



# The Mountain Top Messenger

MAY 2026

From here it seems safe to say that we are going to have a lot of May flowers. Anyone else tired of the rain and cold? Now I know we needed the rain to dampen down the fire danger, but I think the goal has been met. I, personally, am ready for some sunshine and warmth. And while I did manage to sneak in a couple of 9 hole golf rounds, they keep closing the course because of all the water. I just received the news today that the golf leagues are starting up on May 19, so maybe that is a sign of faith. Speaking of signs of faith, I would be interested to hear what you think of the series we are currently doing on 1 Peter and our Resurrection Realities? I hope you are finding it informative. I welcome comments and or thoughts that you might have. You can tell me personally, email me, drop me a note, text me, however you would like, please, I welcome the feedback. I believe we have 3 Sundays left. And while it is still a little fresh in your minds I am also looking for any feedback you might have on our Lenten and Holy Week services, I have received a couple of comments in regard to the Good Friday Service, people had asked that we put the hymns during the Tenebrae portion of the service on the projectors as they are hard to see when the lights are turning off, and that we can and will do. So, once again and comments positive or negative are welcomed.

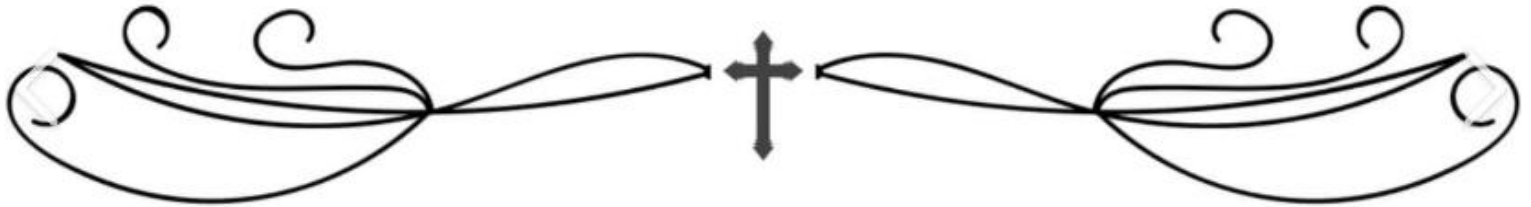
Once we finish up with 1<sup>st</sup> Peter series we will be celebrating Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday, (brush up on your Athanasian Creed) and then we will be going back to our regularly scheduled pericope/lectionary for the summer. Monday morning Bible study will be wrapping up for the summer following our meeting on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> and will resume the Monday following Labor Day in September. For the summer months we will continue with Sunday morning Bible study following worship for those interested. I thought we might do an in depth study of the readings for the day and particularly the scripture reading on which the sermon was based. That way it will be a week by week study so that way if you miss a week it won't impact the study.

I also wanted to mention that I will be cutting back on my in church office hours a little bit this summer. I will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday (afternoon and evening), Thursday. I will be working remotely part of the time as well. Part of the reason is that June and I will be spending the summer in our camper at Little Girls Point while our house is being remodeled. I

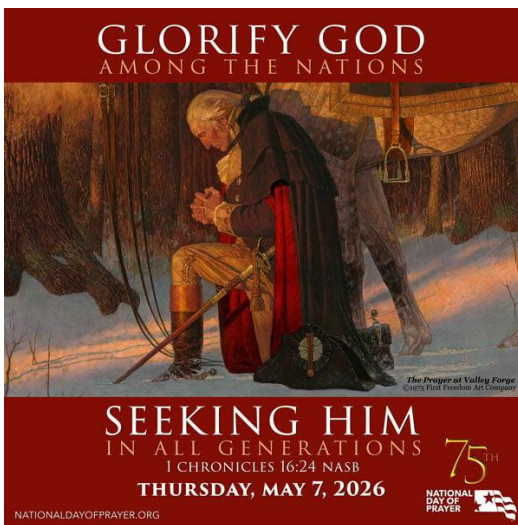
will always be available on my cell, as we do have internet at the camp site. Our project is supposed to be finished by early September, so we will relocate back to our home on Philaja Road following the project. Please remember I am always just a phone call away. I think that is enough for now, I pray the Lord blesses all of you with a pleasant and enjoyable summer season.

