



2021



The Mountain Top

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI APRIL 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Mar. 28 th John Good Friday Apr. 2 nd Scott Easter Sunday Apr. 4th 7:00am Andy 9:00am Darryl (10:30am? John) Sun. April 11 Randy Sun. April 18 John Sun. April 25 Doug Sun. May 2 Andy		Maundy Thursday Apr. 1st Doug Please contact the office for which Easter service you would like to attend, 7am or 9am. We will have a 10:30am if the other two fill.				
Easter will be the last drive-up communion. If you still feel uncomfortable attending services and would like communion, please contact the office to schedule a one-on-one with Pastor.			31 No service	1 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm	2 Good Friday 6:30pm	3
4 EASTER 7:00am 9:00am 10:30am? Services 2pm LGP 11:30 Drive-up Communion	5 OFFICES CLOSED	6	7 Live-stream Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm	8 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	9	10
11 9:00am Service	12	12	14 Live-stream Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm	15 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	16	17
18 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	19	20	21 Live-stream Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm	22 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	23	24
25 9:00am Service	26	27	28 Live-stream Evening Prayer Service 6:30pm	29 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	30	

April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims! Now that I have your full attention, welcome to April. Spring is trying to spring, at least the snow is gone, when I wrote this. I am ready for it. I am anxious to get outside and enjoys God's creation here in the North-land. So, as we start winding up to enjoy our break from snow and cold, what kind of plans do you have? I sometimes get a little carried away when it comes to making plans. I have so many things I would like to do, I want to do. I have enough projects in the wings to probably hold me for several life-times. Which ones to choose, where are my priorities. In recent years I have come to realize that I probably will never complete all of the projects that I have lined up! So now comes the necessary task of choosing which ones to keep and which ones to let go of? While I was trying to accomplish this necessary evil I began to realize that rather than narrow the list I began to procrastinate. Now I know those of you that know me are saying what? You procrastinate? How can that be? Well, it's true. And in my procrastination, I realized instead of getting done what I might have time to get done, I wasn't getting anything done. There comes a point in our lives when we have to decide. So, now you are probably asking yourselves, what in the world is he talking about and where is he going? I am now going to take that leap of faith and share that with you if you haven't guessed already. Just as I sometimes procrastinate with my projects and hobbies, some people do the same thing with their faith. I should go to church on Sunday, well, Sunday is the only day I can really sleep in, I will go on Wednesday. Oh, is it Wednesday already? I will go on Sunday, oh, is tomorrow Sunday already, I told Jim I would go fishing with him, I will go on Wednesday. Is it Wednesday, drat, I told Bob I would shoot darts for him tonight, I will try for Sunday, and so on and so on. Its easy to skip church, nobody is really keeping track, I won't get a truancy notice from the church, I will just go when I have the chance. The first Sunday or two or maybe 3 that you miss, you feel a little guilty, then as time goes on, the guilt slips to the back of your memory and then it turns into the idea that you may be a little embarrassed when you go back, all those people saying; "Hey, good to see you,



April
 Jule Jarvela
 715-682-0385
 Janet Houle
 715-682-2387



where you been?" or the snide little "Oh, are you a member?" I don't want to go and face that. I will wait until Christmas or Easter, then no one will notice me in the crowd. What I am trying to convey is that we all at times can be accused of procrastination. And that's ok, that just means we are human, but the point I am trying to make is that we should never, to the best of our abilities procrastinate when it comes to our faith. I will be the first to admit, it does happen. It happens to me on an almost daily basis. One example in is my daily prayer life, prayer is such a simple thing to put off, life gets busy, the phone rings, or that text, or snap, or instant message appears and the prayer that we were about to dive into gets pushed aside, oh, we have every intention of going back to it, but guess what, one thing leads to another and pretty soon, it's forgotten. Same thing happens with our study of God's Holy Word. I have been posting a chapter a day online to assist in people's study of the Word. I put it out there every morning at 8:00 a.m. it's there for you to listen to and to follow along. But guess what, sometimes finding that 15 minutes is too much, we resign ourselves to saying oh, I'll watch two tomorrow, better make that three the next day, oh heck I am going to binge watch the week. It is so easy to put aside. Heck, I do it. Twice in the last month, I forgot to post the reading on time. I have 24 hours to get the next post ready and I missed it twice. So with all that being said, the whole point of this dissertation is to encourage you to develop a habit. Take 5 minutes a day and devote it to prayer, take 15 minutes a day, devote it to spending time in God's Word. Take 60 minutes a week, devote it to church and fellowship with people of like mind. There is nothing that you can do in your life that will have a better return for your investment, I guarantee that eternally.



I would also like to take a moment to ask you to please take a look at the letter from President Harrison regarding the Equality Bill (HR-5) that has passed the House and is now under consideration in the Senate. This bill could have far reaching implication in our lives as disciples of Christ and how we interact in this world. So please take a moment to read it and if you have any questions please see me and look at some of the resources provided at the end of his letter.

