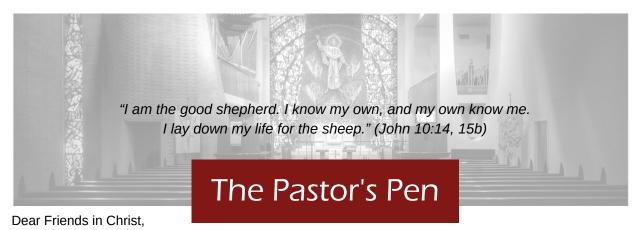


May 2023

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church



The image of the Good Shepherd is one of the most enduring biblical images. Though most of us have little or no experience working with or shepherding livestock, we instantly recognize the image. As modern people, we continue to find meaning in this ancient image of Jesus Christ.

Jesus uses this image to say something about himself. Like the other "I am" phrases, such as "I am the light of the world" and "I am and bread of life," Jesus is saying something about who he is for us. Jesus leads, tends, and searches us out when we have lost our way. He can be depended upon; he will never abandon us, rather, he lays down his life for us.

In John 10, Jesus speaks of his life, cross and resurrection: "I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again." He is the power of all life. We live because of his death, and his death becomes our resurrection life in him.

When Jesus met Peter by the seashore he said, "Feed my sheep" (John 22). Because Christ lives in his followers, they are given the task of living as shepherds, not for economic or political gain in gathering people together, but so there will be one flock, praising God and serving others in every language and culture – one flock of many nations and peoples.

St. Mark's, like every church, is an example of this. We are one flock gathered by Christ from many different places. He leads us with his voice and feeds us with his body. You know him because he has spoken to you, searched you out, and led you into his church. Though we are modern people, we discover again and again that Jesus the ancient Shepherd lives for us today.

Through him all things have their being. He shepherds the heavens, the stars and galaxies; he is the cosmic Christ in whom all things hold together. Yet he is also my shepherd who offers to lead me throughout my life, so that I may serve and care for others.

The one who shapes and sustains the cosmos also enters into my life, my distress, my illness and my death, so that he may take my life up into his infinite life and love. During the Easter season, give thanks that Christ knows you and that you know his voice. Live so others will also know his voice.

In the grace and peace of Christ Jesus, Pastor Tim McKenzie

On 4/10/2023, the congregational council held their monthly meeting in the choir room.

Over the past few months, Cliff and Jessie have been able to find some cost-saving opportunities by auditing all invoices. There was a net loss of (\$11,783.46) for the first quarter of 2023.

### From the pastor's report:

- Church had a full Lenten season, including midweek services, Lenten suppers, and instrumentalists during Sunday services
- 3/23 Baroque Concert
- 6/4 Senior Sunday to recognize graduating seniors
- · Jay and Pastor have begun drafting position description for rostered minister

### From the president's report:

- Thank you, Pastor Tim, for leading the Lenten Midweek Services and the opportunities to learn and grow together
- Thank you to all committees who supplied the food, drinks, and utensils for the Lenten Midweek suppers
- Jay connected with Pastor CeCee Mills last week to discuss her vision for the April 30th presentation
  - o Congregation will be split into small groups
  - o Congregation will get same questions
  - o Each group will supply answers to the questions
  - o No additional preparations ahead of April 30th presentation

### April 30th conversation with Pastor CeCee Mills:

- Congregational Life will host covered dish
  - o Congregational Life will supply fried chicken
  - o Everyone else should bring side or dessert

### Peace.

A.J. Pridgen
Council Secretary



### around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

Easter at St. Mark's!

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!





St. Mark's sanctuary was beautifully decorated with Easter lilies. Thank you to all who helped prepare the church and who gave flowers as a sign of the resurrection hope we have in Jesus Christ!





The cross in the church yard radiates the joy of new life and Easter joy!



Thank you to the Property Committee.

New anti-slip treads for safety were installed on both stairways adjacent to the church kitchen.

## Congregational Life

### Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson



### Ethnic Restaurant Group

St. Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group on May 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM will dine at La Shish Kabob. This restaurant is located at 3117 N Sharon Amity Road, 28205 (in a strip mall, 300 feet north from the intersection with Albemarle Road, on the west (uptown) side of North Sharon Amity Road). Slow down, or you may miss your turn! La Shish Kabob serves hot and cold Near Eastern entrees, sides, and desserts in a casual deli-type space.