And now, may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER HISTORY



In the early 1950s, an evangelical movement called for Congress and the President to proclaim a National Day of Prayer. The movement grew, and a young leader, Evangelist Billy Graham, led services for approximately 20,000 on the steps of the Capitol on February 3, 1952. Later that year, Congress proclaimed a joint resolution for a National Day of Prayer. President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be observed on **July 4, 1952**. Each year since that date, Americans have observed the day in their own way. The observance was moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan and has been proclaimed each year since.

As a Nation, presidents and government officials have called for national days of prayer or thanks intermittently since before the country's existence.

**July 20, 1775** – The Continental Congress issued a proclamation recommending that “a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer” be observed.

**In 1795**, George Washington proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.

**May 9, 1798** – John Adams declared this day as “a day of solemn humility, fasting, and prayer.”

**March 1863** – On March 3, Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressional resolution, during the Civil War, which called for April 30, 1863, as a day of fasting and prayer.

**1952: On April 17** a bill initiated by Mr. Conrad Hilton of Hilton Hotels and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas was passed (Public Law 82-324, Sec. 119):

*The President shall set aside and proclaim a suitable day each year, other than a Sunday, as a National Day of Prayer, on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.*

- For more detail history information – Google [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org)



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111—11TH AVE WEST**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**

- **Sunday Worship Service** 9:00am live-streamed
  - **Wednesday Evening Service** 6:00pm
- **Sunday School** 1st – 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)
  - **Bible Studies**
- Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479**

**Office Hours: Mon. 9-5 Tues. Off Wed. 12-7 Thurs. 9-5 Fri. off (working remotely)**  
Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours Mon/Wed/Thurs. 9:00am-2:00pm**  
Days and times may change.

**Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488**

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator: Desiree Niemann 715-682-6075**

**LFOJ Director: Tressa Groom 715-682-6075**

**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

#### **PRAYERS for**

#### **Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home**

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

*Arlene Zimmerman  
Violet Basina*

#### **PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

*David Wright  
Jordan Thimm  
Andrew Pruss  
Gavin Neibauer*

#### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Don Pocernich
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Don Pocernich	Jamie Klema	Keith Tveit
Rick Kallio	Cheryl Hildebrandt	Mary Dahl
Mike Trimble	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Dwayne Lynch	Tom Anderson
Octavia Pearce	Kevin Heggie	Larry Hildebrandt
Cindy Lazorik	Tracy Thompson	Bonnie Jansehski
Judy Nevela	Camden & Brooks Balmer	
Clarence Osmak	Judy Nevela	Wayne
Casey	Chuck	David
		Derrell

*And those in our hearts*

**Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.**

E G L G S U V T R M P M Z C J M K Z G O M Y A W H  
 N T J H B Z Z W C A T T R I J C W R H O Z J U F J  
 W Q M R U P H P A R I S H H G D X E S U S O K G A  
 N I Y I X M K K W N C D V P Z C L P O B I P O F A  
 K F H N W K F H P B O W F R R G C E U V P D E R L  
 U E M L H G S J S O I S F E O E E N N R A T Q L T  
 T I J S T R Y I J L W C G J K S S T D L W P C B A  
 T J M H O C M K N E K E S E E Z Y E I B O J V C R  
 L A T T F O B V G U S W R A N R Z W N T W M Z H W  
 O A U R F I O S A E X U W U C U U E C C G Q M R S  
 P H B A E H L N R B G W S Y X R B L Z Z E F P I J  
 N C E N R Y I A E G H E A V E N A E S J Z N E S J  
 I K O A I A Z G Q V T A B K M S P M L A N M T T G  
 V D P N N T E C H U R C H N Y S L A E I L J E P X  
 P P J N G P S H E G D K O E Q K D A H N E E R B G  
 L X P W V C F I R E F C A R U U R T K W T V M A A  
 S M J N C E L E B R A T I O N L C O U A P H E J Z  
 G D C Z M S V N B A P T I S E D H G S L N I S S A  
 P U I O X C D W C S H F W M S D T E X N Q I I B R  
 A J W S U L K Z G Q E X H N U H Z T U I T I G G E  
 J N D N C W A V U O A W N O T N I H O R K A N N G  
 W F Z W C I S P V H L Q B M L W J E Z T B B S L T  
 Q W Y I L R P G O R M J D L R Y J R N S M A C B O  
 F L H N L Z T L J J I V N F Q H S I O A B T X F Y  
 B C I D T J J O E L A N Q U A G E P K U T D J O E  
 P L G P Q I A J N S C R D C G E J D I Y B I A N Q  
 T I V L V J I Y Q G P E N T E C O S T R X V O O E  
 D Y H Q B A Q X N B U Q D N G K M Q H U I H X N M  
 E M S X U Y M G J P T E R B W T Y Q F W E T H C S  
 K R T E M D A Z U W M R S Y N Y U K K K X M Z M G