Acts 5:29b: "We must obey God rather than men."

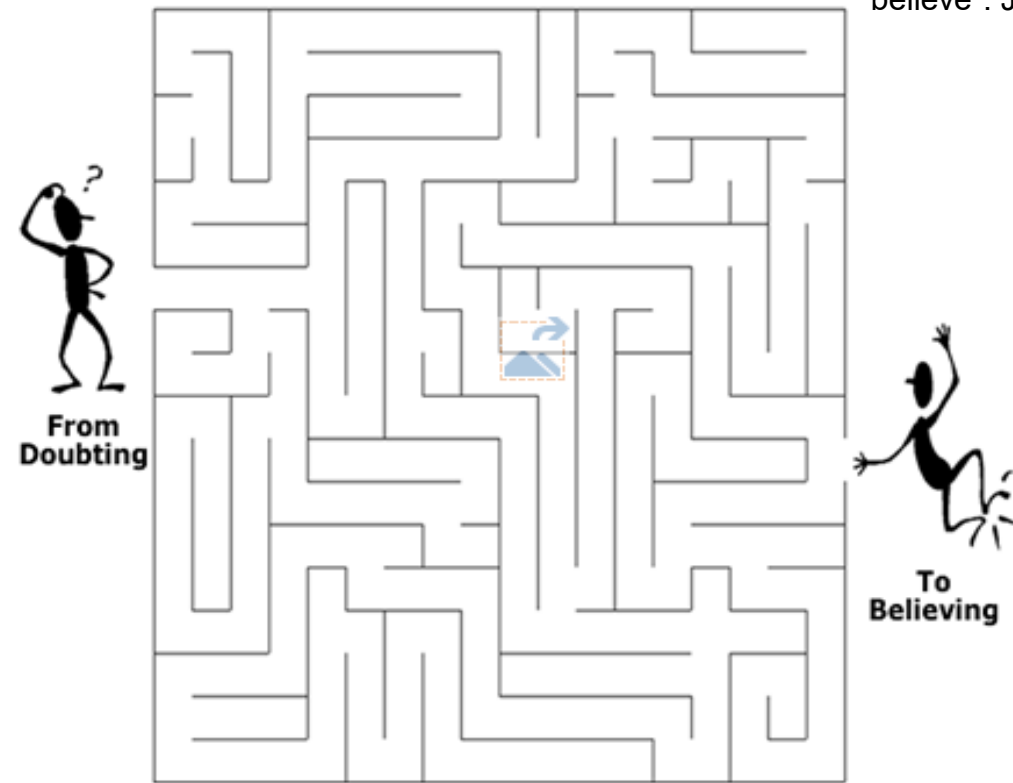
I pray you all have a truly wonderful Spring; I look forward to seeing you all of you both in the here and now and in eternity. God Bless!

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face smile upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick

Stop Doubting and Believe

Maze



Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop doubting and believe". John 20:27

- Riddles**
1. A Shadow
 2. A Glove
 3. A Snow Flake
 4. The Letter "M"
 5. Words
 6. The Horizon
 7. Penny
 8. Needle
 9. Your age
 10. A tree



It's April

It's April and once more I see
 New leaf and bud on greening tree,
 The flowers rising from the sod
 And opening petaled eyes to God;
 Again, the earth is sparkling clean
 And dressed in Springtime's apple-green.

It's April and once more I hear
 The robin's trill so sweet and clear,
 The brooks' and streamlets' merry song
 As freed from ice they roll along;
 Again, young bleating lambs at play
 Are heard in meadows 'cross the way.

It's April and once more I know
 The warmth that comes from Springtime's glow,
 The hope that's in my heart reborn
 With every shining April morn;
 Again, I know God's promise true...
 To all things He gives life anew!

Beverly J. Anderson

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
 Wednesday Evening Lent Service 6:30pm in-church and live streamed
 Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons
 Bible Studies—currently cancelled.
 Daily Scripture Reading

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M/T/TH 8:30-4:30 W 12-8 F Off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30

