



Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 120 N. Easton Road Glenside, PA 19038

May 2024



Dedication of new and refurbished sanctuary appointments Sunday May 5, 2024

On **Sunday, May 19, for the 10:30 a.m. worship service only**, the Chancel Choir of St. Paul's, Glenside will join with the singers from Trinity Episcopal, Ambler to present a **Special Music Sunday** celebrating the choral music of British composer **John Rutter**.



Summer Schedule!

Our Summer schedule begins on Sunday, May 26. One service will begin at 9:30 AM. We will return to two services in September after Labor Day. Keep an eye on your Tidings for the most recent updates.



Alles neu macht der Mai is a German saying that translates as “The month of May makes everything new.” I am not sure whether it is the German equivalent of “April showers bring May flowers,” but the idea of something new emerging that is full of vibrancy and life is present in both sayings.

We are still in the middle of the Easter season, which culminates in Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity. Easter is certainly a season of newness of life. It began with Jesus rising from the dead and appearing to various people, to the women first and then to other persons.

As a result of these encounters, the Easter faith slowly transformed a religious community and spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire and eventually far beyond. And it continues to reach people and change lives to this day.

You may have noticed that we used a new set of paraments for the Easter season this year. Paraments are the items of embroidered cloth that adorn the lectern and the pulpit. On our lectern, we have two Bible markers. On our pulpit, we have one parament that drapes from the back to the front.

I thought I would take a moment to talk a little about the symbolism on our paraments. This is not meant to be a final analysis of what those symbols mean, but rather an encouragement to the reader to add their own interpretation to mine. There are no wrong answers here, as long as the symbols lead you deeper into an exploration of faith and what it means to you at the present time.

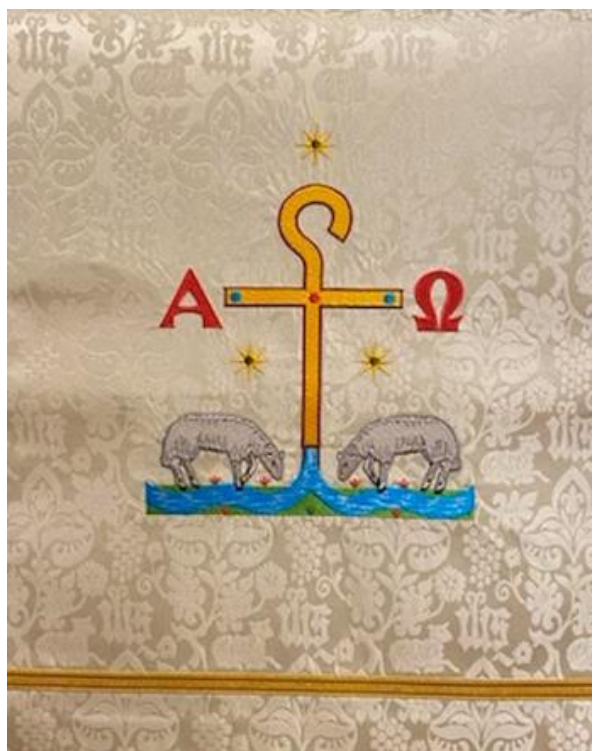
The paraments are the white color of Easter that reminds us of the linen cloth that was wrapped around Jesus' body when Joseph of Arimathea took him from the cross and laid him in Joseph's own never-used grave. As we know, the grave couldn't hold Jesus and so the white clothes that remained in the grave became a witness of the resurrection in and of itself.

Sometime soon, we will also have a new fair linen on the altar. Embroidered on the fair linen are five crosses that remind us of the wounds of Christ. (Four nails and one for the wound on his side caused by the spear).

If you look closely at the paraments you will discover a pattern in the fabric. It contains vine leaves and the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) motif. We can recall how John the Baptizer points out Jesus in John's gospel, “Here comes the Lamb of God who carries the sin of the world” when Jesus is about to be baptized.

The important thing that I always think of is that Jesus did all this *for us*. He carried our sin so we wouldn't have to. The amazing gift of grace. Yet the symbols on the Bible

markers show a vibrant red cross to remind us of the love of Christ, who was willing to die for us so we would never have to doubt that the life that we are given in the resurrection is real and indestructible.



The cross is surrounded by the Greek letters Alpha and Omega. In Greek, those are the first and last letters of the alphabet. Christ is the beginning and the end. As we also read in the first chapter of John, “In the beginning was the word.” In these famous words with their reminder of Genesis 1:1, John reminds us of the Creator who is indeed the beginning and the end of all things.

