



Ascension of Our Lord - Confirmation

May 21, 2023 - 9:45 a.m.

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

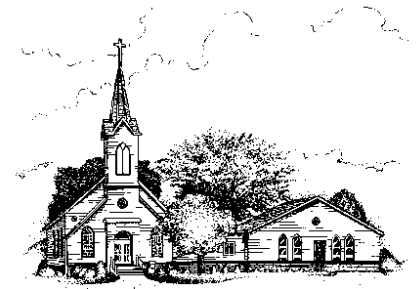
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Steven D. Bode, pastor

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Welcome to God's House

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he gathered his disciples on a mountain, spoke some final words to them, and proceeded to ascend back into heaven. The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it doesn't mark the end of his work. While on earth, Jesus had set aside much of his divine power. Now, back in heaven, he takes that power up again as he rules over the universe for his Church and for our good. These themes make Ascension a good time to celebrate confirmation.



Confirmation has been a long-standing practice in the Lutheran Church. Confirmation is not a sacrament nor does it have any command or promise from God. It does however, give young people the opportunity to confess their faith publicly and be reminded of God's promises of faithfulness. Today we ask that God would bless Alaina and Eric with faithfulness to him on their confirmation day.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

This Is the Threefold Truth #824

Sunday School will sing stanzas 1 & 4; congregation is invited to join on st. 2, 3 & 5

This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends;
and with this joyful cry worship begins and ends: (Refrain)

Refrain: *Christ has died! Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!*

Long used by saints of old, new-minted for our time,
our liturgies confess the hope we have in him: **Refrain**

On this we fix our minds as, kneeling side by side,
we take the bread and wine, take him, the Crucified: **Refrain**

By this we are upheld when doubt or grief assails
our Christian faith and love, and only grace avails: **Refrain**

This is the threefold truth which, if we hold it fast,
changes the world and us and brings us home at last: **Refrain**

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by

his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Gloria

AURELIA - #1015

Tune: AURELIA



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,

2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!

ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens, and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that

he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing CW #472:1-3, 6

♪ A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto 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 see their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To them the shining angels cry, “Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”

Alleluia, alleluia!

“This is the Savior,” thus they say. “This is his glorious triumph day.”

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:20

Refrain

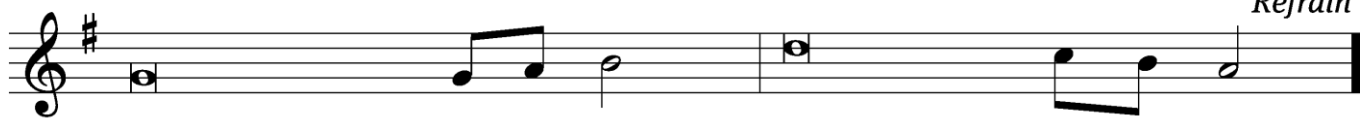


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Surely I am with you al - ways, to the very end of the age.

Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

Children of the Heavenly Father #502

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Sermon

Luke 24:44-53

You Have a Friend in Heaven

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Confirmation

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you

have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshipping with you today? If so, join with the congregation now to confess your faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

(all) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do reject him.

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor speaks to the congregation:

Dear friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them.

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions.

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others.

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to

find popular theories more appealing than your truth.

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven.

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves.

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

Those being confirmed may approach the altar in turn and may kneel.

Eric Martin Jungers, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

The passage that you have chosen as your confirmation passage is John 8:31-32:

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Alaina Mae Lindert, our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

The passage that you have chosen as your confirmation passage is John 3:16:

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The minister says:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Those who have been confirmed return to their seats.

Closing Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing these young people to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and in giving them both hearts to believe and mouths to confess his saving name. Enable them to bring forth the fruits of faith and to continue steadfast and victorious until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing #930

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;

grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.

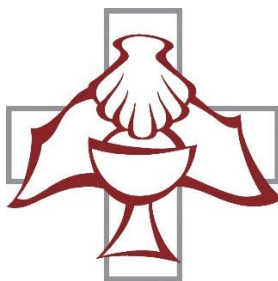
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father,avior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.



This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship
	8:30 a.m..	Sunday School
	8:45 a.m.	Confirmation examination
Mon:	1:00 p.m.	OWLS meeting at Good Shepherd, WB
Wed:	2:30 p.m.	KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
Thu:	10:00 a.m.	Call Day at the Seminary
	7:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Seminary Commencement Concert, Mequon
Fri:	10:00 a.m.	Graduation Service at the Seminary
Sat:	1:00 p.m.	KML Graduation
Sun:	7:30 / 9:00 a.m.	Pentecost Worship with Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Memorial Day Ceremony in the cemetery

In Our Prayers Jay German, undergoing additional chemotherapy before he can receive his bone marrow transplant; Laurie Heinecke, undergoing shoulder replacement surgery tomorrow in Beaver Dam.

Confirmation Our confirmation service will be held in the late service today (9:45 a.m.). This year's confirmands are Alaina Lindert and Eric Jungers. Confirmation Day is a joyous day for students as well as our congregation. After years of public instruction in God's Word, these young people will now profess their faith, enjoy the privilege of Holy Communion, and grow in faith through their connection to God's Word and Sacrament. Please keep them in your prayers.

