**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**May 7, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>   
2) our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

Gathering Music

Our Photo Story today is “Spring.”

Welcome, Announcements, and Moment for Mission

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Remembering Our Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13)

**For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks,   
slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

Hymn 616: *Our God Is an Awesome God*

Hymn 614: *Great Are You, Lord*

Hymn 625: *O Lord, My God (How Great Thou Art)* (verse 1)

Call to Worship

Leader: You are great, O Lord!

**People: Our souls sing your praises.**

Leader: We worship the Lord with gladness.

**People: We worship with all that we are.**

**All:** **Heart, mind, and spirit, we worship God.**

Hymn 509: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (all)

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, for the times that we have tried to earn our righteousness through “doing good,” forgive us for missing the good news. For the times we have judged others for not measuring up to the demands of faith, forgive us for missing the good news. For the times we have disregarded your command to love and forgive, forgive us for missing the good news. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, help us to live faithfully, trusting in your love and grace. It is through your loving grace that we are saved and walk in righteousness. Thank you. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

The Good News of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:33-34)

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

**People: Only Christ and Christ died for us;**

Leader: Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us,

**People: Christ intercedes for us.**

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia!**

Response 240: *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (verse 1)

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

Text and Music: Donald Fishel, 1971 © 1973 *International Liturgy Publications*

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-739517. All rights reserved.

The Passing of the Peace

Word with Children Blair Baldwin

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

*God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIS Publications, Inc.)

Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-739517. All rights reserved.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons: Habakkuk 2:1-4  Pew Bible, p. 872, (O.T.)

Romans 1:1-17 Pew Bible, p. 152, (N.T.)

Sermon: “Living Faith”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

Hymn 504: *We Come as Guests Invited* (all 3 verses)

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory Anthem:  *In the Breaking of the Bread*  Ward

\**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Service of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

[We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do   
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.   
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a   
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People**: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The minister gives thanks…*

The congregation responds by singing together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*Music: A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Reprinted/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net # A-739517. All rights reserved.

*The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*

**According to Christ’s commandment**

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World  
and Prayers of the People…*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People**: **hear our prayers.**

Our Lord’s Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Communion Music:  *Speak, O Lord*  Keith and Kristyn Getty

*We all will receive communion by intinction, including the choir. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).  
With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.*

Prayer after Communion

Hymn 526: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (all 3 verses)

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,  
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

Leader:  The cross, **All:  We shall take it.**  
  Leader:  The bread, **All:  We shall break it.**  
  Leader:  The pain, **All:  We shall bear it.**  
  Leader:  The joy, **All:  We shall share it.**  
  Leader:  The Gospel, **All:  We shall live it.**  Leader:  The love, **All:  We shall give it.**  
  Leader:  The light, **All:  We shall cherish it.**  Leader:  The darkness, **All:  God shall perish it.**  Leader:  For Jesus’ sake. **All:  Amen.**

Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden

Liturgist: Ann Anderson

Deacon Greeter/Fellowship: Anny Davidson

Musicians: Tom Anderson, Southminster Choir

Worship Associate: David Kozich

Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Tricia and Jim Smith in memory of Jim’s dad, Donald.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. Coffee and canned beverages will be served; masks and social distancing are at your discretion.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.  
 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.:** Join us by using this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>. If you’re already at church and wish to join us, find Blair at his computer in the McHenry Parlor/Library.  
  
You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

Even though we have returned to in-person worship, we will also continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. You’re invited to share your photos for this date:   
 **May 14: “Favorite Women of Faith,”** in honor of Mothers Day, we’d like photos of   
 women either famous or personal who are/were women of faith. Please send us your   
 photos by this Thursday, May 11.  
  
**Send photos to our new dedicated email address, just for photos:** [**PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org**](mailto:PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org)**.**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**   
**Adult Education**: The Bible is our book, and it is a shared book. So, let’s read it together! Join us on Sunday mornings after worship and fellowship at 11:15 in person in the Parlor/Library or online at <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye> for our study of Matthew’s gospel.  
  
