



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events

May 2022

Sun. May 1

Junior High Confirmation

930 Worship Service

Mon. May 2

Elders Mtg 7 pm

Support Group 7 pm

Tues. May 3

Quilting 930-12

Wed. May 4

Ladies Bible Study 10

Adult Choir—Last practice
until fall 7 pm

Sun. May 8, 15, 22, 29

Worship 930 am

Sun School 1045 am

Mon. May 9, 16, 23, 30

Support Group 7 pm

Tues. May 10

Church Council 7 pm

Wed. May 11, 18, 25

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Sat. May 14

Basket Weaving 1 pm

Tues May 17

Christian Ed Mtg 7 pm

Thur. May 19

Fellowship Committee

Meeting 430 pm

Ladies Night Bunco 6 pm

Sat. May 21

Prayer Vigil

6 am—6 pm

Tues. May 24

Stewardship Committee

Dinner Meeting 6 pm

Thurs. May 26

The Ascension of Our Lord

Sat. May 28

Basement reserved

Kieffer

Mon May 30

Memorial Day

Church Office Closed

**Save the Dates for
VBS 2022
June 6– 10**



Junior High Confirmation

Sunday, May 1, 2022

9:30 Service

Reception for Confirmands to follow

Congratulations to our

2022 Confirmands

Morgan Kjosa, Maggie Monaco

Hanna Schmidt, Mikaila Soberanis

Prayer Vigil

Saturday May 21

6 AM—6 PM

Church Sanctuary

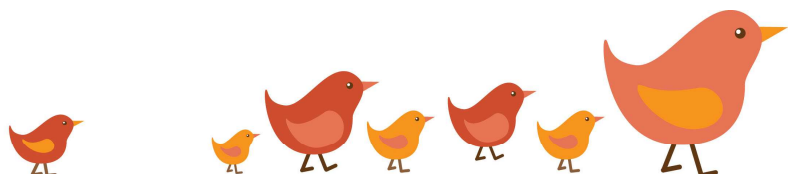
More info to follow



Save the dates!

VBS 2022—June 6 10

Your help is needed!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Pastor's Message

Many moons ago, the Elders began discussing a way to help our congregation understand just why Blessed Savior Lutheran Church exists, and how we could design a simple tool to help the congregation be more engaged in the work of Christ's Church. Hence 4G was created.

In a nutshell, the 4G concept is a simple tool whereby each "G" helps articulate what Blessed Savior is all about. Our church motto is to "Love God and Love our Neighbor." But we wondered what that looked like in

flesh. 4G gives us a simple framework as to how we grow in our faith and encourage one another in our daily walk with Christ.

Another way of looking at this is to look at Luther's Small Catechism. It doesn't contain the entire Bible, but it is a primer for the Christian faith. It contains the important doctrines and helps us to read the Bible with greater understanding. There are six chief parts of the Catechism: the 10 Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and The Sacrament of the Altar. This framework is not meant to replace the Bible, but to enhance our reading and understanding of the Scriptures. This is the goal of 4G in the realm of our faith walk.

The idea is to connect what we're doing at BSLC to the 4G structure to help us see the relationship between what we're doing and our growing in Christ or our Discipleship. Here's how it works:

If we are a 4G church:

We **Glorify** God in our Worship together and our lives. As the Psalmist wrote (34:3), "Glorify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together."

We **Gather** for Bible Study and Fellowship "to build one another up." Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

We **Go** into our Community and World to proclaim the Good News in various ways as Jesus commanded in the Great Commission (Matthew 28).

And we **Give** to support the ministry of Jesus through our Time, Talents and Treasure.

Simple, isn't it?

If a person is regularly attending worship, that's **Glorifying God!** We want to encourage worship all the more... Advent and Lenten Services... Prayer Vigils... etc.

- If a person is **Gathering** with us in one of our Home Bible Groups, that's outstanding. It's one way of having fellowship with other Christians and learning how to build one another up. While a Trivia event may seem to be less "spiritual," it nevertheless is an event that puts us in a Christian environment and makes us more aware of the needs of others and helps us to pray specifically for those needs.

- If a person is **Going** into our Community to Serve in the name of the Lord, they will see there are many ways of reaching out besides preaching from a street corner. Making quilts or blankets, supporting Mosaic, collecting plastic caps for Carriel Jr. High, or supporting some other mission like we did with Brittany Sterling's Water Treatment Project in Uganda, or our VBS project for the Chakota Therapeutic Riding Center for youth and adults who are disabled or in rehab or support Pastor Daniel Kofi from Ghana who is currently studying at Concordia Seminary to become a professor at the seminary in Ghana..., these are ways of taking Christ to the world.

