

Grace and Peace



Cornerstone

Find the Cornerstone Newsletter at [graceandpeace.lutheran.org](http://graceandpeace.lutheran.org). Add this site to your links.

Grace and Peace Lutheran Church  
7611 N. Knoxville Ave.  
Peoria IL 61614-2023  
Rev. O. Wayne Shelksohn

**MAY 2011**

**John 20:27-28 (The Message)**

“Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

“Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

**Pastor Wayne Sez “Why Have a Council Retreat?”**

What if we were invited to touch the wounds of Jesus? What if we, at Grace and Peace, reached out and touched the wounds of those outside our four walls? What if we wounded, skeptical disciples of Christ could not only find a way to touch the wounds of others, but could invite them to touch the healing wounds of Christ? Would both groups find God’s true grace and peace? That is what the council retreat is hoping to do.

**Council Retreat May 20-21<sup>st</sup>**

We will be going off site to ask some questions about how we reach consensus on a specific path to pursue as a congregation and develop a specific proposal of how our resources of time, talent and treasure might be used to develop this proposal. We will be looking at the dreams that you gave us during the summer of 2010 and using the resources of the Synod to guide us. We will explore program suggestions, material and report back to you for input and support.

**What should you be doing?**

Praying is the place we start, and it is the place we want you to start. Pray for the Council and all the leadership of the congregation. Pray for this retreat. Pray for yourselves - how God is calling you to serve and be a minister in this congregation. Throughout May a baptismal font will be at the back of the sanctuary filled with water. Mark the sign of the cross to

remind you that in your baptism you are called to be a minister for Christ and that you will play a vital role in this ministry.

**Enthusiasm vs. Negativism  
or How do you whitewash a fence?**

Tom Sawyer reminds us there are always two ways to look at any task; we can face it with drudgery and negative thoughts, or we can embrace it with joy and excitement. The path we chose will most likely determine the outcome of what we do. If we approach this congregation and visions with negative drudgery, I can guarantee you the task will fail, we will fail and nothing will be accomplished.

However, if we look at visions as an opportunity (Craig Lorentz’s favorite word) then we can move forward and make course corrections as needed. As we all embrace the vision, we are more likely to plow straight furrows with the promise of growth and stability.

What if Jesus was inviting us to touch his healing wounds? What if we believed? What if we confessed “Our Master! Our God!”



# SERVING IN WORSHIP

## May 2011



**Lay Readers**

May 1	Kelly Smet
May 8	Julie Hall
May 15	Dona Kozuch
May 22	Barbara Bollman
May 29	Jackie Righter



Volunteers Needed

**Assisting Minister**

May 1, 8	Nancy Claude
May 15, 22, 29	Linda Ericsson

**Healing Assistant**

May 22	Linda Ericsson
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**Greeters**

May 1	Jan Jarrett and Dona Kozuch
May 8	Jack and Marilyn South
May 15	Ken and Sarah Armstrong
May 22	Terry and Nan Goff
May 29	Pam Kovach and Carol Gard

**Communion Servers**

May 1	Dale and Barbara Bollman
May 8	Ken and Sarah Armstrong
May 15	Kelly Smet and Craig Lorentz
May 22	Barry and Rene Dornon



**Counters**  
Vicki Bittner and Roger Ericsson



**Prayer Partners**

May 1	Roger and Linda Ericsson
May 8	Dona Kozuch and Chris Mitchell
May 15	Deb Meyer and Mary Whittedge
May 22	Barry and Rene Dornon
May 29	Terry and Nan Goff





Remember  
 your creator  
 in the days of  
 your youth.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

**OUR GRADUATES**

***Jeffrey Smith***

**Millikin University—May 22**

Bachelor's of Science  
 in Sports Management

***Robin Creasy***

**St. Louis University— May 19**

PhD in Physical Therapy

***Amy Barnabe***

**University of Illinois at Chicago—May 8**

Bachelor's in Environmental Science

**THIS MONTH:**

**C Council Retreat**  
**May 20-21**  
**Signature Inn**  
**Bloomington, IL**

We invite you to keep the  
 Congregation Council  
 in your prayers.

**1st Communion Class**

If you are interested in having your child take instructions for 1st communion classes, please fill out the form and return to the church office.

Childs' Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents or Responsible Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# misc. misc. misc.

## Coffee Hour Hosts for May

May	1	Rebecca Circle
May	8	Mrs Joyce's Sunday School Class
May	15	Bethany Freitag for Graham's Birthday
May	22	Women's Board
May	29	Volunteer Needed



May 30, 2011  
Office Closed



May Key Person  
Julie Smith 208-6762

June Cornerstone Deadline  
May 22, 2011



**Peoria Area CROP Hunger Walk**  
Donations are accepted through May 8  
See Chris Mitchell—682-3933

## Thank You To.

Thank you to Rene Dorman and the Wednesday morning Men's Bible study group for providing and serving breakfast for the 6:30 am Lenten Bible study series.

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Easter breakfast – Setting up, Dave Dietrich, Linda Haynes-Jackson, Shelksohn's. Thanks to Sue Hughes and kids for decorations; Barbara Purple, Roberta & Ron Groth, Linda & Johnny Jackson, Roxanne & Wally Hochsprung, Rhonda & Craig Lorentz.



## Strike! Spare! Split! Alley!

Been a long time since you've had a turkey or sixpack?  
(That's bowling lingo for 3 or 6 strikes in a row.)

Join your friends at Grace and Peace for a **Bowling Night, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
6 to 8 pm at the Christian Center, 4100 N Brandywine Drive, Peoria.

Open for all ages! Cost for adults is: \$3 per game per person, \$2 shoe rental; children are \$1.50 per game, shoe rental \$1.00

We've reserved 4 lanes, including one with bumpers if your specialty is gutter balls.

