

# June, 2019

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

**Our Mission**  
To Proclaim the Gospel  
of Redemption through Jesus  
Christ.  
& Demonstrate God's Love  
to One Another,  
the Community & the World.



So when they [the disciples] met together, they asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: **"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. 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."**

After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "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."  
Acts 1:6-11

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is also ascended and is seated at the right hand of the Father; but just

what does that mean for us?

There's an illustration I have used on many occasions that goes like this. *After ascending into heaven, the angels gathered excitedly around their very alive Lord and peppered Him with all sorts of questions. The "most important" of which was, "Now that You've accomplished Your mission, what's next? What's the plan for the ongoing proclamation of Your Word?" To which Jesus replied, "I've left it to Peter and James and John and the rest of the guys, it's their task now." "What?!" the angels responded. They were incredulous! What was Jesus thinking? How could He leave such an important task up to this bunch who seemingly had no clue? "Come on, Jesus, there's got to be more to Your plan than that!" They went on. "No," said Jesus, "that's the plan."*

It means that we, like the disciples are the plan! It means that we, like the disciples are His witnesses in Stuttgart, Ulm, DeValls Bluff, Hazen, Little Rock, Arkansas and to the ends of the ends of the earth, wherever that might mean! It means that we are to bear witness to His name and His promise wherever we might be! And it's important to note that our witness is not something we have to come up with on our own; it is given us through the blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit!

Another way I like to bring this across is to point out that when it

comes to our faith, lives and witness, we are more Superman than Batman. This because, as cool as he is, Batman is dependent upon all his toys to accomplish the task. And the fact that he bounces between being Bruce Wayne and Batman. Superman, on the other hand, is always Superman, even when masquerading as Clark Kent. He has no gimmicks or toys—he simply is Superman!

Like Superman, baptized into Christ, we are ALWAYS CHRISTIANS! There is never a moment when we are not one of God's children. True, there are times when we attempt to shrug off our faith so we can indulge in sinful activity with seeming impunity—but we are wrong in thinking that. All we are doing then is providing a negative witness to God's love, forgiveness and His calling!

Jesus has lived, died, risen from the grave and ascended back to His throne. He has done all the heavy lifting to see to it that salvation has been won for ALL PEOPLE. It is now our calling and privilege to show and share all of this with the people we encounter...right up to the day He comes back!

God's peace and joy be with you as you do indeed rejoice in and share His saving love in and through your lives! And have yourselves a wonderful June as you do all this!

*Pastor White*