If a person **Gives** to support the work of the church by giving their time or talents to serve on a committee or working around the church, or teaching Sunday School, or leading a small group in their home, or writing birthday and anniversary cards, etc., or simply giving financially to serve, any of those ways support the cause of Christ and encourage us to have a giving spirit.



Pastor Vern's article continues from page 2

Be aware, that NONE of these activities are for collecting spiritual points. We don't need them! By faith we believe in Christ's redemption plan and we receive His gift of salvation free of charge. God is only looking for a response of the faith He has given. So how do we say "Thanks?" **We Glorify Him, We Gather** with His people, **We Go** into the world and share the Good News, and **We Give** of our time, talents, and treasure **as we have been blessed**. Remember the widow who gave only two small coins to the temple treasury? Her response of love caught Jesus' attention and for that small gift, she received His commendation. For Jesus, it's not about the size of the gift, but the fullness of the Heart.

So, in summary, 4G is just a skeleton, a framework, upon which to hang the various acts of love we give to Christ in response to His love for us.

This concept is not meant to make anyone feel guilty. It is a way of discovering what we can do in appreciation for the gift of eternal life. This is critical. It is important to know that God has given gifts to the **individuals** of His body, the church. And while some gifts seem to have more importance than others, they are all important. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:21-22; "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."

A person is not failing if he is only Glorifying God at this point, but the deeper their worship becomes, the more their desire grows to move into Gathering, Going, and Giving. God accepts us where we are and so does BSLC. However, He encourages us to grow in Him and in His church.

So, I will be doing a 4-part sermon series in August/September based on the 4G concept. Also be on the lookout for other ways we will be implementing 4G. My prayer is that God will bless this effort, so that we might, to a person, learn to fulfill the motto of our church: "Love God and Love our Neighbor."

In His Service, By His Grace +
Pastor Vern



"She out of her poverty has put in everything she had."

MARK 12:44

1 -Rev. Perry Schefelker

1—Autumn Kesting

2—Oliver Sanchez

3—Kris McManus

4 – Kyle Kesting

7 – Payton Johnson, Oscar Garcia

8 – Ben Lesire, Stephanie Yep (Mabry)

Gloria Alvarado

11 – Mary Stake, Haydin Williams

14 – Kim Williams

17 – Steve Foster

19 Bob Strohm

20 – Donna Jackson, Tate Husemann,

Angela Dalton, Ava & Cohen Morton

22 – Greg Conrad

25 – Noah Geis

26 – Gary Williams, Travis Lintvedt

27 – Jon Williams

29 – Darla Kesting, Andrew Brandmeyer,

29 – Dave Reynolds, Sr.

30 – Mary Geis

31—Charlie Morton, Keatyn Schefelker



We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at

nancy@mybslc.org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.

10 – Chris & Sandie Rust

11– Kyle & Virginia Kesting

15 – Roger & Phyllis Miesner

22 – Don & Laura Drouin

24—Jason & Carie Boulanger

26—Greg & Ginger Kieffer

29—Dave & Lorian Reynolds



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Wow, it is the month of May, which is time for Mother's Day, graduation ceremonies, and Memorial Day, plus the end of the school year.

On Sunday, April 24th, we held the Spring Voter's meeting. For those of you who did not attend, the church has a new Chairman as I have stepped down after 6 years. The new chairman is Gus Williams. Thanks Gus for stepping up, and I know you will do a great job! Also, we elected Kirk and Janet Satrom as Treasurer again. We also elected one Elder and several members to the 7 council committees. Congratulations and thanks to those who volunteered and were elected.

One position we are still trying to fulfill is Council Secretary. Cheryl retired at the end of 2021, so we are looking for a volunteer. Cheryl Krantz's term ends in June 2023. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chairman Gus Williams, Pastor Vern, Nancy Schmidt or outgoing Chairman Curtis Kuppler.

Cheryl -> Thanks for your service during the last several years as council secretary!!

