

# The Messenger



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MAY  
2024

## May Worship

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### **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

In addition to celebrating the last Sunday of the Easter season, we will give thanks to God for all women **who "mother" today, and all who** have mothered us in our lives. In addition to Moms, Grandmas, and Aunts, there are teachers, doctors, neighbors, Sunday School teachers; women with different personalities and gifts who make a difference in life. God uses these women to make a positive difference in individual lives and in our world.

### **Pentecost Sunday, May 19**

The disciples are empowered to proclaim Jesus! In the sound of a powerful wind, tongues of fire, and the ability to praise God in many languages, **the Holy Spirit's presence is** announced and Good News proclaimed.

In lively worship, we too celebrate the gift of God the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church!

### **Holy Trinity and Memorial Day Weekend**

In the Church year we remember and celebrate that God is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons, yet one God!

It is also the weekend in the United States when we remember all who died in the wars our nation has fought. Since 9/11, over 7,000 soldiers have died.

When the United States was in danger of becoming two separate nations, in the Civil War there were 620,000 fatalities.

On this weekend, we join with those who gave their lives, in praying for times of peace, when soldiers can return home to families and the pain and loss of war does not continue to occur.

May is a powerful month of worship. In services at Ascension and on You Tube, we hope, by **God's grace, to proclaim Jesus** and his love!



*In Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Chuck*



We had an awesome council retreat on March 9<sup>th</sup>. **We broke off into pairs for an “ice breaker” exercise,** Pastor discussed the general status of the Church as a whole, followed by a group discussion. Then we got down to work going over the binders of each position **and what everyone’s responsibilities were. And a** nice lunch was provided for the retreat. I know I heard a lot of good discussions during lunch and there was a lot of camaraderie going on.

Lent and Easter services were well attended, with lots of delicious meals provided. The Easter breakfast was also very good. Thank you to WELCA for sponsoring the breakfast. The Easter Egg hunt was a huge success among the young people. We also celebrated our first quarterly Birthdays at the end of March. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the cake, a meal, provided food for breakfast, and helped with the hiding of the Easter Eggs and monitoring the children during the hunt. We are so blessed with so many volunteers.

Dale Sutherland has done an awesome job finding someone to repair the ceiling in the church near the choir section. The folks did a great job. Thank you, Dale, for all you did to make this happen.

A special thank you to Pastor Chuck, Rhonda, and Deane for all the work involved in presenting a spectacular Easter season. You are appreciated.

I attended the Pinelands Conference meeting at Hope Lutheran Church on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The fall Pinelands Conference will be held at Joy Lutheran Church on September 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am. Jane and Eileen attended a WELCA workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> also. Their Spring meeting will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at **St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church** in Crystal River.

Blessings to all,

Lynn Andrews

Council President



*Our Lenten offering of \$813.33 will support our 240 ELCA missionaries who serve in over 40 countries around the world.*

*Our Lenten offering of \$813.33 will support the work of ELCA World Hunger which partners with other Christians and agencies to fight hunger, improve nutrition, and work for equality in a hurting world.*

*Our Lenten offering of \$813.33 will support the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services as they practice God's command of showing hospitality to the stranger. For 85 years this organization has helped people adjust to a new life in the United States.*

*Our Lenten collection of 240 pairs of new socks will be given to First Lutheran Church in support of their ministry to homeless people, many of them veterans.*

*Great work Ascension Family!*



In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden – **Rachel's Garden**. **It became a place where folks could come, mostly mothers**, to mourn children killed by gun violence in that past year and plant a simple white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. In 1996, the Women of the ELCA Triennial **Convention passed the memorial, resolving "That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as 'Rachel's Day', based on Jeremiah 31:15-17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.**

Today gun violence is taking place in every community in America. Recently our own mall was the site of someone who fell victim to gun violence while others fled the mall. The suicide of teenagers or children may take place in any community in America today regardless of any **cultural, social, or economic demographic**. **Rachel's Day asks us to reflect upon the problem of gun violence in our country and how this problem can be corrected.**

This year the Ascension Women of the ELCA would like to give a donation to Kimberly's Center for Child Protection in honor of Rachel's Day. **Our total contributions are \$472.** Thank you for your support!

# Palm Sunday



*Hosanna!*





# Holy Baptism of Susan Kimberly Duffey

March 24, 2024



# Easter Sunday Worship





Celebrations for May



- 4/5 Hailey Brown
- 4/17 Tom Newton
- 4/24 Becky Villeda
- 5/06 Sharon DeWalt
- 5/31 May Duffey



\*Please contact the office if your birthday is in April or May and not listed above.



