

MAY 17, 2026

# *The Crossbeam*

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS



*Sunday, May 17, 2026*  
*7th Sunday of Easter,*  
*Year A*

IN TODAY'S READINGS THE RISEN CHRIST ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE ASSURED THAT THE SPIRIT WILL EMPOWER THEM TO BE WITNESSES THROUGHOUT THE EARTH. THE DISCIPLES WERE TOLD TO NOT GAZE UP INTO HEAVEN TO LOOK FOR JESUS (ACTS 1:11); WE FIND HIS PRESENCE AMONG US AS WE PROCLAIM THE WORD AND SHARE THE EASTER FEAST. WE TOO LONG FOR THE SPIRIT TO ENLIVEN OUR FAITH AND INVIGORATE OUR MISSION.



## From the Pastor's Desk

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

1 LET GOD ARISE, AND LET GOD'S ENEMIES BE SCATTERED;  
LET THOSE WHO HATE GOD FLEE.  
2 AS SMOKE IS DRIVEN AWAY, SO YOU SHOULD DRIVE THEM AWAY;  
AS THE WAX MELTS BEFORE THE FIRE, SO LET THE WICKED PERISH AT THE  
PRESENCE OF GOD.  
3 BUT LET THE RIGHTEOUS BE GLAD AND REJOICE BEFORE GOD;  
LET THEM ALSO BE MERRY AND JOYFUL.  
4 SING TO GOD, SING PRAISES TO GOD'S NAME; EXALT THE ONE WHO RIDES  
THE CLOUDS;  
I AM THAT NAME, REJOICE BEFORE GOD!  
5 IN YOUR HOLY HABITATION, O GOD,  
YOU ARE A FATHER TO ORPHANS, DEFENDER OF WIDOWS;  
6 YOU GIVE THE SOLITARY A HOME AND BRING FORTH PRISONERS INTO  
FREEDOM;  
BUT THE REBELS SHALL LIVE IN DESERT PLACES.  
7 O GOD, WHEN YOU WENT FORTH BEFORE YOUR PEOPLE,  
WHEN YOU MARCHED THROUGH THE WILDERNESS,  
8 THE EARTH QUAKED, AND THE SKIES POURED DOWN RAIN, AT THE PRESENCE  
OF GOD, THE GOD OF SINAI,  
AT THE PRESENCE OF GOD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL.  
9 YOU SENT A BOUNTIFUL RAIN, O GOD;  
YOU RESTORED YOUR INHERITANCE WHEN IT LANGUISHED.  
10 YOUR PEOPLE FOUND THEIR HOME IN IT;  
IN YOUR GOODNESS, O GOD, YOU HAVE MADE PROVISION FOR THE POOR.  
32 SING TO GOD, O KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH;  
SING PRAISES TO THE LORD.  
33 YOU RIDE IN THE HEAVENS, O GOD, IN THE ANCIENT HEAVENS;  
YOU SEND FORTH YOUR VOICE, YOUR MIGHTY VOICE.  
34 ASCRIBE POWER TO GOD,  
WHOSE MAJESTY IS OVER ISRAEL; WHOSE STRENGTH IS IN THE SKIES.  
35 HOW WONDERFUL YOU ARE IN YOUR HOLY PLACES, O GOD OF ISRAEL,  
GIVING STRENGTH AND POWER TO YOUR PEOPLE! BLESSED BE GOD!  
"GOD IS AWESOME? REALLY? HOW COME? HERE ARE FIVE REASONS WHY. FIRST,  
GOD IS FATHER TO ORPHANS. SECOND, GOD IS PROTECTOR OF WIDOWS. THIRD,  
GOD PROVIDES A 'HOME TO LIVE IN.' FOURTH, GOD 'LEADS OUT THE PRISONERS  
TO PROSPERITY.' AND FINALLY, GOD PROVIDES 'RAIN IN ABUNDANCE.' GO BACK  
NOW AND UNPACK EACH. A FATHER TO ORPHANS AND PROTECTOR OF WIDOWS:  
GOD IS AWESOME BECAUSE GOD STANDS BY AND WITH THE VULNERABLE."  
HOMILETICS, MAY 21, 2023  
PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.  
PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—  
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:  
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD  
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY

10A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM  
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\)](#)



