

# CHURCH MOUSE

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

## Important May Dates

- 2 Staff Mtg. 2:45 pm
- 2 PTL Mtg. 6:15 pm
- 2 Elder’s Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3 Open House 3-6 pm
- 6 Men’s Bible Breakfast @  
The Parkview 8:00 am
- 11 BCE Mtg. 6:00 pm
- 12 Invite a Friend to School
- 14 Sunday Breakfast Brunch
- 18 Church Council  
Mtg. 7:00 pm
- 29 School Closed for  
Memorial Day
- Communion Sundays  
14th and 28th

## Greeters

- 7 Brian and Jackie Schendel
- 14 Randy Kellogg
- 21 Ron and Ruth Nearpass
- 28 Cathy Keil

## Ushers

- 7 Don Heckathorn/  
Randy Kellogg
- 14 Matt and Lori Hoyt
- 21 Peter and Heather  
Roseboom
- 28 Hallett Family



## Sunday School News

On March 26th several Sunday School students and staff enjoyed a combined class. The theme of the morning: Jesus, the Lamb of God. We learned about what happened during the first Holy Week, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and why Jesus is called the Lamb of God. Following our class, the children made special Easter cards, some of which went to Zion’s shut-ins. Before we finished up with Sunday School we enjoyed a snack together - and read some interesting trivia on the cheese wrappers!. Sunday School for the school year 2016-2017 will end the final Sunday in May. Stay tuned for information about Sunday School during the summer!

## LWML

The ladies of Zion are invited to the Spring Rally on Saturday, May 6, at Faith Corning at 12 noon. Come meet ladies from our zone, enjoy food, fellowship, and celebration of God’s love.

## May Birthdays

4 Dean Klett  
17 Ron Nearpass  
18 Jenny Ceccherelli  
30 Lynn Bostelman

## May Anniversaries

15 Dale and Karen Gunther  
27 Alberta and Terry Phillips  
31 Brian and Jackie Schendel

\*\*Please contact Debbie in the office to add your birthday/anniversary dates.

## Message from Pastor Grabenhofer

Dear Saints at Zion,

During May, the Gospel readings slowly turn our attention from Easter and direct us toward Jesus' Ascension [25 May] and Pentecost [04 June]. With Pentecost upcoming, it does us well to spend a few moments today to think about the Holy Spirit and His work. To help us with this, it is good to review Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.*

*On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.*

The first thing, of course, to remember is that the Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is true, eternal God with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit, together with the Father and Son, created everything. We read of the Creation in Genesis [1.1-2]: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

And that phrase— *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*—points us to the special work of the Holy Spirit we usually think about: conversion. The very fact that we are Christians is because the Holy Spirit came to us in the waters of Holy Baptism and created faith and spiritual life in our hearts. Baptism is our new creation, our birth from above. Just like at the original creation, *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*, so also at the waters of Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit was hovering over the face of the baptismal waters. *[God our Savior] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit [Titus 3.5].*

## Message from Pastor Grabenhofer

Because we are sinners, born spiritually blind and dead to the things of God, we do not and cannot come to true faith and spiritual life on our own; and so *I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.* [1 Cor. 2.14; 12.3; Eph. 2.1] But there's the Holy Spirit! *The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.* He called most of us in Holy Baptism; others He called later in life through the word. In either case, He invited and drew us by the Gospel, and through that Gospel word created faith in our hearts so that we said "Yea and amen!" to God's promise and work. By the Gospel, the Holy Spirit gave us the true saving knowledge so that we know Jesus rightly as our Savior from sin.

Notice: the Holy Spirit doesn't just "zap" faith into us. Instead, He works through means or instruments, namely the Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments, which are described as the "visible word." Not only does the Holy Spirit work through the Word and Sacraments—the Means of Grace—to bring us to faith, but He also works through them to strengthen us in the faith and help us grow in the faith. That's why as Christians we will always want to be in Church, around the Word and Sacrament, where the Holy Spirit can and will work on us.

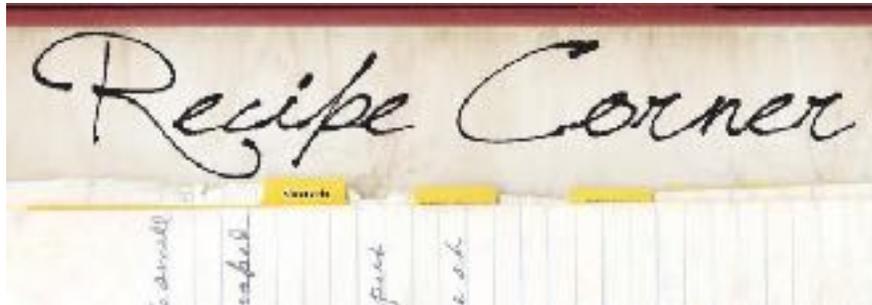
The Holy Spirit continues to work on us. He creates that new heart in us so that as Christians we now want to do the Lord's will and that we strive to overcome and fight against sin and to live a life of good works. Our will is changed. As Christians, we no longer want to serve self but the Lord and others. Because we have been born anew by the Holy Spirit in baptism, because the Holy Spirit has created a new heart in us, because the Holy Spirit dwells within us [1 Cor. 6.19], does that mean we will never sin? Hardly! We still have our old sinful nature. But led and empowered by the Holy Spirit we, the new self/ the Christian in us, fight against sin and by His work grow in a life of holiness.

As we as Christians rely on the Holy Spirit, let us remember that the Holy Spirit works through means—and not only in bringing us to faith. The Apostles wrote [Acts 15.28]: *For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us...* The point? We don't sit around and wait for the Holy Spirit to inspire/ spur us on to a certain action or decision; nor do we think our every impulse is the Holy Spirit. Instead, with a mind and conscience formed by the Holy Spirit and the word of God, with a prayer on our lips, and using the gifts, tools, preparations, wisdom, etc. the Lord has given us, we make our decisions and carry out our lives. Perhaps a recent event shows this most clearly. As a congregation, we are calling a pastor. We know that our Lord is the One giving us the pastor [Eph. 4.11], but He works through the information we receive, our deliberations, the acceptance or rejection of the call by the one/s we call, etc. to bring us the man He has chosen to be our pastor.

How mighty and active in so many ways in our lives is the Holy Spirit!

In Christ,

Pastor Grabenhofer



### **Oreo Ice Cream Dessert**

This recipe is perfect for the warmer days ahead and looks delicious! Thank you Ruth Nearpass for sharing this recipe!

#### **Step 1**

Use a 9 X 13 pan

1st layer:

Melt 1/4 cup oleo (margarine) and mix with 1/2 lb Oreos that have been crushed (about 25 cookies with filling)

Mix in pan and freeze

#### **Step 2**

Soften a 1/2 gallon of vanilla ice cream

Spread ice cream over bottom cookie layer and freeze

#### **Step 3**

Create the 3rd layer of fudge sauce:

-2 cups powdered sugar

-12 oz evaporated milk (not sweetened)

-1/2 cup margarine

-2/3 cup chocolate chips

Bring this to a boil and cook and stir for 8 minutes

Let this cool and pour over ice cream layer

Freeze again

#### **Step 4**

Add 8 oz cool whip and peanuts

**Do you have a recipe that your friends and family love? We want to share them in the Church Mouse. Please submit any recipes/pictures to Adina ([asetzer01@stny.rr.com](mailto:asetzer01@stny.rr.com)) by the 20th of each month.**