



Messenger

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

October 2024



Blessing of the pets will take place on Sunday, October 6, at 3:00 PM on the patio. Bring your fur babies for a short service and blessing.

Join us for a BBQ on the patio to celebrate the beginning of the new choir season on October 13. Any donations collected will go to World Hunger. Please feel free to bring a side, or dessert!



Mark your calendars: Reformation Sunday will be held on October 27, 2024, with guest preacher Collin Grooms from Bear Creek Camp. Don't forget to wear red!

Join us for Worship Sundays at 8:00 or 10:30 AM.

Services will be live streamed to our direct link

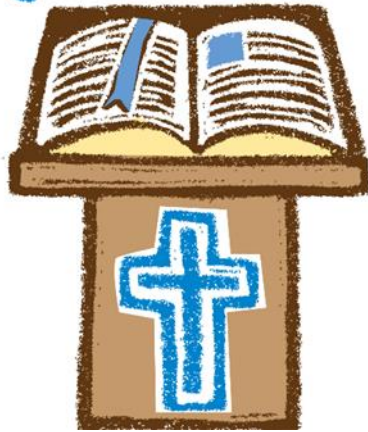
<https://stpaulslutheran.livecontrol.tv>

You can also visit our YouTube and Facebook page

[St. Paul's YouTube channel](#) and our [St. Paul's Facebook page](#).



Thank you to everyone who came out to support Oktoberfest, whether by volunteering, donating, or enjoying the festivities! Lutheran Disaster Response appreciates your support of this annual event. Keep an eye on your Tidings and upcoming newsletter for results.



One of my favorite memories of this summer was a meeting with a friend of mine. We hadn't seen each other in almost twenty years. It was great to sit together and share some memories but also reflect on who we are now and what joys and challenges we have in our lives.

When we come to worship together there is always a table in the front. When we partake in communion, we anticipate the feast to come where one day we will be reunited with all the friends we met along the way, and we will have time to catch up and reconnect.

But I believe the table is also an opportunity to check in with God. As we do with our friends, we come to that table as we are, with no makeup and no pretense. We can drop all of our protective fences and just experience the presence of the divine in a moment that tells us that God wants to be part of our lives—not just in the feast to come, but also right here and now.

What a profound blessing it is that Jesus gave us this meal. If you have ever been to my office, you know that I have on my wall all the pictures of every Living Last Supper at St. Paul's. Ordinary people were gathered with Jesus in the first century, ordinary people are gathered at the table today. Yet Jesus gives of himself freely and invites us all into a life-changing relationship.

I do appreciate the times in my life when we sit together with family and friends, just being in the moment, enjoying food and each other's company. It doesn't happen all the time—and sometimes the conversations are not very deep. But every once in a while, you hit a gem and have a deep conversation with each other.

As we go into the month of October, we are trying to facilitate such opportunities where people can get together to get to know each other and maybe learn something new and have encouraging and interesting conversations.

We would like to launch some new small groups. So, if you have a passion and an interest in starting such a group, that would be wonderful. A successful small group should have a definite beginning and end date. It is always possible to offer

another round of a similar group at a later date. Having a beginning and end date will hopefully generate a commitment not only from the leader, but also from the participants.

If you have an idea or questions, you can either speak to me or Vicar Daniel or contact the office. We are hoping to launch some of the groups this fall, but don't be locked in by that if you would like to do something later or even next year in the spring.

For our Reformation Sunday this year we will have a special guest speaker from Bear Creek Camp. His name is Collin Grooms, and he is the director of Bear Creek. We hope that hearing his witness might inspire some of our youth to attend Bear Creek Camp for any of their offerings. For some of you it will bring back memories of wonderful summers spent there in the past. We certainly enjoyed our men's retreats up there a few years ago.

While I didn't grow up in the United States, I can say that Christian camp experiences were an important part of my own faith formation. For me, they were also wrapped up in music and playing in churches and fellowship halls, but they really were fun experiences and prepared me for life in many different ways.

Since I mentioned the table that is so central in our communal worship, I also remember the table during those camp experiences. Sometimes it was used for table tennis, which created a whole different kind of community. But often we sat down together to eat and to pray and to talk about Jesus. You came in as a stranger, but you left as a friend. My prayer is that this could be said of us as a Christian community as well.

Jesus says it beautifully in John's gospel: "You are no longer servants ... but I have called you friends, because I have made everything known to you that I learned from my Father." (John 15:15)

And since it is Reformation, I have to write at least one sentence about Martin Luther. He actually was known for having instituted gatherings of his students and friends. Out of these gatherings grew a number of publications called *Tischreden* or "table talks."

