

The Messenger



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1901 MIDDLEBOROUGH RD, ESSEX MD 21221**



Join us as we celebrate and explore all that Pentecost means for us, on
Sunday, May 24, 2026 and beyond.

What does Pentecost mean to you?

The Christian holiday of Pentecost is rooted in this historical event – an event sometimes called the “birthday of the church” because it marks the day that Jesus’ disciples began to share the story of Jesus and invite others to share in their faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

But Pentecost is more than just remembering a historical event. On Pentecost, we invite the same Spirit that filled the disciples that day to transform our lives. Even more important than looking backward and remembering what God did two thousand years ago, we look forward and invite the Spirit to pull us into the future. The Holy Spirit has a way of turning things upside down. The story of Acts is all about how the lives of the disciples got turned upside down – and by extension, how the world turned upside down by this new, Spirit-filled faith.

On Pentecost we invite this disruptive presence of God into our own lives. The fruit of the Spirit, says Paul, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are what we seek to live into, how we seek to transform the world, and the evidence of the Spirit at work in our lives and in the world."



“But in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an accounting for the hope that is in you...” 1Peter 3:15

Dear Church -

The beauty and aroma of pure white lilies was among the array of flowers that graced the altar and sanctuary for our celebration of Easter. Lilies are a symbol of Christ's purity and holiness as is the white with which we decorate the sanctuary. Tradition has it that these beautiful flowers sprung up on the ground where the drops of Christ's blood, sweat, and tears fell during his final hours of sorrow and agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Supposedly lilies also sprung up in the garden surrounding Jesus' tomb upon His resurrection. Their blossoms remind us of the shape of Gabriel's trumpet as it sounded through heaven to announce the Good News of Jesus' triumph over sin and death and in celebration of the hope that we have as forgiven children of God.

From Christmas through Easter the focus is on God's action toward us and for us – his love and desire to be in close relationship with us, and Christ coming to be with us to show us how to live as faithful, forgiven people. The season of Easter is a time to focus on responding to the great love we have been shown in Christ's self-giving and the joy we feel for the restored nature He has given us. We can make the most of this season by asking ourselves what difference it makes in our lives that Christ is risen? Through our prayer, worship and service what has God taught us about ourselves and others? How has he comforted us or sent help when we were grieving, scared or in need of some kind? Have you had any “God moments” when you knew that God was working in your life? All of us have stories to tell about how blessed we feel and how good God is. During the season we are also called to use our voices to trumpet the Good News of God's love and power. It is our great honor to speak about the goodness of God that we have experienced and that He wants to share with those who need His peace, help and guidance.

We are often shy about sharing our faith. Maybe we are insecure about lacking knowledge, or we are afraid that someone will ask a question for which we don't know the answer. If we take a moment to look at the state of the world around us, it's easy to see the results of not speaking about the hope that is in us. When a friend is upset or worried, you can offer to pray with them or for them. You can share a Bible passage that has helped you through trying times. Hope Lutheran Church is a warm and welcoming place where people care deeply about each other and the Lord. What a great place to invite people when they need solace! When we gather all together none of us will feel so alone. It's not as hard as we worry it will be, and it will keep Hope a vibrant family of faith. Whenever I am in a situation where I don't know the answer or don't know what to say, I say a quick prayer asking God to give me the words...and He always does. Jesus gave everything He had...even His own life so that we would know who God is and how much He loves us. Throughout this season of new life and new hope, we are called to “present ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord,” so that He can use us to bring healing and hope to a world that is lost and hurting in so many ways. As the well-loved hymn says, let us “Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring.” May we all rejoice and share the Good News that He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Grace and Peace +
Pastor Eileen



**Join us on Sundays in the Sanctuary at
10:00 am. for worship.**

We are currently offering one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sundays. We are alternating between our Traditional and Family Worship Service format each Sunday, with a children's message, Holy Communion and Children's Church/KBZone.

Please join us for in-person Worship Service and Holy Communion in our sanctuary on Sundays

at 10:00 AM

Mission Statement

“Why are we here as a people of God?

We are here to celebrate our faith, grow in faith and in God’s Word, and reach out in service to our community.

Go in peace to celebrate, grow and serve”!