The salads and soups and specialty dishes all are prepared under Izzat Freitekh's careful supervision from his family's recipes. The selections include dishes from gyros and kabobs to shawarmas and slowly simmered lamb and chicken served with mountains of moulikhla (yellow) rice. Izzat's Lebanese grandmother would be proud of how some of her recipes are served at La Shish Kabob! All are welcome to join the fun at La Shish Kabob!

There is no language-barrier at this restaurant – the only problem is deciding which treat(s) to indulge in. Hint: tagteam a meal and share baba-ghannouj, hommos, falafel, kibbeh, kabob, tabouli, chicken salad, or even double lamb shanks and rice! And, don't forget to save room for any (or all) of the fresh pastries. RSVP for seating to Tom and Judy Tolbert (803-230-7073, tomtolbert@comporium.net) by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. We look forward to greeting you at La Shish Kabob!



Pictured: At Miro Spanish Grill, 4/18/23

### St. Mark's Men's Group







On Thursday, April 20, St. Mark's Men's Group prepared an easy Soup and Sandwich supper, along with homemade sugar cookies, which was delivered to Hospitality House for patients and families experiencing medical crisis. Thank you to all who planned, donated, prepared, and delivered the meal.

## Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

### SAINT MARK'S MEN'S GROUP

Saturday, May 6 at 9 AM

1-year anniversary of the Men's Group revival!

We're celebrating with a potluck breakfast that morning.

Click here for the SignUpGenius link!

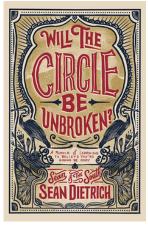


You can also copy the link to paste into your browser: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/3oEoD4DAFAB23A6F49-stmarks1 or call the church office to have your name and breakfast item added.



Come join us for our Love Circle meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 11:00 in the Large Conference Room.

This will be our last meeting until September.



### St. Mark's Book Study Group

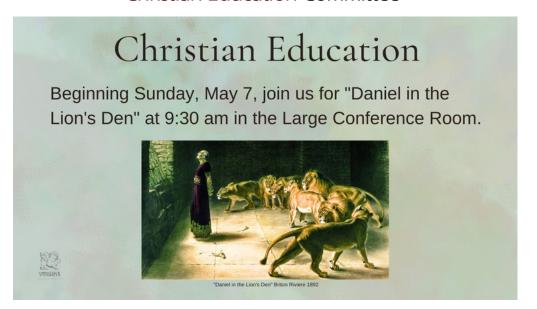
The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on May 25 at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. This month's book is <u>Will the Circle Be Unbroken?</u> by Sean Dietrich. This is an unforgettable memoir of love, loss, the friction of family memories, and the unlikely hope that you're going to be all right. It is the story of what happens after the unthinkable, and the journey we all must make in finding the courage to stop the cycles of the past from laying claim to our future.

Sean was a seventh-grade drop-out, a dishwasher then a construction worker to help his mother and sister scrape by, and a self-described "nobody with a sad story behind him." Yet he cannot deny the glimmers of life's goodness even amid its rough edges.

Such goodness becomes even harder to deny when Sean meets the love of his life at a fried chicken church potluck, and harder still when his lifelong love of storytelling leads him to stages across the southeast, where he is known and loved as "Sean of the South." A story that will stay with you long after the final page, Will the Circle Be Unbroken? testifies to the strength that lives within us all to make peace with the past and look to the future with renewed hope and wonder.

### Christian Education

### **Christian Education Committee**



## Gifts & Memorials

### Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

### In Memory of Carol Marion

Jerry & Margaret Poplin - General Fund Sally McCauley - Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory of Marie Anne Daniels

Jerry & Margaret Poplin - General Fund Joanne Marz - Disaster Relief Sally McCauley - Gifts & Memorials Greq & Debbie Scheller - Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory of Betty Lentz

Jerry & Margaret Poplin - General Fund Joanne Marz - Music Fund Sally McCauley - Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory of Jane Lawing Waggoner

Sally McCauley - Gifts & Memorials

Jim & Beth Wilson - Gifts & Memorials

Dale & Mary Lou Hopp - Refugee Support Services

Darrell & Camilla Holsclaw - Soup Kitchen

Joanne Marz - Property Fund

In honor of all mothers and in loving memory of Jane Lawing Waggoner

Carol & Doug Milheim - Soup Kitchen

In honor of all mothers and in loving memory of Carol Neusser Milheim

Carol & Doug Milheim - Property Fund

## Family Ministry

### Easter Egg Hunt!

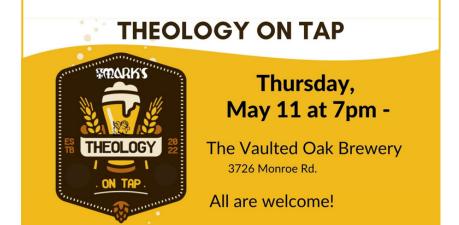


Children and families enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt in the Youth Room on Easter Day. Thank you to all who prepared and hid eggs, helped out and participated!

