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**June Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, May 20, 2021**

# The Messenger



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

# The Messenger

St. Peter Lutheran Church – May 2021

## A Little Bit of This and That for May 2021

Happy Spring! I write that when we are expecting several inches of snow this week and I fear for the beautiful plants that have awakened to the warm rays of the sun to peak out from beneath their long winter's nap may be hurt. But Spring is like that with weather that changes quickly, but even in the midst of it we are given such wonderful glimpses of hope and resurrection.

Have you taken the time to look at all of the beautiful flowering trees? They have been glorious as they reach their boughs to heaven. They are a gift of God to us.

As we step into the hecticness of May, I pray that you will find time to sit in nature whether that is in your backyard, out at a park, or on a trail to breathe in the gift of God's creation to us.

One of the ways that I soak in the wonder of new life is to work on the hill that I am trying to transform from a weed patch to contain plantings that will bring beauty but also maintain the bank to keep erosion from occurring. This is a several year project and it will take time, patience, and attention.

I think that this could be a metaphor for our faith journeys. We need to be attentive to them. Like on my bank, there are many weeds that need to be pulled to make room for new plants. When we take the time to do the work to sit with God, we can gain new insights and begin to let go of those things (especially our own negative thinking -weeds) that creep in to choke us and tell us that we do not measure up. When God speaks to us as his beloved and we begin to truly rest in that knowledge, we can step into a new kind of freedom to allow us to bloom and to be at peace.

I recently preached about being God's beloved and I invite you during this month of continue to wake up each day and to verbally state God's love for you by stating... "I am God's beloved. God loves me". Allow that to become the *Miracle Grow* in the garden of your life, and see how this transforming knowledge can set you free to be more at peace with yourself and to truly bloom in the fullness of God's grace and love for you.

Michael Pretorius – Recording of *Living Waters* can be found by going to YouTube - *Michael Pretorius Living Waters*. Michael is battling cancer and wrote and recorded this song as he has journeyed in faith. His source of strength on his journey is found in connecting to the living waters of God's grace and love.

### **Graduates to be honored at our May 9 service.**

Weather permitting, the service will be outside in the parking lot. Bring your lawn chairs and help us celebrate our graduates.

Graduating from High School are Kaiden Trentman, Emily Dienstberger, Paige Kloeppe and Anna Fitch.

Graduating from college is Sarah Miller.

### **Worship for this summer.**

We will again move our Sunday service to 9:00 am on May 30, and we will begin our Wednesday 7:00 pm evening services on May 26. Weather permitting, the Wednesday services will be held outside. The Sunday services will be held inside the first Sunday of each month and outside on the other Sundays. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or you can stay in your car and use the 95.5 FM radio frequency.

### **Lifewise Academy Approval**

The Jefferson City School Board has granted Lifewise Academy its approval to provide character education classes through teaching children about the Gospel. One of our classrooms upstairs will be designated for the students from Franklin Elementary School who have parental permission to attend a 30-minute class each week. The third and fourth graders will attend the first semester and the first and second graders will attend the second semester during the next school year.

This new venture is an ecumenical venture with other churches in Delphos and we are excited to be working together.

### **Excitement about St. Peter Lutheran Church**

In the coming months I want to hear from you about what your dreams and visions are for our church. I feel that God is moving and am personally excited to be serving you. In the process of moving forward, we need to create a vision and then begin to move forward to make our dreams and vision a reality. Some of you may be approached to represent various committees to help serve on a new committee to clarify our vision for the future and to develop a new mission statement as well to do develop goals to move forward to making our vision a reality. Please pray for God to call the people who need to be a part of this exciting process.

### **Breeze- Church Information Management System**

We are still updating all of our members' and friends of the church's contact information. You can update your information by emailing the church at [stpeterdelphos@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterdelphos@gmail.com). Ideally, we need your email address to successfully add you into our system.