God Answers Prayer

Gail Anuszewski
Howard Altenburg
Bob Baker
Connie Baker
Susan Baucom
Barbara Becker
Carolyn Bell
Bob Bellach
Gail Berry
Jessica Berry
Pat Berry
Kathy Binas
John Boblitz
Don Boyce
Ken Brazerol
Debbie Bryant
Andres Buitrago
Wilford Buitrago
Tony Bunk
Ethel Burke
Rick Calo
David Clagget
Chris Copffey
Mary Jane Conrad
Julie Cook
Kristy Cooper
Tom Cox
Chuck DeWitt
Kimberly Dixon
Jami Edgar

Alice Edinger
David Eicher
Belinda Emge
Susan Enclade
Evan
Darlene Fisher
Tim Flaherty
Al Fleischmann
Florence
Jane Fabrizio
John Fabrizio
Derrick Fowler
Sam Freels
Mike Gerald
Fred Getz
Russ Getz
Beverley Golinsky
Trudy Grauer
Cowyn Gustave
Nicole Harden
J & K
Lillian Jones
David Kerner
Joan Kincaid
Matt Kretschmar
Christina Lacko
Diane Lacko
Patty
Baldwin-Linsolata
Margaret Linz

Harriett Lloyd
Phil Malpas
Mary-Kathryn
Ruth Massaroni
John Micklos
Matilda Miller
Michelle Moore
Terry Novak
Charmaine Ordak
Rebecca Orr
Beth Patterson
Judy Crockett-
Peddiford
Deloris Phillips
Evelyn Porter
Dave Presnell
Dorothy Prevost
Cass Rayman
Dave Raynor
Frank Schmidt
Charlene
Simmons
Lonny Smith
Margaret Smith
Family of
John Snyder
Deni Starr
John Steiner
Peggy Talbott
Thom

Vernon Wallace
Frank Walls
Madison Ward
Trish White
Karen Williams
Gail Wilson
Cass Wohlleben



All essential workers, people & families affected by coronavirus, local businesses and all businesses and people affected by this pandemic, our Congregation, All First Responders and all active and reserve members of our armed forces.



Spring Congregation Meeting Announcement

It's that time of year! Our Spring Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 after the 10:00am Worship Service & Fellowship. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing and voting on:

Approve minutes from December 2024 Congregation Meeting

HELC Treasurer Report

ASLC Treasurer Report

We need to have as many members as possible to attend the meeting, so we meet our quorum requirements. Please mark your calendars and make it a priority to attend the meeting.

***God's Blessings,
Bob Schweitzer,
Council President***



Congregational Meeting



PRAISE & WORSHIP

Every Sunday beginning at 9:30-9:40 AM there will be an opportunity to shout, pray, sing, and give testimony & honor to God. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Colin Eversley, Music Minister



Thanks to all who continue to faithfully provide donations for our Food for Thought weekend backpack/monthly gift card program.

Caitlin Edwards, MES school counselor, wants you to know that parents of selected students are very appreciative of this nutritional support for their children. Thank you for making it possible!!