I also discussed (a little) the 4G plan at the Spring Voter's Meeting. I did not have much information as the council did not want to rush anything and wanted to ensure we put a quality plan together. Pastor Vern as well as Brian Lloyd and myself put a letter together to explain the concept of 4G. But basically, the council will get back to 4G during August/September as the Pastor does a 4-part sermon series discussing each "G" (Glorify, Gather, Give and Go). As a reminder, "4G" is a guideline or template, not a process or program, for disciple ministry to help the church in our mission -> "Love God, Love Your Neighbor".

Also, we want to increase our social ministry in our "internet" community (Facebook, Twitter, and the church's website), so the council is working with the Elders on a social ministry/media plan in order to improve our presence. The Elders are seeking bids from 2 to 3 businesses for a trial 8-month contract. So far we have received 2 bids so far. If you know of a business interested in putting a bid together, please contact Brian Lloyd or one of the other elders.

Since this newsletter article will be my last as chairman, I want to look back at the last 6 years. When I was first elected, I wasn't sure I knew what I was doing, but during the first couple of council meetings, I settled in as the members of the council made it easy for me.

No one expected anything like the COVID-19 pandemic, but we survived!! We had to tighten our belts on spending during the pandemic, but I feel that our church is much stronger now. The church is in a better place compared to 6 years ago (**thanks to you**, not me).

Even though it has been a nice run, I decided that 6 years was enough for me as I thought the council needed some new blood as well as I felt overcommitted with work, church, and other personal things. It was a fun, interesting and challenging at times. I appreciate ALL your help during my reign.

I want to THANK YOU for having faith and confidence in me during these last 6 years as your chairman. Hope to see you around church on Sunday as well as at other church events!!!!

In God's Name,
Curtis Kuppler
BSLC Congregational Chairman



In-carnation

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.





Notes of THANKS

Letter received from O'Fallon Community Food Pantry:

Dear Pastor Lintvedt,

Please pass on our sincere appreciation to your congregation for their very generous "Souper Bowl" gift of canned soups and \$207.32 to the O'Fallon Community Food Pantry. Your donation will allow us to meet the needs of our clients who are dealing with food insecurity. Without the support of individual donors, civic groups, churches, and businesses, we would not be able to provide food to individuals who require our assistance.

Again, thank you for your generosity. We are blessed to have a caring community that supports our vital mission.

Larry Strube, Treasurer



April 26, 2022

Dear Pastor Matt,

Thank you for encouraging your congregation to support Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Centers' 2022 Baby Bottle Campaign. Your willingness to stand alongside us to defend LIFE is truly such a blessing! As we begin to head into summer, we wanted to send an update on how much your congregation collected to support our ministry this year.

To date this year, more than 3,100 individual bottles have been collected from 77 different churches/groups in the Metro East, resulting in a total of \$88,946.48 raised! ***The amount collected from your church this year was \$1,318.09.*** Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your congregation for every coin, bill or check that filled our bottles this year. Their faithful giving and earnest prayers enable us to continue to share truth, hope and LIFE with our patients. We could not continue to reach them without your help.

In closing, please let me take a moment to thank *you* for your ministry, Pastor Matt. *Thank you* for your faithfulness to the Lord and His call on your life. He is pleased with you and all you do in His name!

Eternally Grateful,

Kathy Lesnoff, President/CEO



We Remember

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



The Fellowship Committee provides Fellowship among our congregation and through our community interactions.

Phew! Lenten Season is now over and we can rest just a little bit! We are still providing Sunday Morning treats for Bible Study Class.

The Easter Pancake Breakfast was a big success! We had 60 people attend with lots of variety of food! The Fellowship Committee would like to "Thank" the Elders for making all those Pancakes and all those that helped with clean-up and with food. It takes everyone to pitch in to make a function a success.

In May we will have a Confirmation Gathering, A Mother's Day Special treat, and another special surprise to be announced later. And don't forget BUNCO which is 19 May @ 6pm. The BUNCO gals will be taking a summer break until the third week of September due to vacations, etc.

Blessing to all, Fellowship Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is in full-mode planning and we need EVERYONE'S help to make this education and outreach program a success. We are going back to the 5 evenings format after last year's abbreviated schedule. The dates are June 6 to 10 from approximately 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

There are lots of sign ups in the church lobby and more to come. We need FOOD, we need SUPPLIES and we need VOLUNTEERS! Please sign up to help where you can. Some sign ups are also available on line at <https://mybslc.org/upcoming-events>.

