

**ST. JOSEPH'S (HILL) LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Dear Church family,



Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus! As the days lengthen and spring unfolds in full color, we are reminded of the new life and steadfast love God continues to pour upon us. St. Paul says in the sixteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, “Let all that you do be done in love.” What better month to focus on this than May?

In May, we give thanks for the love of mothers and all mother-figures in our lives. Mother’s Day is May 11th. In worship, we will pause to honor all those who have shown us what it means to live in love—through their encouragement, guidance, patience, and care. We will also celebrate the added joy of the baptism of Rylan Grubb. For some, Mother’s Day is a joyful celebration; for others, it brings tender memories or quiet grief. Wherever you find yourself this year, may the love of Christ surround you and may you be reminded that you are never alone.

This month also marks the beginning of a new opportunity to grow in your knowledge of the Bible. I invite you to join my virtual Bible study on the book of Ezekiel, beginning Tuesday, May 6th, at 6 PM. This often-overlooked prophet has much to say about God’s mercy and promises. Even in the strangeness of exile, Ezekiel reminds us that the Spirit of God is never far from His people. This obscure prophet has a message or two that is relevant to our world today. Whether you’ve studied this book before or are brand new to it, come with an open heart—ready to listen, learn, and be renewed.

The month of May also brings us a very special celebration in our daycare ministry: the graduation of our preschool children! What a joy it is to see these little ones grow among us in our daycare. May these children always know the love of God and the support of a church that delights in watching them grow.

As we move through this beautiful month with days getting longer and temperatures warming toward summer, may everything we do—our celebrations, our learning, our remembering, our serving—be rooted in the love of God. Not the fleeting kind that fades with the seasons, but the enduring love of Christ that never fails.

In the love of Christ,

*† Pastor Rich*

## Worship, Prayer & Education Opportunities in May

- May 4: 8 AM Sunday School  
9 AM Worship Service  
Holy Communion  
**Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Available**
- May 11: 8 AM Sunday School  
9 AM Worship Service; **Baptism of Ryan Grubb**  
(*Mother's Day*)
- May 18: 8 AM Sunday School  
9 AM Worship Service; **Graduation Recognition**  
Holy Communion
- May 25: 8 AM Sunday School  
9 AM Worship;  
**Memorial Service at Hill Church Cemetery** immediately following worship.



**PLEASE PRAY** for these brothers and sisters in Christ: Kathee Rhode's grandson Nate & Jen, her daughter-in-law who has cancer; Kathee Rhode as she recovers from knee surgery, Noah, Lucy Hartman's grandson; Lizinette & Tim, friends of Linda Kowalski; Roberta, Faye Gehris' sister; Kay Christman & Bill Hart, friends of Susy & Yogi Yerger; Tammy Benfield; Drusilla Spaid, Veronica, Todd Lorah's brother, Cain, who has melanoma; David Renninger's daughter, Gretchen; Elsa Breitreutz, Tim Albrecht, Ron Seasholtz, Don Hendricks brother, Darwin; Ray Groff, Cathy Lorah who broke her arm, Beth Reichert's Aunt Janet, Brenda Mckenrick and Sara and John Prout.



**THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL**

Online Bible Study  
Led by Pastor Rich  
Tuesdays at 6 pm  
6-Sessions  
Begins May 6th

Google Meet  
To Join the Bible Study  
Click the link on Tuesdays at 6 pm.  
[meet.google.com/eua-aojk-oyb](https://meet.google.com/eua-aojk-oyb)

**BIBLE STUDY** Join Pastor Rich as he facilitates the next online Bible Study 6 week session on the Book of Ezekiel on May 6th at 6 PM. To join, look for the link in your E-Blast. Feel free to send the link to friends and family who may be interested in attending. You can call Jill at 610-369-0990.

## THE MIRACLE OF VOLUNTEERS

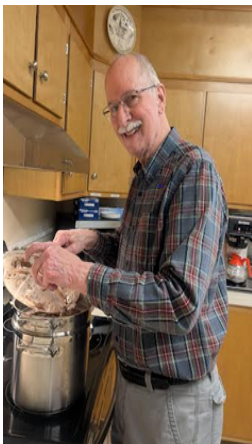
There are so many volunteers who serve faithfully in our church family. This month we highlight the stories behind two of our recent projects.

#1. Some women in our congregation have been sewing, knitting, and crocheting to create these wonderful items. Included are baptismal blankets, prayer shawls, lap pads, and bags for walkers. **Thank you** for sharing your talents in this way.



