

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Good News!

Sunday Services

May

- 2 **5th of Easter**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 9 **6th of Easter**
First Communion
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 13 **Ascension of Our Lord**
Prerecorded Service
- 16 **7th of Easter**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 23 **Day of Pentecost**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 30 **The Holy Trinity**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

June

- 6 **Pentecost 2**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 13 **Pentecost 3**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 20 **Pentecost 4**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am
- 27 **Pentecost 5**
Worship and Communion
10:00 am

860-482-3555

May 2021

HELP NEEDED!

A rewarding week
awaits you!

Can you help with VBS
this summer?

No Age Requirement –
Teen, Young Adult, Mom,
Dad, Grandma, Grandpa,
Aunt, Uncle – YOUNG OR
OLD!!!

August 9th – 13th
9am – 12pm

Take A Free Trip to the
Rain Forest!



See Pastor Cady, Paula, or any
member of the
Christian Education
Committee

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE BODNAR'S



Sincere thank to everyone who has been praying, sending cards, and gift cards/certificates. This journey with Brian's brain cancer has been a long and difficult one at times over the last eighteen years and the love and support shown by our church family has been such a blessing. Please continue to pray for us.



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www.stpaulstorrington.com

A Word from Pastor Cady

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A blessed Easter Season to you all! I've noticed an interesting shift in worship. Of course, attendance is a bit down, but, given the precautions we're still observing, it's not as small as I'd imagined. Before the virus, we were seeing 100-120 people in person each week. Now it is more common to see 60-70. We do know that about 30 or so are watching, either the live stream or the later recording, so overall, we are not far down.

But I've noticed some newer and younger faces, too. I'm not sure what that means, but everything I'm reading from colleagues is that the last year is bringing about a re-alignment within our religious communities. I think we're seeing some of that here. Some folks who used to be regulars have simply gotten "out of the habit" of Sunday worship. Some of those are attending on line; others have just dropped out. Some who were impatient for our re-opening have migrated to other parishes that opened earlier. Whether they will return to St. Paul's is not known, but probably not all will. Some have deeply longed to return, and are among the 60-70 we're seeing each week. Some are very eager to come back, but health issues are keeping them away for a bit longer. Others would come, but miss the traditional hymns and/or communion and/or coffee hour, so they stay home until those things return. In addition, some new faces are now regularly volunteering on Sundays, to make each service flow as smoothly as possible.

The other interesting thing I've noticed is that some who were not very connected are now beginning to find their way to our ministry, either in person or online. Something has begun to sprout that no one anticipated. An opportunity is presenting itself that we need to respond to. I'll ask you to do some things to foster a new and fresh community life for our congregation.

If you are physically coming to worship, please let all your family, friends, and neighbors know. Some of them may find that they would like to join you. You can assure them that we are taking reasonable precautions for everyone's health, but still gathering for praise and prayer.

Let everyone know of our on-line ministry. Even if you do not watch the whole service each Sunday, you can open it and share it to your Facebook or other social media page. This will give more and more people a taste of our Gospel centered mission. I have a hunch that this outreach may become very important as time goes on.

Remind everyone you can that the ELCA is a church that values all people. The news is full of Christian voices that do not share our vision of an inclusive Church that worships an inclusive God. Especially now, as people are re-assessing their own spiritual needs, people need to know that there is a place for them in our family of faith, our community of grace. A safe place with a message of love for all is still very good news for many, many people.

Finally, if you know of people in specific need who can use our help, please let me know. We can't meet all needs, but we may be able to touch more lives with practical help if we know about it.

As we move forward together, I'd love to hear from any of you about how your own faith journey has been affected by the last year's changes. We can stand by one another for mutual healing, both literal, physical healing, and the re-establishment of a wholesome spiritual and psychological environment for all of us. God has not abandoned us, but we may find divine grace in new places or ways. And in all things, may a measure of God's peace and joy find its way into your hearts.

Your brother in Christ,



Pastor Scott Cady



Meet Me In The Garden

Your Appointment With God



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. **⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.** **⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.** **⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."** **¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.** Acts 16:6-10

These two Bible selections may not seem to be related at first; however, it has been my experience that when we pray about a situation where we ask for guidance or we don't know how to proceed, God is very much listening.