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ESSEX, MD 21221**

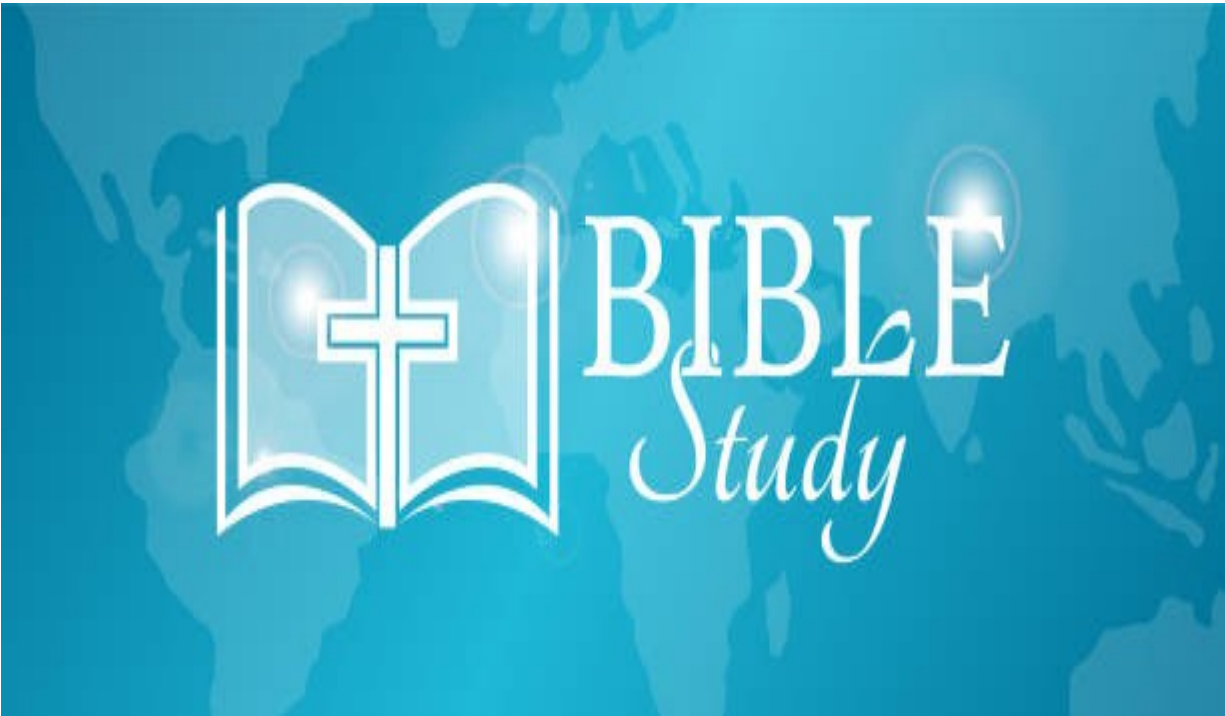
**Join us for our Vacation Bible School
adventure for 2026,
"Tropical Trek. Jesus comes to Seek and Save"
BIBLE STORIES, CRAFTS, GAMES & FUN!**

Date: July 27th - 30th, 6:00pm—8:00pm.

Dinner option: 5:30pm—5:55pm

Stay tuned for more information.





Bible Study and Small Groups

At Hope Church we take seriously the Great Commission of the Risen Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations... teaching them..." We offer a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to deepen their faith through small group Bible study.

To register, call 410-686-7587 or email hopelsecretary@outlook.com.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study:

There will be Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the Choir Room. Please Join Us!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

There will be Evening Bible Study via zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. Please join us!

******If you would like information about these Bible Studies and Zoom, please let Pastor Eileen know and she will forward you the links!***



All Stars Learning Center



Hope Lutheran Church
 1901 Middleborough Road
 Essex, MD 21221
 410-686-6060
allstarscenter@yahoo.com



***Do you want your child to have a cinematic and
 fun filled Summer?***

We invite your child to experience our

"Lights, Camera, Action!" Summer Program!

Learn fun facts about Movies, Various Countries, Wild Animals and More!

Other fun activities will include: STEM, water play, biking obstacles, spirit week, and special visitors!

Outdoor Activities

- Organized Sports
 Soccer, Basketball, Baseball
- Sprinkler / Water Balloon Days
- Obstacle Courses

Arts/Crafts

- Create Americana Jewelry
- Make a Memory Orb
- Decorate a Baseball Cap
- Make a Pinata
- Arrange Edible Snacks
- Customize a Popcorn Bucket

Special Events

- Cook-Out
- Hawaiian Luau
- Ice Cream Party

Special Visits

Kona Ice
 CFA Cow
 Oriole Bird

****Our Summer Program covers ten weeks¹ of care, beginning June 15, 2026, and ending August 21, 2026. We offer full time care and part-time care. Tuition ranges from \$75.00-\$260.00 per week, with an additional activities fee of \$10.00 per week. Our Center provides breakfast, morning snack, and afternoon snack. Lunch must be provided by parents. For more information and to register your child for our Summer Program, please contact Nicole at 410-686-6060. ****

¹ You do not have to sign up for all 10 weeks, but registration is 1st come, 1st served.

This organization and its materials are not affiliated with, sponsored by, or endorsed by Baltimore County Public Schools, the Superintendent, or this Baltimore County Public School or Office.



