



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 2023

**Mon. May 1, 8, 15, 22,**  
**Support Group 7 pm**

Home Bible Study  
Geis home 630

### **Tues. May 2**

Quilting 930-12  
Elders Mtg 7 pm

**Wed. May 3, 10, 17, 24**

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

### **Sat. May 6**

Prayer Vigil  
6 am—12 pm

**Sun. May 7, 14, 21**

Worship 930  
Sun School/Adult  
Bible Study 1045

### **Tues. May 9**

Church Council 7 pm

### **Tues. May 16**

Christian Ed 7 pm  
Youth Board 7 pm

### **Thur. May 18**

Fellowship 430 pm  
Bunco 6 pm

### **Sun. May 21**

Senior Recognition during  
Worship Service

### **Tues. May 23**

Stewardship 6 pm

### **Sun. May 28**

Worship 930

### **Mon. May 29**

Memorial Day  
Support Group 7 pm

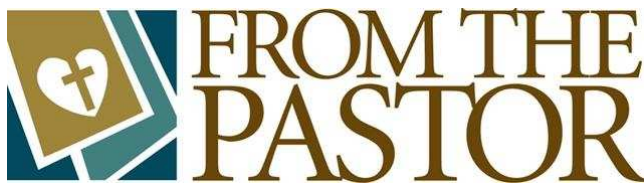


**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

**6 am—12 p.m.**

**Prayer helps will be  
available.**





## FROM THE PASTOR

The Elders of our congregation have felt that it is of great importance to offer a Prayer Vigil on a biannual basis. This year we have planned a six-hour vigil for this Saturday, May 6 (6AM – 12PM). Prayer guides will be available and an elder will be on site for anyone who would like counsel or help in praying

for any need. Of course, you can come to pray in the sanctuary any day and we strongly encourage that practice.

Jesus had an impassioned reaction when the sanctuary was being used for marketing purposes. “He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers” (Matthew 21:13).

One thing I have always admired about the Roman Catholic Church is their station in the sanctuary dedicated for prayer. There is usually a rack of unlit votive candles which their members would light when they are praying for God’s help, wisdom or healing. They light a candle to remind themselves of God’s presence which has always been symbolized by light. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

We all need encouragement and reminders to pray because we can become so busy with the cares and concerns of the world, that we forget God desires for us to reach out to Him in prayer.

Below I have assembled some passages from God’s Word to remind us of the importance of prayer. You’ll see there are many good reasons why we must not neglect this gift.

**Prayer helps us avoid temptation and the troubles that accompany it.**

*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.*

*The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).*

**Prayer helps us when we recognize our inability to express our concerns:**

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

*For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,*

*but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26).*

**Prayer helps us to overcome our anxiety**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).*

**Prayer helps us when we’re discouraged and losing hope.**

*“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).*

**Prayer helps us to gain peace in times of trouble.**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).*

**Prayer helps us to gain confidence in God knowing that He hears and answers our prayers.**

*“And this is the confidence that we have toward him,*

*that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us” (1 John 5:14).*

**Prayer is the door to revelation about the inner working of God.**

*“Call to me and I will answer you,*

*and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known” (Jeremiah 33:3).*



## Prayer Vigil

In both Scripture and our experience, God responds to prayer. Moses prayed for food and water for the Israelites (Exod. 15 and Num. 11), Hannah prayed for a child (1 Sam. 1), and Elijah prayed for drought and then rain (1 Kgs. 18–19). The events God had already determined came to pass. But God also determined that Moses, Hannah, and Elijah would pray for those events, such that the events would not have taken place if they did not pray for them.

The Late Theologian, RC Sproul made this observation:

Does prayer make any difference? Does it really change anything? Someone once asked me that question, only in a slightly different manner: “Does prayer change God’s mind?” My answer brought storms of protest. I said simply, “No.” Now, if the person had asked me, “Does prayer change things?” I would have answered, “Of course!”

Prayer is one of the greatest treasures given to us next to God’s salvation through Christ. Prayer is God’s way of telling us, “I’m here for you.” Jesus told His disciples, “I have called you friends.” Friends love to communicate and as our heavenly Friend, He’s always waiting to hear from us. Don’t miss an opportunity to talk to the greatest Friend you’ll ever have. He’s the One who not only listens, but He is also the Friend who laid down His life for you!

In Christ, Pastor Vern

## 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayers!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.

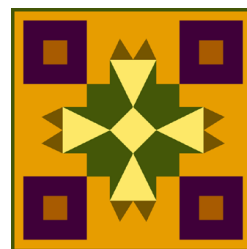
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

## CHOIR NOTES

THANK YOU, BSLC Musicians: Choir Members and Instrumentalists for sharing your gifts and talents with our congregation. The Lent and Easter services were beautiful and a blessing to many.