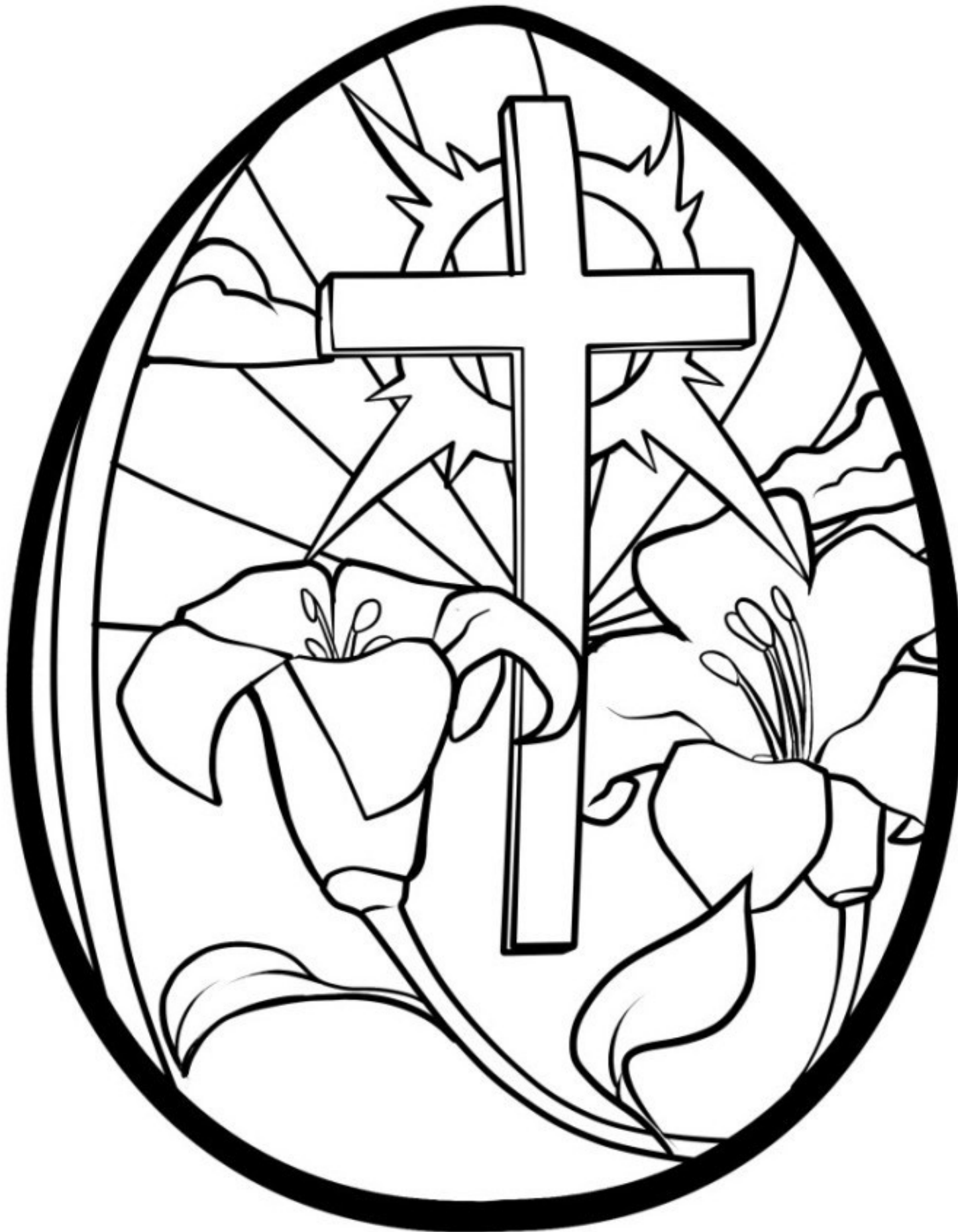
Days and times may change upon need of work.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com **Facebook**



PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

*Walt Schutte
 Arlene Zimmerman
 Violet Basina
 Madge Houle
 Nancy Zehe*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

*David Wright
 Jordan Thimm
 Andrew Pruss*



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Bob Heggie	Alice Balmer
Brad Prill	Mary Siefers
Angie Guski	Penny Larson
Francis Balmer	David Gustafson
LeAnn Billing	Vi Basina
James Fletcher	Andrea Gunderson
Dave Pearson	Colton Ledin
Lynda Koppelman	Brett Everman
Walt Schutte	John Schutte
Cheryl Hildebrandt	Nancy Beiersdorff
Bud Weston	

and those in our hearts

Dear God, our hearts are burdened for our friends who are hurting right now. We ask that you would be their comforter, that you would cover them with your infinite **grace** and mercy, surrounding them in peace during this dark season. We pray for fresh grace, for renewed **strength**, for your goodness and mercy over their lives today.

Thank you God that you are with us always, that your presence is mighty, and you hear our prayers on behalf of those we **love**. We ask that you would show yourself strong on their behalf. Remind them that nothing is too difficult for you, and you are leading them through this difficult time, covering them in your care. We know and believe beyond any doubt, that your power and love will never fail. Amen.

Amen!



Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Begin with God He Gives Strength

In the Word

To whom can we turn for strength?

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

Of the Word

Physical strength is a powerful thing — just look at a football player or a weightlifter! All over this country people are spending money and hours in fitness centers to improve their strength. Physical strength is necessary; without it we couldn't walk across a room.

But where does the strength come from to sustain us when our heart and mind and soul are crying out in weakness? When we feel fearful and know that we can't do it on our own, God speaks to us.

