



CROSS-WORD



**The Day of Pentecost
May 19, 2024**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO
Office Phone: 573-883-5361
Craig Reiter, pastor • Cell Phone: 414-916-0546
Website: holycrossstegen.org
Facebook Page: Holy Cross Lutheran Church- Ste. Genevieve

Who Overcomes? You Overcome...in Jesus!

The Epistle readings for this season of Easter have focused on 1 John. As we read through this letter, we see what it looks like for us to walk in the light and love of Jesus' resurrection. While there are many wonderful passages and verses in this short book, one verse keeps coming back to my mind. It's a verse that's phrased as a question, but it is a clear reminder for us as we continue our journey of faith and life together. John writes this in 1 John 5:5: "*Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*"

One of the definitions of overcome is "to succeed in dealing with a problem or difficulty." I think most if not all of us would say that we like success. We like getting problems and difficulties taken care of and out of the way. It gives us a sense of relief, accomplishment, and puts our hearts and minds a little more at ease.

However, sometimes we're not as successful at taking care of those problems or difficulties. Whether it's an overly busy schedule, fatigue, or something we realize we just can't control, not taking care of problems and difficulties can sap our spirits of joy and leave us feeling deflated. Then, we look at others who seem to be overcoming the world through their own efforts with ease, and we become even more discouraged and frustrated.

This world will continue to throw problems and difficulties at us. Our sin will continue to weigh us down, and we will be tempted by the devil to believe that God can't do anything about it for us. But the truth is God has already done something about it. Through Jesus' shed blood and death on the cross and through the empty tomb of His glorious resurrection, Jesus overcame sin, death, and the devil... for you! His ascension into heaven shows that even now He is reigning and ruling over all things. We recall His promise that He will return; the Last day will be the final overcoming of all our enemies. We rejoice that the Holy Spirit has been poured out and continues to work faith in our hearts through the Word and Sacraments. Yes, because you believe in Jesus, that makes you an overcomer, too! John writes, *"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith"* (1 John 5:4) Faith that clings—not to itself—but to Christ!

Overcoming the world doesn't mean that everything is going to smell like roses. On the contrary, life will continue to have its joys mixed with challenges. But thanks be to God! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! As we look to Jesus, we believe and know that we overcome the world, for "Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" Whenever you are feeling overcome by the world, speak this verse to yourself, and answer, "That's me! In You, Jesus, I overcome the world." And then look around and rejoice at your fellow "ones," members of this congregation who overcome too!

Pastor Craig



Meetings & Special Events in May

Thursday, May 2, at 6:00 PM:

- **Evangelism & Children's Ministry Meeting**

Monday, May 6, at 6:30 PM

- **Joint Elders' Meeting at Immanuel**

Tuesday, May 7, at 7:00 PM

- **Daycare Committee Meeting**

Thursday, May 16, from 12 noon to 2:00 PM

- **Heavenly Hope Food Truck at the Elks Lodge**

Tuesday, May 28:

- **Lunch Fellowship to follow the Tuesday Morning Bible Class**

Volunteers Needed to Water the Flowers!

We need volunteers to water the flowers outside the church in front. Each volunteer will water one day a week for the entire month. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Bible Studies on Tuesdays & Sundays

We are just starting a new Bible Study on 1 Corinthians. Join us as we go through this letter of Paul on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

***Sunday Morning Bible Study:* We continue our journey through the book "Ten Questions to Ask Every Time You Read the Bible." Join us on Sundays after the service as we continue to ask questions that help us grow in Biblical fluency!**

Jour de Fete Collectibles



Jour de Fete is a few months away, but you may begin bringing in household collectible items for our sale in the basement in August. We accept books, magazines, knick-knacks, dishes, cups, jewelry, purses, Christmas decorations, toys, lamps, kitchenware, puzzles, games, tools, working small appliances, CDs, DVDs, crafts, gently-used bedding, placemats, pot holders, etc.

