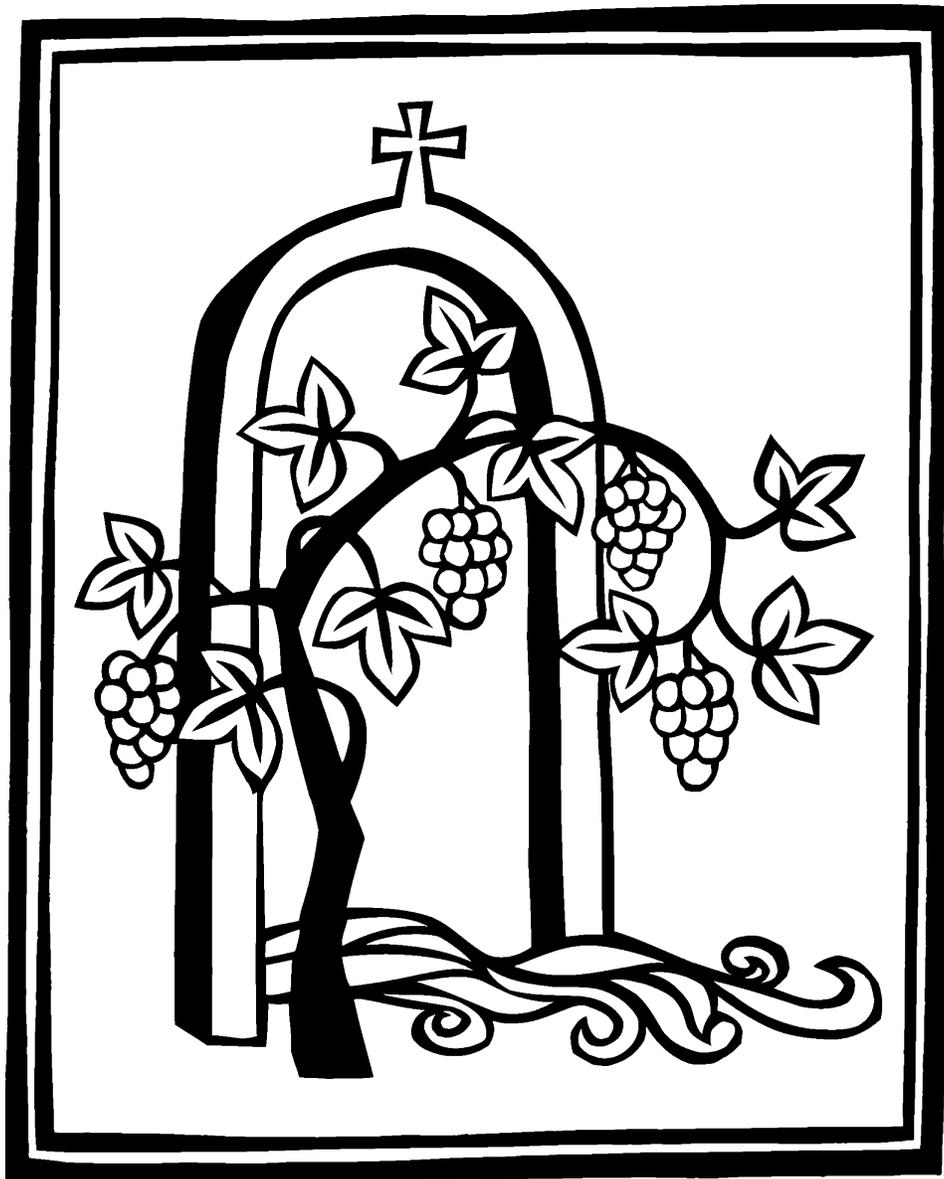


*Sixth Sunday  
of Easter*



*WNY Church Unleashed*

*May 9, 2021*

*Welcome to WNY Church Unleashed hosted by:  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rev. Steve Biegner  
Parkside Lutheran Church, Rev. Jeremiah Smith  
Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Julius Carroll*

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*May 9, 2021*



*Future services will be recorded and aired on YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV.  
MeTV will broadcast Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m. on the following channels:  
For DirecTV: Ch. 67; For Cable, Fios, and Dish: Ch. 5; For "Rabbit Ears": Ch. 67-1*

*Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness*

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

P Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
this my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord,  
I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for;  
now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations,  
take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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## *Children's Time*

### *First Reading: Acts 10:44-48*

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th Chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

### *Gospel: John 15:9-17*

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

## *Sermon*

## Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
- 2 Per - fect sub-mis - sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per - fect sub-mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

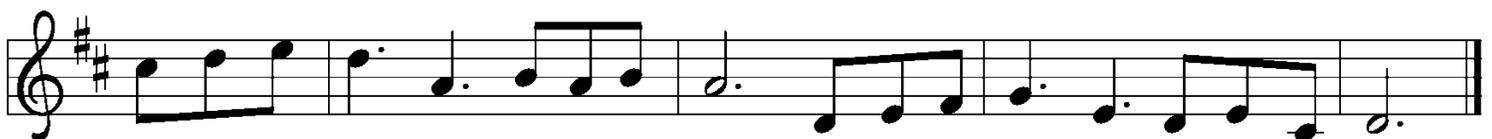


Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

### *Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## *Apostles' Creed*

P Let's confess the faith of the Church together using the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

## *Prayers of the Church*

### *Lord's Prayer*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

### *Benediction*

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen.

