

# ◆ NewsNotes ◆

May 2024

Vol. 126 Issue 5

## Taylor, Sanchez are Synod delegates

A big thank you to Jeanette Taylor and Jonathan Sanchez for agreeing to serve as delegates to the 2024 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly.

They, along with Pastor Patrick, will represent Gloria Dei at the 37th annual assembly, June 7-9 in Louisville.

A key order of business will be the election of a bishop to replace the retiring Dr. William Gafkjen, who was first elected in 2010 and is retiring in the middle of his third term.

## Video series examines role of an ELCA bishop

In preparation for the bishop election at the June Synod Assembly, Rev. Nancy Nyland has asked bishops from across Region 6 of the ELCA to share their thoughts on various aspects of the role.

The video responses are posted on Vimeo, and our members are urged to view and discuss them, "...as we together discern who might be called to be our next bishop," Nyland said.

One of these videos may be of particular interest to Gloria Dei. Bishop Craig Alan Satterlee, from the NorthWest Lower Michigan Synod, examines the "Bishop as Proclaimer of the Gospel."

During his academic years at Notre Dame, which accorded him both master's and doctorate degrees, Satterlee was a frequent and favorite guest at our pulpit.

The link is: <https://vimeo.com/930033058?share=copy>. Using the "more from..." column on that page allows viewers to navigate to videos in the series.



Satterlee

## 'Overnight chaos' sparks dreams and hopes for future

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." – 1 Corinthians 12:27*

**By Rev. Patrick Ballard**

On a Friday night in mid-April, the youth of our two congregations gathered for a lock-in here at the church. It was a wonderful event full of joy and spirit as we enjoyed fellowship, worshipped together, and did a little bit of service work. Nine youth and two adult advisors participated in the overnight chaos as our activities kept us busy into the wee hours of the morning.

I want to give a huge thanks to Nikki Jarvis (formerly Scherer) who stepped in as an adult helper at the last minute. The amazing thing, for me, was that the next day, exhausted as I was, I couldn't sleep. I couldn't sleep partially because Laurel and I had a day full of activities, but mostly because I had experienced glimpses of what it means to be the church, the body of Christ, the night before.

Our young people are invitational, bringing friends from school (two new friends!) to join them on this Christ-centered evening.

## Churches join forces for baby shower

The women of Gloria Dei and First English will serve as co-hosts for a baby shower for Laurel Mazur in anticipation of a blessed event: the arrival of the first-born for Laurel and Pastor Patrick.

The ladies-only event will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday May 11 in the Fellowship Hall. The parents-to-be are registered at [babylist.com](http://babylist.com).

For more information, call Jaime Owen (574) 298-6131.



Our young people are visionary, offering insightful comments and raising important questions during our conversation on what the future should look like for the youth group and the downstairs space in the church.

Our young people are prayerful, offering petitions to God throughout the evening for each other, for their friends and families, and for the world.

Our young people are compassionate, looking out for one another and making sure that everyone was feeling included.

Our young people are generous, bringing snacks and candy to share with anyone who was without.

Our young people are creative, working together to complete a photo scavenger hunt throughout the church.

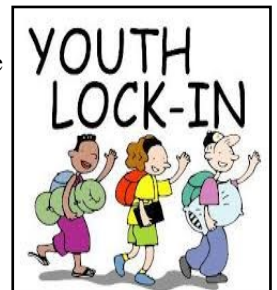
Our young people are worshipful, reflectively praying the unfamiliar office of Compline using traditional chant.

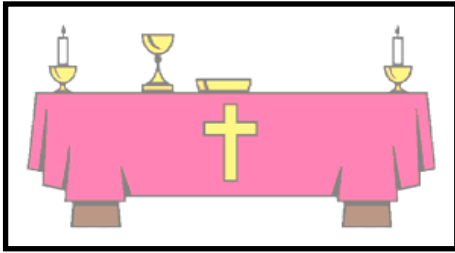
Our young people are servants, making beautiful cards for members and strangers who are going through tough times.

Our young people are the church, the body of Christ.

In the coming months, we will be discerning what the years ahead will look like for our young people. They have ideas of relocating the youth room to another space in the basement, of painting a mural and creating an even more welcoming space for the future, of taking a service trip to extend our reach beyond St. Joseph County.

Keep them in your prayers, look for ways to encourage them, and give thanks to God for their collective spirit.