Choir is on break until fall. Please return all Choir folders as soon as possible, and join us in the fall, date TBA.

In Christ, Marty



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays, May 2, June 13 and July 11** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 into quilts.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



### New Committee Members Needed

To continue the Christian Education work of Blessed Savior, new committee members are needed. The time commitment includes a monthly meeting (usually about an hour) and as many events as you can manage. Please consider sharing your talents with the youngest members of our congregation. Contact Ryan Moureau ([ryan.moureau@yahoo.com](mailto:ryan.moureau@yahoo.com))

### VBS Volunteers

To make VBS a success this year, your help is needed. We need people to fill the following positions:

Photographer,  
Media Center/AV,  
Imagination Station Leader  
Games Leader  
KidVid Leader  
Bible Story Leader  
Helpers for each of the above stations  
Kitchen Elves  
Crew/Team Leaders (usually HS/College students),  
Set Design,  
Floaters/Gophers

Please consider sharing your talents with the youngest members of our congregation and help make VBS successful. To sign-up please go to the BSLC website and click on the link for VBS Volunteers or you can sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions contact Ryan Moureau ([ryan.moureau@yahoo.com](mailto:ryan.moureau@yahoo.com))



### The Power of (God's) light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1); "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5); "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Darkness isn't bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). —Heidi Hyland Mann





# Stewardship CORNER

## Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job's already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of gener-

ous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart," as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love "in deed" (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



2 corinthians 9:7

## Come as You Are

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## 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.



### A Mother's Day hymn

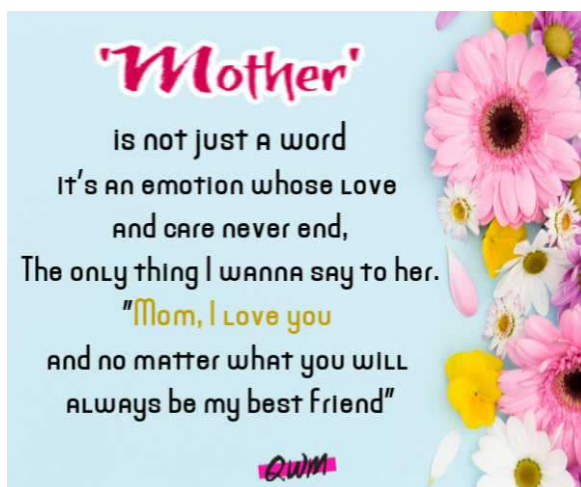
Sing praise to our Creator God!  
Earth prospers from the way  
God "mothers" each new child into  
This world day after day.

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.  
—Peggy Ferrell



## Happy Mother's Day



### Jokes only a mother could love

Why is a computer so smart?  
*It listens to its motherboard.*

Why did you chop the joke book in half?  
*Mom said to cut the comedy.*

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?  
*Because their kids have to play inside!*

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."





1 -Rev. Perry Schefelker  
 1—Autumn Kesting  
 2—Oliver Sanchez  
 3—Kris McManus  
 4 – Kyle Kesting, Kasen Schefelker  
 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  
 24—Pr. Daniel Akoh  
 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

10 – Chris & Sandie Rust  
 11– Kyle & Virginia Kesting  
 15 – Roger & Phyllis Miesner



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](mailto:nancy@mybslc.org) so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.



22 – Don & Laura Drouin  
 26—Greg & Ginger Kieffer  
 29—Dave & Lorian Reynolds

## “Universal Praise”

See how nature now rejoices  
 in this sunny month of May;  
 Still to God from all its voices,  
 giving praises day by day.  
 ...

In the glad green woodland alleys,  
 every bird its anthem trills!  
 While flocks feeding in the valleys,  
 herds upon a thousand hills.

Join with every creature living,  
 here on land, in air, or sea,  
 In one great worldwide thanksgiving,  
 yielding praise, O God, to thee!

All around us swells the chorus,  
 from this goodly world of ours,  
 And earth's altar stands before us,  
 sweet with incense from her flowers.

So with nature still confessing,  
 his great goodness, let us pay  
 Grateful homage for each blessing,  
 of this sunny month of May. —Anonymous



## Life Immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul.”

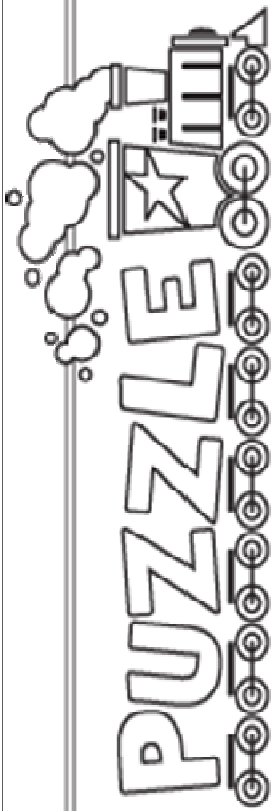
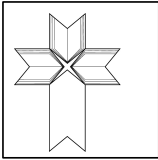
To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.