"I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Is. 41:10b).

When we face temptation we are reminded of God's promises.

... the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

When life just seems too much to bear, we can step boldly, knowing that God is always there. We can proclaim along with King David, *"It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect" (2 Samuel 22:33).*

Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, be my Strength and Refuge. May I always depend on You to help me be spiritually strong even when I am physically weak. I know You are steadfast and I thank You for Your promise of strength to overcome the evil one. Make me strong to do Your work. In Jesus' name. Amen.



MEXICAN STRAWBERRY WATER

- 4 cups strawberries, sliced
- 8 cups cold water
- 8 fresh mint sprigs (Optional)
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 lime, cut into 8 wedges -opt.

Step 1

In a medium bowl, mix together sliced strawberries, sugar, and 1 cup of water. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for 4 hours.

Step 2

Remove the strawberry mixture from the refrigerator and pour into a blender. Blend on high until smooth. Pour the blended berry mixture through a wire mesh strainer set over a large mixing bowl; discard the pulp and seeds.

Step 3

Add the remaining 7 cups cold water to the pureed strawberries and mix well. Place the Aqua de Fresa in the refrigerator to chill for several hours or pour over ice and serve immediately. Garnish with lime slices or mint leaves.

2021 GRADUATES


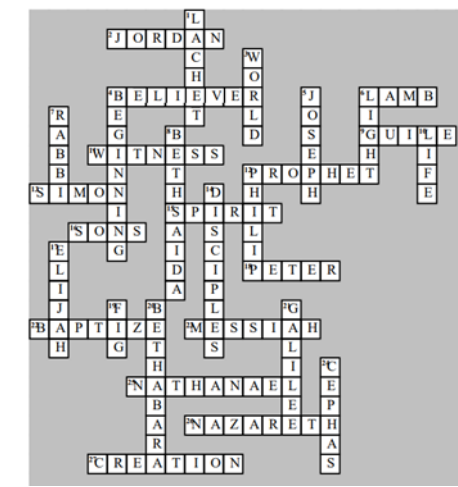
The office needs names of those who are graduating this year from High School, College or Tech School. Please include, names, parents' names, what you will be doing after graduation (going to a college with what goal in mind, found a job, waiting for the right job, etc.) You can e-mail (secretary@zionlutheranashland.com), call the office or leave a message. I will include them in the May and/or June Newsletters.



RIDDLE TIME

1. I can only live where there is light, but I die if the light shines on me. What am I?
2. What has four fingers and a thumb, but is not living?
3. What flies when it's born, lies when it's alive, and runs when it's dead?
4. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
5. Hurt without moving. Poison without touching. Bear the truth and the lies. Are not to be judged by our size. What are we?
6. I'm always there, some distance away. Somewhere between land or sea and sky I lay. You may move towards me, yet distant I stay.
7. What has a tail, a head, is brown, but not legs.
8. I have a single eye, but cannot see.
9. What goes up, but never down.
10. What has bark, but not bite

The Altar Guild would like to invite anyone interested in being in the Guild. People are assigned with one or two others, one month each year to provide care of our Altar. Contact the office or Jule Jarvela with questions or interest. It would be greatly appreciated!!!

Mountain Miracle

My husband, four children and our four dogs went for a long weekend trip to a chalet in the North Carolina mountains. On the second day there we decided to take the dogs and go for a drive and then for a hike in the mountains. We checked and double checked to make sure the chalet was locked and everyone loaded up while my husband proceeded to lock and close the door. Just as he pulled it shut he said “you have the keys, right?”. Panic washed over me. Of course I didn’t have the keys, he was the one locking up. Now here we were, all 10 of us, the kids, the dogs, my husband and myself stranded and locked out. And boy were we locked out. This place was sealed tighter than a drum! And remember, we had doubly checked to insure that every door was locked. Everyone started running around and trying to find way in. Perhaps a window or something could get us back into the house. Well, every window was not only locked securely but also had decorative bars on them. After running around thinking every mean thought that I could about how this was all my husband’s fault, and asking God how HE could have possibly allowed this to happen (He always gets the blame for our carelessness) it finally crossed my mind to pray. So I did. Halfhearted to begin with, you know the type. “Please help us Lord. We just wanted a nice peaceful day with the family and then this happened. Please help us to get back in the house.” Kind of a whiny prayer. But at least I was praying. Well, it worked, because the Lord spoke. Here is what He said, “All things are possible to those who believe.” I had just walked into an area at the back of the house that had a garage area that served as a shed. Inside the garage area was the back entrance of the house which I myself had checked to make sure it was locked. God then told me to go over to the door which everyone had already tried over and over again. He instructed me to put my hand on the door and pray Mark 11:24 which says that “whatever we ask in prayer, if we believe when we ask, we will receive it.” So, I put my hand on the door knob, took a deep breath, asked God to help my unbelief, and prayed Mark 11:24. As soon as the words came from my lips, the doorknob I was holding turned and the door opened without me making any effort of my own. All I had done was pray and the door opened on its own. Needless to say I began screaming hysterically out of sheer awe of what had just transpired. The kids thought I had seen a snake and there’s no telling what my husband thought. But once everyone got to me I shared with them what had happened and how God had shown me that if we only trust Him that He will take care of our every need. They were all excited, except for my little doubting thomas hubby. He was very glad we had access to the house and loved the “spiritual moment” but just had to “check out that doorknob”. So he decided to test it. By this time the outside garage door had been pulled down. My husband opened the back door and stepped down into the garage. He locked the door behind him and then proceeded to try to maneuver the locked door to open to no avail. I had to UNLOCK the door for him to come back in. I can tell you it was mighty tempting to leave him out there, but since God had forgiven my doubting, I figured I could forgive his as well.