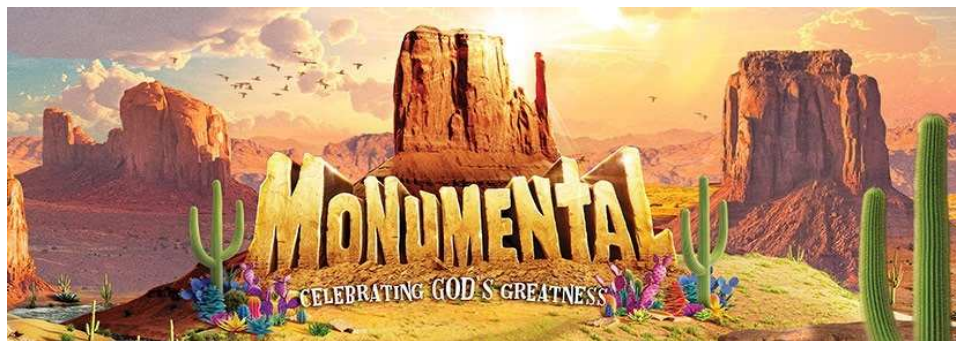
Attendance registration is also on line at <https://mybslc.org/upcoming-events>.

Sunday School

Last day of Sunday School will be May 22. The Sunday School Celebration will be held during services and the last Sunday School class will be after that. Sunday School classes will begin in the fall. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details.

Needed – Committee Members!!

The Christian Education committee (the friendly group who spearheads Sunday School, Rally Day, Fall Festival, Christmas program, the Easter Egg hunt and VBS) needs more members to join and support these activities. The time commitment is minimal and flexible and more hands are needed to keep these activities going. Please contact Lyndsey Sherman (lsherman9298@gmail.com) or Donna Brockmeyer (brockmeyerfamily@gmail.com) with questions or to join.



Stewardship Living Sacrifices



Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

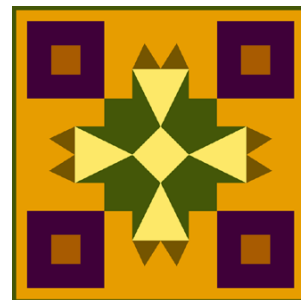
We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

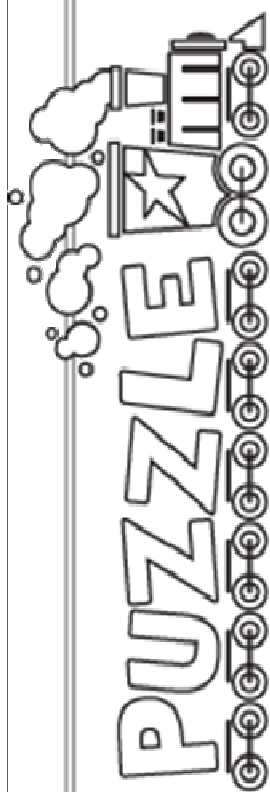
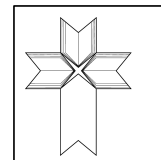


Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILT-ERS on **Tuesdays May 3, June 7, July 5 & August 2** from 9:30 - 12:00 to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them





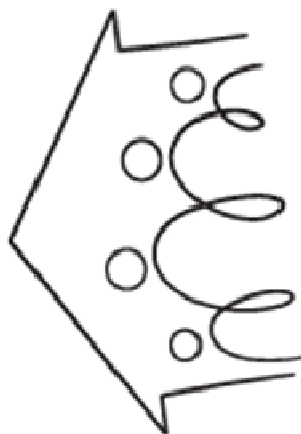
The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



A VALUABLE command

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.



son
daughter
respect

mother
honor
family
love

father
home
obey

1. _ _ _ _ _
2. _ _ _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _
6. _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ _
8. _ _ _ _ _
9. _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ _

—ono_ your _ather and _our mo_h_r,
so t_at y_u may _i_e l_ng in t_e land
the L_RD _ou_ God i_ givi_g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

A Mother's Day Hymn

Sing praise to our Creator God!
Earth prospers from the way
God "mothers" each new child into
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood
A channel from above
That longs to share with every child
God's Comfort, Grace and Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,
Who "mothers" us from birth!
Providing what we truly need
Throughout our lives on earth.



MOTHER

M is for the MEMORIES that will never go away.

O is for how OFTEN you've gently led the way.

T is for the TRUST that I'll never stray

H is for the HOPE you give to make it through the today.

E is for how you EMBRACE me and make things seem okay.