In Acts 16, Luke is writing about Paul and preaching the gospel, but I believe God will also guide us in our personal decisions as well. He will close doors where He does not want you to go and He will open doors to give you an opportunity that will benefit you or someone you are praying for. You may not always understand what He is doing, but I think if you really pay attention and be open to God's guidance, you will be surprised at what is happening. It has been our experience that you need to **pray** and then **trust** that God will work with you because He does not give you an outline of what He is doing ahead of time. You need to trust Him day-by-day. Just as He gave the manna to Israel in the desert day-by-day, He will walk you through his plan day-by-day.

Because my recent experiences are not mine alone to share, I can only tell you that somehow God has lead my family on quite a journey, from college decisions to housing decisions, to personal decisions. To pray, to trust, to act on, and then to watch Him work is amazing. He has closed some doors only to open others and it has always been for the good. Thank you Jesus. May all of you, my friends, know that Romans 8:28 is for **you**.

Blessings to all. Betty Hilton

HILLTOP ELC

I can't believe we are in the downswing of our school year! The end of our year comes June 11th and then the teachers come in for their year end clean up before our summer break!

I am sure by now you have all heard of my departure from Hilltop. I want to say what a pleasure it has been to work here! Your preschool program is top notch, and I am proud to say I have been a part of this program for the last 15 years! When I hear other directors speak of their Board of Directors, I am comforted by the fact that Hilltop's Advisory Committee has always been a joy to work with. Nearly every staff member I have teamed with has been a delight! They have stretched themselves to gain more knowledge and experience and have shared their expertise with each other. They have helped provide a high quality early learning experience for families from Torrington and surrounding communities that St. Paul's should be proud of!



As I leave Hilltop, I am excited for my next steps! I plan to help in caregiving for our 2 grandkids. The older one just turned 2 and the younger one is expected to make a debut in June! To fill in the financial deficits, I have been accepted as an online teacher for distance learning on a website called Outschool! I already started teaching a couple of sessions! It was fun meeting new children from around the country, and possibly from other parts of the world! I will stay through the end of my contract which ends in July. We have already started the search for my replacement. Please keep Pam, Fred, Diane and I in your prayers as we conduct this search. God has the right person in mind already!

Thank you to all who participated in our Marzano Pizzeria fundraiser. As of this writing, we have not yet collected all the forms, so the next month's newsletter will tell you how much we raised.

In lieu of our in person Art Show, we are displaying the children's art in a website called Artsonia. We have used this in the past, but it has been a number of years. Children's art work will be posted in their portfolios and they can invite family and friends (their "fans") to come by to see their work. From there, fans can purchase items with their artwork on it, including mugs, aprons, T shirts, canvas and MORE! Funds raised will go towards our Tuition Assistance Fund. This annual event was established several years ago by a family who benefitted from some tuition assistance and saw this as a way to give back what they were gifted.

Though it has been a challenging year due to the pandemic and the guidelines we needed to follow from the Office of Early Childhood to stay healthy, it has been a good year. As I mentioned earlier, it could not have happened without the strong staff we have in place. Many child care centers had the challenge of teachers not wanting to return because of Covid, but our brave teachers faced the challenges with grace and perseverance! We have stayed healthy throughout the year! I want to take a moment to recognize this amazing team! Our Lead Teachers, Lezlie Fosbrook, Monica Valente and Michelle Miller, the co-teachers, Christina Brzoska and Nicole Sears, as well as the assistants, Megan Roberts and Nicole Waldron have all been an amazing team. I have been honored to be working with them through this pandemic.

A special recognition to the Hilltop Advisory Committee as they supported and helped me navigate the uncertain waters we went through this year. I was sad to see Ron Travis leave the board, but want to recognize him for all the years he has dedicated to Hilltop. He often helped with hiring new staff. He was the voice of reason from time to time. I also miss his sense of humor! Pam Little has been the lone chairperson this year, and has taken on a lot more than she bargained for when she joined the committee! The grants we have applied for and received could not have been done without her! Now she is faced with filling the most difficult positions in a preschool. A new leader. The rest of the committee has been faithful all year....Michelle, Christine, Jane and Casaundra. Thank you for your dedication to Hilltop!