Here is a short quote from them that may spark an exploration or conversation about the Bible: “THE BIBLE, or Holy Scripture, said Luther, is like a fair and spacious orchard, wherein all sorts of trees do grow, from which we may pluck divers kinds of fruits; for in the Bible we have rich and precious comforts, learnings, admonitions, warnings, promises, and threatenings, etc. There is not a tree in this orchard on which I have not knocked, and have shaken at least a couple of apples or pears from the same.”

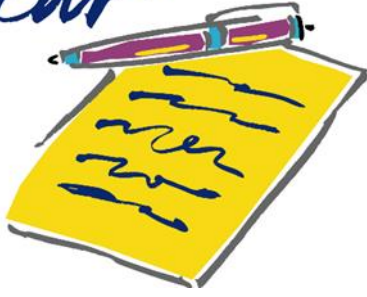
Are you ready to pick some apples or pears? May God bless you and keep you.

With much love,

Pastor Henrik



From the Vicar



Today marks the beginning of my favorite month of the year: October. Fall has always been my favorite season, due in part to its mild weather but especially because of its color palette. Of the fall months, September is far too hot and November far too rainy, not to mention the fact that by November so much of the fall foliage has already withered and fallen; only October brings with it the crisp coolness and abundant yellows and oranges which we love and expect from autumn.

But more than all of this, even more than the beauty and the delightful weather which this month brings, my love of October is centered around one day in particular (or, rather, everything leading up to that one day): namely, Halloween. It is without comparison my favorite holiday of the year. Even though I no longer go trick-or-treating (alas), I love spending the entire month fully immersed in the spooky atmosphere—carving pumpkins, reading Edgar Allan Poe stories, and most of all watching horror films.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that I am a horror fanatic. It began when I was first learning to read; my parents used to read the acclaimed *Goosebumps* series to my brother and me before bed every night, and we would rent the TV versions of the books from the local library. But my absolute obsession with horror really took off in the fourth grade when, dissatisfied with the goofiness of children's horror books, I asked my dad for a recommendation, and he lent me his copy of Stephen King's *Pet Sematary*. It was brutal and dark and terrifying. Totally unlike all of the other types of books the kids my age were reading! I couldn't go back to reading the children's literature I was expected to read: I was completely hooked on adult horror.

I began writing short horror stories of my own around this time, as none of the books I read seemed to adequately capture for me the types of stories I thought would be interesting. After submitting a particularly dark story for an English assignment in the sixth grade, my teacher pulled me aside and said "You should check out Edgar Allan Poe. Your story reminds me of his stories." From that point, the doors to the horror world were blown wide open. Since those days, I have probably seen just about every horror movie in existence, American and foreign. I go to the movies to see every new horror release throughout the year,



and every October I run through a list of new horror films to watch throughout the month—I have just completed this year's list with 22 entries.

It may seem like my love of horror movies is totally unrelated to the theological vocation I am currently pursuing, but as I have reflected on this, I have found that horror has a lot to tell us about theology, and vice versa. For as long as humans have been telling stories, we have been telling scary stories.

Even the Bible has its fair share! For example, in 1 Samuel 28, Saul conjures up

Samuel's ghost with the help of the Witch of Endor. In Mark 5, Jesus encounters a possessed person called the Gerasene Demoniac and casts out demons in a manner that calls to mind the recent popular successes of film franchises such as *The Conjuring* and *Insidious*.

The Gerasene Demoniac could not be restrained "even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones." (Mark 5:3-5) But the Gerasene Demoniac can still recognize salvation. "When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him." (Mark 5:6)

And the demon that possesses him is Legion, who begs Jesus after being cast out "earnestly not to send them out of the country." (Mark 5:10) Jesus shows compassion, even for demons. "Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, 'Send us into the swine; let us enter them.' So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned in the lake." (Mark 5:11-13)

In the same way that one who rides a terrifying rollercoaster feels euphoric and almost peaceful as their ride comes to a stop, it provides tremendous spiritual comfort to be shown the extent of the horrors of life, only for those horrors to be finally overcome and peace to be restored. Until the sequel, that is ...

If you're interested in this genre, I highly recommend the podcast *Be Afraid*, which is produced by the publication Christianity Today and focuses on a theological approach to horror films. Either way, I hope you enjoy the beginning of autumn, and I hope you all have a spooky October.