**Youth**: No youth event this weekend. Info is coming on upcoming events, and don’t forget about Rummage Sale & Car Wash, June 3-4. Watch for communication from Blair N about summer events.

The **Rummage Sale and Car Wash** is coming Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4. Please save items to donate as you do your spring cleaning. Price stickers are on the counter in the main hallway. No need to price books or cloths, though. ***Do not donate electronics or furniture with glass tops, please.*** We will begin accepting donations after worship on May 28th. More information to come!

**From the Mission Ministry:**May is **Gifts Grow** month at Southminster and one of the ways we bear the Fruit of God’s love. Through Gifts Grow you have the opportunity to contribute to our missions, and your gifts will be matched by the Mission Ministry up to a total of $5,000 for the entire event. See eNotes, Dialog, and written and verbal announcements all this month detailing the Gifts Grow project.   
  
**Can you spare two hours a month?** The Walk-In Ministry is looking for volunteers to each work a 10-to-noon shift once every month. The volunteer will greet clients as they arrive and use pre-established guidelines to provide assistance with food, gas, utilities, prescriptions, car repairs, auto insurance, etc. Southminster Church is one of 17 local sponsors and a founding member. Walk-In Ministry is located within the First United Methodist Church in downtown Glen Ellyn (at the corner of Forest and Duane). Please consider helping with this important community service.

We are once again **collecting zero-balance gift cards along with bread tags and buttons**. The containers are on the shelf in the hallway opposite the pastor’s office.  
  
  
**From the Worship Ministry**   
**The flower chart** for the rest of 2023 is now posted in the Narthex. If you have a person or occasion you’d like to honor with Sunday morning flowers, please sign up in person or email Sarah Allen ([ridesrowdy@aol.com](mailto:ridesrowdy@aol.com)) with your choice of flower dates and honorees. There are only a few dates left this year. Flower arrangements are $35.00 each.

**From the Property Ministry**   
**Valet Parkers Needed:** We are starting up the Valet Parking service again for Sunday morning services. Duties consist of arriving 20 minutes before the service begins, putting out the Valet Parking sign, and if requested, parking a person’s car and returning keys to the driver. In addition, the valet will assist those who need help by opening the front doors. At 9:30 when the service begins, you put away the sign and you are free to attend the service. After the service, retrieve the car for anyone who requests it. In practice the valet rarely has to park a car, but assisting worshippers by opening the front door and helping those who are dropped off at the entrance is also a service that is needed and greatly appreciated. If interested in being a valet, contact Steve Kozich ([skozich@yahoo.com](mailto:skozich@yahoo.com)). We already have some volunteers, and we would like to have a few more so each will need to valet once a month or less.

**From the Christian Ed. Ministry**

**Connect with Our Kids!**

Southminster is looking for volunteers to be available on Sunday mornings in the event we need nursery + Sunday School services! Hopefully, we’ll have some new chicks hatching this spring, which means we need YOU! Yes, you – the adults of the church – to step up and nurture our future generations. If you are willing to be on an “on call” list of volunteers, please contact Blair Baldwin at [blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org](mailto:blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org). This is not a weekly commitment but rather an attempt to gain a list of folks who can potentially help out if we need additional adults.

**Presbyterian Readers** meet on Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. This group is open to everyone who likes to read and discuss what they’ve read! This month’s book is *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate, who brings to life startling stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away.   
  
Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting at 7:00p.m. on May 17:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86861724721?pwd=TE0yYXZGZUtUNkdvYWh4UEhaTFc0dz09>  
Meeting ID: 868 6172 4721 Passcode: 600865  
  
  
**Presbyterian Women’s Circle** will have a final meeting of the 2022-2023 season on Friday, May 19, when we will enjoy our spring luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Reserve 22. All women of the church are invited, but please be sure to sign up so that we know how many places we need for our reservation. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board just outside of the Library/Parlor. If you cannot be at the church to sign up, please call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming that you plan to come. Use phone number (630) 517-0926 or email [gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchen_fleming@yahoo.com).  
  
