and Photobucket page



Online Giving

## Calendar

You can always check our calendar on the [website](#)

### This Week at Journey

#### Sunday (May 7)

8:00am Worship Service  
9:00am Fellowship  
9:00am Sunday School  
9:20am Choir Practice  
9:30am Altar Guild Meeting  
10:15am Worship Service  
6:00pm Youth Meeting

#### Monday (May 8)

7:00pm NA Meeting

#### Tuesday (May 9)

Journey hosts Pastor Spring Conference  
6:30pm Women's Bible Study

#### Wednesday (May 10)

10:00am Yoga Class  
6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation Class  
6:00pm Worship Band  
7:00pm NA Meeting

#### Thursday (May 11)

7:00pm AA Meeting  
7:30pm Theology On Tap

## Pastor's Page

It's May! At long last, after an apparently endless winter and unpredictable spring! We just had snow on the first of May! But anyway, May is finally here. When May is here, I am personally happy because it is a month with of promises, celebrations, graduations and so on. In May, the summer is coming soon, promising warm days and sunny skies which I dearly missed! For many it is the time for family, planning time for vacation, and a school break. Mothers' Day is always falling in May. It is a day that we are looking forward to thank God for our mothers.

Looking ahead, as I mentioned above, this month of May is the graduation month. Congratulations to the graduates as their efforts and works have been paid off. As parents, families, friends, we thank God for the graduates this years.

Congratulations to Emma Holman, Brennan Johnson, Natalie Oliver, Ruthann Paulson, Devin Schroeder and Benjamin Storlie. My prayers are with you wherever you will be.

Finally, congratulation to Terry Aakre for the birth of her grandson, Edison. I am highlighting all of these milestones in our lives to thank God for the many gifts we receive in our life every day. We celebrate every day as a gift from God and we are thankful for the significant events that happen in our life as our milestone because we know that "...every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father o flights..." James 1: 17 (NRSV). Congratulation to Tom and Deb Stowers for the baptism of their seventh grandchildren, Abraham.

Please share with me any milestone that happen in your life as a member of the Journey family.

God's blessings to all,  
Peace!

**Graduates**— We will be recognizing our High School Graduates during our 9:30am **Worship Service on June 4th**.

If you have a family member, in addition to our high schoolers, who is graduating with a degree of any kind, please let us know so they can also be included. We

would also like to include pictures and a description of future plans of all our Grads in the Journ-E and are asking that the **pictures be sent by email to the Journey Office by May 29th**. This is an exciting time in the lives of our young adults and truly a time to celebrate.



**Looking Ahead:** Sunday, May 14th, has been designated as Youth Sunday where the Youth of the congregation will take a major role in the Worship Service. There will be **one Worship Service that day at 9:30am** followed by Fellowship.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries for next week

\*if we are missing yours or have wrong information please be sure to let us know

### Birthdays

May 8 Adelaide Renkas  
 May 9 David Riley  
 May 10 Bradley Ruosch Jr  
 May 11 Greg Flogstad  
 May 13 Ellen Helgeson  
 May 13 Samantha Renkas

### Anniversary

May 7 Don & Sandra Nelson  
 May 10 Ron & Kelly Phillips  
 May 13 Anna & Charles Olson



On Sunday, May 7th, the member of the **Altar Guild** are asked to meet in the Conference room between Services at 9:30am. If you are not currently a member of this Team but would like to learn more about it, please plan to attend this meeting also!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for SYNOD ASSEMBLY

How would you like to spend time with a great group of people who share your Christian beliefs?

We are in need of volunteers for our Synod Assembly, June 9-11 which is being held in La Crosse this year. Volunteers play an important role in making the Assembly run smoothly, starting with registration on Friday evening and throughout the Saturday and Sunday sessions. This a great opportunity to meet members and clergy from other ELCA congregations in our synod, participate in worship and prayer throughout the three days, and feel the satisfaction of helping the mission of our church. To volunteer or to learn more contact Betty Sacia at (608) 526-3506 or via e-mail: [brsacia@yahoo.com](mailto:brsacia@yahoo.com).

A reminder to our **Youth members** that we will be meeting this **Sun, May 7th**, to finish organizing the details for the Youth Sunday Worship Service that will be held May 14th.



## PRAYERS for MINISTRIES of Pastors, Congregations and Synods

~St John Lutheran in Alma  
 ~Lewis Valley Lutheran & Interim Pr Kris Fahey  
 ~Trinity Lutheran-Cashton & Pr Amanda Schultz  
 ~St Paul Evangelical Lutheran & Pr Joel Oines  
 ~Bethel Lutheran-La Crosse & Interim Pr Duane Baardseth  
 ~Northwestern Minnesota Synod  
 ~South Carolina Synod

## Bible Studies & Small Groups

**Koinonia** -- A new monthly **Breakfast Bible Study**. Everyone is welcome and we meet at 8am...breakfast is included! **The next meeting is May 20th.**



**Theology on Tap** Monthly men's gathering on the second Thursday of the month at Two Beagles Brew Pub at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be **May 11th**

**The Theology Uncorked** Monthly community women's gathering meet at the Holmen American Legion on the last Tuesday of each month.