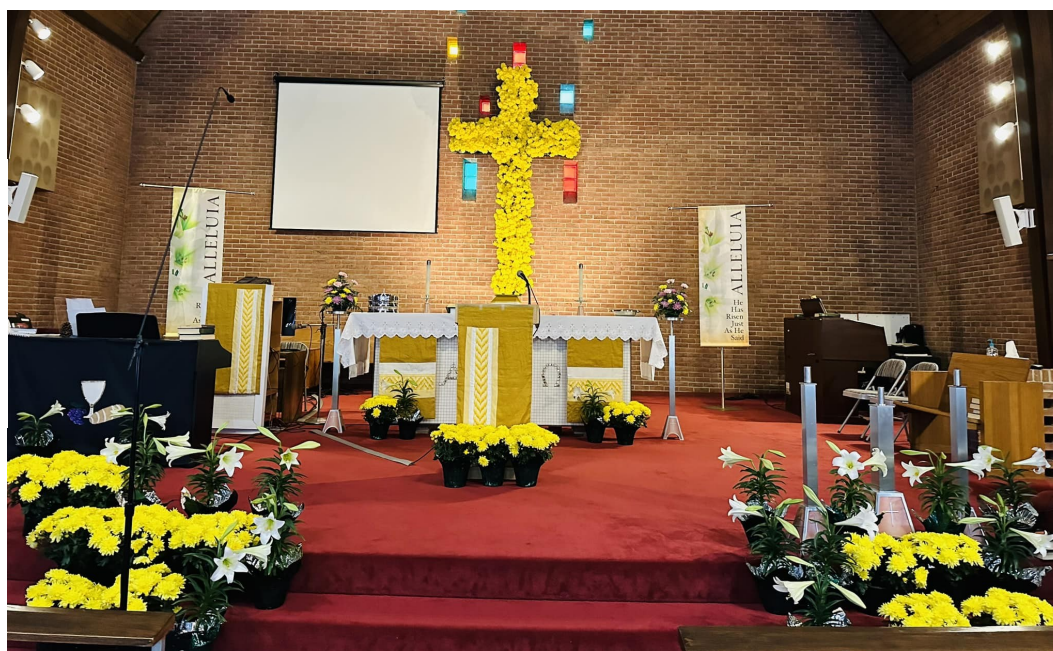
GriefShare is a 13-week support group that focuses on topics associated with the loss of a loved one. Weekly videos feature grief experts and real-life stories from people. After the video there is small group discussion. Your loss maybe recent or not. You will find encouragement, comfort, and support in dealing with your grief. This is an opportunity to be around people that truly understand. GriefShare will be held at Hope Lutheran Church weekly on Monday evenings at 7 pm. To register go to GriefShare.org/findagroup and search for Hope Lutheran Church. There is no cost to register. However, there is a \$25 charge for the book that accompanies the session. A new session will begin May 5th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 410-686-7587 or HopeSecretary1901@outlook.com.

Butterflies do not make a sound on Earth. However, if you whisper a prayer to it, the butterfly will carry it to God. If you whisper a message to a loved one living in Heaven, the butterfly will deliver your message to your loved one. Join us for our **butterfly release** at Hope Lutheran Church on **Saturday, June 27th at 10 am**. For more information contact Cindy Presnell 410-626-7587 or Laurie Koontz 443-632-5220.



Easter 2026

**“Thank you” to everyone who participated in our Easter Brunch and Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday!
A fun time was had by everyone.**



50 Days of Easter

“Thank you” to Judy who uses her many talents during our Fellowship Hour with her table decorations!

