

TEEN SCENE NEWSLETTER



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Hello and congratulations to all of you for completing another school year! I pray you have exciting and safe summers ahead of you. I will be traveling to North Carolina and Colorado to visit my children and grandchildren. Always a good time. I will be covering the end of the Church year in this edition, but first I want to let you know I am transferring to Forest Oaks Lutheran Church-LCMS in Spring Hill as it is closer to my home. I will still visit Faith Lutheran from time to time as I have many friends here and I absolutely love this church family! You, my young friends, have such a blessing to be part of such an exceptional church. My prayer for each of you is that you take time to attend and participate in church. You have an awesome opportunity to grow in your relationship to Christ and there are so many ways you can fit in. Talk to the pastor and the elders. Ask them questions and see how they can incorporate you into the worship service and work of the church. You will find this highly rewarding. Paul says it very well in Philippians 4:9.

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9 ESV

I hope you have enjoyed receiving the Teen Scene Newsletter these past months. I do not know if anyone will pick it up and continue it, but I pray they do. Maybe it will be one or more of you! Please remember that should you have any questions, or should you ever need to talk to anyone, I am only a phone call, text, and/or email away. Each of you are very special to me and I would love to hear from you. Remember what scripture tells us about finding our way through life.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path." Psalms 119:105.

Now to get on with the Church year!

THE CHURCH YEAR Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and The Time of the Church

We are at **Pentecost**. The color for Pentecost is red, representing the flames of fire that appeared on the Apostle's heads. It is a time we focus on the work of the Holy Spirit. Often Hymn 497 in the LSB is sung, which is "Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord". Pentecost is 50 days after Easter and the curse of Babel is undone (Read Genesis 11:1-9 about the Tower of Babel – interesting reading). In Acts 2:1-4 we read of the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles giving them the gift to speak in various languages. Remember, many had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, but since they came from different regions, they spoke different languages. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit they could hear the gospel message in their own language(s). In Acts 2:40-42 we learn that nations were united into the church through baptism! What a wonderful time this must have been! Many people wear Red to church on Pentecost Sunday. What a beautiful reminder that every Christian is to spread the Gospel to all Nations led by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!

The following Sunday is **Trinity Sunday**. We recognize the "Three in One" ... One God, but three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We confess this in our three creeds: the Apostles, Nicene, and Athenasian. Usually we only use the Athenasian creed on Trinity Sunday because of its length. It is a very comprehensive and beautiful creed, however. On Trinity Sunday we also remember the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew I: 19 ESV.

The season following **Pentecost** is called **The Time of the Church**. It is the longest season of the Church Year. We the people are the Church. Not the building. As such, we will be focused on our lives, our growth and how the Sacraments work in our hearts. The teaching and preaching will be centered on the life of Christ and how we can use His example in our daily lives.

The Church Year wraps up as we celebrate **All Saints Day** on November 1st. The color will be white representing our salvation. We look ahead to our end on earth and our eternal lives in heaven as we celebrate and recognize those brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us as we anticipate our ultimate reunion with them for all eternity.

Now, my friends, we are back to where we started. The Church year will begin again!

Hot Topic: YOU

I want to encourage you to be a “Teen Alive”. Alive in Christ Jesus. Let your light shine brightly as a Christian in this world. Stand up for what is right. Find your way using the Scriptures. It truly will illuminate your path. When I went to college to study psychology, I went to Liberty University, a Christian school. Each paper we wrote had to have a section devoted to what Scripture says about the topic we were writing about. There was nothing I studied that couldn’t be found in Scripture. Some topics took more searching than others and a “key” word might not be found, but the subject was covered. So let God be your guide. Search His word and pray. He cares. He loves you. He wants you to seek Him.

From Pastor Griffin’s Desk
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Dear Teen Friends,

Recently, Debi and I were privileged to attend a Divine Service at Hosanna Lutheran in Mankato, Minnesota. At this service, one of our granddaughters, Morgan Jean, confirmed her Christian faith. Along with others, she professed her faith in the Triune God, promised to be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace, and vowed to be faithful to her Savior.

Her chosen Bible verse comes from Paul’s second letter to Timothy, ***“So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”***

Here, Paul reminds us that certain temptations to sin are particularly attractive to our youth. The bad news is that the devil, a sinful world, and our own sinful flesh are lifelong enemies to our faith. The Good News is that Jesus Christ has already defeated the powers of darkness by living the perfect life we can never come close to living, by dying the death we needed Him to die, and by rising up in glorious fashion on Easter Sunday morning.

Further good news is that as often as we resist the devil and his sly demons that often they have to flee. We pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace as often as we hear God’s Word and treasure it in our hearts. As often as we eat and drink at our Lord’s Supper, where Jesus holds us close, forgives our sins, and gives us the peace only He can give.

May God bless you in these days of summer, that the Holy Spirit would be your Teacher, your Comforter, and your Guide.

Together in Christ
Pastor Larry J. Griffin