

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with

Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday/Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday/Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, Friday Noon - 3 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710

Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Fern Funk, Parish Administrator (*email ststephenoffice@msn.com*)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

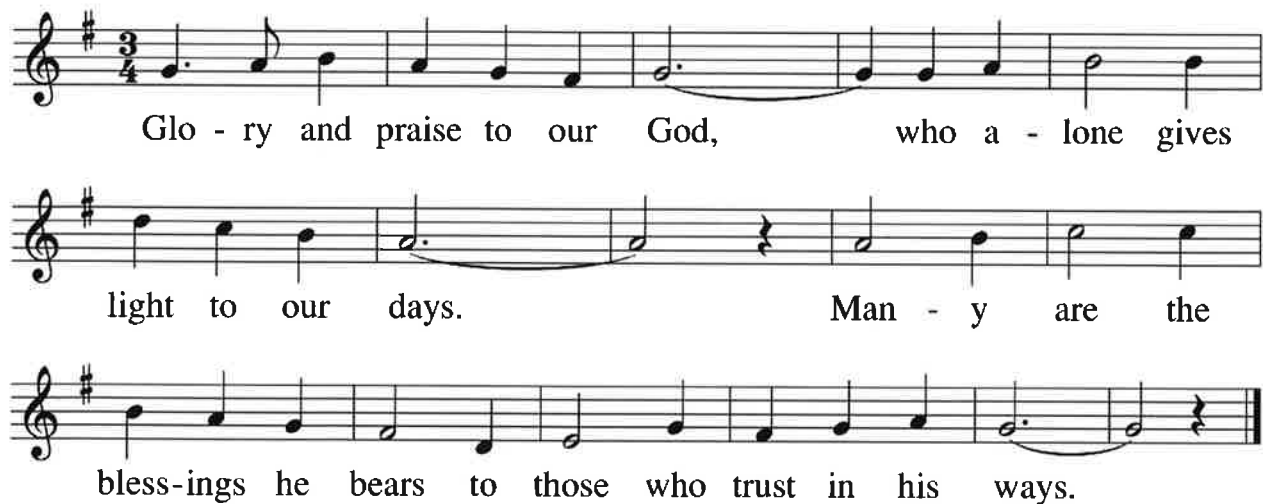
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

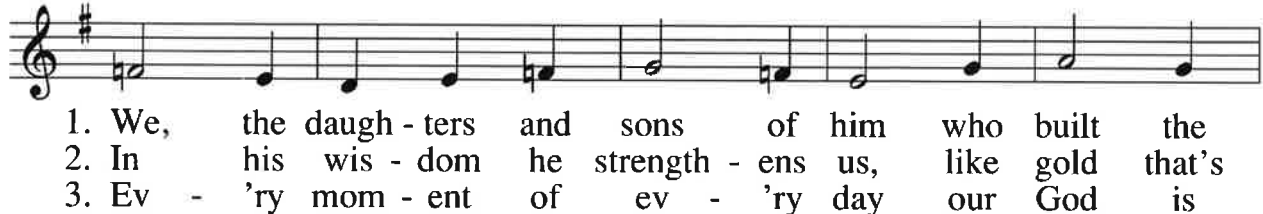
GATHERING SONG: *Glory and Praise to our God* ~ Dan Schutte vv. 1-3

Refrain



Glo - ry and praise to our God, who a - lone gives
light to our days. Man - y are the
bless-ings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

Verses 1-3



1. We, the daugh - ters and sons of him who built the
2. In his wis - dom he strength - ens us, like gold that's
3. Ev - 'ry mom - ent of ev - 'ry day our God is

val - leys and plains, Praise the won - ders our God has
 test - ed in fire. Though the pow - er of sin pre -
 wait - ing to save, Al - ways read - y to seek the
 done in ev - 'ry heart that sings.
 vails, our God is there to save.
 lost, to an - swer those who pray.