Thank you to the property committee. They help keep us safe by maintaining the area we use. They have kept us safe from the sleepy bear who took up residence under the church. Such a dedicated group of people!

A special thanks to Rachel and Jean. Rachel supports Hilltop in so many ways, always with a joyful heart and a smile on her face. The work Jean does for Hilltop is a part time job on its own, never mind adding it on to the duties she has for the church! She is a true gift!

Registrations for the 2021-2022 school year is still ongoing. The state has now lifted all Covid restrictions around the capacity of our classes, so we have lots of room. We are still considering how we might be able to continue to social distance with higher attendance in the fall. Here is hoping and praying we can restore our numbers to pre-Covid attendance! We gratefully got through one year, but I am not sure we can make it through a second year without increasing our enrollment! Please keep referring your friends and families to Hilltop. Once classes are filled, we maintain waiting lists for all classes, so continue to send folks our way. At this time, we will have openings in all of our classes. Our program choices include:

2 year olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:00

3 year olds meet 2 or 3 days a week. 3 year olds attend Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30-12:00. These children can add a third day to their schedule on Fridays.

4 year olds have more choices. They can come Monday, Wednesday & Friday or Tuesday & Thursday 9:15-11:45. They could combine both class choices and make it 5 mornings a week.

School Readiness is our publicly funded class for preschool children who live in Torrington and fit within financial guidelines for a LOW COST preschool experience. This class meets Monday through Friday 9:00-3:00.

Thank you all for your love, support and prayers!

In His Service,
Jan Sosnicki

AROUND THE CHURCH



Did you know...

When using VANCO to make your contributions to the church you have the capability to go in and change the amount directly. This will not change your pledge amount however unless you contact the office and let Jean know.

Only the bookkeeper can change your pledge amount in our church records. This

is important because we use the pledge amounts to anticipate what our giving amount will be for budgeting purposes.

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to call the office to speak to Jean. Thank you!

Saturday May 15, 2021

**Dave Pettigrew
Concert and Worship**

**St. Paul's parking lot
Bring your own chair and a
nonperishable food item to be
donated to a local food pantry!**

**\$15 ea. available after worship or
the office during business hours.**

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

St. Paul's Women have done their best to stay in touch via Zoom since the pandemic began last March. While realizing that not all women have the ability to use Zoom, we are happy to report that we will have an in-person "meeting" on Monday, May 24th at 7:00pm. It will be a time to get back together face to face and make some plans for an annual banquet and some other activities. The church has opened to in-person meetings and gathering. We will certainly maintain social distancing protocols and we invite women of all ages to come! Bring a beverage and snack for yourself; we won't have prepared snacks this month but will consider seeking hostesses for coming meetings.

We are winding down our "Sock It To 'Em" sock drive in the next week or so. The outpouring of support has been gratifying. Thanks to all who have contributed the many pairs of socks in all colors and sizes. They will be delivered to social service agencies in the community to be given to clients who will benefit most. Stay tuned to the number of pairs collected when the project is completed!

AROUND THE CHURCH

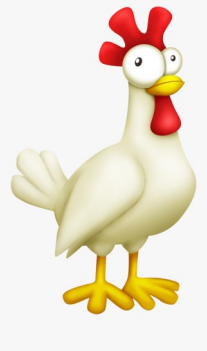
After a year off due to Covid19, the Christian Education Committee is looking forward to in-person Vacation Bible School this year. August 9th – 13th are the dates and the theme is **“Rainforest Explorers: Jesus Leads the Way.”** Before we can release registration forms to students and families, we need to secure adequate adult and teen helpers to make this a reality. We need help with games, singing, crafts, and storytelling.



We would like to do as much as possible outside as weather permits this summer. Obviously, if it is oppressively hot and humid or rainy with thunderstorms likely, we will move indoors. We will follow Covid guidelines as outlined at the time of VBS.

Please contact Paula (860-567-9505-H; 860-485-5321-Cell or e-mail teetee108@yahoo.com); see Pastor Cady; or any member of the Christian Education Committee (Casaundra Abeling, Emily Decker, June DeMichiel, May Friday, and Pamela Little). Thank you in advance for your willingness to help and bring the Word of God through this fun and exciting week of Christian growth!

There is a VBS prep day scheduled for Thursday, July 29th from 3pm-6pm. Many willing helpers are welcome to get the preliminary things done before VBS week!