### ALTAR GUILD

**May 5:** (Easter VI) Sarah Andrews, Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski  
**May 12:** (Easter VI II) Sarah Andrews, Patty Carr, Peggy Niedbalski  
**May 19:** (Day of Pentecost) Gloria Buysse, Jaime Owen. Jill Seifer  
**May 26:** (The Holy Trinity) Gloria Buysse, Jaime Owen. Jill Seifer

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

**May 5:** Leslie Miller  
**May 12:** Ken Peterson  
**May 19:** Patty Carr  
**May 26:** John Miller

### LECTORS

**May 5:** Jeremy Osterhouse  
**May 12:** Darlene Scherer  
**May 19:** Sarah Andrews  
**May 26:** Beth Wood

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

**May 5:** Leslie Miller  
**May 12:** Peggy Niedbalski  
**May 19:** Melinda Foley  
**May 26:** Sheryl Taghon

### SERVERS

**May 5:** Mackenzie Miller, Garrett Miller  
**May 12:** Dylan Marek, Tyler Marek, Amelia Marek  
**May 19:** Louis Ponder, Henry Ponder, Everett Ponder  
**May 26:** Cora Kazimierz, Erik Miller

### ALTAR FLOWERS

**May 5:** Memory of James M. Schleis  
**May 12:** Birthday of Everett Ponder  
**May 19:** Memory of John Sheneman  
**May 26:** Birthday of Henry Ponder

### SANCTUARY LAMP

**May 5:** Open  
**May 12:** Open  
**May 19:** Open  
**May 26:** Open  
**ERRATA:** Flowers given by Mary Frandsen on April 28 were in honor of her brother's birthday and not her own. The NewsNotes editor apologizes for the error.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES FOR MAY

**1:** Bible study, 10 a.m., Gloria Dei  
**5:** (Easter VI) 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
**5:** Vasa Linne Lodge, 2 p.m., Matt Baumgartner. All welcome.  
**6:** Pub Theology, 6 p.m., Crooked Ewe.  
**8:** Bible study, 10 a.m., Gloria Dei  
**9:** Ascension Day service, 7 p.m. Hilltop Lutheran Church  
**11:** Baby Shower for Laurel Mazur, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

Co-hosted by First English  
**12:** (Easter VII) 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
**15:** Bible study, 10 a.m., Gloria Dei  
**15:** Church Council, 6:30 p.m.  
**19:** (Day of Pentecost ) 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist.  
**19:** Church yard clean-up, following the service  
**22:** Bible study, 10 a.m., Gloria Dei  
**26:** (The Holy Trinity) 10:30 a.m.  
**29:** Bible study, 10 a.m., Gloria Dei

## Siery: Teacher, tutor, put students first

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Nathan A. Siery, who died unexpectedly on April 9 at the age of 34. Nathan was the husband of Ashley, nee Petersen, and son-in-law of Sheryl Taghon.

With a master's degree from Indiana University South Bend, Nathan was adjunct English Composition faculty there and, at various times, at Southwest Michigan College and Ivy Tech, where he also served as coordinator of the Tutoring Center.

Colleagues remembered Nathan as a professor who "always put his students first."

Nathan and Ashley were wed in August 2018, and, according to his obituary, "Together, they enjoyed seeking out the best local beer and breweries in the area and beyond." He

also wrote poetry and fiction.

He was born August 17, 1989, in Minneapolis. In addition to Ashley and Sheryl, Nathan is survived by a son, Nikolai; his mother, Pamela Siery; siblings Alexis and Iain; brother-in-law, Nic Austin, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond Siery.

Palmer Funeral Home-Guisinger Chapel handled final arrangements.



Nathan Siery

First English is sponsoring "Calming Skills for the Wear and Tear of Raising Kids," from 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 10 at the church.

The evening will begin with dinner at 5 p.m., followed by games and events for the youngsters and a program for parents by Donna Pangburn, a parenting support specialist.

There is no charge for the event, and registrations must be made by May 6 via phone (574) 255-4234, or email (firstenglish1901@gmail.com)

*Those who have asked for our prayers include ....*

Ann, Jim, Richard, Maria, Laura, Mary, Jan, Gloria, Mary Lou, Pastor Gary, Doug, Mike, Thelma, Joan, Jeff, Pat, Pastors Thelma and Mike, our shut-ins.



# Ascension service, ‘Barnyard bucks,’ other news to note

Ascension Day, which occurs on the 39th day after Easter Sunday and always on a Thursday, celebrates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven.