April 12th



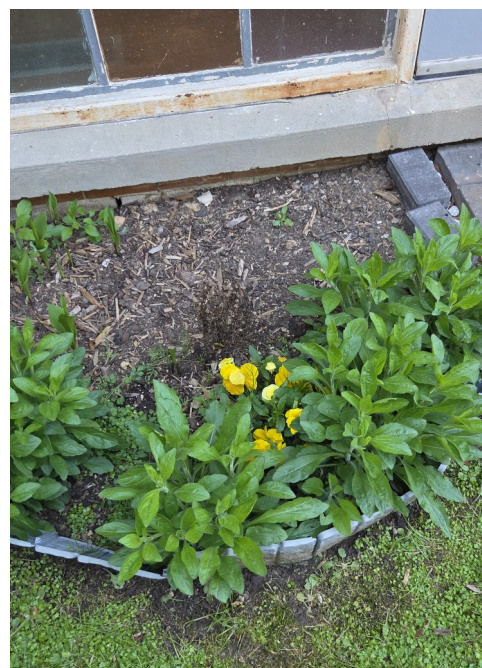
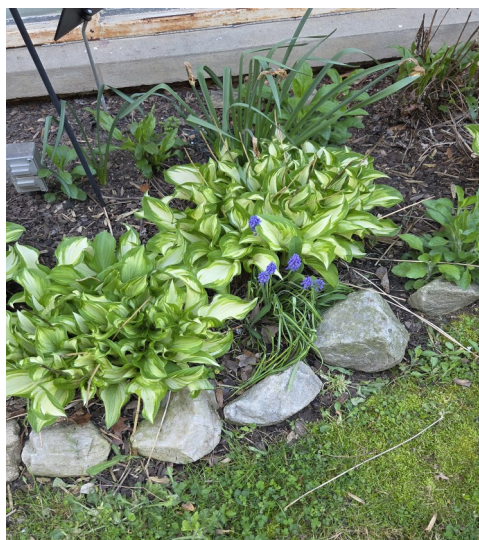
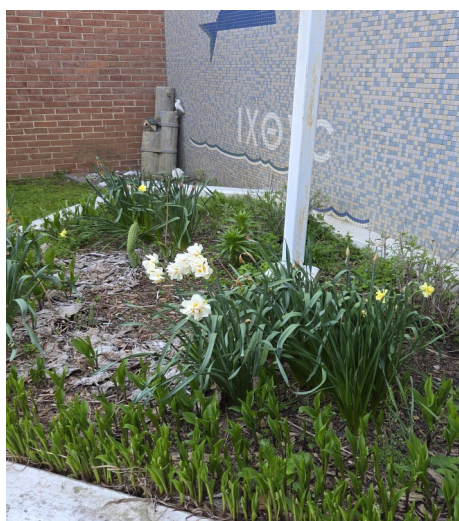
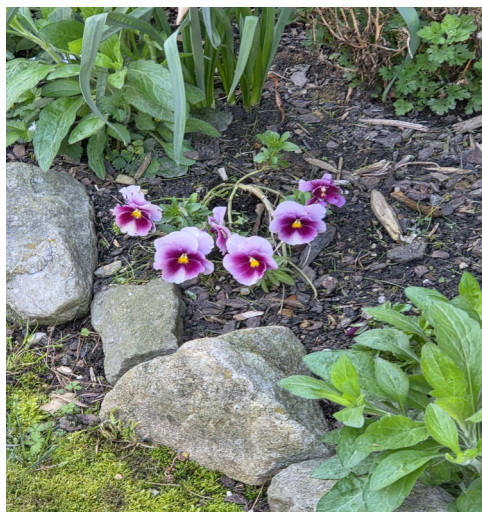
April 19th



April 26th



Hello Spring! Stop by the courtyard, outside our door and enjoy the flowers. Thank you and God bless the Theas' for the beautiful flowers.





A Mother's Love

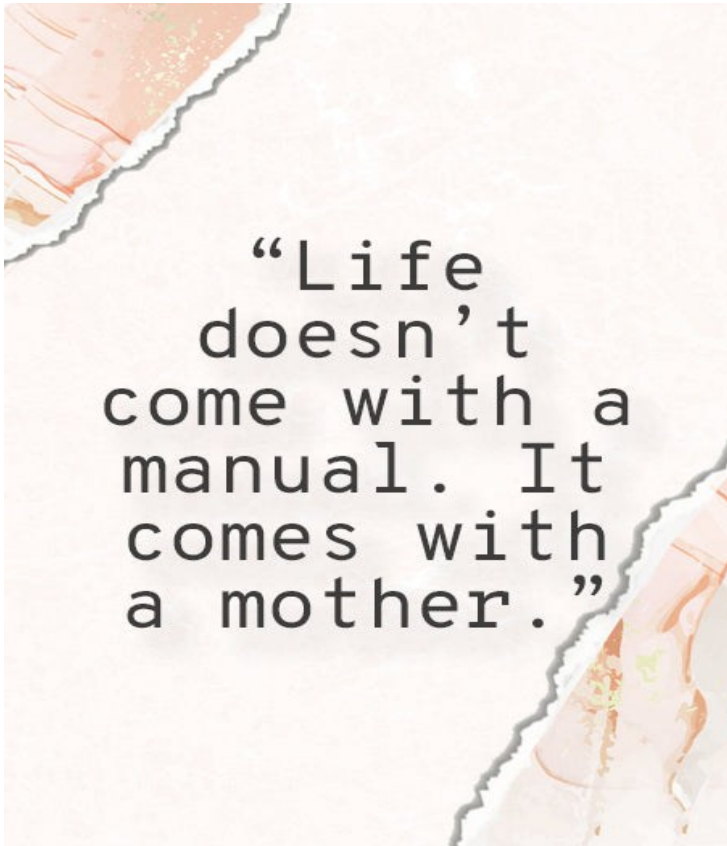
*No gift on earth is greater,
No treasure held above,
The joy that comes from knowing
A Mother's endless love.*