  
**Meet and Greet the Artists!** We are hosting a reception on Sunday, May 21, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to meet and greet the artists from COD whose works are now displayed in our hallway art gallery. There will be beauty, refreshments (thanks to our deacons), and some wonderfully creative people you don’t want to miss. This is one way we bear the fruit of God’s love.   
  
**A community invitation**: The Westminster Choir College Concert Handbell Choir is on tour and will present a concert on Sunday, May 21, at 5:00 p.m. at Downers Grove First United Methodist Church, 1032 Maple Avenue, Downers Grove. The public is invited! For more information, contact [pattiebarnes@gmail.com](mailto:pattiebarnes@gmail.com) or call 630-726-9215. A fre will offering will be taken.  
  
  
**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey): **Order this Sunday!**  
This Sunday, May 7, is your next opportunity to order Jubilee Bucks. Gift cards are a great way to prepay for your groceries, gas, dinners out, or other household items. Southminster benefits by getting a percentage of your purchase. An updated list of participating merchants is available online or on the printed form at church. Orders must be received by 9:00 Sunday evening. Email [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com) with merchant, number and amount or cards, and total of your order. Cards will be delivered to you - usually the following Tuesday. The next order date will be June 4. **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):   
It is amazing how our church has been supporting PRC with our donations! Weekly deliveries of food, personal care products, and cleaning products have been greatly appreciated! The number of clients has been increasing and all items donated greatly needed and utilized. Donation boxes has been relocated a few steps farther into the church... just past the second set of doors (across from the church office).  
  
  
**Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6   
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.

**Friends,  
You are all invited to offer prayer for people whether they are members or not. It would be a joy and very helpful to know how people are doing. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, can you send an update to the office, please, once in a while? Thank you! Pastor Wendy**  
  
**Joys and Concerns  
The flowers today** are from Tricia and Jim Smith in memory of Jim’s father, Donald. **We give thanks to God for joys:** - Joe Parks’ birthday   
  - Lynn Smith is home, though her recovery will be a long journey. Lynn is Steve Sanders’ sister and Traci Smith’s mother.  
 - The Ordination and Installation of Elias Cabarcas-Arroyo, husband of Rev. Traci Smith, that will take place Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 p.m. at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church (where Traci is the pastor). Our Elder Steve Sanders will represent Southminster on the commission.  
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**   
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. In the first 4 days of this week, there were 16 mass shootings (incidents involving 4 or more victims) in 12 states leaving 25 dead and 48 injured. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current statistics.  
  - We pray for all the communities in our country that have been devastated by tornadoes and flooding.  - We continue to pray for peace in the world Ukraine, the Holy Land, Sudan, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights.  
**Blessed are those who mourn:**  
 - Heidi Shierry asks prayers for the family of her friend William Yotis, who died April 29 at the age of 93.  
 - Linda Ellinghausen requests prayers for Hal’s extended family: Chandy Greenholt passed away on Easter, and his wife, Pam, had a kiwi-sized tumor removed from the base of her brain this past week.  
 - The family of Evelyn Ericksen who died April 25  
 - The Barker and Hilpert families in the death of Wendy’s cousin, Nan-c Hilpert  
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.  
 **We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Barb’s friend Jan Mazur, scheduled for multiple tests this week because there are signs her cancer has metastasized… again  
 - Sandy Lopata’s friend Rebecca Moeckler, who is beginning chemo for a mass on her liver  
 - Amy Christensen Henning, undergoing 6 months of chemotherapy  
  - Marta Sundquist, who had surgery for a brain tumor. She is safe at home but will need further treatment down the road. You can be updated on her condition and send her messages online through CaringBridge.org.  
  - Floyd Rogers, recovering from surgery. He said he came through it well and has managed to deal with pain.    
  - Ian Van Beveren diagnosed with lymphoma. Prayers for his strength for chemo and for better news.   
  - Continuing prayers for Linda Wolf Jeziorski and Nikki Petersen Mendoza (adult daughter of Pete Petersen) and as they continue to heal  
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Tracy J., Shelayne L, Tracy N., Felicita M., Margaret R, Charlene S., Helen S, Jim S., Jon S., Connie V., Beverly W., and others we name in our hearts.  
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**  - Pray for Ian Vierck, Linda Ellinghausen’s grandson, having surgery May 15 on his lungs.  
 - Mike Stewart, who is very sick and having a hard time the husband of June, who was a visitor last Sunday)  
  - Francine Long’s friends Ed and Maxine as Ed transitions home from long-term care  
  - Del Meester, herniated disc    
  - Prayers for a good recovery for Ann Anderson’s nephew, Zachary, who was hit by a hit and run driver while biking  
  - Our members who are in long term care: **Ed Koska** at Tabor Hills, **Gail Johnston**, in hospice care at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card, please send to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.), and **Grace Van Beveren** at Oak Brook Care      
  - Those struggling with house issues  
  - Those who are suffering from depression   
 - Those making difficult life transitions   
  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family, as he is under in-home hospice care  
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.**May we reach out beyond our doors to invite people to share in our spiritual journey with Jesus Christ.