## PENTECOST

ALTAR  
 BAPTISED  
 BELIEVES  
 CELEBRATION  
 CHRIST  
 CHURCH  
 DISCIPLES  
 FIRE  
 GOSPEL  
 HEAVEN  
 HOLY SPIRIT  
 JERUSALEM  
 JESUS  
 LANGUAGE  
 NATIONS  
 OFFERING  
 PARISH  
 PENTECOST  
 PETER  
 POWER  
 PRESENCE  
 REPENT  
 SACRAMENT  
 SIGNS  
 SOUND  
 SYMBOLIZES  
 TOGETHER  
 TONGUES  
 WIND

Friday, May 1, 2026



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

This devotion pairs with this weekend's

Lutheran Hour sermon, which can be found at [lhm.org](http://lhm.org).

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God. (Psalm 146:2-5)

President Eisenhower once told a group of military planners that "Plans are worthless, but planning is everything." The activity of planning is vital. But the result of that activity, the plans themselves, those are useless, because, when you're planning, especially when planning for emergencies, you must start with this one thing: the definition of "emergency" is that it is unexpected, which means, it's not going to happen the way you planned. Or, as Mike Tyson put it, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

Plans are worthless, but planning is vital because it keeps you engaged with the problem. Part of the problem is that there are forces beyond your control. We can't control nature—neither our own nor the world's. But the deeper problem is not that there are forces beyond our control. The problem is that we believe we *can* control them. The problem is not our plans, but the faith we put in them.

In the psalm, the word translated as “princes,” is less about a position, and more of a character trait. It describes someone who is eager and influential. And even if we lack this trait, but we have the backing of a man with a plan (or a woman with a plan), that can feel solid, reliable. The psalm, however, says it's a mirage, because that influential person is mortal just like you. They cannot save you. So, the problem for each of us is not that our plans come to nothing, but that we trusted in them in the first place.

The psalm offers a solution: put your trust in the God of Israel, the God and Father of Jesus, the King, who was crucified by the schemes of influential people, but raised from the dead in the bigger plan of God. In other words: *turn your plans into prayers, giving way to praise*. The plans themselves aren't the problem. Go ahead, make plans. But then let your plans become prayers. Talk with God about your plans. And listen. Read the Bible. Listen to God's plan. And let this bring you back to praise Him.

Artist Eleanor Dickinson once produced a set of drawings she titled “Crucifixions.” She used bold colors on black velvet to depict various people in cruciform, cross-shaped postures. The people who modeled for Eleanor's drawings weren't professionals. They were people she knew personally, Christians who were suffering from chronic or terminal illnesses. By drawing them, she wanted to understand them, to feel what they were feeling as she told their story, depicting their pain and hope. Later, Eleanor noticed how the “bodily posture of crucifixion with arms outstretched was also the posture of praise.” Now, she wasn't trying to redefine their pain as something good on its own. No, even Jesus once asked God that the pain not be part of the plan (see Mark 14:36). But since He entrusted Himself into His loving Father's will, we also can surrender our plans, fall into the outstretched arms of Jesus, and let praise emerge even from our pain, because God's plan doesn't end in crucifixion, but in resurrection and new creation.

WE PRAY: Dear Father, not my will, but Your will be done. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what situations do you enjoy making plans?
2. What helps you “roll with the punches” when things don't go according to plan?
3. When has God worked out something better than what you (or others) had planned?

Today's Readings: [1 Samuel 20-21](#) [Psalms 34](#) [Luke 21:20-38](#)



LifeDate Spring 2026 – Stand Firm For Life by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life

I am an avid reader, often reading one or two books a week. It all started with my mama who got a library card for me when I was in second grade. And then there was the children's librarian who

was always ready with book suggestions. I was the kid who read all the stories in my reader the first day I got it! Even today, if I cannot find time to read, I get cranky!