### *Sharing the Peace and Sending*

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Let's go in peace, remember the poor, and serve our risen Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: May 9-16, 2021

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck at Amherst High School
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
- Wednesday:** 12:30 pm: Staff Meeting via Zoom
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Franasiak/Wisniewski Wedding Rehearsal
- Saturday:** 2:30 pm: Franasiak/Wisniewski Wedding
- Sunday:** 10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion  
10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

**Attendance last week:** YouTube/Facebook/MeTV: 200+ In-Person: 71 Offering: \$5,069.00

***Prayer List: In our congregational family: (\* indicates new names or changes added this week)***

Marion Alexander: Tennyson Court, #127 in Memory Care Unit, Williamsville, NY 14221

Neal DeLeo: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Claire Franke: Elderwood, 225 Bennett Road, #223, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Chad Israel

Christopher Magin: 22 Dale Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

***Prayer List: In our and extended family:*** Ira Striejewske; Shirley McNamara (Nancy Simon's sister); Ralph Vahue; Thomas Maier

## **ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***In-Person Worship:*** We resumed Sunday in-person worship beginning at 10:00 am. As we previously handled in-person worship, reservations are requested if you plan to attend any of the in-person services. You will still need to wear face masks, maintain limited capacity in the sanctuary, and adhere to current Covid-19 protocols. Please contact the Church Office at 716-835-0407 to make your reservation. If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

***Covid-19 Restrictions:*** While zone designations (yellow, orange, red) remain in various areas, we ask that you not stop by the Church Office unannounced. If you need to come to the office or meet with Pastor Steve, please call ahead and make an appointment (716-835-0407). This way we can continue to keep you and our staff safe during this difficult time.

***Tigers Den Food Pantry:*** The Food pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The May Pantry hours are Thursday 5/20 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and Saturday 5/22 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Donations for May are: condiments, rice, and cereal.

***Daily Bread Food Truck News:*** The DBFT will be parked in the Amherst High School front parking lot every Monday from 5:00-7:00 pm, to hand out free meals to the community. A number of neighborhood eateries will be teaming with the DBFT to “host” these meals. If you would like to volunteer to help out on Mondays, please contact Katie at 835-0407.

***Council News:*** Please join us in welcoming Matt Fricano, Kathryn Francis, and Gerri Horton who were elected to the Council at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 2.

***Outdoor Coffee Hour:*** Beginning in May or June (depending on the weather), we will gather outside following the 10:00 am worship service to share conversation, coffee, and fellowship. This will be a time to renew relationships and meet new missionaries at St. Paul's. If you would be interested in helping us with this (set-up, provide a snack, and break-down), please call the office or sign-up on the board in the Gathering Area.

The logo for WNY Church Unleashed is a dark blue square. Inside the square, the words "WNY CHURCH" are written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below "WNY CHURCH", the word "UNLEASHED" is written in a stylized, orange, uppercase font with a slight shadow effect.

WNY CHURCH  
UNLEASHED

*WNY Church Unleashed is a partnership between Pastor Jeremiah Smith from Parkside Lutheran Church, Pastor Julius Carroll from Zion Lutheran Church, and Pastor Steve Biegner from St. Paul's Lutheran Church whose mission is to unleash the message of God's good news into every home in Western New York.*

## *WNY Church Unleashed*

### *Prayer List*

Bruce Herman

Beverly Root

Neil Sommerfeldt

**Parkside Lutheran Church Announcements - May 9th, 2021**

*At Parkside we are rediscovering the radical love of Jesus -  
Gathering All, Serving All, Caring for All*

2 Wallace Ave Buffalo, NY 14214 (corner of Depew)

(716)836-1361 parksidelutheran@gmail.com

**There are 3 ways to watch the recorded Service 10am Sundays:**

1) Watch on your TV: Station METV - channel 5 on Cable, Fios & Dish or channel 67 on DirecTV

2) WNY Unleashed Facebook Page 3) WNY Unleashed YouTube Page

Indoor Worship at Parkside Lutheran Church continues with masks and social distancing

**North Buffalo Food Pantry** Hours are Saturday 9am-1pm - enter on Depew. Donations can be dropped off at the Pantry during regular Pantry hours or call the office to arrange drop off.

May collection-Crackers and Toilet Paper *Backup volunteers* are needed. Contact the office if you are interested in helping on the *occasional* Saturday for 3 hours.