**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands) in May, call Deacon Barb Zink (630-668-2387). You may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at [wendy@southminsterpc.org](mailto:wendy@southminsterpc.org). (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also call your deacon if you need help from the church.  
  
  
**Office Schedule: The church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.**Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.  
  
  
Grace and peace to you! Remember that we love God and neighbor. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**    **Sunday, May 7  
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing [bobbifrey@aol.com](mailto:bobbifrey@aol.com) before 9:00 p.m. **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.   
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service   
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office   
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair   
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **No Youth activity today**  
**Monday, May 8 – Pastor’s Sabbath. The church office is closed.**  
**Tuesday-Friday – Pastor Wendy’s Heart to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m. **Tuesday, May 9**  
 **Knitting Circle** at 10:00 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **Pastor’s Bible Study** 4:00-5:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **Pastor’s Prayer Meeting** from 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.   
 Join Pastor Wendy in prayer…  
 **Deacons** meet at 7:30 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library  
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday, May 10  
 Property Ministry** at 7:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **eNotes go out  
Friday, May 12**  
 A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall **Next Sunday,** **May 14** **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.   
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service   
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office   
 **Adult Ed.** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining Blair   
 in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library  
 **No Youth activity today**

**Bearing Fruit – May 7, 2023**

**“Gifts Grow” Begins with Prayer**

How do we begin to bear the fruit of God’s love as a congregation, a community of faith? The best place to begin is always with prayer! That is why all Presbyterian meetings open and close with prayer. We center on God as we begin anything. Below is the opening prayer from our most recent Mission Ministry meeting. Please give it a read and a prayer.  
  
“Oh Lord, here we are again gathered in your name, your devoted Southminster Mission team. You require us to be good stewards of what you have bequeathed to us. In this month of May, we are trying to grow your gifts so that they stretch farther and bring relief to more of your people here among us. Help us to reach the generous hearts of those that can help so that those that need help can experience your loving hand in action.   
  
“Lord, we don’t often speak of money when we pray, but perhaps this is the year that $5000 of Gifts Grow matching funds falls far short of the actual donations to be matched. We’d be pleased to face that first class problem in next year's budget. Lord, make us generous.  
  
“We pray that you will guide our decisions today and always as we seek to honor You in our work.  
  
“Your faithful servants, Amen.”  
  
During the month of May you have the opportunity to contribute to our missions through Gifts Grow, and your gifts will be matched by the Mission Ministry up to a total of $5,000 for the entire event.   
  
Throughout May, Bearing Fruit will offer brief sketches of our various outreach ministries. This is not an endorsement or recommendation, but a little bit of extra information about some of our missions and how we bear the fruit of God’s love. Our missions are **Bridge Communities**, **Cuba Sister Church**, **DuPage PADS**, **Metropolitan Family Services**, **People’s Resource Center**, **Walk-In Ministry**, **World Relief**, and the **Youth Mission Trip**.   
  
Giving to Gifts Grow is one way that we bear the fruit of God’s love; beginning with prayer is another.