God's Peace,

Vicar Daniel



Saul, the shade of Samuel, and the Witch of Endor by William Blake



ELCA World Hunger

~

World Food Day, October 16

Through congregations in the U.S., Lutheran churches around the world, and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need and to creatively and

courageously work toward a just world where all are fed. Since its inception, generous people have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger and have advocated to change policies and systems that perpetuate injustice.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America we are called to share in God's work in the world. Providing food meets basic, immediate needs; but hunger is about more than food. ELCA's World Hunger Appeal also gets at the root causes of hunger and poverty by connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and to gain access to clean water, education, health care, and sources of income. By doing this, long-term, sustainable, transformative change can be accomplished.

Please consider making a gift to ELCA World Hunger by:

- Donating online : <https://www.ELCA.org/hunger/donate>
- Mailing a donation : Check payable to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
- Giving by phone : 800-638-3522, Mon – Fri, 8 AM to 5 PM, CT
- Giving through this congregation : With a check payable to St. Paul's (note "ELCA World Hunger" on memo line) or through the website's "Misc. Restricted" donate link.

You are also invited to join ELCA World Hunger in commemorating World Food Day on October 16. This day is set aside annually for international recognition of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on October 16, 1945. It is celebrated by all organizations concerned with raising awareness and taking action toward food security for all.

ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we'll hunger and thirst no more. Let's boldly and faithfully pursue that promise of a just world where all are fed.

— *Good Works Team*



Stewardship Message

Sowing Seeds of Generosity



Time, Talents & Treasure

When we are generous with our time, our talents, and our treasure we are sowing a seed in another person, in a program, in our community that takes root and may bloom in unimagined ways.

Mark your calendars for November 24, Consecration Sunday, our annual celebration of stewardship and generosity here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Glenside. Our guest preacher will be The Reverend Marcia Bell. The celebration luncheon after the 10:30 service will be catered again by the popular Mission BBQ.

What are we celebrating? The fruits of past generosity and the fruits that will come from the current plantings of seeds for the continuing ministry of this community of believers at St. Paul's.

In a few weeks you will receive a letter in the USPS mail as well as information in your email with further details about this important day. Plan to join us.

—*The Stewardship Team*

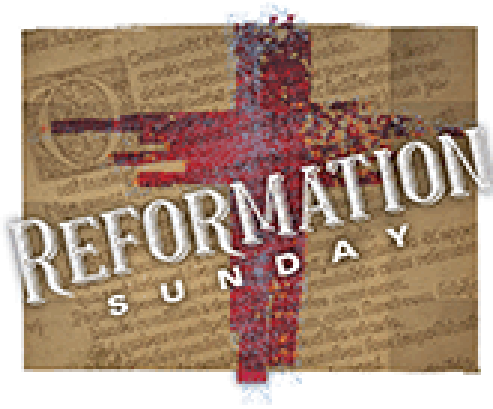
Chris Claypoole, Linda Hayes, Cathy Keim, Gail Rittenhouse, Paul Ziegler, Vicar Daniel Marrone, and Pastor Henrik Sonntag



We're excited to invite members of our congregation to take on a leadership role in our upcoming Small Group Emphasis! We're looking for volunteers to head up groups that can run for just three to four weeks—perfect for trying out new ideas without a long-term commitment. Consider leading a book club, a cooking workshop, or a community service project, or even starting a fitness group. Your unique interests and passions can help foster connections within our church family. If you're interested in leading a group, see Pastor Sonntag.



All Saint's Sunday is November 3. Please submit any names of people that have died in the last year if you would like them mentioned in the service connected with the lighting of a candle. Please remember that you also have the opportunity to light a candle for a loved one that entered God's eternal kingdom prior to last year.



Mark your calendars: Reformation Sunday will be held on October 27, 2024. We will have a guest preacher with us from Bear Creek Camp. His name is Collin Grooms and he is the executive director of Bear Creek Camp. In his message we will learn more about the camp and also be blessed by the Good News that Jesus sets us free to be serving young and old. Collin will bring with him the program director of the camp and they will share experiences with the children that we hope will inspire them to consider attending Bear Creek Camp next summer



**A.Rivers Arts Presents
The Next Six
Ajibola Rivers, cello**

Join us Sunday, October 27, 2024, in the sanctuary at 4:30 PM for an evening of solo cello reimagined, featuring world premieres of Rivers' Cello Suites 3 and 4. Free Concert with offerings welcome

Save the Date.
Consecration Sunday is coming. Sunday, November 24, featuring guest speaker The Reverend Marcia Bell and a celebration luncheon. You will want to be there.

All Saints Sunday is November 3. Please submit all names to be remembered no later than Friday, November 1.