- **We are NOT selling clothes at this sale.**
- **We do NOT accept heavy furniture or other heavy items that are too difficult to move around.**
- **No electronics, computers, phones, printers, routers, as these items with lithium batteries are hard to dispose of.**
- **Please, no encyclopedias.**
- **Please have all items clean and in good working condition.**
- **Items may be brought to the north end of the church basement on Sunday mornings when the church is unlocked. If you need to bring in items during the week, please call before you come to make sure the church will be unlocked.**

Praying Parents

In the course of time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son.
—1 Samuel 1:20



By an act of Congress in 1988, the first Thursday in May was declared as National Day of Prayer. Traditionally, the second Sunday in May is observed as Mother's Day. The two occasions are close together, not only on the calendar but also as to content and intent. Prayer and parenthood are related topics.

Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, is well known for her prayers both for her petition and her thanksgiving. In the temple, she asked God for a son, and God gave her one. After the son was born, Hannah was back in the temple, where she spoke a prayer of thanksgiving as recorded in chapter two of 1 Samuel. It was a prayer that surely served as a model for the Magnificat, the prayer of praise Mary spoke when the angel Gabriel announced that she would be the virgin mother of the promised Christ.

Fervent prayer and faithful motherhood go together like a hand and glove. One can speak of the two topics in the same breath. Hannah and Mary were good mothers, largely because they were diligent in prayer and taught their sons how to pray, one of them, the Son of God, had become a human child. Again, Saint Paul told young Timothy, "I want men [people] everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer" (1 Timothy 2:8). Timothy was able to teach his parishioners how to pray because he himself had learned prayer from his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois.

Mary's Son, nailed to a cross as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, died with a prayer on His lips: "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). He had previously committed His mother to the care of the apostle John. He is our Exemplar on both counts: prayer and parental concern. We follow in His footsteps when we honor father and mother and when we faithfully cultivate the art of prayer.

***Dear Lord God, thank You for all the blessings You have given me.
Amen.***

SEARCH-A-WORD PUZZLE

PENTECOST

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

PENTECOST

HOLY

SPIRIT

FILLED

FIRE

POWER

WIND

OFFERING

APOSTLES

TONGUES

LANGUAGES

HEAVEN

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



***“Holy Spirit, ever working,
Through the Church’s ministry:
Quick’ning, strength’ning, and absolving,
Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding,
Age to age and soul to soul,
In communion never ending,
You we worship and extol.”***

After completing the work His Father sent Him to do, the work of accomplishing our salvation, Jesus ascended to His place of authority at the right hand of the Father. Our Lord promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to His followers and, on the day of Pentecost, the gift was given.

Pentecost—the name means fifty—was also called the Feast of Weeks, because seven weeks after Passover, the Jews celebrated God’s gift of the harvest. On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus rose from the dead, the promised Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples, and a great harvest of souls was gathered into the church. Jesus had said of the Holy Spirit, “He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14). On Pentecost, the Spirit glorified Jesus as the apostle Peter proclaimed the crucified and risen Savior as Lord and Christ. The day began as the little band of believers, numbering about 120 in all, gathered for prayer. By the end of the day, about 3,000 more people—enlightened by the Holy Spirit through the Word of the Gospel—were welcomed into God’s kingdom through Baptism.

The promised Spirit, Jesus said, would lead His followers into all the truth and carry out a threefold task: “When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8). On Pentecost, the

Spirit convicted those who heard Peter’s sermon. Upon learning that they had crucified the Lord of glory, the people were moved to repentance. Through the Word proclaimed, the people learned of the forgiveness found only through faith in Christ, who by His death and resurrection triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. Satan, the ruler of this world (see John 16:11) had been judged and defeated, and on Pentecost, 3,000 baptized souls were freed from the foe’s deadly captivity.

The Holy Spirit still carries out these same tasks today. Whenever and wherever the Gospel is proclaimed, the Spirit is at work, glorifying Jesus. The Helper continues to convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment. Through the church’s ministry, the Spirit quickens us, that is, gives us new life in the water and Word of Baptism. Through Word and Sacrament, we who were once captive sinners are absolved of sin and strengthened in faith, set free to serve Jesus Christ, the crucified and Risen One whom, as Peter announced on Pentecost, God has made “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36b).

Holy Spirit, we pray that through the inspired Word, You would guide us into all truth—and through our lives and our witness—glorify Jesus, our Savior. Amen.



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article • May 2024

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts, we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people—we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments, there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers, and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time, and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing; yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

- **LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)**