*In spite of how it's tested,
It grows from year to year,
Providing strength and comfort...
It "gently" draws us near.*

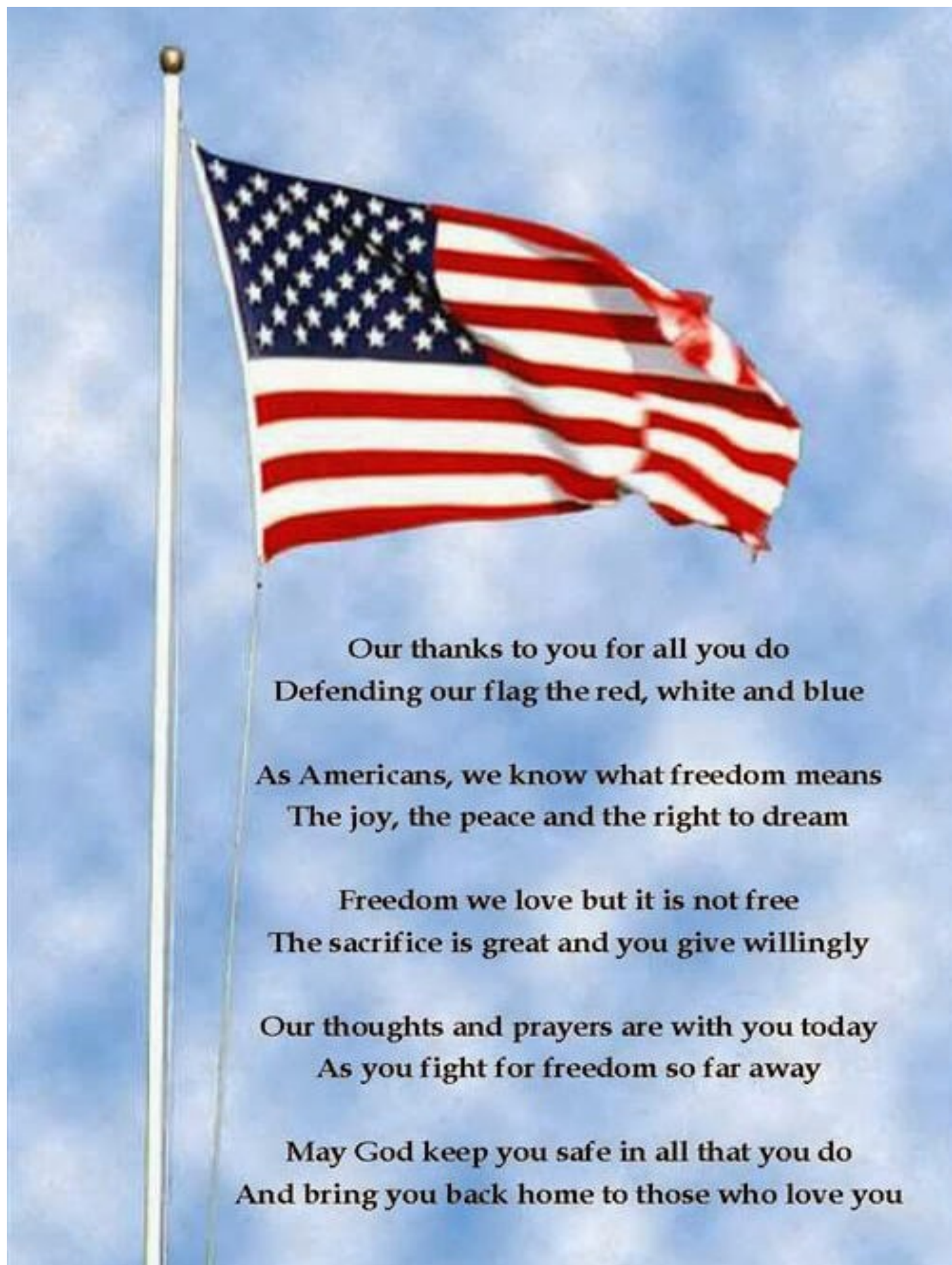
*It warms and it protects us,
And guides us from afar,
Shedding light upon us,
Like a bright and shining star.*