**As a student in seminary, I just finished writing a reflection on a little book that is rich in helping us to see God at work in us as his beloved. I am sharing this recent reflection with you in the hopes that it might be meaningful for you.**

Henri Nouwen wrote the *Life of the Beloved* at the request of a Jewish friend who encouraged him to write something about the spiritual life that would be meaningful for this friend and his friends who lived in the jungle of New York City. He encouraged Nouwen to visit with his friends and to pay attention to what he saw and then write something that would well up from within that needs to be heard.

Nouwen uses four words to talk about the spiritual journey. They are **taken (chosen), blessed, broken and given**. He focuses on each of these concepts as people come to understand the deep connection to God as they live out their lives. These words seem familiar as we are reminded of the Eucharist in which Christ chooses us, to become the bread, blessed and broken for us. In his dying, he gave himself to us so that we might experience love and life on a deeper spiritual relationship with God.

Nouwen writes that there is a journey of understanding that we are the beloved of God, and that once we begin to get a glimpse of this it can be liberating in that we do not have to measure our worth by the “world’s” standard. We can be free to live into the gift of measuring ourselves simply by knowing that we are loved and that it is not about what we do or haven’t done; this can free us from the tendency to be so self-critical. Self-rejection is a poison that draws us away from the love that God has for us and so the journey to lean into being the beloved of God is important. The journey to lean into experiencing the living water of love and acceptance from God is such a gift. He writes that God formed us and knows us and that nothing can separate us from God, but that once we begin to understand that we are the beloved of God, we begin to understand that God has placed a call upon each of us to live into what we have been created to do and to be. This entails becoming the beloved in the commonplace of life. This reminds me of the writing of the book *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, in that learning to become aware of God’s presence in all aspects of our life is really what much of our spiritual journey entails. It is about relationship and learning to listen and just be with God.

**The first of the four concepts he then writes about is the concept of being taken or chosen by God.** The bedrock of our faith is to understand that God has chosen us, and even though we live in a highly critical and judgmental world, there are steps we can take to lean into our identity of being chosen by God. First, we need to unmask the daily lies of the world that we do not measure up. Second, we need to be in contact with others and in places where God’s truth of our chosen identity can help to unmask the tendencies for self-rejection. Third, we need to have an attitude of gratitude about being chosen by God.

**The next concept is that of blessing.** This blessing is to be understood in how God blesses us, but also as we recognize our chosen identity, we can bless others by seeing their chosen identity by God and speak life into them. Nouwen writes of the importance of blessing others and the importance of parents blessing their children. He writes that these blessings need not just be ritualistic, but that they should speak to the heart and circumstances of each individual person. Although Nouwen did not write this, I feel the act of blessing others brings hope and connection and is a wonderful way to help people connect to the living water of God’s grace and love. Nouwen writes that when we connect to God’s blessing of us, that this creates a stable sense of well-being and true belonging that helps us to journey forward. Nouwen also writes that the two practices of prayer and presence help us to connect to our blessedness.

**The third concept which is that of brokenness**, is important in that many people spend their lives running from their brokenness, but Nouwen writes that the first step in healing from our brokenness is that we must not run from it, but instead, lean into the pain. The pain is an important part of our journey and when we run from it, we in fact are trying to sever a part of us that can be healed and enable us to journey forward in health and wholeness. All of the journey in life is important to shape us and to help us realize our full humanity. Nouwen writes that we need to put our journeys of pain under the concept of blessing. We are broken and in this brokenness, God can do some amazing work in us that allows us to grow deeper in faith, but to also help others on the journey. Many people look at their difficulties in life as being cursed by God, but Nouwen invites us to see our painful times as opportunities to see the blessing of God's love still at work in us. This change in our focus can have a very positive way of helping us to more successfully lean into the pain and experience the grace of God at work to help us through it. Nouwen writes that broken glass can shine brilliantly and this reminded me of a little chorus I developed at a Healing Care retreat...The words go like this Broken into beautiful the pieces of our lives. Broken into beautiful the pieces of our lives. Broken into beautiful the pieces of our lives. Broken into beautiful, our lives. These words are very simple, but very powerful. When we allow the presence of God to be at work in our brokenness, there can be beauty found.