On top of the cross we find the crown that helps to understand Jesus as the king. But Jesus is not the kind of king that the world knows and adores. He is a king who becomes a servant, one who suffered and died on a cross. The way we bring glory and honor to him is by following his commandment to love as he loved and to serve as he served.

Last, but not least, there is a trace of gold to be found which can remind us of the golden streets of the heavenly Jerusalem. Our hope always points us beyond the confines of this life, and the vision of God’s eternal kingdom can help us to continue to work here as best as we can knowing that one day it will come to perfection there. In the meantime, we abide in God, as Jesus asked his disciples to do, while knowing that through us the world is touched and transformed every day.

Recently, our vicar Ian Clements preached a sermon on the sheep becoming shepherds themselves in displaying some of what Jesus did for us: protecting and guiding others, helping them to find places of nourishment, teaching them a valuable skill, or simply providing warmth and protection.

Looking at the pulpit parament, I find all that and more. The fabric reveals the letters *IHS*, which are the Greek letters for the name of Jesus. (These letters are also present on the Bible markers, though a bit harder to make out.) Jesus is woven into the fabric just as he is woven into the fabric of our life as Christians. In the pulpit parament, the sheep are safely grazing, and drinking from a stream of fresh water that flows right out of the bottom of the cross which also doubles as a shepherd's staff.

The words of Psalm 23 come to mind. Jesus leads us beside still waters, he helps us in the midst of difficult times. We need water to survive but we receive blessed streams of nourishing water from the power of the cross and resurrection -- never on our own but always guided by the Good Shepherd, who often comes to us through fellow believers.

Last but not least, we find three stars. Maybe this is a reminder of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose eternal dance we have been invited through the arrival of the spirit on Pentecost? Or perhaps a reminder of the way the wise men found the infant Jesus through the guidance of the stars? Or an encouragement to use our gifts to honor Jesus and help to spread the Good News?

I started this article with sayings in German and English about the flowers of May. I think the colorful flowers near the water, as well as the *fleur de lis* that is woven in the fabric, could be a reminder that love doesn't have to be complicated at all. It could be a simple gift of flowers or the admiration of their beauty that reminds us that we are not alone and that our loving Savior is with us each and every day.

My prayer is that all of us together will have many opportunities to live out our gifts to remind us of His love and be on the receiving end when the road gets rocky.

Tell someone today about how your faith makes a difference in your life and how the symbols of faith that you find in the sanctuary and the stories of faith in the Bible help to transform you into the person Jesus already knows you to be.

With much love and filled with hope and new life,

Pr. Henrik





Vicar's Voice

Scripture is a handy encouragement.

Recently in Confirmation class we went over the reading from the Gospel of John pertaining to Thomas the disciple, known as “Doubting Thomas,” who refuses to acknowledge the Resurrection until he can witness and interact with the Risen Christ.

While this passage can be interpreted in many ways, the concept of “doubting” in this sense is a universal feeling we all share. Why do we bother to continue to work a job each day that appears to us to contribute little? Why take that walk each morning to pick up trash along the road if we know more will be thrown the next day? Why take up that new hobby or start exercising later in life? Why bother advocating that more people living near flood zones be aware of the dangers of climate change if they will only ignore it until the rising water is past their ears?

The doubts are too many to count. It's a constant challenge for me as a seminarian, as it was in my previous career as an archaeologist.

Working in archaeology was nothing like being Indiana Jones or Lara Croft: Tomb Raider. True, I'd occasionally work on a unique excavation, but for the most part I scraped and collected soil. I'd write out endless notes. I'd be compiling important GPS data while stuck in thunderstorms, surrounded by hunters, dealing with hostile farmers, and even dodging angry cows.

All this data would just end up stored away in some environmental firm's or state government's files, and I would move on to the next patch of dirt. I'd look to the sky in frustration. I'd wonder, as every human does, what could help me overcome this doubt about what I was doing.

But then I'd look to my pocket and think of two verses of scripture that I always tried to keep a copy of. If you attended April's Lois Circle or Deborah Circle Bible studies, you would have heard about these. Even before I became more fully engaged with the Bible in seminary, I held these two verses from Isaiah in mind as I travelled the country digging.

**Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.**

-- Isaiah 58:12

**They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.**

-- Isaiah 61:4

Praying with these passages in mind assuaged my doubt, in that every little thing I did reflected in Isaiah 58:12 will eventually mean something in inspiring others to do even more as in 61:4.