*And when all things are measured,
Not one shall rise above,
Or be compared in value,
To a Mother's endless love !*

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Our thanks to you for all you do
Defending our flag the red, white and blue

As Americans, we know what freedom means
The joy, the peace and the right to dream

Freedom we love but it is not free
The sacrifice is great and you give willingly

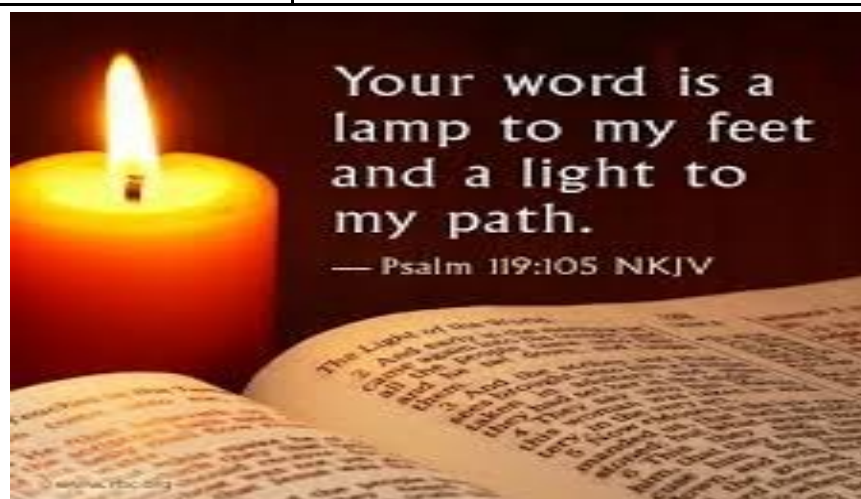
Our thoughts and prayers are with you today
As you fight for freedom so far away

May God keep you safe in all that you do
And bring you back home to those who love you



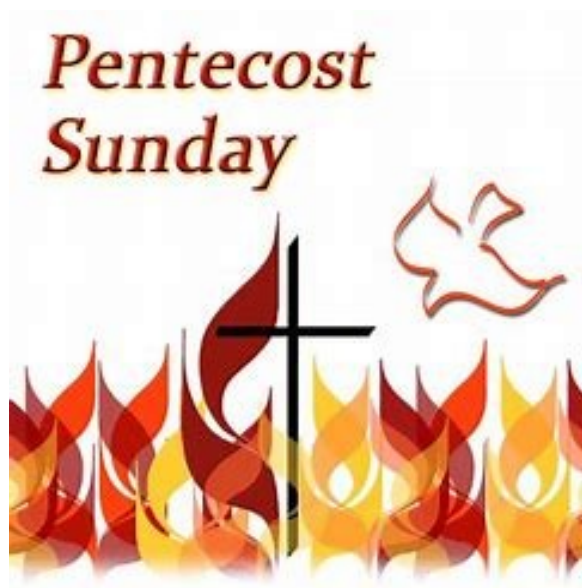
Worship Themes for May 2026

Date/Day	Scripture texts	Theme
May 3 Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14:1-14	The martyrdom of Stephen Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.. God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts Christ the way, truth, and life
May 10 Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Paul's message to the Athenians Bless our God, you peoples, let the sound of praise be heard. The days of Noah, a sign of baptism Christ our advocate
May 17 Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11	Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure Sing to God, whp rides upon the clouds. God will sustain and restore those who suffer Christ's prayer for his disciples
May 24 Holy Trinity	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23	Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit The Spirit poured out
May 31 Day of Pentecost	Genesis 1:1—2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	The creation of the heavens and the earth Ho majestic is your name in all the earth! Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth Living in the community of the Trinity