**Caring Blankets** Group meets the first and third Tuesdays at 1:00pm to make blankets to share. Their next meeting will be **May 16th**

**Women's Bible Study** meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Their next meeting will be **May 9th.**

**Confirmation Class**— Our 8th Confirmation Group meets at 6pm on Wednesday.

**Chair Yoga Class for Adults 55+** each Wednesdays @10am in the Fellowship Hall at Journey.

**Youth Group**—At the next Youth Night we will be on **Sun, May 7th 6-8pm**

## Volunteers Are Great!

**Thank you** to our many volunteers that donate time and talents each week. This week our scheduled volunteers are:

**Altar Guild**—Cindy Lipke, Mary Tauer

**Reader**— Nancy Haese, Samantha Renkas

**Fellowship Treats**—Linda Head, Brent & Kathy Helgeson, John & Meredith Hink, Jerry & Diane Hoch

**Cleaners**—John & Rosemary Burnett, Jon Lindgren

**Offering Counters**— Leah Wisnewski, Cindy Lipke, Karen Latsch

## Worship Attendance Trends

Apr 2...130 Apr 5....76  
 Apr 9.....132  
 Apr 16....292  
 Apr 23.....97  
 Apr 30....149

## Journey Offering Report

	General Offering	Missions	Maintenance	Other	Journey Forward
April 2	\$5,039.00	\$85.00	\$105.00	\$119.77	\$27.00
April 9	\$5,113.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	\$3,656.00	\$387.00
April 16	\$4,287.98	\$5.00	\$45.00	\$2,187.05	\$47.00
April 23	\$3,505.00	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$213.26	\$67.00
April 30	<u>\$1,972.00</u>	\$10.00	\$65.00	\$106.92	\$27.00
	<b>\$19,916.98</b>				

Each month \$17,560 is needed from our general offering to meet our budgetary needs from weekly offerings. **BIG THANKS to all of us. We met the budget for the month of April. Let's continue to do the same for the remaining months.** If you would like a copy of the financial reports each month, please contact the Journey Office.

# *Understanding the Bethlehem of Today*

**50 Years of Occupation...**

**50 Years Too Long!**

**Please join us for a program explaining the plight and possibilities of the Palestinian people in Bethlehem.**

**Presented by**

**Rev. Bonnie Van Overbeke and Nancy Baumgardner,  
frequent travelers to, experts on the area and  
representatives of the**

**Bright Stars of Bethlehem**



**sponsored by**

**Interfaith Partners for Peace and Justice in Palestine/Israel**

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**

**6:00 P.M. to 8:00 PM**

**English Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall**

**1509 King Street, La Crosse, WI**

**People of All Faiths Are Welcome**

**For additional information please call:**

**608-788-4346**

**608-785-1440**

**A complimentary sampling of  
Palestinian appetizers  
will be available**



# GOD for



## Bible Background for the coming Sunday Acts 8:26-39

**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading. Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts those from every nation who fear him and do what is right." —Acts 10:34-35

**Read:** Here are a couple of questions for your daily readings: Filling in the gaps. A question to ask as you read: After his conversion, Paul becomes a powerful man of God. What kind of example are you setting?

Sunday Acts 8:26-39 Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian

Monday Acts 9:1-19 Saul becomes Paul

Tuesday Acts 9:20-31 Sight and Vision Restored

Wednesday Acts 9:36-43 Paul heals Tabitha

Thursday Acts 10:34-48 God Includes All

Friday Acts 11:19-30 Good News in Antioch

Saturday Acts 12:6-19 Peter's Prison Break

Sunday Acts 15:1-18 The First Church Council

**Connect:** Take a moment to check in with each other or to use the questions below.

~ Highs and Lows: Think about a time when someone gave you a different perspective. How did you change your thinking? In what area in your life might you need to change your mind or heart about?

~ Thinking About This Week's Story: In this week's reading, Peter is set free from prison and tells everyone about his miraculous experience. What has God "freed" you from that you could tell to inspire others?

~ Getting ready for Next Week's Story: In next weeks scripture, Lydia sets an ex-ample to others by being baptized, and others follow suit.

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

Creator of all, open our hearts and minds to things we are blind to. Give us the courage and openness to be willing to change—all to your glory! Amen.

## Until Next Week

This week marks the end of the Confirmation class. We had a nice outdoor party. The students are now in recess until the Fall season, except for the graduating class (8th grade).

During the summer period, since we don't have confirmation class, and the usual combined midweek service of the three ELCA churches are not going to happen, how about taking the ownership of the midweek service?

Let's have the midweek service during the summer for Journey! Share with me your thoughts on what do you want to have? I don't know about mosquitoes in the area, but it could be a good thing to have an outdoor service.



**Whoever you are...however you come...you are welcome here!**  
**Join us for worship at 8:00 am and 10:15 am on Sundays**