Every piece of data I took down in the field will mean something someday to a future archaeologist or conservationist as they plan their own projects. Despite my doubt, I am inspired by Isaiah to know what I have done will one day be meaningful to another generation. Equally so, despite all doubts, God tries to tell me through these passages in Isaiah that my work, my expression, my creativity, whatever I do, will influence or be meaningful to someone, somewhere.

It's important to recognize that everything one does, every effort, every bit of progress, adds to this glorious design called life. Even Doubting Thomas most likely wanted to know firsthand the great revelation of the Risen Christ more so than simply being skeptical, because he wanted to know for sure what the future would hold.

In that spirit, I say: find your scriptural inspiration that drives you forward. Then, whether you find yourself at the bottom of a muddy ravine (as I once was in a project) or standing on a pulpit (as I often am now), you'll have a timeless balm to soothe the phantom pains of doubt. With blessings and prayer, Vicar Ian



The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit

Thank you to everyone who collaborated to make this year's musical a meaningful experience for all!







St. Paul's opens its doors to bring communities together with song!



On **Sunday, May 19, for the 10:30 AM worship service only**, the Chancel Choir of St. Paul's will join with the singers from Trinity Episcopal, Ambler to present a **Special Music Sunday** celebrating the choral music of British composer **John Rutter**. This service will feature two beautiful anthems by Rutter with harp accompaniment – *Amazing Grace* and *Be Thou My Vision*, and John Rutter's ever popular choral benediction *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. The center piece of this Sunday's musical message will be the presentation of Rutter's *Gloria*. This is a three-

movement work supported by brass, organ and timpani. The three movements of this work take the listener from a feeling of exaltation, into a quite devotional calm, and conclude with unbridled jubilant joy! All this is a perfect backdrop for the Spirit of Pentecost Sunday.

This service is also an offering of ecumenical community support. Trinity Episcopal, Ambler is once again a congregation without a building to call its church home. In 1986, a fire destroyed their church located on Bethlehem Pike. However, in 1989 they rose from those ashes to start again in a new church building complete with a Shantz pipe organ. Yet once again this congregation was hit with tragedy from the 2021 tornado that devastated many of our local communities. Music, especially singing, builds community in a powerful and positive way. On May 19 we will share our worship space with our neighbors and lift our voices together to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Musically Yours,
Rae Ann



Rummage Sale News

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers and generous donors who made our recent rummage sale a great success. Your selfless efforts and donations helped us raise funds that will go a long way in supporting our church's outreach programs and initiatives. Once again, thank you for your

unwavering support and commitment to our community. We couldn't have done it without you! Our final tally from sales is \$4,180.05.

A Stewardship Message

The knock at my door delivering today's altar flowers to me as I am facing back surgery this week is a perfect example of why I support St. Paul's. Knowing that my faith community is thinking of me and "praying for my healing, peace and good health" is a great comfort in this unexpected time of distress.



Our stewardship practices enable us to be a congregation that heeds the direction from Jesus, the Good Shepherd, that we love one another. Thank you, dear brothers, and sisters, in Christ for being a caring and supportive community.

Cathy Keim
Member, Stewardship Team



Scan this code to pay

CALLING ALL KNITTERS (and Crocheters)



Hugs and Prayers

Calling all knitters and/or crocheters! Kathleen Breuer has secured yet another generous grant from Thrivent to purchase yarn and organize kits for creating prayer shawls and other items for those in need. They can be found on the shelves to the left of the fireplace in the Great

Room. Finished items may also be placed on these shelves as well. Prayer shawls (a.k.a "Heavenly Hugs") are given to those needing comfort. Recently hats, scarves, and cowls have been sent to the Nationalities Service Center via the Stitch Central shop in Glenside. The Lydia (Knitting) Circle will next meet on Wednesday, May 1, at 7 PM in the Great Room. You are welcome to join us if you would like to knit in community. Please contact Misty Wagner if you have any questions (215-806-2822). Thank you for your knitting/crocheting ministry!

Faith In Action Season is NOW!

What do these things all have in common?