May Duty Schedule 2026

10:00	May 3 <u>Congregational Meeting</u>	May 10 Mothers Day	May 17	May 24 <u>Memorial Day Weekend</u> <u>Pentecost Sunday</u>	May 31
Assist	Bob Schweitzer	Thea Melton	Colan Kahl	John Kelly	Joan Schweitzer
Lector	Youth	Thea Coker	Jess Kahl	Jeff Patten	Marge Carl
Serve if needed	None	None	None	Bob Schweitzer	None
Ushers	Youth Jackie Eversley	Laurie Koontz Eric Eszes	Donna Jacob Dave Presnell	Kate Patten Linda Moler	Carol Ogle Sue Alexander
Counters	Bob Schweitzer Denise McLaughlin	Colan Kahl Thea Melton	Donna Jacob Steve Kahl	Linda Moler Joan Schweitzer	Bob Schweitzer Thea Melton
Flowers	Denise McLaughlin Ron and Vicki Lesko	Jeff and Kate Patten Steve and Sharyn Kahl	Jeff and Kate Patten <i>Sign-up Available</i>	Carolee Calo <i>Sign-up Available</i>	<i>Sign-up Available</i> <i>Sign-up Available</i>
Sunday School	Rachel Morgan	Carolee Calo	Ruth Kraeger	Denise McLaughlin	Rachel Morgan



Planning ahead...

Pentecost Sunday is May 24th.....
Planning the Lord's Prayer to be prayed in
various languages.

Anyone speak a language other than
English

Willing to take part in this?

This is an experiment, no doubt!! But I'm
willing to give it a try! Please shoot me an
email or text if you are willing to take part
in this and let me know what language you
will be speaking. — Pastor Eileen



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs- day	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Spring Congregation- al Meeting	4 10:00 AM Quilters 	5 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM All Stars Learning Center Chapel	6 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Choir Room 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom 	7	8	9
10 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal Mother's Day	11 10:00 AM Quilters 	12 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM All Star Learning Center Chapel	13 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Choir Room 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom 	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 	19 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM All Star Learning Center Chapel	20 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Choir Room 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom 	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal	25 Memorial Day	26 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM All Star Learning Center Chapel	27 10:30 AM Bible Study in the Choir Room 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom 	28	29	30
31						



Our Lord has written the promise
of the resurrection, not in books
alone, but in every leaf in
spring-time.

Martin Luther



02	Bev Hoffman
06	Bobbie Hershey
06	Raymond Mulbah
12	Bobbi Floyd
14	Mitchell Bigham
14	Zegbeh Kpadeh
14	Kate Patten
15	Jennifer Jewell
19	Linda Neewary
19	Brittany Ouimette
20	Dylan Talbott
22	Sharyn Kahl
24	Sandra Cincinnati
28	Kiersten Williams
31	Robert Caruthers



Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Staff

1901 Middleborough Rd. Baltimore, MD 21221

Interim Pastor **Eileen Kelley Warner** • Office 410-686-7587 • Cell 443-721-9410

E-Mail: eileenkelley1@comcast.net

Music Director: **Colin Eversley** • Cell 410-499-2291

E-Mail: craeversley11@hotmail.com

Secretary: **Shirley Edmonston** • Office 410-686-7587

E-Mail: hopelsecretary@outlook.com Office Hours Tues.-Fri. 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Council President: **Bob Schweitzer** • Home 443-844-0065

Council VP: **Jeff Patten** • Cel 410-456-5464

Council Secretary: **Denise McLaughlin** • Cell 410-686-0199

Treasurer: **John Kelly** • Cell 443-770-0127

Gina Baker	410-456-9548
Nicole Eck	443-271-4014
Colan Kahl, Past Pres.	410-292-2944
Sharyn Kahl	410-574-3060
Lynne Lake	443-854-0708, Youth Leader
Thea Melton	410-585-5670
Dave Presnell	443-271-7488



Articles for the June Messenger are due by May 22nd. Mark your calendars!

We will be having a July/August combination issue of the Messenger, articles due

by June 19th, so please plan ahead!