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fellowship Committee met on Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30 pm to plan an event for later in the spring. “Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner” is a clue to what may be on the agenda for our next fellowship event! Stay tuned ...

There is a **free** Tai Chi class here at St. Paul’s on Wednesday mornings at 10:30! We are currently meeting in the Fellowship Hall and hope to go outside when the weather warms up! Tai Chi aids balance, promotes calmness, and improves movement. The Tai Chi movements acknowledge nature. The slow steady movement is for all abilities. Tai chi can also be done sitting down in a chair. Everyone does what they are capable of with **NO** judgement.

Covid precautions will be in place as well. If you are interested or have question, please contact Karen Trippodi at 860-489-3545 or e-mail curtis.j.trippodi@snet.net .



THE GARDENS



Monarch Sanctuary Waystation

April was a busy month for the first phase in resurrecting the Waystation. A stone border was placed around the Sanctuary and multiple soil amendments and raking were conducted. The soil analysis from UCONN reflected the Sanctuary lacking in every major soil nutrient. Consequently, Lime, Blood Meal and Greensand were applied and worked into the soil over several weeks and applications. Composting of the areas to be planted will be required as we plant later in May and June. Walking paths and other features (bird bath, bird houses) will be added once the initial design has been

completed. A generous donation was received for soil amendments, and milkweed and perennial plants are being donated but additional financial donations would be sincerely appreciated to assist in our resurrection efforts.



Sharing Garden:

April was a month for planning and preparation for the new growing season. The soil analysis report was returned from UCONN and, in general, the Sharing Garden soil was adequate for planting without amendments. Many of the beds will require additional topsoil but no additional composting is needed.

Through a generous donation by Mike Butler in New Hartford, natural wood material was cut and milled for 4 new raised beds. Mike delivered the wood and June & Steve Seiser and Janice Capolupo assembled the new beds and removed the old. One of the new beds has already been planted with peas, and the remaining new beds will support potato and squash. In addition to the pea raised bed, 3 other beds have been planted with frost resistant leafy greens and root vegetables. Germination is ongoing, and with the first green shoots, "hope springs eternal".

In late May, after the last frost, the remainder of the beds will be planted and the soaker hoses tested, programmed, and activated. Until then, the gardeners will be hand watering the planted beds with water stored in our holding barrel.



THE GARDENS

The Garden of Memories

Thank you to all that memorialized their loved ones with Easter Flowers, we were able to buy Forsythias for the Altar that were planted in the Garden of Memories. They make a beautiful addition.

The Garden of Memories is St. Paul's peaceful place for interment for you and loved ones. If you would like to more information on the process, please see Beth Brower or contact the office.





May 1st

Camden Ferrucci

May 2nd

Brooklynn Rose Dickinson

May 3rd

Ainslee Campbell

May 5th

Mary Swienckowski

May 6th

Ashley Ross
Angela DiStefano

May 8th

Kendhyall Abeling

May 10th

Ernest Marquard

May 11th

River Seleman

May 12th

Daniel Roberts
Ethan Schaller

May 13th

Anna Woike

May 15th

Renate Riese
Karen Ness
Noah Shapiro

May 16th

Barbara Kreidwise
Jessica Nardine

May 17th

Jacob Friday
Susan Caulfield

May 18th

Casaundra Abeling
Coni-Jo Aparo

May 19th

Noah Braatz

May 21st

John Krochalis
Jacob Ludwig

May 22nd

Wendy Iannelli
Doug Harrel
Ignacio Vega

May 24th

David Foth

May 25th

Kevin Ross

May 26th

Fran Seitz
Freyja Harrel

May 27th

Donny Crossman
Eli Boda
Dax Baker

May 30th

Mason Ferrucci

James and Joan Wolfinger

James and Margaret Clavette, Jr.