Nonperishable food items can also be left in our little red "**Blessing Box**" on the Depew side of the building.

**Meals on Wheels Parkside LC location is in great need of volunteers** - if you can help 2 or 3 mornings during the week for an hour or two, please contact the office.

**Burrito Project** - Every fourth Tuesday of the month, volunteers from Parkside hand out Burritos in Downtown Buffalo. Contact the office if you'd like to help!

Next date is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Prayer Tree:*

**Congregation:** The Hagner Family, including Lorri's father, Gary B., who has been very ill; Joan Bauer, who is recovering from Covid19.

**Friends & Family:** Stephanie and Austin; Sharon Hill; Donald Railey who is facing multiple health challenges; We offer our prayers for the church, the world & all people in need.

**If you would like to add to the prayer list or share good news, please contact the office.**

**Parkside For Social Justice** Traditionally, May marks the arrival of spring flowers and all things beautiful. Additionally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness has designated May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The goal of this designation is to help Americans learn to better understand the reality of living with a mental health diagnosis, and to support the millions of Americans who have already been diagnosed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 saw a significant influx in people seeking mental health treatments, as well as increase in substance abuse, domestic violence and other secondary symptoms associated with mental illness. The enforcement of social distancing and increasing isolation created many extra barriers for those seeking treatment. Throughout 2020, NAMI pushed their campaign "You Are Not Alone" to increase awareness and spread a message of unity to people who may have felt disconnected from their resources, loved ones and community.

Despite continued efforts to erase the stigma of mental health, it remains a complicated and misunderstood part of our society. Unlike many physical disabilities, which are visible, mental health is not something that can be "seen," which in turn makes it difficult to understand. Anxiety and depression are among the most common diagnoses in the United States, where it is estimated 1 in 5 adults meet criteria for these illnesses, yet do not seek treatment. By age 24, about 75% of all lifetime mental health illnesses will have been diagnosed, leaving our young population vulnerable and confused.

It is not surprising that statistically, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals ages 10-34. In fact, the rate of suicide has increased by 34% since 1999. Marginalized communities are at the most risk for successful suicides; members of the LGB youth are 4x more likely to attempt to kill themselves than straight youth, and transgender adults are 12x more likely to attempt than the general population.

Mental health emergencies continue to play a role in the news, following multiple lethal interactions between law enforcement and those in crisis. In fact, 1 in every 8 emergency department visits are related to mental health or substance abuse. Due to the nature of emergency rooms, there is a significant lack in available resources to provide the follow up care many people need. This in turn increases the rate of people experiencing homelessness with serious mental health issues (20%) as well as those incarcerated (37%).

By gathering a better understanding of the frequency of mental health illness, treatment options and other important information we can help decrease the stigma across America. Mental illness presents in many diagnoses in all walks of life. The more we continue to push the message that you are not alone, the more likely people will be to reach out for help. For further information and resources please visit the following websites:

<https://www.nami.org/Home>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov>

<https://afsp.org/>

**Have a suggested resource or question about this Parkside For Social Justice?**

Contact Pastor Jeremiah or Alison Smith [alisonmsmith07@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmsmith07@gmail.com).

**Want more information about all that is happening at Parkside LC?**

**Sign up for our weekly email**

on our website - [parksidelutheran.org](http://parksidelutheran.org) - Like us on Facebook - Follow us on Instagram

## OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION



+ **Indoor Worship:**

+ **Saturdays @ 5pm and Sundays @ 9:15am -- ALL ARE WELCOME, WE MEAN IT!**

+ **Sunday indoor Church School ('rolling schedule'):** *contact Elaine Baker*  
([elaine@zionclarencenter.com](mailto:elaine@zionclarencenter.com)) *for the schedule.*

+ **Sunday Adult Bible Class @ 10:30am:** *contact Pastor Carroll for a referral to Zion's adult education coordinator more information.* ([pastorcarroll@zionclarencenter.com](mailto:pastorcarroll@zionclarencenter.com))

• Interested in helping the folks at Zion expand Zion's digital 'footprint'? *Contact Pastor Carroll for a referral to Zion's digital coordinator* ([pastorcarroll@zionclarencenter.com](mailto:pastorcarroll@zionclarencenter.com))

*Zion Lutheran Church  
9535 Clarence Center Road  
Clarence Center, NY 14032  
(716) 741-2656*

We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals  
who have been gifting their services to help bring you  
the Sunday MeTV productions:

Musician:

Michael Hooker

Soloist:

Theresa Kosmowski

Video and Editing:

Nick Stroczkowski, Brothers and Sisters Film Production Company

Sound:

Andrew Gruszka, The Record DJ Co.

DJs/MCs, SOUND & LIGHTING



[WWW.THERECORDERDJCO.COM](http://WWW.THERECORDERDJCO.COM)

[THERECORDERDJCO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THERECORDERDJCO@GMAIL.COM)