- Dozens of trees planted in Tanzania
- New signage for St. Paul's
- Financial assistance with a mission trip
- Summertime snacks for children of food-insecure families



These are just some of the ideas that our Faith In Action funds have helped to become realities. What idea comes to your mind? Projects can fall under any of these categories: Outreach, Capital Improvements, and Programs Within the Congregation. Here's a link — <https://stpaulsglenside.org/get-involved/faith-in-action-grant-description/> — to the complete information on our website as well as to the required form. All applications must be received by Wednesday, May 8. If you need help filling out the form, please contact Nancy Stevens (chaplainnancystevens@gmail.com) and she'll find time to sit with you and get it done!



Please join us for this special occasion!

Ordination

Ann Margaret Shade
Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
1000 W. Main Street
Lansdale, PA 19446

Luncheon Reception to Follow

Worship is an open invitation for all! For luncheon planning purposes, please let Ann know by May 1 if you will be attending the luncheon. Text 267-664-4675 or email shade44@verizon.net.

Guests are invited to wear red in honor of the Holy Spirit.
Clergy are invited to vest and process.



Announcements



Dedication of new and refurbished sanctuary appointments

On May 5, 2024, which marks the sixth Sunday of Easter, we will dedicate our new paraments, altar linen, refurbished communion set, and offering plates as part of our Sunday worship service. All of this has been funded by Memorials that were given in memory of loved ones. Together with the saints that have gone before us, we express our sincere gratitude and pray for the families and friends that have been touched by their love.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM for in-person classes.

Ages 3 - Pre-K (Room 201); Grades K-2 (Fellowship Hall);
Grades 3-6 (Room 101/room next to the downstairs elevator).

The Last day of Sunday school before summer break is May



19.

As May approaches, our synod prepares to elect a new bishop.

After serving since 2018, Bishop Patricia Davenport is retiring, prompting a period of discernment for her successor. The synod has outlined a mission profile and will soon identify candidates.

The bishop election and other Synod business will occur at the Synod Assembly on May 3 and 4. Representatives from all congregations and clergy will participate.

Join us in learning about this process, reviewing the mission profile, and praying for discernment and a smooth transition. Visit the synod's page for the bishop election at: ministrylink.org/2024-bishop-election.



■ WORSHIP ■

SUMMER



SCHEDULE

Summer Schedule!

Our Summer schedule begins on Sunday, May 26. One service will begin at 9:30 AM. We will return to two services in September after Labor Day. Keep an eye on your Tidings for the most recent updates.



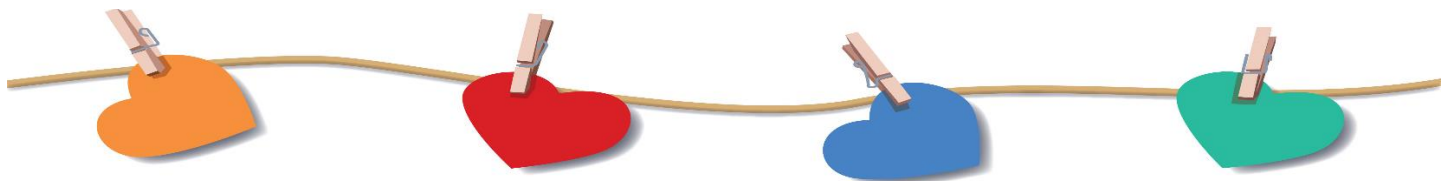
Lois Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14, at 10 AM in the Great Room.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month & our study is intended to add to our understanding of mental illness and inspire us to reach out to the more than 20 percent of people who live with diagnosed mental illness today. It also focuses on mental illness in Biblical times (Old and New Testaments) -- into our times today. It encourages congregations to consider beginning a mental health outreach. The study contains some of the personal experiences of author Elise Seyfried and her journey through mental illness. There is a devotional video online at the Gather website.

The Bible study looks at the following biblical figures and their mental illness issues: *Naomi and Depression, Saul and Bipolar Disorder, Elijah and Anxiety, Jesus Heals the Gerasene Man*

All are welcome to attend.





I love my church family!



Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers! It's a blessing to be part of this congregation.

Love,

--Bernhard and Janet Bischoff



Dear St. Paul's family,

Thank you for your cards and best wishes during these several months that Herb and I have not physically been in church. It means so much to realize that we haven't been forgotten while trying to maintain some normalcy at home. I see you wave at us "home watchers" each week and find myself waving back at you!

Peace to all,

--Elaine Craft

Thank you



Pastor, a note of thanks to you and all the members of St. Paul's for the Easter lily. And a special thanks to the delivery person for giving their time and effort to make my day brighter.