Richard and Cheryl Corey

John and Wendy Iannelli

Gary and Nancy Begey

H. Curtis and Margita Stone

Roman & Leisa Radzins

Robert and June DeMichiel

Jon and Deb Sterling

5-1-64

5-2-92

5-10-80

5-12-84

5-20-83

5-20-89

5-22-82

5-26-64

5-31-04



Our Condolences

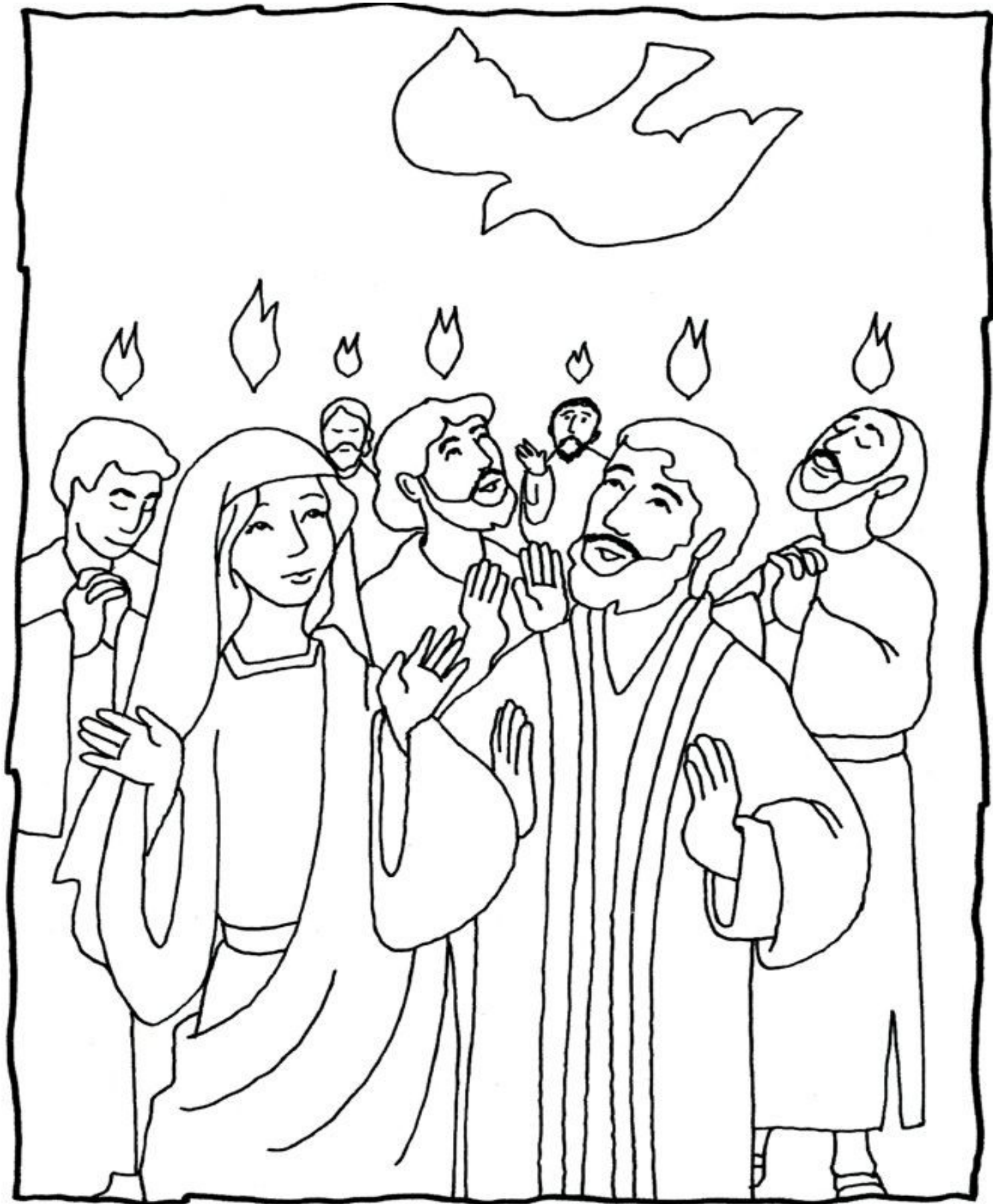
Linda Schultz

Jesse Smith

Tom Sedgewick



Kids Page





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Rachel Harrel, Secretary
Jean Schlapfer, Bookkeeper
Adrienne Weik, Director of Music

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Monica Valente, Teacher
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Michelle Miller, Teacher
Christina Brzoska, Teacher
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Nicole Waldron, Teacher Assistant

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