SATURDAY MAY 16 @ 5PM  
VICKY WIENKE - ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY MAY 17 @ 10AM  
PAT LIPKA - ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY MAY 17 @ 10AM  
LAURA LOEHR- USHER  
EIVE PROVOST- ACOYLTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR MAY:  
BARBARA KWIECINSKI  
SYLVIA DELANEY



**ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM  
MAY 21ST**

**NEW MEMBERS INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
MAY 17TH @ 11AM**

**THANKSGIVING AT RETIREMRNT OF DEBT  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> @ 10AM  
WITH LUNCHEON FOLLOWING**

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> AFTER AGAPE MEAL**

**NEXT AGAPE MEAL  
JUNE 7TH  
@ 9:45 AM**

**ONE SERVICE AT 10AM WILL  
START MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AND CONTINUE  
THROUGH SUMMER**

**ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!**

AN INFORMATION MEETING WITH A SNACK WILL BE HELD  
MAY 17 AFTER OUR 10 AM SERVICE.  
RSVP TO AMY AT 716-668-2152.

# **THIS WEEK 5/17- 5/23**

## **TODAY:**

10 A.M. WORSHIP  
11 A.M. NEW MEMBERS MEETING  
11 A.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

## **MONDAY:**

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP  
6 P.M. KNITTING GROUP  
6 P.M. GIRL SCOUTS  
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA  
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

## **TUESDAY:**

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. TAI-CHI  
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES  
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

## **WEDNESDAY:**

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP  
6 P.M. PARKINSON'S GROUP  
7 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL

## **THURSDAY:**

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
12 P.M. NA  
5 P.M. ZUMBA  
5 P.M. GIRL SCOUTS  
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY  
7 P.M. NA

## **FRIDAY:**

10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)  
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

## **SATURDAY:**

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
5 P.M. WORSHIP



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**  
*FROM THE ALTAR GUILD*

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION BY ORDERING A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.

**DINING OUT**

THE NEXT DINING OUT WILL BE ON THURSDAY MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 5PM  
WE WILL BE GOING TO WAYSIDE RESTAURANT  
2301 SOUTH PARK AVE IN BUFFALO  
SIGN UP SHEET IN THE FOYER  
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

## **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

WE ARE COLLECTING FOR THE ELCA WORLD HUNGER DRIVE.  
THERE ARE ENVELOPES IN THE FOYER OR YOU CAN DONATE  
ONLINE THROUGH TITHLEY.

THANK YOU!

### **"Let the children come unto me...."**

The UNYS Hunger Justice team has designated this spring's ELCA World Hunger synodical appeal for ministries focused on the care and feeding of orphans and vulnerable children. Each congregation is challenged to bring a gift of \$500 or more to our UNYS Spring Assembly, May 26-27.

As Jesus welcomed and embraced children, despite the Disciples' disapproval, so we, too, are called to respond to the plight of those whose families have been fractured, leaving children vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Through our support of ELCA ministries of feeding, nutrition and health care, we are demonstrating Jesus' compassion for "the least of these", those alone and with no means to care for themselves.

We who serve on the UNYS Hunger Justice Team count on your faithful generosity and thank you for your advocacy of ELCA World Hunger in your congregation. Working together, we live in hope "that all the world may be fed".

Grace and peace,

Your Hunger Justice Team





### **PENTECOST GERANIUMS**

I WOULD LIKE TO APPOLOGIZE FOR THE LATE NOTICE. EASTER CAME AND WENT SO FAST AND PENTECOST IS HERE BEFORE WE KNEW IT. DUE TO THE LATE NOTICE, THE GERANIUMS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BULLETIN THE WEEK AFTER PENTECOST, MAY 31ST. WITH THAT BEING SAID, IT IS TIME TO ORDER RED GERANIUMS FOR THE WOODEN CROSS PLANTER IN ST. JOHN'S LOT BY THE PARKING LOT.

THESE ARE ORDERED IN MEMORY OF HONOR OF A LOVED ONE AND PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN. THEY WILL BE PLANTED WHEN WEATHER PERMITS.

PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER. THEY ARE \$2.50 EACH. CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO ST. JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD.

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL CONNIE 716-674-2409

THANK YOU FOR HELPING BEAUTIFY THIS PART OF OUR PROPERTY.