### **Student Care Boxes**



Thank you to all who donated, packed and delivered boxes to the Post Office for our young people living away at school.

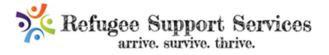




May 17 is Pizza Night! Please support St. Mark's Family Ministry.

### Social Ministry

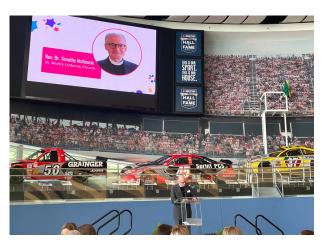
### Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson



Refugee Support Services will be receiving infant car seats purchased with our Lenten donations -- \$677.27 boxes, \$945.00 alternative gifts and memorials, \$100 late donations last year, for a total of \$1,722.27. Thank you for your generosity and compassion for the newest little members of our community.

Refugee Support Services is teaching the skill of knitting to our refugee neighbors. If you have any surplus yarn or yarn you no longer need, please donate it to this outreach. They would especially appreciate Kelly green for a specific project, but will definitely welcome ALL colors for general use.

### pat's place child advocacy center





On Tuesday, April 25, 9 members of St. Mark's attended a luncheon to support Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center. It was held in the Great Hall of the Nascar Hall of Fame in Uptown. Pastor Tim McKenzie gave the opening prayer of invocation to the large group of attendees before lunch.

The keynote address was given by Erin Marryn, a nationally recognized speaker, advocate, and published author. She is a survivor of repeated child sexual abuse and the force behind Erin's law, a law that requires personal body safety be taught in grades K-12, age appropriate, in public schools for at least 1 hour each school year. It has passed in 32 states so far, unfortunately not yet in North Carolina, though she is working hard to make it happen.

Seated at our table to the right of the empty chair - Diane Thornton, Mark Thornton, Susan Lakeman, Pastor Tim, Mari McKenzie, Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Susan Ginns and Linda Carter. The empty chair was occupied by Suzanne Grace, Pat's Place CFO, sponsor of the table, our photographer and daughter of Linda Carter.

## Social Ministry

### Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson



### LIFESPAN Drive

Thank you for your participation in the LIFESPAN sponsored Health and Wellness drive to benefit adults with developmental disabilities. They will be grateful for our participation in their assistance to these special adults.

### Share the Harvest Walk/Run

### Share the Harvest Run



for it is in giving that we receive

Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte is sponsoring a 5K Race benefitting a partner, the Community Kitchen Program, at McAlpine Park on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

The CKP offers a free 10-week training to refugees that enables them to be Servesafe-certified employees in the restaurant industry while aiding in learning the English language; and, in the process, provides meals to homeless individuals, senior citizens, first responders, youth programs, and others.

They are asking for support in the way of donations and participating runners for the 5K Race. May 5 is the deadline for registering for the event. Please contact Diane Thornton at 704/998-8012 or chrysalisseeker@gmail.com for more information and registration assistance. Flyers are available in the Gathering Place.

### St. Mark's Soup Kitchen







The Saint Mark's Soup Kitchen will celebrate 9 years this May. Please consider making a donation to the St. Mark's Soup Kitchen fund in honor of our 9 year anniversary. Thank you to all the volunteers for helping on Thursdays and to the congregation for supporting this ministry!

### Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

### **April Worship Highlights**



Good Friday vocal soloists, Christian Souza and Delenn Rumbolo



Good Friday 2023



Good Friday cantors Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza



St. Mark's Choir and Handbells, Palm Sunday 2023



St. Mark's Handbell Choir, Palm Sunday 2023



Easter Sunday, 8:30 Song Leaders, Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, Christian Souza, Delenn Rumbolo



Brass Quintet and Timpani, Easter 2023



Brass Quintet and Timpani, Easter 2023





Dressing of the Altar, Cliff & Joann Edahl, Karen Covington, Pastor Tim





St. Mark's Choir, Easter Sunday 2023



Communion Assistants Jonathan Lakeman and Rebecca Huang, Easter Sunday 2023





Kate Edahl, soprano soloist, Second Sunday of Easter

### Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing Reflections by Lester Ackerman

### "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" ELW 364

This Swahili hymn was written in 1966 by Bernard Kyamanywa (b. 1938) while he was a student at the Lutheran seminary in Makumira, Tanzania. Howard S. Olson (1922-2010) made the first translation into English in 1969., with its inclusion in With One Voice (1995). Paul Westermeyer writes: "What we have here is an announcement of Christ's resurrection with a narrative about it in five stanzas, followed by an exuberant congregational refrain. In East African call-response fashion, the structure suggests a soloist or small group who make the announcements, with the assembly responding by taking up the song, recounting a summary about death's destruction, and summarizing the whole with the church's Alleluia". The tune MFURAHINI, HALELUYA comes from the Haya people of northwestern Tanzania, transcribed by Howard Olson.