Cindy Biggar



A Word on the Equality Act

To the Pastors, Called Workers and Members of the 6,000 Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Equality Act of 2021, [also known as H.R. 5](#), was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in a 224–206 vote on Feb. 25. The bill is now in the hands of the U.S. Senate. If signed into law, it will have a significant and wide-ranging impact on Christian churches, schools, institutions and individuals.

Among its tenets, H.R. 5 challenges the biblical understanding of God’s creation of humans as male and female. The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), has issued a statement sharing pastoral counsel on this bill and its potential consequences for the church.

Harrison writes:

“The church’s task is not political. It is the proclamation of the Gospel of free salvation in the cross and resurrection of Jesus for all (1 Cor. 1:23; John 18:36). ...

“All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals. ...

“No matter the course of this or any legislation, Christ will sustain His church. Our hope is not in laws, Congress or courts. Our hope is Christ. ‘And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ (Matt. 28:20).”

[Read the full letter from President Harrison on the following pages/](#)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. (1 Peter 1:3-8)

The church's task is not political. It is the proclamation of the Gospel of free salvation in the cross and resurrection of Jesus for all (1 Cor. 1:23; John 18:36). "The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered" (AC VII 1).¹

God rules His church by His infallible Word, the Holy Scriptures (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:15-16). God rules the state by His eternal law, reason and reasonable laws for the common welfare. "Our churches teach that lawful civil regulations are good works of God" (AC XVI 1; see Rom. 13:1-7). The church should not meddle in government affairs, especially in matters upon which the Word of God is silent. It is also wrong when governments act against God's eternal law, reason and the basic civil rights of all people. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution enshrines this truth. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Throughout history, governments have acted unjustly — sometimes in the name of race, atheism, communism, religion and even Christianity — and curtailed or denied the rights of conscience and the free exercise of religion. And governments continue to do so. Our Lutheran and biblical confession is that "it is necessary for Christians to be obedient to their rulers and laws. The only exception is when they are commanded to sin. Then they ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)" (AC XVI 6-7; see 1 Peter 2:13-14).

St. Paul made use of his legal right as a Roman citizen ("I appeal to Caesar" Acts 25:11). "Christ's kingdom allows us outwardly to use legitimate political ordinances of every nation in which we live, just as it allows us to use medicine or the art of building, or food, drink, and air" (Ap XVI 54). Our Lutheran Confessions commend the seeking of public remedy for



We're Hiring!

Want to join the Camp Luther team on a year-round or seasonal basis? There are several positions available including:

- Camp Luther Assistant Cook
- KBC Food Service Manager
- KBC Food Service Assistant

And Summer Staff positions including:
Leadership Staff
Male Counselors



Volunteer Week April 19-24, 2021

Use your skills to make a difference in the completion of the NEW Fort Village, cold storage building, and other crucial projects! Join Camp Luther and Johnson Brothers Construction of Munising, MI for a week of service and fellowship. Come for all or a portion of the week.

Every Kid to Camp Match

When Camp is blessed with \$20,000 in donations for Every Kid to Camp by April 30, 2021, our friends at MCL, Inc. of Pulaski, WI will provide an additional \$20,000 towards helping kids go to Camp Luther and Keweenaw Base Camp.

Have your gift doubled by giving today!



Village Glamping & Saturday Fun Days Registration Opens March 15

Village Glamping is coming back for select weekends this summer! Also added for Summer 2021 are Saturday Fun Days. Both programs offer a chance for your family to have fun at camp together in the summer!

Registration for both programs opens on March 15th at 8:00am. We're anticipating Glamping filling up quickly, so mark your calendar, set your alarm, and get ready to register!

SAVE THE DATE



APRIL 19-24, 2021

Questions? Contact - Camp Luther 1889 Koubenec Road Three Lakes, WI 54562
715-546-3647 info@campluther.com www.campluther.com

One of the things that I missed the most this past summer was the service projects and exploration that we do up at Keweenaw Base Camp (KBC). Thankfully, I was able to work with several groups at Camp Luther doing similar activities, but the allure of the Keweenaw and the waters of Lake Superior were still missed deeply by my heart.