R is for your READINESS to love me come what may.

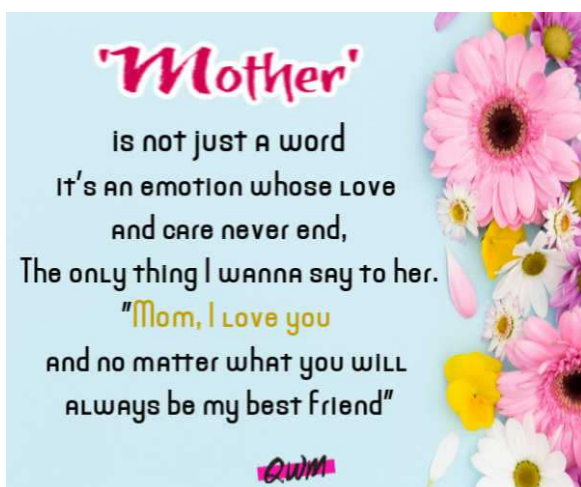
As we pause today to give tribute

On this special Mother's Day,

Let's count our many blessings

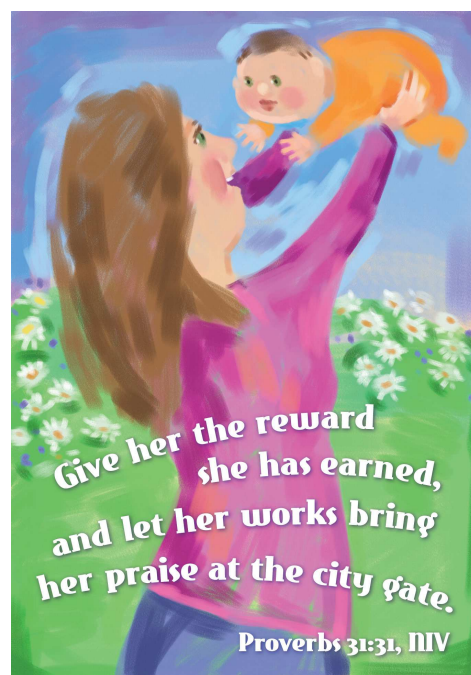
Our Mother has brought our way.

Peggy West



The Joys of Motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
 - Belly laughs.
 - The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
 - Smiles and giggles.
 - Mud pies.
 - Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
 - Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
 - Quiet moments on the couch.
 - Reading aloud together.
 - A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
 - Watching your child be kind to another.
 - Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
 - A child's look of surprise and joy.
 - A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
 - The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.
- Unknown



Fixed Hours of Prayer

As summer approaches, you may look forward to a more relaxed routine. But don't discard all your good habits and commitments! For soul care, try fixed hours of prayer. Simply expand the concept of praying at set times (such as before meals and bed) into praying regularly each morning, midday and evening. Set an alarm on your watch or phone and commit to engaging with God at the specified times. You can do this on your own or with family or friends. You can pray using Scripture verses, devotional guides, the *Book of Common Prayer* or a resource such as *ExploreFaith.org*. (When I'm tired or overwhelmed, it's helpful to pray someone else's words.) You might want to pray the same prayers morning, noon and evening for a week or a month. This practice isn't meant to replace spontaneous prayers. Instead, use fixed hours of prayer to nurture a consistent habit of conversing with God. —



God's Hands

Exactly a century ago, Irish physician Alexander Irvine published *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*, a book dedicated to his saintly mother. The protagonist, Anna, lives and ministers to others as Irvine's own mother had done. In the story, Anna visits a neighbor who has just lost a son at sea. After talking for a while, Anna suggests they pray together. With heads bowed, she reaches to place a loving hand on the grieving mother's forehead. Afterward, the woman says, "I think I felt his touch upon my brow," referring to God. Anna says, "God is everywhere looking for hands to use. Sometimes he takes the hand of a doctor and uses it in healing. Sometimes he takes the hand of a mother to soothe the brow of a fevered child. And sometimes he takes the hand of an old critter like me to bring a bit of help and comfort to a neighbor. But they are all God's hands, and God is everywhere looking for hands to use."



Confirmed in the Faith

Confirmation, a rite many churches celebrate each spring, has biblical roots. In Acts 8, Peter and John are sent to lay their hands on new believers and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. In the early church, new Christians — usually adult converts — received baptism and confirmation as one ceremony. As more children were brought for baptism, pastors and priests would baptize, but only bishops would "confirm" a baptism, or make it official. Thus, the baptized were granted full membership in the church through confirmation.