There's a snack bar at the center that serves pizza, burgers, salads, etc, if you need to pick up dinner that evening.

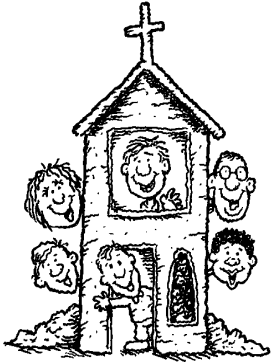
Friends and neighbors are always welcome. See signup sheet in the great room so we can tell if we have enough lanes reserved.

For more details, see Jan Jarrett, Julie Smith or Keri Dodson.

## **F U N at Six Flags St. Louis or 'Out to the Ballgame'**

Opportunities are available to people, compliments of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Discounted tickets to **Six Flags Theme Park** are available for \$24.99, if purchased online between May 1 and June 30 and used between June 1 and August 31. Ticket price does not include tax, parking or handling fees, but does include over 100 rides, shows, attractions and Hurricane Harbor water park. See the bulletin insert or contact your Thrivent Financial representative for more information.

Baseball enthusiasts have two chances to volunteer and see the St Louis Cardinals play (sorry Cubs fans). **JERSEYS OFF THEIR BACKS DAY** is Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. June 19<sup>th</sup> the Cards play the Kansas City Royals at 1:15 pm. In September the game is versus the Milwaukee Brewers at 3:15 pm. Volunteers get to see the game, with lunch and refreshments provided. To volunteer you must be at least 16 years old and arrive at the stadium three (3) hours before game time. This volunteer experience is in partnership with Cardinals Care, Children's Lives. To volunteer, email [gail.blackman@thrivent.com](mailto:gail.blackman@thrivent.com) with your name, contact information, shirt size and game day. Sign up by May 18<sup>th</sup> for the June game.



**Upcoming Youth Dates:**

May 03 Youth & Christian Ed Ministry Meeting, 7pm  
May 08 Children's Church  
May 13 Family Bowling Night, 6-8pm Christian Center  
May 22 Children's Church  
May 22 Sunday School Wrap Up Party

July 24-28 Vacation Bible School We are looking for a Co-Director! Is it you?!? Please see Rene Dornon, Linda Ericsson or Kelly Smet if you are interested.

# Bake Sale

**Friday, May 6**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Lutheran Hillside Village**

**Main Entrance**



**All proceeds will benefit the  
Benevolent Fund at Lutheran Hillside Village**

**Sponsored by  
Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria**



It was early Easter morning, and the actual time was probably 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. However in my dream we were all at Easter Sunrise Service. Roger and Linda Ericsson were both assisting ministers that morning. Some of us were sitting on the floor, and some of us were sitting on tables, like the ones we have in the great room. It was raining outside (naturally); we were soaked; but none of us really cared what our hair looked like! I was at church with my two grandchildren, Logan and Kaitlyn, and I had brought a visitor with me—Katie Couric! Yes, the newscaster from television! I wondered if I had taken this Women of the ELCA Boldness thing too far by inviting Katie to attend church with me!

Then again NOT! It is the job of a journalist to tell a story; it is our job to tell a story; to tell the Easter story.

Another story to tell is that of The Women of the ELCA campaign or effort of Justice for Children and Youth – *Rachel's Day*. Congregations or units are encouraged to observe Rachel's Day on the first Sunday in May each year.



The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15–17. In those verses Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel's Day is a time to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

Rachel's Day started in one congregation, Bethel West in Chicago, and spread to the synod and the Metropolitan Chicago Synodical Women's Organization, which in 1996 observed the first Sunday in May as Rachel's Day.

In July 1996, the Metropolitan Chicago SWO brought to the Women of the ELCA Third Triennial Convention a memorial asking all women to encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as "Rachel's Day." The memorial was adopted.

Many children today fear they will not grow up to be adults. They also fear drugs, guns, gangs, going home to an empty house, poor education, hunger, unsafe streets, being alone and that friends will kill themselves.

Mother's Day Observance is held in May as well and as mothers, these fears certainly "speak" to us. I would like to suggest you take a few minutes to read the Litany provided by the Women of the ELCA and pray for all children.

Roxanne Hochsprung for the Board of the  
Women of Grace and Peace: Carol Gard, Chris  
Golden, Pam Kovach, Ann Joyce, Jan Jarrett,  
Mary Jane Hinshaw, and Ruth Grenzow

## **Litany and Responsive Reading for Rachel's Day**

**Open our eyes, God,**

so that we may see the value of all God's children and so we may together plan for their safety and protection.

**Open our ears, God,**

so that we may hear the cries of youth suffering from hunger and malnutrition and so that we may together plan for their feeding and sustenance.

**Open our hearts, God,**

so that we may feel the powerlessness of teens struggling to succeed in homes plagued with apathy, division, anger, and hopelessness, and so that we may help provide words of comfort, paths of power, and courage for their successful journey to adulthood.

**Open our lips, God,**

so that we may boldly confront racism and sexism and may together bring about the unity in diversity necessary for our babies' growth and wholeness.

**Open our minds, God,**

and purge away individualism, negative pride, and superior attitudes, and help us to understand that each and every child of God is given bountiful gifts regardless of color, gender, or race.

**Open our arms, God,**

so that we may welcome children whose parents are incarcerated, absent from the home, or struggling with addiction. And help us, together, to provide them with the love, strength and stability needed to run this race of life.

**Open us, God, so that we may feel the breath of your spirit;**

Open us, God, so that we may feel the power of your majesty;

Open us, God, so that together we may be strengthened to bring about human liberation and wholeness for our children.

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