#2. In March, thirty-five men and women gathered in the fellowship hall and volunteered their time (245 hours) over two weekends to make the peanut butter and coconut cream Easter eggs. One hundred seventy-two pounds of eggs were rolled and coated. Joanne Bieber also worked at home to prepare 77 bags of the candy pretzels. **We thank each candy maker** for adding their sweet touch to this

project. We also thank Thrivent Financial for providing action team cards to assist in the purchase of ingredients. The final profit will be announced during worship when a check will be presented to our day care to go toward their van replacement fund,





**DAYCARE NEWS** Yea, the nice spring weather has finally arrived and the children are transitioning into shorts and light jackets. The church gardens are blooming and we always use the beautiful azalea bushes as a backdrop to take our classroom photos of the children. The smiles and the plants bloomed “just in time”. April 7<sup>th</sup> brought an exciting “Week of the Young Child”. The children had activities each day to celebrate! Monday, the children had a “sing along” with MAKIN’ MUSIC and Mike Kropp. Tuesday we made ice cream sundaes. Wednesday, we smiled for our photos. Thursday the children decorated dinosaurs. A “moon bounce” was a favorite activity on Friday, Carnival day, along with games & prizes.

The week of May 5<sup>th</sup> is “Teacher Appreciation Week”. Along with celebrating our children, we appreciate our teachers. The Bible says, “And He gave some as...teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ”. St. Joseph’s Day Care teachers are building up, “little bodies of faith”. Apart from surprise gifts for the staff, the center may be calling our church bakers... to provide sweets for our staff.

Preschool Graduation is still being planned for Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a celebration and presenting diplomas for our “soon to be Kindergarteners.” We will end the school year with a picnic and This summer we have added 3 permanent sinks for the convenience of the many children that use the school age room every day.

Thank you to our plumber Steve Miller. His prompt installation and awesome work gave us beautiful vanities and functional areas for the children.

**CHURCH OFFICE** A huge thank you to the many people involved in moving furniture to prepare for the painter who arrived on the weekend of April 25<sup>th</sup>. The church office was ready for the painter to spackle holes and paint the church office and for this to take place, many people were involved. Thank you Michele Magners & the Property Committee, Robin Schmale, Mark Robertson, Greg Hoffman and Blaise Miller for your time and talents. The office walls look brand new!

**CEMETERY NEWS** Volunteers needed, Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm: Please consider helping to straighten stones on the cemetery. Rain date, May 6<sup>th</sup>. American flags will be placed on the cemetery on Wed., May 21 at 6:00 pm. Helping hands is appreciated.

**MULCH DAY WITH DEB & RICK GEESEY** We will be installing mulch on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 8 AM. Any additional help would be appreciated.

**MAY VOLUNTEERS** The sign up sheets are on the board for greeters, readers, etc. Thank you for your time and dedication.

**THE DEADLINE** for announcements in the weekly E-Blast and the Bulletin is Wednesday of each week. Please continue to send in your ECHO articles. They are due by 3rd Wednesday of the month.

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Ron & Sandy Seashultz	21 years	Faye & Donald Gehris	49 years
Joelle & Nathan Bieber	21 years	Marta & Dennis Weller	49 years
Christine & Darrin Krall	33 years	Lauren & Will Clouser	14 years
Donna & Neal Moyer	35 years	Irvin & Susy Yerger	55 years
Doug & Trish Hartman-Moyer	11 years	Amber & Edward McCaffrey	22 years

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Diane Bender	Aiden Nunan
Stephanie Jabs	Benjamin Rhode
Charlotte Prout	Joanne Bieber
Ethan Chambers	David Reichert
Brittany Thees	Thomas Rose
Michael Moyer	Linette Miller
Michele Magners	Linda Harner
Lisa Lewis	Katherine Harkcom
Noah Hartman	Matthew Beekman
Anna Moyer	Zach Hopple
Sallie Hackman	Henry Bernhard
Lindsey Howard	Michael Thees
Maddilyn Kleinschmidt	Betty Seyler
Leroy Weidner	Marcia Kurtz

**CHURCH STAFF**

Reverend Rich Moore  
Mrs. Linda Kowalski, Council President  
Mrs. Jill Savory, Parish Secretary  
Mr. Edward and Ethan Dierolf, Tec Support  
Mrs. Kathie Gilbert, Volunteer Coordinator  
Mr. Blaise Miller, Sexton  
Mr. Ethan Dierolf, Grounds: Keeper  
Mrs. Carol Barton, Organist  
Mrs. Marcia Kurtz, Music Director  
Mrs. Robin Schmale, Daycare Director