Altar flowers are available for all Sundays in November. One set is \$22.50; two sets are \$45. Contact the office to set up a sponsorship and share your dedication message.

Thank you to all who came out to support Oktoberfest! Pictures and results to follow in your upcoming newsletter and Tidings.

Love Revolution Launch/Synod Wide Learning Day
October 19, 2024, at St. Luke, Devon

Live Faithfully

Congregations and their leaders are cordially invited to gather at **St. Luke Lutheran Church, 203 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon, PA on Saturday, October 19 from 9 am – 3 pm** for a synod wide learning day event that will focus on how we live as God's faithful people.

There is no cost for this event and lunch will be provided.

After an opening worship service, **Bishop Dwayne Royster** will share a keynote address. Bishop Royster is the executive director of Faith in Action, the largest faith-based community organizing movement committed to racial and economic justice in the United States. He believes that, since we are all created in the image and likeness of God, it is imperative that a prophetic faith voice is heard in the halls of power calling for equity and respect for every human life. Committed to the restoration and redemption of all human beings, he intentionally works to build up people and communities. He believes that the first revolution of love is internal—a reminder that love of self should not be placed above love of neighbor. Bishop Royster will help us to ground our response to God's love by expanding our understanding of neighbor, our connection to the communities around us, and beginning to imagine how we can be the church in new ways.



Following the keynote address and lunch there will be two learning seasons, each aiming to equip congregations and leaders with practical skills. One will focus on acknowledging cultural realities and our own biases, the other around vision and purpose for leadership.

Live Faithfully will also serve as the launch for **Love Revolution: Love God, Love Neighbor**, a multi-year learning community that will engage both lay and rostered leaders in a process to renew their sense of purpose and vocation. These leaders will delve into the promises we make at baptism to discover the

variety of ways God's love revolutionizes the way we live and serve in the world. Made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., *Love Revolution* also supports synod wide learning days like this one in which the whole synod can gather and explore how God is empowering us to love our neighbors in new and effective ways.

As we look forward to this event, we are also happy to announce that after a faithful review of applications, five congregations, one from each county in the synod, have been selected to be the first cohort of the *Love Revolution*. These congregations are:

- Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Lansdowne, Delaware County
- Reformation Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sellersville, Bucks County
- The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, King of Prussia, Montgomery County
- Zion Lutheran Church, Spring City, Chester County

We look forward to offering opportunities for all interested congregations to participate in the formal learning process of the *Love Revolution* over time and can't wait to welcome everyone to these synod events.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



For more information contact:
The Rev. Rick Summy (*he/him*)
Love Revolution Program Director
rsummy@sepa.org
952.529.8340

Southeastern PA Synod,
ELCA | ministrylink.org



Serving schedule for October

(this schedule is subject to changes and updates)

Date	Time	Acolyte	Assisting Minister	Greeter/Usher	Flower delivery
6	8:00 AM	Gabe Picado			
	10:30	Wesley Ritter	Cyndee Folk	Fred Helbig	
13	8:00 AM	Jason LoMaistro		Ed and Linda Hayes	
	10:30	Tommy Erat	Betsy Berglund, Jane Kinsey		
20	8:00 AM	Austin Reiff		Ed and Linda Hayes	
	10:30	Wesley Ritter	Laurie Pellicore	Fred Helbig	
27	8:00 AM	Alma Ojeda			
	10:30	Claire Picado	Betsy Berglund, Jane Kinsey		

Good News from the Pews

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.



October	Name	October	Name	Anniversary Couple
1-Oct	Geoffrey Mills	15-Oct	Helen Miklautz	5-Oct Peter & Sheila Kurilla
2-Oct	Kathleen Breuer	16-Oct	Allace Miklautz	6-Oct Nancy & Matt Conard
2-Oct	Christopher Berglund	17-Oct	Herbert Craft	8-Oct Jessica & Anthony Notarianni
2-Oct	Sue Edelman	18-Oct	Michael Foster	9-Oct Peter & Hannah Mazzaccaro
3-Oct	Molly Donaldson	19-Oct	Mary Anne Allen	11-Oct Esther & Paul Rajashekar
5-Oct	Henrik Sonntag	19-Oct	Addison Pratt	14-Oct Laura & Matt Mitchell
6-Oct	Stewart Conard	19-Oct	Isabella Pratt	17-Oct Christopher and Betsy Berglund
8-Oct	Leona Messick	20-Oct	Karen Scott	18-Oct Alexandra & Nicholas Davatzes
12-Oct	Cathy Keim	24-Oct	Krista Spillane	26-Oct Michelle & Mark Leister
13-Oct	Ruth Boyd-Galewski	25-Oct	Ryan Bothwell	31-Oct Susan Pierce & Geoffrey Mills
15-Oct	Pam McDowell	25-Oct	Misty Wagner	
		31-Oct	Mike Edelman	



Dear St. Paul's,



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They have certainly brightened my spirits and my home. I ask for your continued prayers in this journey of healing as God has shown me great goodness and mercy already.