We are invited to join the members of Hilltop Lutheran Church of the Ascension, at 7 p.m. May 9 in observance of this day. A reception will follow the service. Hilltop is at 4114 S. Ironwood Dr.

A check in the mount of \$150 is on its way to the ELCA, and the barnyard animals could not be happier.

Your dimes and dollar in the Barnyard Banks is enough to buy a goat or two, a few flocks of chickens, and a bee hive or three. These creatures, great and small, will go to work to help families in developing nations become self-sustaining.

A stage version of the classic children’s tale, “Charlotte’s Web,” will be presented May 10 and 11 at Riley High School.

Tyler Marek is featured in the cast as—Wilbur? Lurvy? Templeton? Show times are 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday. General admission tickets are \$5 and available through onthestage.com.

We love “thank you” notes. This one from Will Hughes, a board member



**Barnyard crew ready to report for duty, thanks to our members.**

for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for the synod.

Our annual budget includes a line item of \$250 as a pledge to LOMIK. A letter of acknowledgment from Hughes notes that our gift “ makes it possible to share in the glory of God’s creation and the peace of nature.”

LOMIK operates Lake Lither, Lutherwald, and Lutheran Hills.

The string quintet from the South Bend Symphony Orchestra will perform at Gloria Dei at 3 p.m. Sunday June 23.

The free concert is part of the orchestra’s symphony-to-go program. Last summer, we enjoyed a performance by the wind quintet.



## Let’s put our hands together ...

...following the Day of Pentecost service on May 19 and help spruce up good ol’ Gloria Dei , outside and in. Weather permitting, we will focus on the church grounds, so bring long some shears, a pair of garden gloves, and dig in!



### RILEY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Photo courtesy/Seth Ponder

## Ponder named top teacher at RHS

Seth Ponder, seen here being congratulated by Principal Shawn Henderson, is the 2024 Teacher of the Year for Riley High School. The honor was bestowed at an April 18 ceremony at the school.

Seth was recognized as a “passionate computer science and engineering educator” at Riley. A certified Project Lead the Way instructor, his teaching style is steeped in hands-on learning, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking.

Seth is a South Bend native, “proud product” of South Bends schools, and “grateful to be in the classroom creating future leaders.”

## Open dates available for sanctuary lamp

Is the flower chart full? Are the dates you wanted already taken?

There’s another way. Remember a loved one, recognize a birthday or anniversary , or just give “to the Glory of God.” by signing up for the Sanctuary Lamp.

For a suggested donation of \$5, the Sunday bulletin will read, “The Sanctuary Lamp burns in (honor) (memory) of ( ) by...” Look for a new chart or let the office know.

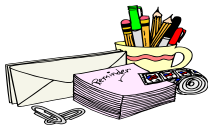
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# NewsNotes

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Office phone: (574) 288-5266  
[www.gloriadei-in.org](http://www.gloriadei-in.org)

Rev. Patrick Ballard, pastor  
[pbal389@gmail.com](mailto:pbal389@gmail.com)  
(919) 215-0419

**Dolores Miller, office administrator**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
and Friday  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Office is closed on Tuesday

*NewsNotes* is a monthly publication for  
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**The deadline for submissions for the June  
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Please submit information for the weekly  
bulletin in writing by noon each Wednesday.

**Office Administrator**  
e-mail: [1880gdlc@gmail.com](mailto:1880gdlc@gmail.com)

**NewsNotes Editor: John Miller**  
e-mail: [jdmiller10@hotmail.com](mailto:jdmiller10@hotmail.com)



*Please notify the office if a special occasion is missed*

*Those celebrating birthdays and wedding  
anniversaries in May include...*

### May Birthdays

Brian Peterson	May 1	Bob Suter	May 16
Darlene Scherer	May 1	Riley Suter	May 21
Gloria Sheneman	May 1	Dylan Marek	May 22
Beth Wood	May 2	Tyler Marek	May 22
Pat Holmberg	May 5	Sarah Fortson	May 25
Everett Ponder	May 6	Sheila Beitler	May 26
Mackenzie Miller	May 7	Ryan Suter	May 27
Nancy Lindborg	May 10	Shelby Lupa	May 29
Linda Tetzlaff	May 11	Henry Ponder	May 30

### May Anniversaries

Nancy & Steve Kruszka	May 6	Maria & Joe Lutz	May 25
Linda & Don Tetzlaff	May 12	Kristin & Doug Sorocco	May 27
Sheryl & Greg Taghon	May 15	Pr. Ken and Pam Peterson	May 31