As a teacher, I wanted my students to know the wonder of reading, how it can take you away to another time or place. I made sure to read aloud each day and tried to pick books that would intrigue them and make them want more. (My favorite "chapter book" to read to kindergartners was *Jumanji*. "Don't stop, Mrs. A! What happens next?")

Of course, I also knew that without being able to read well, many doors would be closed to my students. Without learning their ABCs, phonics rules, and grammar rules, they would not be successful readers, and life would be more difficult for them. They would also need to practice, practice, practice these skills so that they would be able to read the words and also comprehend their meaning.

**"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:13).**

There can be an analogy drawn to learning the skills to read and comprehend the meaning of those words and learning to stand firm in the faith. In order to stand firm in the faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, is vital. In order to stand firm, you need to know in whom you have faith. You learn that in Scripture by reading it, by hearing God's Word proclaimed by your pastor, by participating in Bible studies. Without all of this "practice," it would be impossible to stand firm in what God says. Ephesians 6 goes on to list what you need to stand firm: the belt of truth around your waist, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes with the readiness that comes from peace, the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of Satan.

I think of my son, Justin, and everything he had to wear as an Army Ranger, not only to protect himself, but also to fight off the enemy. Standing firm is serious business to the Army—and even more important in God's business! God expects you to be prepared to uphold His word, and if you are reading this, then you know that it is LFL's mission to "equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life." Contact Michele Hartshorn, Director of Volunteer Relations, at [mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org), or any LFL staff or board member, or your LFL State Federation President to find out more about being an active member of Lutherans For Life. After all, "You're in the Lord's Army!"



## Peter Wrote Letters Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 14 things that are different.



## On This Day

On this day  
Bring back to mind  
God's love and mercy  
For mankind

On this day  
May you recall  
A tiny babe  
In manger lay

On this day  
Remember when  
Christ died  
And rose again

On this day  
Thank the Lord  
In heaven above  
For His sacrificial gift of Love

On this day  
May you be blessed  
With quiet peace  
And holy rest.



CAME THE SPRING  
WITH *all its splendor*.  
ALL ITS BIRDS AND  
*all its blossoms*. ALL ITS FLOWERS  
AND LEAVES AND GRASSES.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

# The Art of Listening



My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.—James 1:19 (NIV)

God invites you to be an attentive listener, tuning into the divine whispers and the voices around you. By cultivating a listening heart, you welcome learning and understanding, fostering deeper connections and spiritual growth. Strive to hear both God's gentle voice and the needs of those close to you, enriching your life with profound insight and empathy.

Lord, grant me the patience and grace to listen with an open heart.

Father      Son      Holy Spirit



## Trinity Sunday

- TITNYRI \_\_\_\_\_
- UASNYD \_\_\_\_\_
- DGO \_\_\_\_\_
- TRAFHE \_\_\_\_\_
- SON \_\_\_\_\_
- HLOY \_\_\_\_\_
- TIRPIS \_\_\_\_\_
- HNTIACSRI \_\_\_\_\_
- CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_
- CDRNOEIT \_\_\_\_\_
- FITHA \_\_\_\_\_
- YNUIT \_\_\_\_\_
- BEILEF \_\_\_\_\_
- REMSYTY \_\_\_\_\_
- PIDHRWS \_\_\_\_\_
- IAPRES \_\_\_\_\_



## The Organist

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to, at the end of the worship service, ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was out and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and sisters, we are in great difficulty. The roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular.



## APRIL LFOJ NEWSLETTER

### Totville News:

#### **Greetings from the Infant Room!**

Our themes and Bible stories for April were: Construction, A Hole in the Roof, Rainbows, Noah's Ark, Rain, Jesus Teaches on the Mountain, Bees and The Ten Plagues.

Evie and Elouise have begun transitioning into the Toddler room. They are both doing well and adjusting to the new environment.

The little ones are growing and learning new things every day. It's amazing how smart they all are.

We've been spending a bit more time outside as the weather warms. Hopefully the nice weather will continue and winter clothes can be taken home and replaced with sunscreen.

We hope everyone had a happy, joyous Easter!

He Is Risen, Hallelujah!

-Denise and Nikki

**Toddler Titbits:** We are experiencing nicer weather this month and are spending more time outside. Parents can bring home snow pants and snow boots. However, if it snows again at some point, they can be temporarily brought back.

