babies aren’t human beings until they’re physically coming out of the womb. Sinfulness creates the division, so something else must

As Jesus prays his high priestly prayer, first for himself, then for his disciples, and finally for disciples yet to come was he thinking of

That might show unity, but I don’t think it would create actual unity. It would certainly make a fashion statement. Individually we

That’s a connection made through faith in Christ. There’s also oneness and unity between the Father and Jesus. Because God the

Thursday we celebrated the ascension of Jesus into heaven. But before that, even before he was killed on the cross or rose again from

Back in 2000 there were twenty Lutheran churches in Oklahoma County. Wouldn’t it be great if all those churches could work

Remember when I said we should all show unity by wearing the same shirt next week. what if some don’t get the message.

True unity is a different kind, one faith from the Scriptures. All those who believe in the Scriptures without addition or subtraction

Ascension Day is in our rear view mirror. Pentecost is just ahead. Today we come to the end of our formal celebration of Christ’s

prays for glory, not based on us, but rather on him. Glory is the lasting fruit of Christ’s resurrection. It’s glory revealed in the Father’s love.

People became heroes all over this city last Monday. That’s when tornados broke out and people starting helping other people. But they only could do that after the tornados happened. Jesus received glory before anything happened. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” Jesus gets the glory because when the Father gives him an assignment it’s as good as done. When the cross came, Jesus completed his mission and his glory was proved right. God gives Christ glory through his work done on the cross and Christ brings glory to God the Father for completing that work.

Jesus received glory for staying on task. Congregations can get all mixed up in their goals and priorities and lose their glory. A congregation might find unity around a certainly political issue they feel needs changing. But that’s not unity that brings glory. A congregation can think a certain social issue needs fighting and all can get completely on board. But that’s not unity that brings glory. We might think that cancer needs to be cured, or we need to walk for diabetes, or the community needs help painting and mowing lawns. All worthwhile goals, but by themselves they don’t unite to bring glory. Unity in Christ is of a different kind.

Our goals are now in line with Christ and God the Father and their goals. “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me.” This glory comes to us by a direct connection with Christ and his death and resurrection. This glory will only be perfect when we reach heaven, our ultimate goal. Christ’s resurrection assures us this goal is attainable through him.

While we wait we want to show ourselves unified. We must have one goal and that’s reaching heaven through Christ and helping as many others as we can reach heaven with us. We can demonstrate God’s love by helping out brothers and sisters in need. Donating to Holy Cross and the victims of the tornado in the door offering today. Continue to support our worldwide church and the efforts to train pastors and teachers. Keep recent graduates in your prayers as they set out on their mission which is our mission, expressing the glory of God’s love. Glory is there when unity expresses itself in love towards others.

A number of years ago a big deal was made at the Super Bowl when one team decided to be announced as a team. No individual names were called out, no numbers read off, no hometowns mentioned. Just one team from one city playing united. We show unity when we gather for specific programs or events. We give offerings towards a general budget that is unified. We say we’re unified but where does it come from? Our unity is of a different kind. We have one faith in Christ grounded in the Scriptures. We have glory from Christ revealed through the Father’s love. We have true unity given to us as a gift of his grace.