**The fourth concept that Nouwen writes of in this journey of understanding ourselves as the beloved of God is that ultimately we are to be given.** We use our talents and our gifts to help others in this journey. He writes of the gift of being able to give gifts that come truly from a heart of gratitude for another and that was we can do this, our lives can bloom for "our greatest fulfillment comes in giving our lives to others". He writes that often our brokenness opens us up to deeper levels of sharing with others, and that the important question we need to ask ourselves is who we can be for each other. He writes that we can make choices to give of ourselves in life, but that we can also recognize the we can give of ourselves in death. This second part left me scratching my head a little, but I think I see that he is speaking of the gift of the deepening memories of the person who died that help the person left behind gain a deeper love. Also, he writes that really all of life is a preparation for when we will eventually die and that it is only in death that our spirits can fully reveal themselves. He writes that we are responsible for how we embrace death. This outlook plays a key role in how we journey in gratitude for the life we have lived and in the expectation of a fuller life to come. We are called to become bread for the world and for this to happen, we must be willing to give of ourselves.

In conclusion, *Life of the Beloved* is an important little book that gives important insights that as the beloved of God we are taken or chosen, blessed, broken, and finally given. This is a lifelong journey of faith in discovering practices of prayer, presence, in order to discern the lies the we tell ourselves as well as what the "world" speaks into us, so that we might learn to listen to the voice of God's truth for us. This helps us to better understand the depth of what it means to be chosen and blessed by God. With this understanding, we can live into a life of gratitude for all that we experience, the good and the difficult. We are given this life ultimately to be a light in the world, that as we are blessed we can bless others and to allow ourselves to be given in ways that deepen intimacy with God and with others. The journey is rich and we can move forward in the grace and love of knowing that we are God's beloved.

*I would be interested in what you think about the concepts of **Chosen, Blessed, Broken and Given** as you have journeyed in your own life. Where have you seen God at work in you to allow these to be a part of your life and understanding? Let's meet for coffee or tea and give of ourselves to enrich each other's journey.*

# General Announcements

**Radio Ministry** was given to the glory of God in April by:

- Leonard and Shirley Jarman in celebration of their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on March 30<sup>th</sup> and Leonard's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Norma Koenig in celebration of Lynn Koenig's birthday
- St. Peter Lutheran Church member
- St. Peter Lutheran Church members

**Noisy Offering** collection for World Hunger was \$50.01

**The flowers** on the altar were given Easter Sunday by Altar Guild in celebration of our risen Lord

**Habitat for Humanity Lima Area** would like to invite you to join us for the Paster David Howell Memorial Build in Delphos! Paster Dave was very instrumental in the beginning of Habitat in the Delphos community and often worked behind the scenes to help Habitat secure funding for our builds. Many in the Delphos community remember Dave from his time as a pastor of multiple churches and how involved he was in the community in so many ways. We are excited to be erecting the home in his honor. We are excited that this build will provide strength, stability, and self-reliance to our partner family, Sarah Hurles and her three children aged 6-15. Sarah grew up in Delphos and graduated from Delphos Jefferson High School where her children all currently attend today. You can get involved by volunteering to work alongside Sarah as we build her home together or you can make a financial contribution, there are a few dates left to provide a meal for the volunteers, but those are going fast. You can volunteer by going to [www.habitatlima.org](http://www.habitatlima.org) or by phone 254-644-4470.

**Graduation Sunday** is Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to honor all the High School and College graduates; Paige Kloepfel, Emily Dienstberger, Kaiden Trentman, Anna Fitch, and Sarah Miller.

**WELCA meeting** is scheduled for Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

# InReach/OutReach

**Prayer Chain** – If you would like your name added to the prayer chain, please contact Susan McGue at 419-234-6448. If you ever need a prayer chain started, please contact Susan on the cell phone number listed above. *Do NOT send her computer an email.* You may call or send her cell phone a text message. Susan is the primary start person and if she can't be reached by phone, then call the church office. Please have permission from the person or family before we publish any names.