It is hard to explain what happens in a week at camp, but in the last few years I've asked those who have visited KBC to try to write a piece of that story. I witness so much of God's hand in action in the faith and lives of those who adventure and serve at KBC. I pray that their time at camp allows them to hold onto memories that will encourage them and challenge them to grow in the years to come.

One such story was from a young man who spent the week at KBC and during that time was able to hike the iconic Bare Bluff. The hike to Bare Bluff's spectacular 180 degree view of Lake Superior is one of the more grueling and difficult hikes that we take campers on. Over the course of a mile you gain over 500 feet of elevation. The terrain can get difficult as well with rocks and occasional fallen logs on the trail. It gets even trickier when it rains!

The story the young man told was quite simple, yet remarkable. He noted that the hike was one of difficulty, but that the reward of a spectacular view was worth it all. We all hike through difficult terrain at times. Sometimes it is hard to remember that the view at the end will be worth it. We may have to lean on others as we navigate slippery rocks or climb over downed trees. At times, we may be the ones who rely on others to motivate us to reach the top.

Our faith is like a hike that we embark on together. We may not know exactly what lies ahead, but like Bare Bluff, there are bound to be difficulties. I hope that as each of you hike through life that you remember what is waiting for us (eternal life with Jesus!), and can lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ along the way.

Casey "Psych" Sprotte
Keweenaw Base Camp Director



Golf Classic
June 18, 2021
Golf + Camp Luther = Kids Impacted. Join us on June 18th in Rhinelander for the 17th Annual Golf Classic. Enjoy great golf, camp friends, and making a difference by raising money to bring more kids to camp!



P.S. Can't make it that day? Be a sponsor and still help kids get to camp!

injustice. "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work, according to Paul (Romans 13)" (Ap XVI 59). Our God-given right to act as citizens is very important, especially now.

The Equality Act is before Congress.² It sounds innocent. All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals.

Jesus referred to Genesis 2:24, when He stated:

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matt. 19:4-6)

In fact, those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman, and that sex outside of that institution is contrary to the word of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament (1 Cor. 7:2), could be punished for simply standing on our consistent, ancient Christian beliefs. The Equality Act effectively outlaws the words of Christ, the sublime doctrine of Creation, the First Article of the Creed, and our "free exercise of religion" based upon the Bible and Apostles' Creed. The biblical teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman is to be labeled forever a mere "sex-based stereotype."³

The Equality Act expands the definition of "public accommodation" and puts an ultimatum to individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others: "Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment."⁴

Religious schools (K-12 and universities) are a prime target of the Equality Act, which will make it difficult to maintain standards for admission and codes of Christian conduct for students, faculty and staff.⁵ The Equality Act will forbid college students from using federal tuition assistance at schools that maintain standards of conduct on the basis of the Bible regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sex-specific facilities and female-only spaces could be eliminated. Biological males will have the right to participate in female sports, unjustly denying female athletes at our schools a fair competition and the due rewards of accomplishment.⁶

The Equality Act will eliminate the significant protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress and signed into law in 1993.² This law has provided strong protections for “free exercise of religion” in the face of overzealous officials.

The Equality Act contains no conscience protections for medical staff who choose not to perform abortions, even if they have religious objections. Because of its broad definition of “health” services, the Equality Act threatens the Hyde Amendment, which limits public funding for abortion. It also threatens Christian hospitals with elimination of funding for not performing “health” services, including abortion or genital mutilation.