--Charles Dotger





MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May Name

1-May Joe Noga
 2-May Karter Spillane

 4-May Nolan Clyburn
 4-May Jessica Messick
 5-May Leighanne Spillane
 7-May Bob Breuer
 8-May Terry Allen
 8-May Alexandra Ruane
 9-May Stephen Noga
 10-May Jen Hayes
 11-May Steve Reiff
 12-May Jane Kinsey
 13-May Suzanne Cordon
 14-May William Bender, Jr.

May Name

15-May Debbie Reiff
 15-May Dan Ruth

 16-May Lydia Baxter
 17-May Connor Gill
 19-May Cecilia Krull
 19-May Kelly Mason
 22-May Peter Mazzaccaro
 23-May Marlise Inazu
 27-May Anthony Corsey
 28-May Rebecca Berglund
 28-May Kate McGlinchey
 28-May Bob Sutton
 29-May Charlotte O'Donnell
 31-May Michael Campbell

Anniversary Couple's Name

1-May Henrik & Jean Sonntag
 12-May Leigh Ann and Michael
 Wojciechowicz
 16-May Frederick and Hilma Helbig
 17-May Maria & Steve Reiff
 22-May Carol & Don Donnon

Did we miss your special day? Please let us know your birthday or anniversary so that it can be included in future editions of the Messenger.

O LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

PRAYER REQUEST

Betsy Ahlum
Young Bai
Rodney Barnhart
Martha Baum
Betty Bortmann
Robert Breuer
Conrad Bush
Jean Cristaldi
Jerome & David
The Freeman/Maxwell Family
Angela Giordano
Peter di Filippi
Kathy DiSandro
Flossie F. & daughter
Gloria F.
Tom Finney
Leona Finney
Rina Fresnak
Chad Friedman
Fern Furst
Gilbert Furst
Glasgow/McDermott family
Jenna Gresko
Earl H.
Nancy Hadley
Jill Hamilton
The Herschok Family
Charmaine Hoff
Bernard & Barbara Hoffman
Maria Honczar
Mario
John
Thubi Kolmobe
Tom Lackman

Linda Landes
Boaz Lazarus-Klein
Zach Lean
Jeanne Lewis
Anita Lukach
Joe Lukach
Sue and John McLaughlin
John and Cathy and their families
Ariella Notarianni
Nancy O'Conner
Michell Ovack
Dr. Michael Pladus
Deborah Pancoe
Robertson/Fragale family
Robert Rumnock
Toby Sauer
Mary Ann Saurman
Barbara Sheppard
Annabelle Sitler
Richard Sitler
Stephanie Smith
Lucille Stimmel
Jane Storm
Rachel Stube
Jerry Sutliff
Tom Tessitore
Helen L. Thompson
David Van Pelt
Harry Van Pelt
Don Wolf
Jenn Wetzel
Richard Woodring



Private First Class
Carson Campbell



The Family and loved
ones of Bill Hall

Serving schedule for May.

Please note this is subject to change

Time	Acolyte	Assisting Minister		Greeter/Usher		Flower delivery
8:00 AM	Jason LoMaistro	Alix Davatzes		Kathy K-W		
10:30	Claire Picado	Julie Sullivan	AnnaLisa Mariani	Dale Reiser	Fred Helbig	Dale Reiser
8:00 AM	Austin Reiff	AnnaLisa Mariani				Dale Reiser
10:30	Lewis Ritter					
		Betsy Berglund	Jane Kinsey	Dale Reiser	Fred Helbig	
8:00 AM	Alma Ojeda	Julie Gable				Dale Reiser
10:30	Wesley Ritter					
				Dale Reiser	Helbig	
9:30	Gabe Picado					Dale Reiser
			Jane Kinsey	Dale Reiser		

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Blooms that have petals

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Spring precipitation

16	17	18	19
----	----	----	----

Puffy and white in the sky

20	21	22	23	24	25
----	----	----	----	----	----

Soil

26	27	28	29
----	----	----	----

Lawn

30	31	32	33	34
----	----	----	----	----

Must be weeded and tended

35	36	37	38	39	40
----	----	----	----	----	----

Tiptoe through these

41	42	43	44	45	46
----	----	----	----	----	----

Baby sheep

47	48	49	50	51
----	----	----	----	----

We need food and this

52	53	54	55	56
----	----	----	----	----

God made this from nothing

57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

A sign of God's promise

65	66	67	68	69	70	71
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

These, in April, bring May flowers

72	73	74	75	76	77	78
----	----	----	----	----	----	----

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

EGGS IN MUSTARD SAUCE

Eier in Senfsoße

Serves 4 | Prep time: 5 minutes | Cook time: 20 minutes

30-MINUTE · VEGETARIAN

Flavorful meat-free recipes like this one filled hungry bellies in Germany during times when meat was hard to come by, and traditional Catholic families also served them on "meatless Fridays." Plus, these eggs also happen to make a great brunch dish! Serve them with boiled potatoes or toast for a simple, satisfying meal.