## Remember our Shut-ins

Carl Dienstberger	Sharon Reel
E. Fourth St.	Vancrest of Van Wert
Delphos, OH 45833	10357 Van Wert-Decatur
	Van Wert OH 45891

## Keep our Military Friends and Family in your Prayers:

Fred Hasting	Navy	Stateside
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## May Birthdays

1) Ashley Morrow	11) Kathy Nighswander	21) Maliya Hershberger
2) Michelle Stemen	13) Jane Clevenger	22) Linda Gorman
2) Kristie Turner	13) Sandy Wilhelm	22) Evelyn Kloeppel
3) Kevin Brinkman	13) Steve Schleeter	23) Shelly Hasting
3) Lillyan Ketcham	15) McKynlie Mox	24) Kevin Pierner
4) Hayden Brown	18) Sarah Miller	25) John Theis, Jr.
5) Matthew Turner	17) Ace Pierner	27) Chuck Peters
5) Kathryn Wortman	17) Roger Calvert	30) Vicki Gossman
7) Pam Carder	18) Karen Davis	30) Bessie Turner
10) Matt Mayer	19) Ryan Rinehart	
10) Greyson Mox	21) Matt Kimmett	

Please join us in 2021, as we read through the entire **New Testament in Chronological Order**. Not Matthew to Revelation, but James to Revelation. You may be surprised to know that many of the New Testament Letters were composed before the Gospels were written.

**May 1** Matthew 22  
**May 2** Matthew 23  
**May 3** Matthew 24  
**May 4** Matthew 25  
**May 5** Matthew 26  
**May 6** Matthew 27  
**May 7** Matthew 28  
**May 8** Luke 1  
**May 9** Luke 2  
**May 10** Luke 3  
**May 11** Luke 4

**May 12** Luke 5  
**May 13** Luke 6  
**May 14** Luke 7  
**May 15** Luke 8  
**May 16** Luke 9  
**May 17** Luke 10  
**May 18** Luke 11  
**May 19** Luke 12  
**May 20** Luke 13  
**May 21** Luke 14  
**May 22** Luke 15

**May 23** Luke 16  
**May 24** Luke 17  
**May 25** Luke 18  
**May 26** Luke 19  
**May 27** Luke 20  
**May 28** Luke 21  
**May 29** Luke 22  
**May 30** Luke 23  
**May 31** Luke 24

### **Blessing for Mothers written for you by Vicar Carol**

May the living waters of God fill you with all that you need to nurture and care for the children that have been entrusted into your care.

In the days of your youth, may you be given, peace in the midst of chaos and joy in experiencing the excitement of your little ones as they discover something new and wondrous.

May you take time to breathe in the fragrance of life around you, with all the complexities that brings.