This month we talked about Easter, weather changes and did themed crafts involving glue and paint. There is a fish tank in our room near the entryway, and this weekend we plan to add

fish to the tank! The kids are very excited and have already been spending time looking in the tank. We will be letting each child in the toddler room take turns feeding the fish, which will be a very fun way to incorporate science into our daily curriculum!

We are very excited to have two children from the infant room joining our class! All our toddlers have been very kind and helpful to our new friends.

Remember to check out your child's art on display on the wall. They have been busy with fun activities! Happy spring everyone!

-Michelle and Lael

**Learner Lane:** Our themes this month included Easter, Farm animals, kites, Earth Day, and April showers.

We read The Easter Story, The Parable of the Good Shepard, Creation and The Flood in the Bible.

Jurek is officially a full-time Learner! We love having him down here!

April has been a big month for birthdays! Oliver turned five on the 10th, Kali turned five on the 13th and Flora turned four on the 16th!

We hope you all had a blessed Easter! He Is Risen!

-Hanna and Kate

**COOK'S CORNER**  
**Enchilada Stuffed Sweet Potatoes**

6 medium sweet potatoes, scrubbed and dried	1 1/2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken
4 Tbsp. olive oil	1 (4-oz.) can diced green chiles
2 tsp. kosher salt	1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped	1/2 tsp. paprika
1 jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped	1/2 cup sour cream
1 onion, chopped	1 lime, juiced, plus wedges for serving
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour	1 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese (about 4 oz.)
1 cup chicken broth	Cilantro, for serving

Preheat the oven to 400°F.

Line a baking sheet with foil. Prick the sweet potatoes 3 to 4 times each with the tines of a fork and place on the baking sheet. Brush the potatoes all over with 2 tablespoons of the oil and sprinkle all over with 1 teaspoon of the salt.

Bake the potatoes until the skin is crisp and browned and the tip of a paring knife slips easily into the flesh, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Meanwhile, make the filling. In a large skillet, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Add the garlic, jalapeño, and onion, and sauté until softened, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle the flour over top, then stir together and cook until lightly browned and bubbling, about 1 minute. Slowly add the chicken broth while whisking constantly. Cook, stirring, until slightly thickened, about 1 minute. Stir in the chicken, green chiles, pepper, paprika, and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Remove from the heat and stir in the sour cream and lime juice.

When the potatoes are cooked, let them cool for 5 minutes to make them easier to handle. Switch the oven to broil.

Split open each potato lengthwise and lightly mash the flesh with a fork. Divide the chicken filling between the potatoes and sprinkle the top of each with the cheese. Broil the potatoes until the cheese is melted and starting to brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Top with cilantro and serve with lime wedges for squeezing over the top.

**LEOJ WISH LIST/NEEDS**

Regular paper towel and/or Tri Fold paper towel

Fragrance Free Baby Wipes

Hand soap (unscented, antibacterial)

Natural peanut butter

Beech nut baby food

Prego alfredo sauce

All natural ketchup (no high fructose corn syrup)

Graham crackers

Elbow noodles

Quart Double Ziplock bags

Thin Pretzel sticks

Plexiglass picture board (kid friendly)

Toilet Paper

Kleenex (facial tissue)

Great value brand canned fruits in juice (not syrup)

Parent's choice gentle baby formula (must be iron-fortified)

Ragu spaghetti sauce

Tomato soup

Vanilla wafers

Foam Tumbling mats

Gallon Double Ziplock bags

Robot Vacuum (self-emptying)

Cordless Vacuum

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Dropping your kid off at daycare for the first time is equal parts 'do I really have to come back for you' and 'my heart is breaking without you'.

My son just told me that he LOVES the new toy trucks they got at daycare. They are his toy trucks. We donated them because he refused to play with them.

## Two Little Boys

Two little boys were sitting together in a church during a wedding ceremony.

As the couple said "I do", one of the little boys leaned over to the other and asked, "I wonder how many wives can a man have?"

The second little boy looked at his friend like he was an idiot and said, "He can have 16 wives."

"How do you know that?" The first little boy asked.

"Weren't you listening? The priest just said it. Four better, four worse, four richer, and four poorer."

**Bitter-Sweet** It's that time of the year when we can start mowing lawns. For some it's an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. For others, especially with allergies not so much fun. One huge plus is that it isn't shoveling snow. We saw plenty of that this year. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the small bulletin board by the entrance. The church has the equipment to do the work. Speak with any of the Trustees for further information.