D.C.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

| Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you
 for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

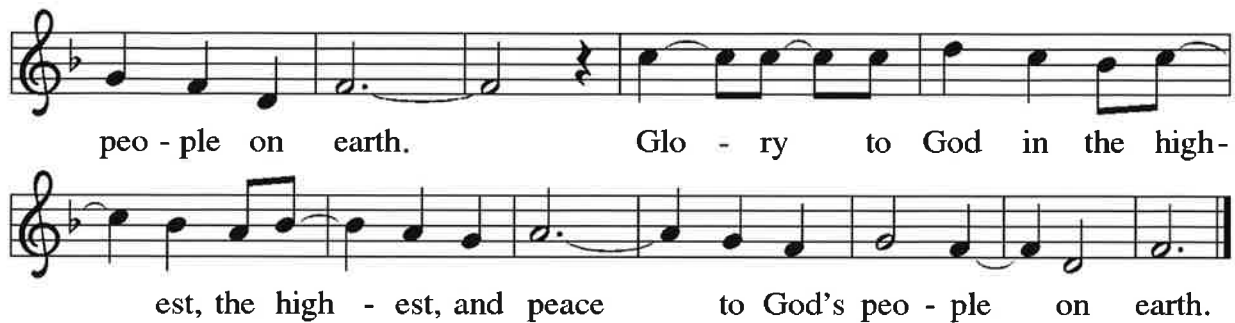


A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: *This Day Was Made by the Lord* ~ Christopher Walker

Refrain

This day was made by the Lord, let us re-joice, let us be glad.

let us re-joice in sal - va - tion!

Verses Cantor

1. I thank you, your love is e -
2. Your hand raised me up _____ in
3. The stone which the build - ers re -
4. You o - pened the gates _____ of
5. 7 You are my strength and my

All

1. ter - nal, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
2. tri - umph, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
3. ject - ed is the cor - ner - stone, _ is the cor - ner - stone. _
4. heav - en, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.
5. Sav - ior, you have giv - en me life. You have giv - en me life.

to Refrain

1-5. I will pro - claim the won - ders you do!

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from 1 John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

P The holy gospel according to John. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." ...The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *We Have Been Told* ~ David Haas

Refrain

We have been told, we've seen his face and heard his voice a -
live in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your heart, as the
Fa - ther has loved me, so I have loved you."

Verses

1. "I am the vine, you are the branch-es, and
2. "You are my friends, if you keep my com - mands, ____
3. "No great-er love is there than this: to

to Refrain

1. all ____ who live in me will bear ____ great fruit."
2. no long - er slaves, I call you friends."
3. lay down one's life for ____ a friend."

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

The response to the Prayers of Intercession is: C hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... now and forever. C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *You Are Mine* (ELW 581)

1 "I will come to you in the si-lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope-less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de-spair-ing, I
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free-dom,

I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can-not give.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain. Stand

still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*

Refrain

Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by

name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I

To stanzas 3 and 4

love you and you are mine.”

4 “I

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **C Amen**

SENDING SONG: *Rain Down* – Jaime Cortez

Refrain

Rain down, rain down, rain down your

1
2

love on your peo - ple. love, God of life.

Verses

1. Faith-ful and true is the word of our God. All of God's
2. We who re - vere and find hope in our God live in the
3. God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the

1. works are so wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the
2. kind - ness and joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from
3. wa - ter of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your

to Refrain

1. just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.
2. dark - ness and death; God will not leave us to starve.
3. peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

High eternal Trinity! Love! We are trees of death, and you are the tree of life. What a wonder, in your light to see ourselves, your creature, as a pure tree, a tree you drew out of yourself. You planted it and gave it branches: the soul's powers of memory, understanding, and will. O tree set in such purity by the One who planted you! Once we have been engrafted into you, the branches you gave our tree begin to produce their fruit. Our memory is filled with the continual recollection of your blessings. Our understanding gazes into you to know perfectly your truth. And our will chooses to love and to follow what our understanding has seen and known. You made us into trees of life again, by engrafting yourself, life, into us. You brought forth fruits for us: the fire of love, light, and ready obedience.—*Catherine of Siena*

Upcoming Commemorations

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Monday, April 29, 2024

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

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Announcements for the week of *April 28, 2024*

Join us on Zoom Monday evenings at 7 pm (April 29, May 6, 13, 20 and June 3) as we focus on Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Let's have a conversation about Luther's movement from the Catholic Church, his work with Philip Melanchthon, and the beginnings of the Lutheran reform. We'll also explore how the Reformation spread in the 16th century. In observance of Memorial Day, there will no session on May 27.

Wholeness & Healing Service this Tuesday (April 30) at 7:30 pm ~ Join us for prayer and communion.

A Thank You for your prayers video from Jeff & Krista Parrett.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IS-gkqQ46UkVXmIGk1ETH9g4nKSK_77X/view?usp=drive_link



Poppy Paint Night ~ May 22

7 pm - 9 pm.