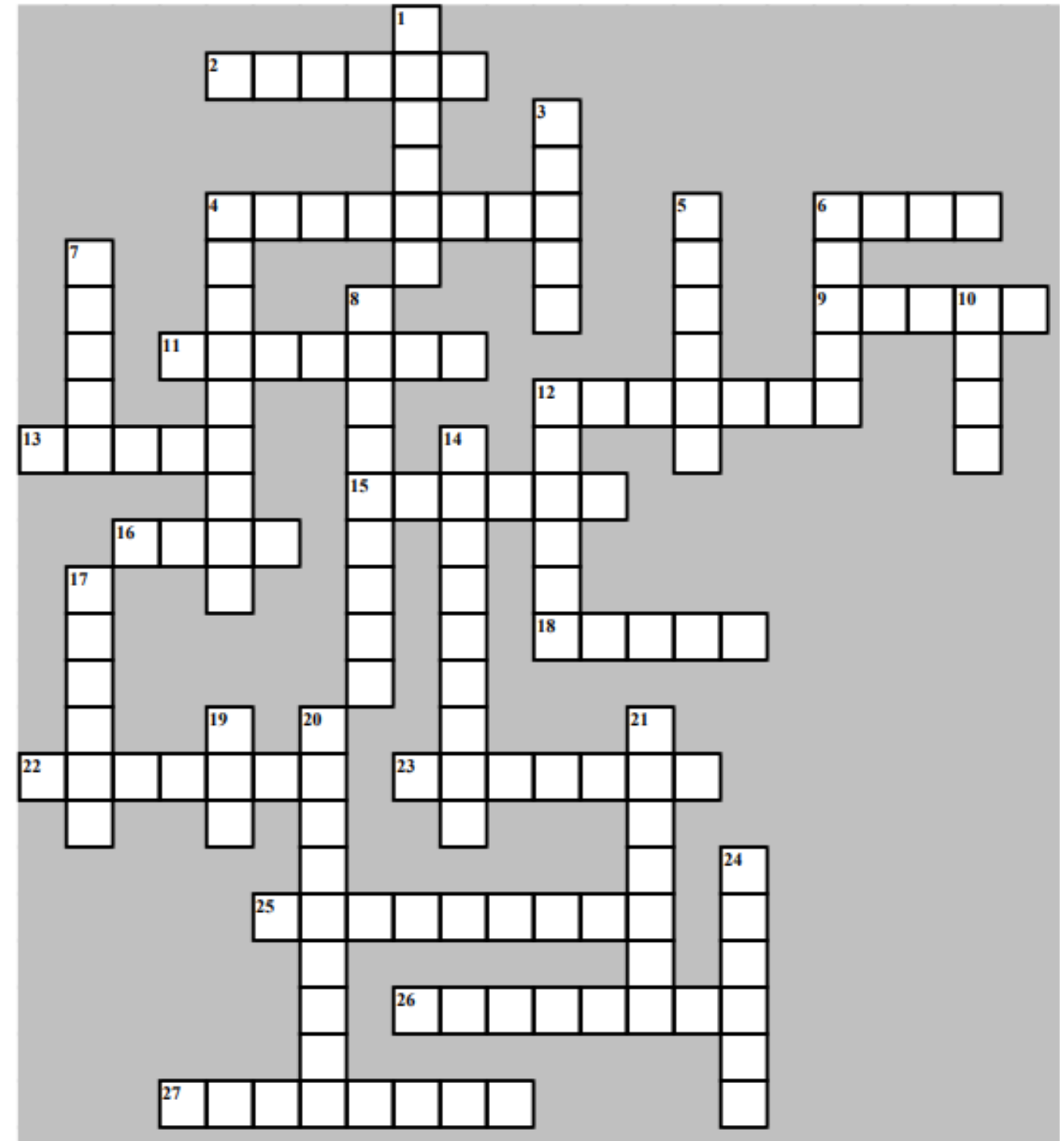
The Equality Act was recently passed by the House and is currently pending in the Senate. The margin is razor thin. If it does not become law now, we can be assured that it will be pressed again. We encourage all LCMS people to:

1. Treat all people with kindness and respect (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31), while holding firmly to “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).
2. Become informed about the Equality Act and the issues of gender dysphoria. (See “Additional Resources” below.)
3. Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials, particularly in the U.S. House (house.gov/representatives) and Senate (senate.gov/senators/index.htm).
4. Pray for our officials, [government](#) and the church in these challenging days.

Martin Luther once said, “Christ dwells only in sinners.” We recognize ourselves as sinners constantly in need of Christ’s forgiveness. We recognize the truth of the apostle Peter’s words, “For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). We know that Jesus’ opponents grumbled against Him by saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). This comforting verse applies to us sinners, and we welcome all others to join us at the feet of Jesus, the sole Savior of all (John 3:16). As Christians, we believe that God has created all people, and all are infinitely valuable and accountable to Him. As Christian citizens, we recognize and demand basic God-given civil rights for all people, even as we insist on the First Amendment rights of Christians.

No matter the course of this or any legislation, Christ will sustain His church. Our hope is not in laws, [Congress](#) or courts. Our hope is Christ. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