## Professional Lawn Mowing Guy

The Water Feature Mystery: Every time I mowed this particular client's lawn, a "surprise" water feature would spring up and drench me. It took me WEEKS of mowing his lawn before I realized he'd programmed his bloody sprinkler system to attack me. We both had a good laugh about it when I finally brought it up. It was actually quite nice to have a little cool down mid-mow each month.

Dog versus mower: I'm sure lots of gardeners have experienced this one. One client has this dog who just HATES my mower. Every time I start it up, the dog barks at the mower and chases around it in circles. It was so frustrating as it slowed me right down but I just had to take delight in this funny little dog taking on the "invader" lawn mower. The highlight as the dog getting into a bag of lawn clippings and tearing it to pieces, I'm sure it was convinced it had finally won the war!

While lawn mowing can be hard work, and there can be moments of total chaos, these funny incidents are always good to reflect on and remind me that I'm really lucky to get to spend my days outdoors in one of the best places in the world.

## MAY COLLECTION

FOR THE BRICK'S FOOD SHELF PROGRAM

**DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS OF  
SPRING CLEANING SUPPLIES -  
CLEANERS, WINDOW SPRAY, NEW RAGS,  
DISINFECTING WIPES, TOILET CLEANER, PAPER  
TOWELS, ETC. - ALL MONTH LONG!  
(PLEASE NO BIG MOPS OR BROOMS.)**

Our pantry shoppers need basic household items, but most hygiene products don't expire, so The BRICK can't "rescue" them from local retailers. Your donation will make a real impact!