With Much Affection, Connie Sanders

Dear St. Paul's Family,



Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers that filled both my hospital rooms and my room at home. Your kindness is much appreciated. Again, thank you for everything.

Sincerely,
Pauline Petrie

Dear St. Paul's,



Thank you so much for the Get Well card and the beautiful flowers. They brightened my day and make me smile every time I look at them. I'm blessed to be a part of this caring, thoughtful and loving congregation. Hope to be back in the pews and among you good people very soon!

Best Regards, Julie Gable

Dear St. Paul's,



As a family, we appreciate the home away from home, fellowship and spirituality St. Paul's have given us for the past 50 years. We were so glad to be able to celebrate my mom's life here with her friends and family. Thanks for your support during this time. Love, Emily and Rodney Barnhart

Dear St. Paul's,

*Thank
You!*



Thank you for all the love and support I received before and since Herb's death on August 19th. During his last months when attending church was no longer possible, we appreciated your signatures on cards of caring and concern.

Thanks to Henrik, Rae Ann and Daniel for executing a beautiful funeral service and to so many individuals for your thoughtful sympathy cards and messages.

Sincerely,
Elaine Craft

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We have been asked to inform you that the Freed-Givnish Funeral Home of Glenside is arranging to have young trees planted in memories of Mrs. Claire Beach, Mr. William B. Hall III, and Mrs. Donna A. Cunnane. These memoria trees will be planted during the earliest appropriate season on public lands in the state of Pennsylvania. John R. Freed, Jr. of the Freed-Givnish Funeral Home hopes that you will find solace in the fact that these lovely trees, symbolic of strength and future growth, will grace the country side.

The living memorial to these people is a part of a large endeavor, in cooperation with reforestation efforts in the state of PA, to restore the landscare and our environmemnt with the eternal beauty of living trees. Each individual tree is meant to prvide a brad reaching legacy to all the people of Pennsylvania; it will grow as an important part of it's natural surroundings without personal inscription. We hope the panting of this tree will bring the peace and comfort to you that the tree itself is intended to bring to the many who will pass it's way in the years to come.

Please accept our expression of sympathy along with that of the Freed-Givnish Funeral Home, who have provided this memorial to Mrs. Claire Beach.

Sincerely yours, Nate Pearson, President, Lofty Oaks Association



Ingredients for this Easy Chicken Dinner

- Bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- Olive oil
- Fresh herbs – rosemary, thyme, sage
- Red wine vinegar
- Garlic
- Brussels sprouts
- Sweet potato
- Fuji apples (or other sweet baking apples)
- Bacon
- Salt and pepper



How to Make This Sheet Pan Chicken Recipe

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Place pour in 2 Tbsp olive oil, red wine vinegar, herbs and garlic into a gallon size resealable bag. Add chicken and season with salt and pepper then rub mixture over chicken.

Let rest while you prep remaining ingredients.

Add sweet potatoes, apples, Brussels sprouts, and shallots to a rimmed 18-by-13-inch baking sheet. Drizzle with 2 Tbsp olive oil, season with salt and pepper then toss to coat.

Spread into an even layer.

Top with chicken pieces and sprinkle bacon over veggie/apple mixture.

Roast in preheated oven until chicken has cooked through and veggies are tender, about 30 to 35 minutes, broil during last few minutes for more browned crispy chicken skin. Serve warm.

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
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Blooms that have petals

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Spring precipitation

16	17	18	19
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Puffy and white in the sky

20	21	22	23	24	25
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Soil

26	27	28	29
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Lawn

30	31	32	33	34
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Must be weeded and tended

35	36	37	38	39	40
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Tiptoe through these

41	42	43	44	45	46
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Baby sheep

47	48	49	50	51
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We need food and this

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

God made this from nothing

57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
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A sign of God's promise

65	66	67	68	69	70	71
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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."

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www.glasbergen.com



“Due to a scheduling conflict, yesterday has been rescheduled until tomorrow, tomorrow has been moved to today and today has been postponed indefinitely.”



Contact Us

The Reverend Henrik Sonntag, Pastor
Vicar Daniel Marrone, 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

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