8 eggs	1 cup vegetable stock	Chopped fresh parsley,
2 tablespoons	1 cup milk	for garnish
unsalted butter	3 tablespoons German or	
2 tablespoons	yellow mustard	
all-purpose flour	Salt	

1. Prick the large end of each egg with a needle or tack. Set the eggs in a large pot, add enough water to just cover them, and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Lower the heat to medium and simmer for 9 minutes.
2. Pour out the water, and stop the cooking process by covering the eggs with cold water. Drain and set aside.
3. While the eggs are cooking, melt the butter in a saucèpan over medium heat. Whisk in the flour until no lumps are present. Keep whisking while you pour in the stock and milk. Cook for about 2 to 3 minutes, until the sauce begins to thicken. Add the mustard and whisk until combined. Taste, and season with salt, if needed.
4. Peel the eggs and cut them in half. Place four egg halves on each plate, spoon over some sauce, sprinkle with fresh parsley, and serve.

Submitted by Hannelore Werner

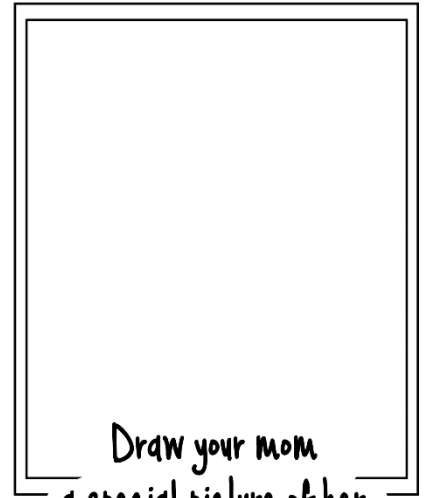
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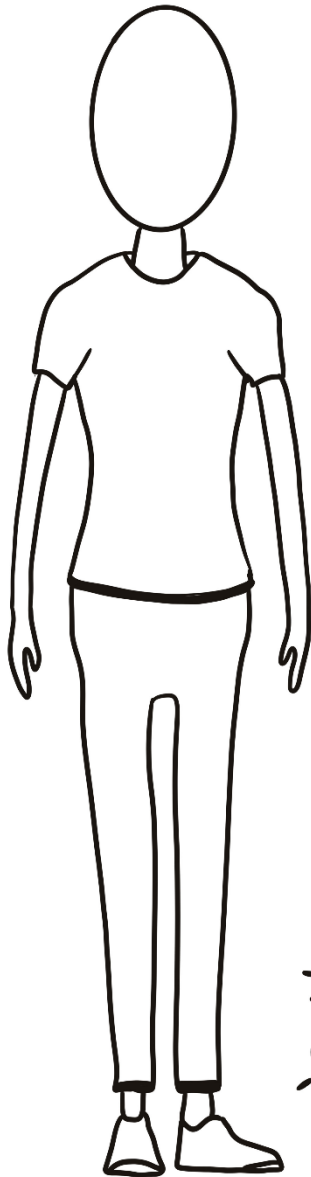
We
LOVE
OUR
Moms!

HAPPY Mother's DAY!

My mom is amazing because:



Draw your mom
a special picture of her
favorite thing!



This is
my mom



My mom's name is _____ but I call her _____!

You are the _____

mom in the whole _____!

I love you more than _____

and _____ and I think

you're funny when _____.

Thank you for always _____.

[My favorite thing to do with my mom is:]

Love you always, _____!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
120 N. Easton Road Glenside PA 19038

Contact Us

The Reverend Henrik Sonntag, Pastor
Vicar Ian Clements, Pastoral Intern
Rae Ann Anderson, Music Director
Christina Garcia, Office Administrator
Kathleen Getz, Nursery School Director
Nancy Carbine, Bookkeeper
Bob Sutton, Sexton

**Office Hours Monday to Friday,
9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Church Office Number 215-884-3005
Nursery School Number 215-884-8995

Our Website: www.StPaulsglenside.org

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