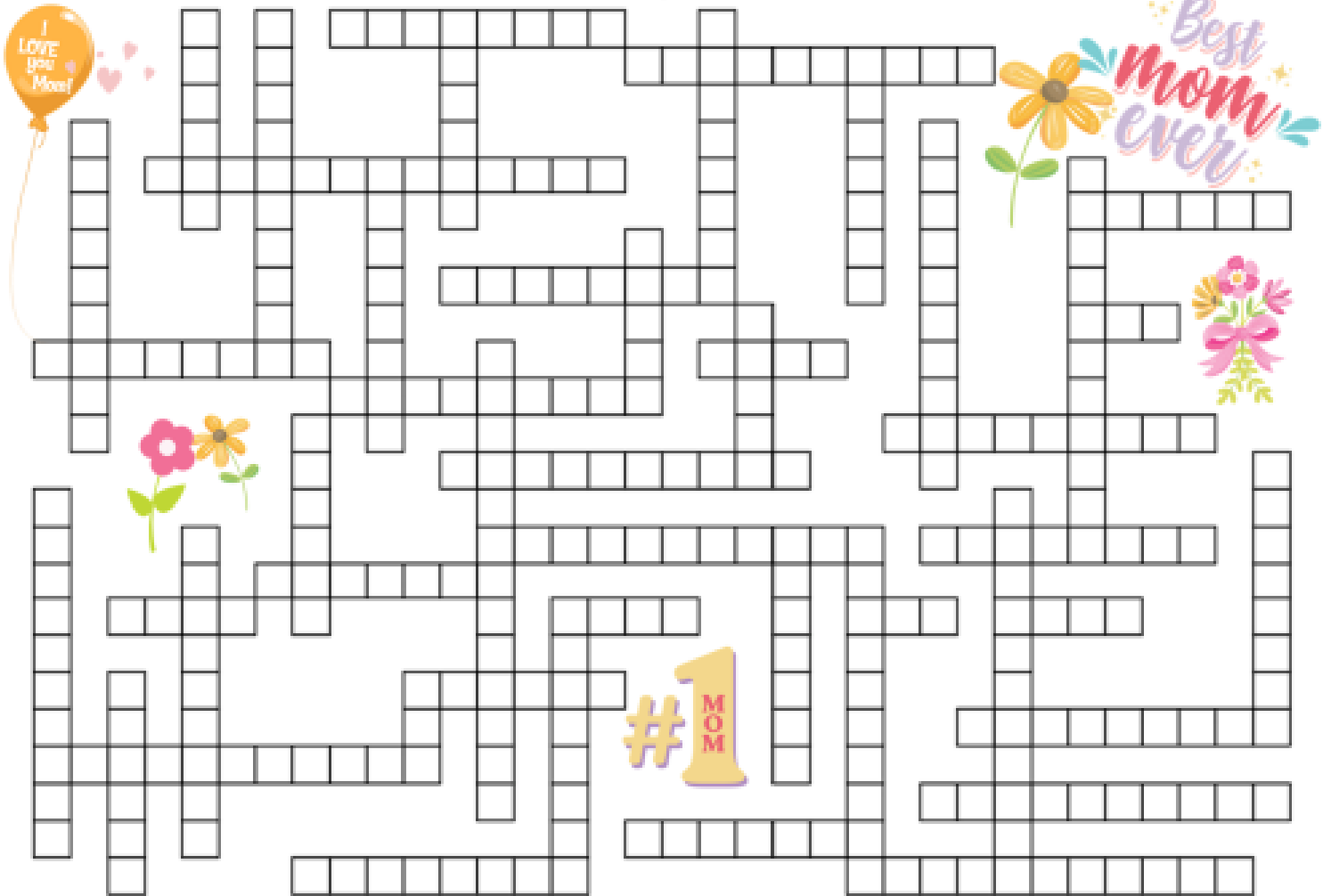




# Mother's Day Word Fill In



Write the words in the correct place on the grid based on the number of letters.



### 3 letters

son  
May  
hug

### 4 letters

gift  
kids  
mama  
card

### 5 letters

mommy  
visit

### 6 letters

Sunday  
parent  
wisdom  
loving  
family  
infant

### 7 letters

toddler  
flowers  
newborn  
respect

### 8 letters

grateful  
gracious  
maternal  
thankful  
guardian  
memories  
daughter  
children  
teenager

### 9 letters

authority  
nurturing

### caretaker

breakfast  
celebrate

### 10 letters

appreciate  
comforting  
motherhood  
supportive  
protective  
sheltering  
stepmother

### 11 letters

sympathetic  
grandmother  
warmhearted  
inspiration  
kindhearted

### 13 letters

compassionate  
understanding





May 2026 in Ashland, WI, is expected to start cool with daily highs in the mid-40s to upper 50s°F and overnight lows dropping to near-freezing. The month generally sees temperatures rise from daily highs of 58°F early in the month to 68°F by month's end, with lows increasing from 37°F to 46°F.



**“Me:** will it be warm, cold, rainy, snowy or windy today?  
**Spring:** yes”



## Four-Legged Love

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.—2 Thess.3:16 (NIV)

I left my husband’s bedside just long enough to run to the hospital lobby vending machine for a soda. There, about to step into the elevator, was a woman and a therapy dog, a bright red bandana looped around his neck. Not only [a therapy dog](#), but a golden retriever, just like ours back home.

“Wait!” I called after them.

The handler hung back and let the elevator doors close without them.

“What a beautiful dog. May I pat him?”

“Absolutely. His name is Cooper.”

I gave Cooper a big hug. A huge smile spread across my face—for the first time, it seemed, since my husband had become ill. I wished that Mike could see Cooper too. He was surely missing our [golden retriever](#) back home. He needed something positive these days. “Could you possibly make a visit to someone on the sixth floor?”

When we arrived at Mike’s room, Cooper and his handler eased up to the bedside. The dog pushed his soft, golden head into Mike’s open arms, and Mike’s broad smile matched my own.

We’d both been through a lot, but what I saw gave me [hope and comfort](#), more than I’d even known I needed.

- **Dear Heavenly Father, when anxieties loom so large, we thank you sending the little things, the loving things, to give us comfort.**
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## Rejoice, Always Devotion

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4–7 NIV).

I remember learning a song in Sunday school: “Rejoice in the Lord always, And again I say Rejoice” (clap, clap). I doubt I am the only one who remembers that song. In fact, I would not be surprised if you just sang it to yourself in your head or even out loud! Sing it out loud right now if you are so inclined!

Rejoicing at all times is easier said than done. We all have our fair share of ups and downs. There are times when it is very easy to rejoice and then there are times when rejoicing is the last thing we want to do. When Paul is writing this letter, he is in jail, which some may say could be the hardest place to do some rejoicing, but Paul reminds us to rejoice always. What Paul writes next can bring some comfort in those times when rejoicing seems difficult.

p... but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:6b, NIV, emphasis added). Paul encourages us to present everything we have to God — the good, the bad, the ugly. We know that God listens when we pray, and His listening ear is something in which to rejoice. One of the most encouraging things to remember in tough times is that God hears us, listens to us, and knows what we need, even when we do not know what we need. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

There are times when we may be completely helpless, worn out, and dry. We are filled with the life-giving waters of Jesus through our baptism and this is reason to rejoice. We are washed clean and made His children through the waters of Baptism.