Now confirmation allows young people, often after intensive Christian education, to profess for themselves the faith into which they were baptized. Confirmation serves as an important faith milestone, as young adults purposefully embrace a life of discipleship.

The Forgotten Child

Greg was a forgotten child. Slow to speak and walk, badly abused and neglected by his biological parents, he was finally (mercifully) released for adoption and brought into a home with an older brother, also adopted. Trouble was, they lived in a very small town where people still drew lines between who was "in" and who was "out." Comments, under breath, were made about the couple's inability to have "real" children.

I became Greg's pastor when he was 8 years old. When Greg was 9, his older brother became eligible for confirmation class. It was made known that neither Greg nor his brother had ever been baptized. At the specific request of both boys, they were baptized together on Pentecost 1996.

One week later, Trinity Sunday, I did a children's sermon on the names of God. We talked about the names that we all had - mother, son, niece, etc Greg said, "I have three names ... no, I have four - Gregory Matthew Hug ... Christian!"

God touched that child deeper than any of us has ever imagined. He truly "sees" in a way that too many of us miss.

(This is a true story and that is his real name. His parents have given permission for this story to be shared. Greg has, too.)

-Marianne MacCullagh

Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri



A Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

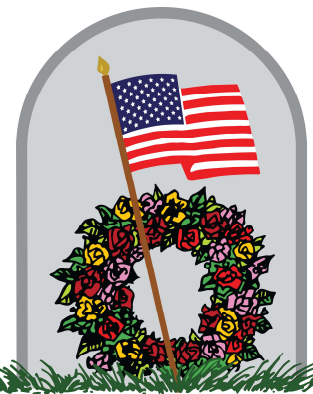


Memorial Day

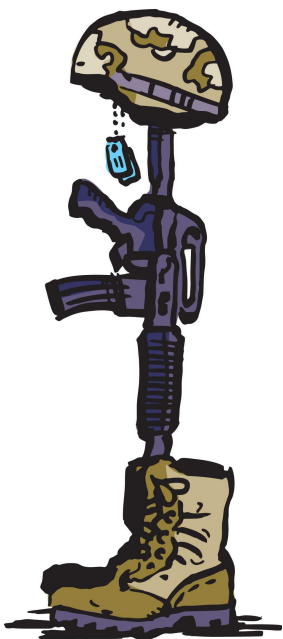
Is it enough to think today
Of all our brave, then put away
The thought until a year has sped?
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song
And deck a grave; and all year long
Forget the brave who died that we
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,
That we who live give heart and soul
To keep the land they died to save,
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!
—Annette Wynne



Memorial Day



People of Light

On Memorial Day, it is important to pause in gratitude to all those upon whose shoulders we stand. We should remember with great appreciation those who died making helpful, positive contributions — whether large or small — throughout human history. As Christians we should be especially grateful to those whose faith, service and love have enabled us to know the Gospel and its vast implications for the entire earth.

Without our Christian teachers, pastors, missionaries and the ordinary servants of Christ, we would not have the Good News which is like a great light shining in the world's darkness. They have made sure Christ's precious Light has not gone out or been diminished.

Memorial Day is a day for us to think about the people of the Light and to express to God our appreciation for them.



Some popcorn plus a little heat makes a big change.

What you need:

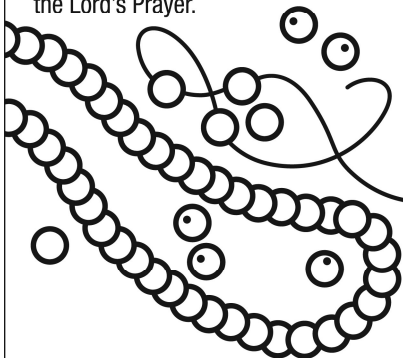
- 2 Tbsp. popcorn kernels
- 2 tsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- Brown paper lunch bag

What you do:

1. Add popcorn kernels, oil and sugar to the bag.
2. Fold the bag's top down about half an inch. Repeat two more times. Gently shake to mix ingredients.
3. Microwave for 1½ or 2 minutes (or use the Popcorn setting). Allow bag to cool before removing and opening it.
4. As you share popcorn with family and friends, discuss the change in the kernels. Read Acts 2 together. What changes did the disciples experience? What was the source of their power?

Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver



Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!