Join us for a fun paint night at Lets Craft located at the Samanea Mall (the old SOURCE MALL) on Old Country Road in Westbury.

Discover the mesmerizing world of painting through the expert guidance of Diane. Unleash your creativity as you learn to capture the vibrant colors on canvas. This workshop caters to all skill levels and includes

personalized instruction in blending, brushwork and composition. No prior knowledge of painting is necessary and all painting materials are provided.

Tickets (\$35 - \$45) are available at Let's Craft website www.Letscraft.org or contact Beth Feeney at 516-729-5481.

May is St. Stephen's Month to support LSS's Hunger Prevention Program - New LIFE Center. Please refer to the attached flyer. Additional flyers are available on the Narthex table.

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (April 28th - May 4th)

Today	5th Sunday of Easter
	9:30 am Holy Communion
	1:00 pm <i>Satsang with a Smile</i>
Monday	7:00 pm Zoom Study
Tuesday	7:00 pm <i>Back to Basics (AA)</i>
	7:30 pm Wholeness & Healing Service
Next Sunday, 6th Sunday of Easter	
	9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

	<u>Sunday, 9:30 AM</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER:	Victoria Maxey
LECTOR:	Christel LaVorgna
ACOLYTE:	Carmine Barone
ACCOMPANIEST:	Gregory Hunter
USHERS:	Tyler LaVorgna, John Musi
GREETER:	Ilse Zeeck
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Jane Ebersberger, Christel LaVorgna

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Lauren Artus
Dolly Braun
Dottie Eberhardt
Roger Engert
Dottie McPartlin
Lois Menik

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe (brother-in-law of Mark Hammaren)
Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)
Fred & Janet Barrell (brother-in-law & sister of Susan Portz)
Wendy & Joe Bezko Colligan (sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko)
Roseann DeGennaro (cousin of Laureen Aiello)
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
Elaine Lehe (sister of Maureen O'Brien)

John Parrett (husband of Claire Parrett)
Krista Parrett (daughter-in-law of Claire Parrett)
David Smiloff (brother of Debbie De Louise)
Diana Smiloff (sister-in-law of Debbie De Louise)
Arlene Stafford (aunt of Kathy Hesse)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Dan Buckholt (friend of Allison Barone)
Robert Ciaccio (friend of The Barone Family)
Ed & Marie Gomula & The Gomula Family (friends of Debbie De Louise)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Carol Lorenzut (friend of Bill & Lauren Artus)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
Bonnie Pearl (friend of Fern & Mike Funk)
Ilona Riggers (past congregant)
Bill Stanton (friend of Kelli Barone)
Stephanie Thorton (friend of Hesse Family)



**Lutheran Social Services of New York
New LIFE Center-Long Island**

311 Uniondale Avenue, Uniondale, NY 11553

MAY IS OUR MONTH TO SUPPORT

Lutheran Social Services of New York
Hunger Prevention Program - New LIFE Center - Long Island
Food is needed for the elderly, the unemployed, and families with children.

You can help by contributing items from the list below:

Non-Perishable Items

White Rice (1 - 2 pounds bag/box)
Macaroni & Cheese/Pasta/Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce
Pancake Mix/Syrup
Coffee, Regular & Instant/ Tea/Hot Chocolate/Parmalot Milk
Flour/Sugar
Cookies/Cake Mix/Frosting/Brownies
Cereal/Canisters of Oatmeal
Crackers/Chips/Granola Bars/Microwave Popcorn

Canned Goods

Juice/Assorted Drinks/Juice Boxes/Applesauce
Canned Meats/Tuna/Salmon/Sardine/Chicken/Ham
Chicken Noodle Soup/Soup/Mix Vegetables
Chef Boyardee/Chili
Dried and Canned Beans (No Black Beans)
Peanut Butter/Jelly/Jam

Condiments

Salad Dressing/Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Mustard/BBQ Sauce/Salt/Pepper/Oil

Baby Items

Formula/Baby Food/Shampoo/Lotion/Wipes
Diapers (size 3, 4, 5, 6)
Baby Clothing (New or used size 0 to 24 months)

Personal Items

Paper Products/Shampoo/Soap/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/
Shaving Cream
Feminine Products
Any Grocery Bags (new or used)

FOOD FOR THE MONTH PROGRAM