In the Beginning Was the Word



BAPTIZE
CEPHAS
GALILEE
LAMB
NAZARETH
SIMON

BEGINNING
CREATION
GUILF
LIFE
PETER
SONS

BELIEVER
DISCIPLES
JORDAN
LIGHT
PHILIP
SPIRIT

BETHABARA
ELIJAH
JOSEPH
MESSIAH
PROPHET
WITNESS

BETHSAIDA
FIG
LACHET
NATHANAEL
RABBI
WORLD

Easter Word Search

	P	I	E	R	C	E	D	S																					
	I	A	S	L	R	U	R	P																					
	E	C	S	A	S	A	T	K																					
	C	N	E	S	C	I	B	L																					
	E	P	D	W	O	R	N	B																					
	S	N	Q	F	Z	V	I	Y																					
	O	O	S	L	S	O	E	F																					
K	Z	O	U	K	H	J	R	C	Y	J	F	I	N	E	H	Y	K	R	I	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E
D	R	O	B	E	Q	B	T	J	T	O	S	T	D	O	Y	U	V	X	X	C	L	Z	S	E	V	E	I	H	T
E	T	H	R	E	E	D	A	Y	S	S	I	C	L	K	F	I	H	O	V	I	E	J	C	F	A	G	W	A	N
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	S	D	E	L	E	O	U	L	G	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	N	U
T	N	J	T	N	Y	Q	V	Y	C	P	V	R	T	I	C	R	O	W	N	O	F	T	H	O	R	N	S	T	V
H	I	G	H	P	R	I	E	S	T	H	E	R	F	V	G	J	U	D	A	S	I	S	C	A	R	I	O	T	I
	R	U	V	B	C	Y	L	U																					
	R	S	K	P	S	T	P	C																					
	B	E	T	R	A	Y	A	L																					
	Q	R	T	Q	O	S	E	F																					
	T	D	V	S	N	X	N	G																					
	F	O	R	A	A	H	E	O																					
	N	B	M	I	K	E	R	L																					
	V	O	O	B	I	B	Y	G																					
	R	P	V	I	N	W	C	O																					
	Q	D	R	T	G	V	F	T																					
	D	M	J	J	C	F	O	H																					
	B	L	O	O	D	E	N	A																					
	C	B	X	V	L	S	O	J																					
	I	S	G	P	L	E	M	E																					
	S	R	M	I	T	T	I	S																					
	A	E	A	A	X	S	S	U																					
	T	N	L	V	T	H	Y	S																					
	P	I	G	O	C	R	S	C																					
	P	U	N	E	A	V	R	H																					
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	M	A	L	N	G	S	I	I																					
	T	A	R	A	C	C	D	S																					
	C	I	R	K	M	M	L	T																					
	V	R	Z	Y	N	B	O	Y																					
	R	Y	O	R	E	E	S	G																					
	K	I	C	S	Y	D	S	G																					
	P	N	H	N	S	Q	E	S																					

ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:8-9, 13-17)

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
 President
 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Additional resources regarding the Equality Act:

- [Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty](#)
- [Statement from the LCMS Minnesota South District](#)
- [Statement from the LCMS Wyoming District](#)
- LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations — [Gender Identity Disorder and Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective](#)
- Alliance Defending Freedom — [The True Impact of the "Equality Act"](#)
- Heritage Foundation — [11 Myths About H.R. 5, the Equality Act of 2021](#)

Endnotes

¹ Citations from the Augsburg Confession (AC) and the Apology of the Augsburg Confession (Ap) are from Paul T. McCain et al., eds., *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, 2nd ed. (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2005).

² [congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5/text](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/congress/house/bills/5/text).

³ Equality Act, Section. 2, Findings and Purpose: (1) Discrimination can occur [on the basis of the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ...as well as because of sex-based stereotypes.](#) |

⁴ [adflegal.org/blog/president-biden-has-promised-pass-equality-act-heres-how-threatens-your-freedoms](https://www.adflegal.org/blog/president-biden-has-promised-pass-equality-act-heres-how-threatens-your-freedoms). See the Equality Act, Section. 2, Findings and Purpose: (11) Individuals who are LGBTQ, or are perceived to be LGBTQ, have been subjected to a history... of discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity by both private sector and Federal, State, and local government actors, including in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.... An explicit and comprehensive national solution is needed to address this discrimination."

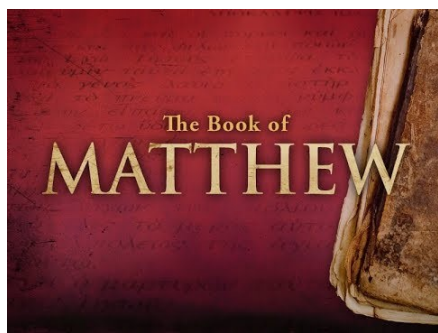
⁵ LCMS schools serve many who in some way identify with the LGBTQ community. However, our schools have standards of conduct and the expectation of respect for our biblical teachings.

⁶ Section 1101. Definitions and Rules. "(b)(2) (with respect to gender identity) an individual shall not be denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity."

⁷ Section 1107. Claims. "The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.) shall not provide a claim concerning, or a defense to a claim under, a covered title, or provide a basis for challenging the application or enforcement of a covered title."



Monday Bible Study
will start back up in
September with the
book of Matthew.



Confirmation

April Classes:
3:30-5:00pm
Thursdays
April 8, 15, 22, 29

APRIL
Wednesday Evenings
6:30pm

Prayer Service
Take a deeper look in-
to the previous
Sunday's sermon

April's full Pink Moon
will rise on the night of
Monday, April 26,
reaching peak illumina-
tion at 11:33 P.M.
ET. This full Moon is
one of

two supermoons this year. The other one is the
Full Flower Moon on May 26 at 7:14am. E.T