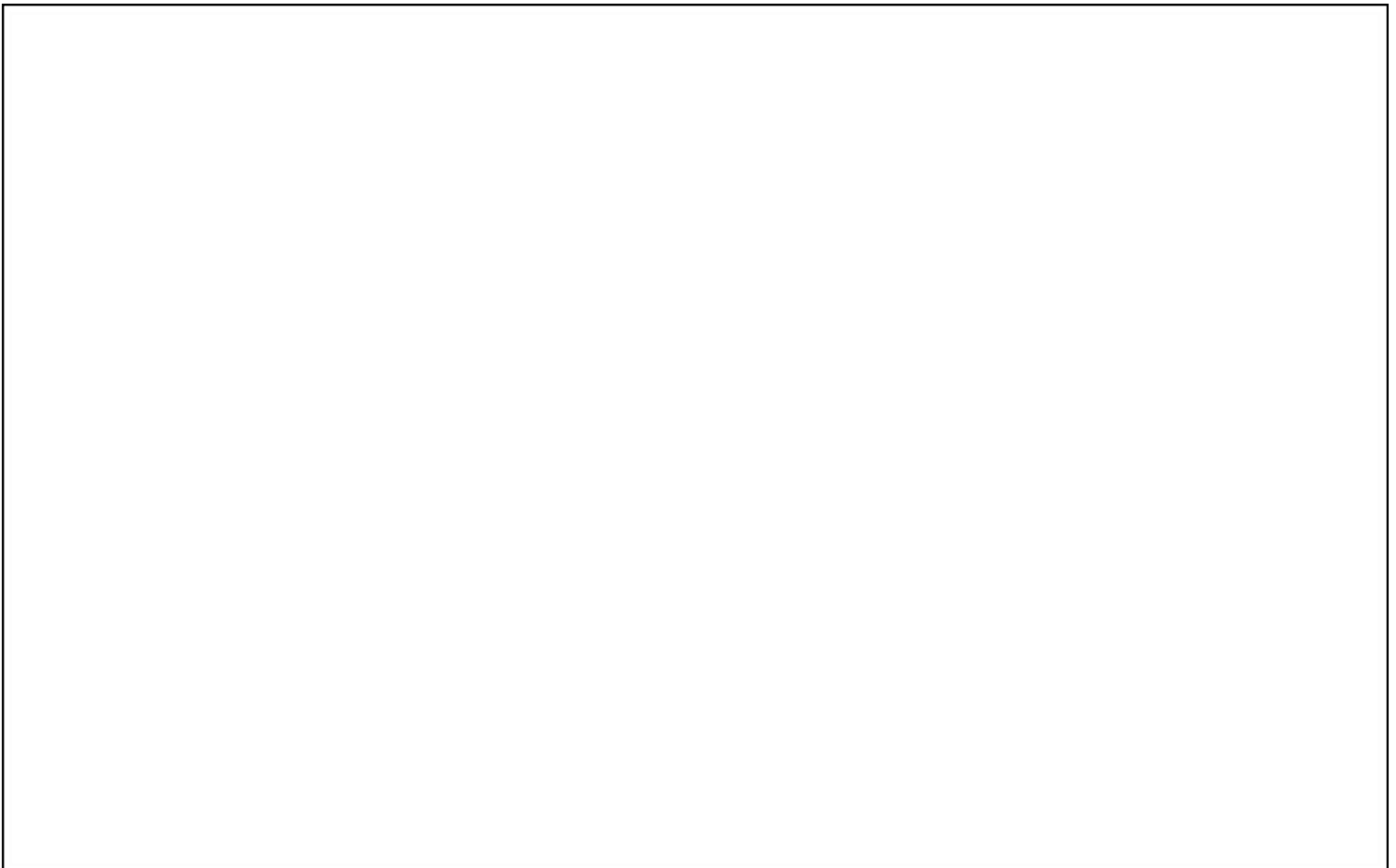
As your children get ready to leave the nest, may God give you the grace to set your children free to soar in the love and care of others as they set off to find new adventures and to grow into the adults God is calling them to be.

As the years go by, may you lavish love on those who now come to you in your older years, to relish Grandmother hugs and the joy of watching your children step into parenthood.

May God bless you, mothers. May you know the feeling of satisfaction that you have given yourself in love to others and that as you have emptied yourself in love and sacrifice, that God has been there to continually fill you with his living waters.

### **Children's Page**

*Draw and color a picture of the ways your mother helps you. Then thank God for you mother.*

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for children to draw and color a picture of their mother helping them. The box is currently blank.



## Servants of the Lord

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sunday, May 2	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Ryan Trentman / Rick Dienstberger

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Apple / Sue Kloeppel

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sunday, May 9 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Graduation Sunday</i>	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Yvonne Koenig / Alan Trentman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Apple / Sue Kloeppel

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sunday, May 16	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Yvonne Koenig / Alan Trentman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Apple / Sue Kloeppel

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sunday, May 23	10:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lois Ewing / Karen Hartman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Apple / Sue Kloeppel

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Wednesday, May 26	7:00 PM			

SERVICE	TIME	ACOLYTES	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sunday, May 30	9:00 AM			

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Lois Ewing / Karen Hartman

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Apple / Sue Kloeppel