Nothing is too big or too small for God. He wants us to be at peace with Him. We have peace when we trust in Him in all things, the big and the small. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13 NIV).

We do not have to worry about anything because God is in control of everything. This gives us peace. His peace leads to an everlasting joy, and that is something to rejoice about, always.

*Rejoice, Always by Alyssa Burdett, St. Paul, Minnesota Copyright © Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2015, revised 2022. All rights reserved. lwml.org*



A pastor wanted to skip church. They told their assistant they were sick. Then they drove to a golf course in another town where no one would see them. They teed off at the first hole and a huge gust of wind came, pushing the ball across the green for a hole in one. In Heaven, an angel asked God, “Why did you move the ball?” *God smiled and replied, “Who’s he going to tell?”*

## Mothers of the Famous

Columbus' Mother: "I don't care what you've discovered, Chris. You still could have written."

Michelangelo's Mother: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

Mary's Mother: "I'm not upset that your lamb followed you to school, Mary, but I would like to know how he got a better grade than you."

Batman's Mother: "It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance is going to be?"

Goldilocks Mother: "I've got a bill here for a broken chair from the Bear family. Do you know anything about this, Goldie?"

Albert Einstein's Mother: "But, Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

George Washington's Mother: "The next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac, you can kiss your allowance good-bye!"

Superman's Mother: "Clark, your father and I have discussed it, and we've decided you can have your own telephone line. Now will you quit spending so much time in all those phone booths?"

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## A VILLAGE

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.—John 15:12 (ESV)

When Mom moved into a senior living center, I worried she'd feel isolated and remain cooped up in her little apartment.

One day soon after she'd moved in, I sat with Mom on her flowered sofa. Her eyes twinkled. She told me about doing puzzles in the big public room, how much she enjoyed the weekly meals brought in, and how she'd made Green Bay Packer hats from gold and green yarn during crafts. "And you won't believe what else—" Mom began when she was interrupted by two knocks on her door.

"Ginny, hello, are you in there?" The door opened a crack and a woman peeked in. "Just checking in on you."

Mom gushed on about me for a few minutes, and then the woman bid goodbye. "Enjoy your time with your family, Ginny. I'll check in on you tomorrow."

And off she went. The glow on Mom's face lasted for hours. "That woman lives at the end of the hall," Mom said. "Every time she walks past my door she knocks. If I'm busy I'll holler out, 'I'm fine!' and other times I invite her in for a cup of tea. It's so sweet of people here to constantly keep tabs on each other, don't you think?"

I thought it was incredible. Mom wasn't isolated at all and embraced her new life. When I couldn't be there, when I was worried she had no one to talk to, a community was reaching out.

**Thank you, God, for a village of friends.**





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."</p>					<p><b>1</b> National Day of Prayer</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 10:30 Grief Gathering 6:00pm Worship Service</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 9:00am <b>LIFT</b> Senior Coffee Restaurant Have a Coke Day</p>	<p><b>9</b> Military Spouse Appreciation Day</p>
<p><b>10</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b> 1:00pm Sewing Circle</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:30 Grief Gathering 6:00pm Worship Service</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:30am LFOJ Chapel</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> Pizza Party Day</p>
<p><b>17</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP</p>	<p><b>18</b> 5:30pm Council Mtg.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 1:00pm Hospice Group Gathering 6:00pm Worship Service</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:00am Winkel</p>	<p><b>22</b> Solitaire Day</p>	<p><b>23</b> Taffy Day</p>
<p><b>24</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Offices Closed</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 1:00pm Sewing Circle</p>	<p><b>27</b> 6:00pm Worship Service</p>	<p><b>28</b> 1:30pm Northern Lights</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> Hole In My Bucket Day</p>
<p><b>31</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP</p>	<p><b>ELDERS</b> <b>MAY</b> [3 Doug] [10 JohnP] [17 Scott] [24 Andy] [31 JohnP] <b>JUNE</b> [3 Darryl]</p>	<p>[6 Darryl] [13 JohnS] [20 Randy] [27 Doug] [7 JohnS]</p>			<p><b>Altar Guild – MAY</b> Kathy Osmak 715-413-0700 Sandy Nutt 715-663-1110</p>	