

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Rachel’s Day

*Since 1997 St. Paul’s Women of the ELCA have been observing Rachel’s Day on the first Sunday in May. Brought before the triennial convention in 1996, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of Women of the ELCA, encouraged each synodical women’s group to decry violence against children. Rachel’s Day is observed to uplift all children but especially those living in violence, those underserved through poverty, those abused and neglected, and those suffering with physical and/or mental illness. Today we uplift all of God’s children, since each one of us is loved unconditionally by Our Caring and Compassionate God.*

**Prelude** Children of the Heavenly Father, arr. by Robert A. Hobby c. 2002 by Augsburg Fortress in "For All the Saints: Hymn Preludes for Funerals"

### **Announcements**

**GREETERS – Kathy Depaoli & Donna Marcella**

**USHERS – Mary Grening, Karen Marciano**

**Opening Hymn:** “For All the Faithful Women” – vs. 1, 5, 6, 10, 6 (#420), Last Verse  
Hymn #419/420

### **PRAYER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED – A CALL TO WORSHIP – Pam Ewing**

*We pray for children in our communities who live  
without either of their parents:  
children whose parents have died,  
children who have been abandoned,  
children taken away from their parents because of abuse or neglect,  
and children who have run away from home.*

*You care for these little ones God,  
and not one of them is lost from your sight.  
Guide, guard and protect these children  
as they move in with relatives.  
as they live with foster parents  
as they are adopted into new families  
or as they struggle on the street.*

*Comfort each one who feels unloved, unwanted and afraid.  
Give wisdom to people who make decisions about children’s lives.  
Empower those who care for them to be loving and compassionate.  
Instill in our government leaders a passion for protecting the most vulnerable.  
Help us to reach out as individuals and as a congregation  
to those who live without the protection and love of parents.  
We also pray for parents and children who have been wrongly separated,  
that you will end their agony and help them to be reunited.  
We pray this in the name of Jesus, who loves the little ones. Amen.*

By Carol Penner



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY – Jeanette Richard**

O God, source of all goodness: We give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life. Bring safety to our schools that all may teach and learn in confidence of a peaceful environment; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Children's Message** "Lottie's Cookies Show Jesus' Love" – Paula Rosenbeck  
*Jesus Loves Me (Hymn #595)*

## **FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48 – Linda Rosa**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6 – June Seiser**

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17 – Pamela Little**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

**SERMON** *An Interactive Sermon by Women re: Love Leah, Pamela, Pam, Jeanette, Paula*

*As the Hymn of the Day is being sung, the women distribute the small wooden pocket/purse crosses to all (adults and children)*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - May Friday**

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, your voice calls us to worship. Where discord bellows within the church, unite us in harmony. Where we lack direction, guide us in singing your song with our unique voices.

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

Creative Lord, your melodies formed the earth and all that is in it. Receive the roar of the sea and the rhythmic clap of the rivers. Rejoice as the hills ring out in praise.

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

*\*Almighty Lord, classrooms should be safe places for children, but it can't be guaranteed. Protect children, and help teachers, administrators, and law enforcement officers to remain vigilant against violence. Help them to create an environment where students can flourish.*

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

*Father God, lay a blanket of protection over all children who cannot attend school, especially those whose education is disrupted by conflict, emergencies, gun violence, or natural disasters. We know You created children with a curiosity to learn about their world. Give each child the chance to explore the world through their studies. We ask You to raise up godly leaders who will change the way children are treated, opening the possibility for fuller lives and futures filled with promise.*

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

*Teacher of all, guide us to do that which is right and just for all who we encounter. Help us to be kind to one another, whether it be an intentional act or a random act of kindness whenever appropriate. Treat one another with respect and kindness at all times and in all places.*

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

*By your power, Great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign, that though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Christ.*

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

*Here the names on our prayer list will be read.*

♪ Lord listen to your children praying. ♪

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your goodness echoes through all time with the songs of the saints. Thank you for all the disciples who have mentored us through their gift of music. Keep your song within us this day and always.

♪ Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying ♪

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

\*These prayers are adapted from World Vision ( [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) )

### **OFFERING PRAYER - Liz Falls**

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as you were made known to the disciples.

Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives,  
that we may be your risen body in the world.

**Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Now let us feast this Easter day  
on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Pastor, Acolyte, Lisa Bodnar, Pam Ewing**

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

One Bread, One Body

Hymn #496

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - Pam Ewing**

Life-giving God,  
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection  
you send light to conquer darkness,  
water to give new life,  
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection  
that we may show your glory to all the world;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION – Liz Falls**

May God who has brought us from death to life  
fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING”**

**HYMN # 543**



## **DISMISSAL – Lisa Bodnar**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Jesus Loves the Little Children, arr. by James D. Kimball c. 1989 by Lorenz Publishing Co. in the June 1989 issue of "The Organ Portfolio"

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***A place for you***

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

The women's ministry organization of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# Around the Church

May 6	Blood Drive	7a-7pm
May 8	Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
May 9	Hilltop Advisory Meeting Zoom	4:30 pm
May 10	Penny Auction	6:00 pm
May 13	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
May 19	Last Day of Sunday School Church Picnic	

*Bible Studies 6pm most Tuesdays Zoom &  
10 am most Wednesdays in person*

Tai Chi 11:00 am Wednesdays  
Quilting Group 1:00 pm Wednesdays



**Offerings Summary:**  
**Needed Weekly \$4,948**  
**Actually Received \$3,148**  
**Shortfall (\$1,000)**



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a listing of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below.

Francine Ahrens	Jason Lashbrook	Louise Roche
Peggy Ali	John Lewis	Judy Schaller
Joyce Almsted	David Little	Rosemary & Otto Schibi
Eli Boda	Rebecca Little	Teri Seleman
Selma Boscarino	Audrey & Ernie Marquard	Sigrid Smitley
Cherie Brown	Abigail Marine	Paul Smith
Sharon Cable	Eric Marine	Deb & Jon Sterling
Leif Dallaire	Michael Marine	Julia Thompson Carroll
Emily Decker	Richard Marine	Jackie Quinn Wassik
Linda Dellano	Janis Martin	Ed
Betty Enbeskotte	Mike Martin	Jen O.
Mark Enbeskotte	Gil & Marilyn Martin	Jaiden
Jan Eucalitto	Michael Meyers	Diane H.
Bruce & Liz Falls	Rich Minelli	Steve
Ashley Friday	Kate Marrow	Lou W.
Rosemarie Foth	Baby Amelia Mosca	Curtis
Joan Gerard	Bill Muhl	Shayla W.
Ruth Grech	Dennis Nalette	Steve
Jack & Barbara Heintz	Karen Ness	Jack W.
Kathleen Hilton	Tom O'Brien	
Shannon Hilton	Lea Orriola & family	<b><u>Our Nursing Home Members</u></b>
Jake Hoadley	Russell Palmer	Dee Gammon
Erma Horn	Maria Payne	Midge Rosenbeck
Amy Rose Jensen	Dr. Barbara Rose Ponse	Calvin Bensch
Ed Killingbeck	Jack Quinn	
Lynn Killingbeck	Caroline Quintal	
Marilyn Killingbeck	Roman Radzins	
Pat King	Jonathan Richard	

## Our Military Friends

*Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.*

Tyler Quinn  
Eric Beyus  
Major Zachary Fulton  
Brandan Holbrook  
Jonathan Connell  
Tom Gregg, Jr.

Eric Bremer  
Peter Hutchinson  
S/W Anderson James Ernst USCG  
SPC Dominic Boscarino  
PVT Noah Braatz  
PVT 2 Christian Braatz



**Penny Auction  
&  
50/50 Drawing**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
837 Charles St, Torrington**

**Friday, May 10, 2024  
Doors Open at 6:00pm  
Drawing at 7:00pm**

**The Women of the ELCA honors  
Moms or the special ladies in your life!  
Bring your own snacks  
Info 860-482-3555**

## **Member Appreciation & End of Sunday School CHURCH**



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

**ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOMED!  
FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

**CHANGE THIS YEAR : BRING YOUR OWN MEAT!**

Potluck Lunch: (if your name begins with...)

**A-E please bring dessert**

**F-N please bring appetizers, chips, beverages etc.**

**O-Z please bring salads, pasta, potato, green etc.**

**Please bring blankets, towels, lawn chairs, sunscreen  
and a friend or 2!**

**Please sign up by May 13th so we can have an approximate headcount.**