### "We Walk By Faith" ELW 635

At first glance this hymn may appear to have been written in the twentieth or twenty-first century, however it comes to us from the pen of nineteenth century English writer and minister Henry Alford (1810-1871). In addition to being a parish priest, and eventually dean of Canterbury Cathedral, he was a Greek scholar, musician, painter, wrote eighteen hymns, and wrote or edited forty-eight books. This hymn was first published in Psalms and Hymns (London, 1844), and written for the commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle. He quotes from the account of Jesus and Thomas in John 20, but includes all of us, in our Emmaus walk and our meeting with our Risen Lord in water, bread and wine. Marty Haugen (b. 1950) American composer of liturgical music, wrote the tune we sing today. SHANTI is Sanskrit for "shalom" or "peace".

### "Thine Is the Glory" ELW 376

This French Easter hymn was written by Edmond Budry (1854-1932) with its first publication in 1885. Budry was pastor for thirty-five years of the Free Church in Vevey, Switzerland. He begins this hymn with a line of praise to the risen Christ, then repeated after each stanza in the refrain. It tells of angels who rolled the stone away, alludes to Jesus' encounter with the women at the tomb, and refers to the doubting of Thomas. The tune JUDAS MACCABAEUS is by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) and is from his oratorio Judas Maccabeus.

### "With High Delight Let Us Unite" ELW 368

This hymn by Georg Vetter (1536-1599) was first published in 1566 and included in Kirchengeseng, a Bohemian Brethren (later known as Moravian Brethren) hymnbook. Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976) translated the hymn into English, with first publication in our Lutheran resources in Worship Supplement (1969). Vetter was a Bohemian Brethren pastor, who playing a leading role in the translation of the Bible for the Czech region, which was comparable to Martin Luther's translation for German speaking people. Paul Westermeyer writes of this hymn: "This is a joyous Easter hymn. it gives expression to the explosive song spawned by the freedom from and death of death obtained by Christ's death and resurrection". MIT FREUDEN ZART is a medieval Bohemian Brethren tune.

### "Day of Arising" ELW 374

This hymn was written by American hymn writer Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021), former wife of composer/organist David Cherwien. The text was commissioned in 1996 for an annual assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. The text is based on Luke 24:13-35, the meeting with the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. The tune RAABE is named for William and Nancy Raabe, who commissioned it from composer Carl Schalk (1929-2021) a former professor of church music at Concordia University in Chicago.

### Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith
Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

### "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" ELW 619

Even though this hymn is not contained in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, it is available in companion denominational resources. Both the text and tune HYMN OF PROMISE were written in 1985 by American composer Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). She compares the mystery of new life in nature to the mystery of our death and resurrection. She writes: "one evening we entertained a friend, where he shared a work of T.S. Eliot in which there was a phrase something like 'In our end is our beginning'. That was the catalyst for the form of the text, which I wrote in the next day or two. I worked on the words very carefully, choosing just the right pairings, attempting to get across the idea of something inherent in something else even though unseen, and I even bought a tulip plant to contemplate the idea of the bulb leading to the flower even though the bulb itself seems dead."

### "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW 789

gives us images for both Psalm 23 and the parable of the good shepherd in John 10. This hymn first appeared in the collection Hymns for the Young (London, 1836) compiled by Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), but we don't know for certain she is the author, as she wrote anonymously and under multiple pseudonyms. William Bradbury (1816-1868) wrote the tune BRADBURY for Thrupp's hymn, and it was published in his Sunday school book entitled Oriola (1859).