Summer Worship Schedule Next Sunday we begin our summer worship schedule. The early service remains at 7:30 a.m. but the late service moves a little early at **9:00 a.m.** For those who are on vacation, at a tournament, out of town on the weekends etc..., remember our Thursday evening service is year 'round at 7 p.m.

We thank Barb Olsen who served as our organist this weekend. We also thank our Sunday School students for adding to our worship service this morning and helping teach us one of our newer hymns. While we're at it, this is the last day of Sunday School and we appreciate all the work that our Sunday School teachers have put in teaching the truths of God's Word to our Sunday School students. Their work often goes unnoticed and under-appreciated, but they are assisting our church's parents with the greatest responsibility they have to their children: to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, knowing Jesus as their Savior. Thank you, teachers!

Sunday School This Sunday is the last day for Sunday School this year. Parents, thank you for bringing your children faithfully. This summer you will teach your children one of two things: that faithfully hearing God's Word is important, or that it is unimportant. May we all see the need for a constant diet of the one thing needful...God's Word.

Memorial Day Observance As has been tradition for many years, the Allenton Legion will be with us next Sunday after the late service. We'll be gathering out in the cemetery about 10:15 a.m. for a short ceremony to be reminded of what Memorial Day is all about.

Vacation Bible School We hope to have a Vacation Bible School this summer, but it depends on whether we can get the help or not. The dates that work best are August 7-10. If you would be able to help that week, please contact the pastor as soon as possible.

Summer Church Cleaning This summer again we are seeking members who are willing to clean the church during the summer months. During the summer our facilities are not used as extensively as during the school year so it doesn't take as much time, but it still needs to be done. There is a bright neon green sign on the bulletin board. Please consider using some of your time and talents in this way to serve your Savior and your congregation.

Family Adventure Days July 12-16 are the dates for this year's Family Adventure Days, located near Palmyra, WI. Come for the whole time or just a day or two and enjoy some of the many activities planned for all who attend.

Save 10% with advance purchase before June 1, 2023. For more information, check the church newsletter or go to www.lutheranpioneers.org and click on “events.”

Please pick up the new June calendars, June – July newsletters and copies of the latest *Forward in Christ* from the cabinets in the entryway. If you haven’t picked up your *Meditations* yet, they start next Sunday.

KML Summer Camps There are still openings available for our popular summer camps! From athletics to activities to the arts & more, KML summer camps have something for your child, whatever their interests! For more info or to register, go to www.kmlhs.org/camps.

LPS Summer Camps Luther Prep is excited to offer a variety of day camps & overnight camps for various sports AND for the 3rd year in a row our Phoenix Adventure Camp! We hope to see many of your children join us! For all the details & registration information go to https://www.lps.wels.net/apps/pages/summer_camps

New Members Do you or do you know of someone who would like to become a member of Zion? The route to church membership includes an adult instruction class that is held at various times of the year, depending on the schedules of those desiring the class. Contact Pastor Bode at 262.483.0407 or revsdb@aol.com

OWLS Meeting We are scheduled to meet this coming Monday, May 22nd at 10:00 am at Good Shepherd in West Bend. A speaker from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired will present information concerning how to improve the lives of people with vision loss. A potluck meal will follow our business meeting. Please bring a dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Ash at richardash46@gmail.com or (262-457-3000).

Estate Planning Seminar / Workshop at KML Paul Snamiska, KML Federation's estate planning counselor, is offering a special seminar at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School on Tuesday, June 13, from 6:00-7:00 PM to share information on the documents and process of estate planning. This free

event is designed to answer questions and be very practical. No registration is necessary.

A second event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, from 6:00-7:15 PM. This workshop at KML is designed to be hands-on and will equip all attendees to make significant progress on their own plan. This event is also free, but attendance is limited and pre-registration is required. Contact Paul Snamiska (paul.snamiska@kmlhs.org) to register.

KML Job Opening Due to the retirement of Bob Heider, KML is looking for a part-time accountant. This position is responsible for preparing, presenting, and analyzing KML's monthly and year end financial statements and managing student billing accounts. 20-25 hours per week with a flexible schedule. View the job description at www.kmlhs.org/accountant23. Please submit resumes by **May 22**, 2023, to Mr. Jody Hansen, Director of Operations, at jody.hansen@kmlhs.org. If you have questions, call Mr. Hansen at 262.677.4051 x4004.

KML Job Openings Due to KML's growing enrollment and more students utilizing the Learning Center, our staffing needs have increased. The KML Learning Center has full-day and half-day positions open for individuals to work with students beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. A high school diploma is required. If interested or for more information, contact Learning Center Administrator Sheila Krause (sheila.krause@kmlhs.org).

Host Families Needed KML is seeking families to host international students for the 2023-2024 school year. In exchange for a stipend of \$750/month, host families provide housing, meals, and transportation from early to mid-August through the end of the school year. KML's international students are required to have a high-level of English fluency, but they may at first struggle to communicate. Many of them experience American culture for the first time when they come to KML, and our foods and customs may take them time to get used to. Applications for hosting for the 2023-2024 school year need to be submitted **by May 25**, 2023. If you are interested in serving as a host family, visit www.kmlhs.org/hostfamily for more information.