There will be worship services here at Ascension Lutheran Church on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm, in honor of the Ascension of Our Lord.

We hope to see you there!

Pastor Chuck



PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Heavenly Father,  
 Surround those who are graduating with your grace.  
 Bless them with hope so that they move into the future with eager and open hearts.  
 Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind.  
 Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties.  
 As they commence with their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise.  
 All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son. Amen.



Sudler



Each Sunday, we try to produce a new You tube worship video; perhaps something to share with a homebound friend or someone who just might be interested. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSCCPOEIRIDVnclYL6WcMXA>

## Daily Scripture Readings for May

Wednesday May 1	Isaiah 65:17-25	John 14:18-31	Psalm 80	
Thursday May 2	Isaiah 49:5-6	Acts 10:1-34	Psalm 98	
Friday May 3	Isaiah 42:5-9	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 98	
Saturday May 4	Deuteronomy 32:44-47	Mark 10:42-45	Psalm 98	
Sunday May 5	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98 (4)	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Monday May 6	Deuteronomy 7:1-11	1 Timothy 6:11-12	Psalm 93	
Tuesday May 7	Deuteronomy 11:1-17	1 Timothy 6:13-16	Psalm 93	
Wednesday May 8	Deuteronomy 11:18-21	Mark 16:19-20	Psalm 93	
Thursday May 9	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 (5)	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Friday May 10	Exodus 24:15-18	Revelation 1:9-18	Psalm 47	
Saturday May 11	Deuteronomy 34:1-7	John 16:4-11	Psalm 47	
Sunday May 12	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1 (6)	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
Monday May 13	Exodus 28:29-38	Philippians 1:3-11	Psalm 115	
Tuesday May 14	Numbers 8:5-22	Titus 1:1-9	Psalm 115	
Wednesday May 15	Ezra 9:5-15	John 16:16-24	Psalm 115	
Thursday May 16	Genesis 2:4b-7	1 Corinthians 15:42b-49	Psalm 33:12-22	
Friday May 17	Job 37:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:50-57	Psalm 33:12-22	
Saturday May 18	Exodus 15:6-11	John 7:37-39	Psalm 33:12-22	
Sunday May 19	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34,35 (30) Romans	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27;16:4b-15
Monday May 20	Joel 2:18-29	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	
Tuesday May 21	Genesis 11:1-9	1 Corinthians 12:12-27	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	
Wednesday May 22	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 20:19-23	Psalm 104:24-34,35b	
Thursday May 23	Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20	Romans 8:1-8	Psalm 29	
Friday May 24	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 8:9-11	Psalm 29	
Saturday May 25	Isaiah 5:15-24	John 15:18-20, 26-27	Psalm 29	
Sunday May 26	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
Monday May 27	Numbers 9:15-23	Revelation 4:1-18	Psalm 20	
Tuesday May 28	Exodus 25:1-22	1 Corinthians 2:1-10	Psalm 20	
Wednesday May 29	Numbers 6:22-27	Mark 4:21-25	Psalm 20	
Thursday May 30	Exodus 31:12-18	Acts 25:1-12	Psalm 81:1-10	
Friday May 31	Leviticus 23:1-8	Romans 8:31-39	Psalm 81:1-10	

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am—Quilting	2	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	6 5:30pm—AA	7	8 9:00 am—Quilting	9 <i>Ascension Day Worship Service 6:30 pm.</i>	10	11
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion <b>Mother's Day</b>	13 5:30pm—AA	14	15 9:00 am—Quilting	16	17	18
19 Day of Pentecost 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion Council meeting after	20 5:30pm—AA	21	22 9:00 am—Quilting	23	24	25
26 The Holy Trinity 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> 5:30pm—AA	28	29 9:00 am—Quilting	30 Synod Assembly	31 Synod Assembly	



## **Prayer for Memorial Day**

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the members of our armed forces past and present, and especially those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



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Please list 5 of your favorite hymns that you would like to see used at church. Please also list why this hymn is particularly meaningful for you.

**Example: Hymn # 619 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”** – I can remember hearing this hymn in childhood. It was often sung at Easter but it was also sung at funeral services. It has always been a hymn that brings me significant comfort. This will help in the selection of the hymns that we sing at worship.

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Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tear off this page of the Messenger with your responses above and bring it to church. We hope to use these selections throughout the liturgical year.