### We Sing the Faith

Hymn Suggestions: Fifth, Sixth, & Seventh Sunday of Easter, Day of Pentecost, The Holy Trinity 2023

### May 7, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, and our life. Hymns: ELW 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing TRURO

ELW 758 You Are the Way DUNDEE

ELW 392 Alleluia! Ling to Jesus (stanza one) (Offertory) HYFRYDOL

ELW 426 Sing with All the Saints in Glory Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

### May 14, 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. A Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Hymns: ELW 840 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

ELW 398 Holy Spirit, Truth Divine SONG 13

ELW 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (stanza one) (Offertory) HYFRYDOL

ELW 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised ENGELBERG

### Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith
Hymn Suggestions: Fifth, Sixth, & Seventh Sunday of Easter, Day of Pentecost,
The Holy Trinity 2023

### May 21, 2023 Seventh Sunday after Easter

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel, Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Hymns: ELW 393 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! LASST UNS ERFREUEN

ELW 482 I Come with Joy DOVE OF PEACE

ELW 579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission (stanza one) (Offertory) ABBOT'S LEIGH

ELW 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA

### May 28, 2023 Day of Pentecost

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Pentecost. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

Hymns: ELW 400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind CWM RHONDDA

ELW 578 Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove (Cantors sing 1, 3, & 5, congregation 2, 4 & 6) VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS/KOMM, GOTT SCHOPFER

ELW 582 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (stanza one) (Offertory) IN BABILONE ELW 800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart MORECAMBE

### June 4, 2023 The Holy Trinity/First Sunday after Pentecost

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we confess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Hymns: ELW 413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty NICAEA

ELW 412 Come, Join the Dance of Trinity KINGSFOLD

ELW 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Offertory) (Hillert)

ELW 414 Holy God, We Praise Your Name GROSSER GOTT

### Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

### May Serving Schedule

### Crucifer/Acolyte

5/7 C: Michael Lakeman
A: Andrew Puky
5/14 C: Michael Lakeman
A: Andrew Puky
5/21 C/A: Brady Ferner
5/28 C: Michael Lakeman
A: Andrew Puky

### Sound System

5/7 Kevin Feezor5/14 Alan Harms5/21 Neil Dixon5/28 John Brumbaugh

### **Tabulators**

5/7 Karen Feezor
 Dianne Thomas
 5/14 Joe Barrett
 Janice Miller
 5/21 Meg Fielding
 Alan Harms
 5/28 Susan League
 Kevin Feezor

### **Prayer Assistants**

5/7 Michael Thompson5/14 Michael Lakeman5/21 Brady Ferner5/28 Charles Lakeman

### Lectors

5/7 Judy Frye5/14 Charles Lakeman5/21 Michael Lakeman5/28 Larry Lippert

### Communion Helpers

5/7 Karen Covington5/14 Catherine Metze5/21 Kay Finlon5/28 Sandy Rach

### Video Streaming

5/7 Ron Wenzel5/14 Joe Barrett5/21 Joe Barrett5/28 Charles Lakeman

### **Ushers**

Team A: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson

### Greeters

5/7 Tom & Kay Sehorn
Ted Seman, David Thomason
5/14 Jackie Ellington
TBD
5/21 Evelyn Gerdes
Eddie & Carol Goodall
5/28 Patrick & Rebecca Huang
Dale & Mary Lou Hopp

### **Communion Assistants**

5/7 Barbara Baker, Ruth Barrett
Flora Chance, Ken Hazen
Gretchen Payne
5/14 Charles Lakeman, Janice Miller
Chris & Brooks Stevenson
Lawanna Stoeckel

5/21 Kevin & Karen Feezor Lisa Barnette, Cliff Edahl Susan Lakeman

5/28 Ken Hazen, Rebecca Huang Jay Jacob, A.J. Pridgen Nick Wartner

### **Nursery Attendants**

5/7 Susan Ginns & Elsa Wartner5/14 Shelley & Kendal Ferner5/21 Charlotte Dixon & Susan Ginns5/28 Betsy Wenzel & Dawn Schwartz

### May Birthdays

5/1 Randall Darnell 5/24 Karen Feezor 5/9 Roger Bruhwel 5/1 Alexandra Jacob 5/10 Dzidra Reimanis 5/24 Suzanna Payne 5/1 Melissa Smith 5/12 Nanette Temple 5/24 Joe Barrett 5/2 Lauren Dunlap 5/12 Tracy Johnson 5/25 Robert Adden, Jr. 5/2 Helen Holzinger 5/12 Sara Poplin 5/27 Michael Frye 5/3 Bill Schwartz 5/13 Henry Ilderton 5/29 Virginia Ginns 5/3 Karsen Ferner 5/14 Madeline Lippert 5/30 Melody Howarth 5/4 Steve McCurry 5/21 William Thompson 5/30 Sanavi Andujar 5/7 Agnes Yoos 5/22 Margaret Poplin 5/31 Jogie Miles