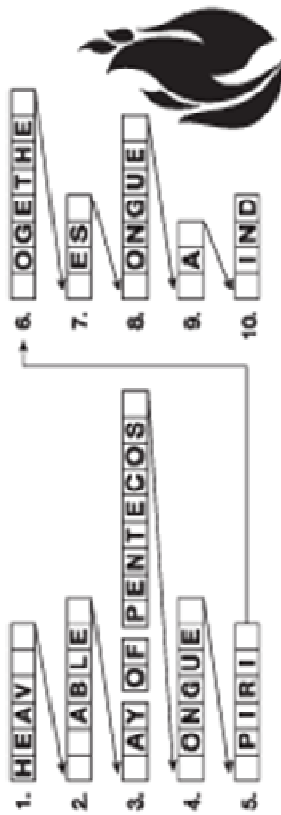
The Sanctuary  
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church  
1205 North Lincoln Ave.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269



## Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost,  
when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next.  
Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.



"When the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> came, they were all  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a  
violent \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> came from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> and filled the whole  
house where they were sitting. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> what seemed to be  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> of fire that separated and came to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> on each  
of them. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> and began  
to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> as the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together,  
7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. new, 10. wind

## FINAL EXAMS

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals." —Florence



## BREATH OF THE SPIRIT

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.—Augustus Toplady

## Prepare to be Empowered



Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

## Our Proper Role

"We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges." This quip may bring a chuckle, but it's also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others' morality or relationship with God. "Do not judge," Jesus says, "and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one



## Being Good Sports

When gestures of sportsmanship go viral, they often feature young athletes. In 2022, a Little League baseball player who took a pitch to the head later hugged the distraught opposing pitcher. Evangelist Ken Weliever says pro athletes, politicians, media personalities and everyday Americans should follow that example rather than focusing on revenge.

"Sadder still is when entire churches are disrupted by petty squabbles, partisan politics and overzealous opinions," he writes. "Relationships have been ruptured, marriages dissolved and families torn apart due to a harsh response to hurts instead of a spirit of forgiveness and an attitude of reconciliation."

Christians may sometimes feel tempted to seek payback, but Jesus calls us to live differently. "We need to be reminded that we are to be a transformed people, not conformed to the attitudes and actions of this world (Romans 12:1-2)," says Weliever. "To be light in a world of darkness. And to be the pure, preserving salt in a society that's become corrupted and impure (Matthew 5:13-16)."

## 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!—



## 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



## A Poem for Memorial Day

Lord, let me not in service lag,  
Let me be worthy of our flag.  
Let me remember, when I'm tried,  
The sons heroic who have died  
In freedom's name, and in my way  
Teach me to be as brave as they.

In all I am, in all I do,  
Unto our flag I would be true;  
For God and country let me stand.  
Unstained of soul and clean of hand,  
Teach me to serve and guard and love  
The Starry Flag which flies above.  
-Edgar A. Guest



A Day for  
Remembering



## Memorial Day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."



## 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."

## 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

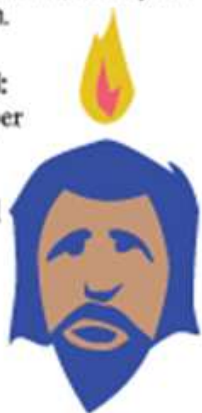
Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri

# Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

## What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



## What you do:

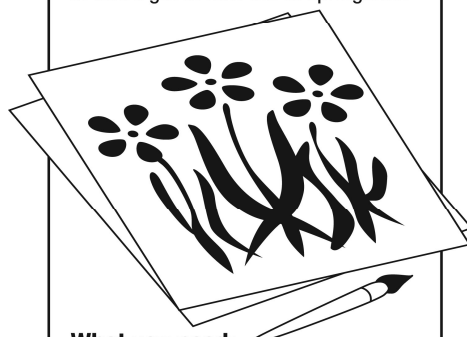
1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



# KIDS PAGE

## SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



## What you need:

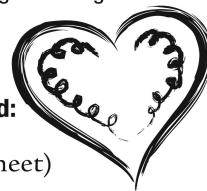
- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

## What you do:

1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.

## A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



## What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

## What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!