

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

310 West Main Street • PO Box 187

Saxonburg, PA

www.stlks.com

Sunday, September 27, 2020

8:15 and 10:45 am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Oh, By an' By* - Traditional spiritual/Wagner

*(When the music of the prelude begins, please lower your voice;
but, after worship raise your voice with joy!)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all
desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration
of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and
the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God
who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

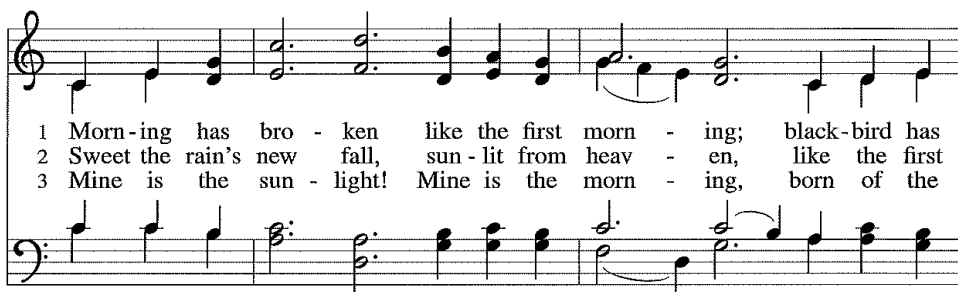
L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

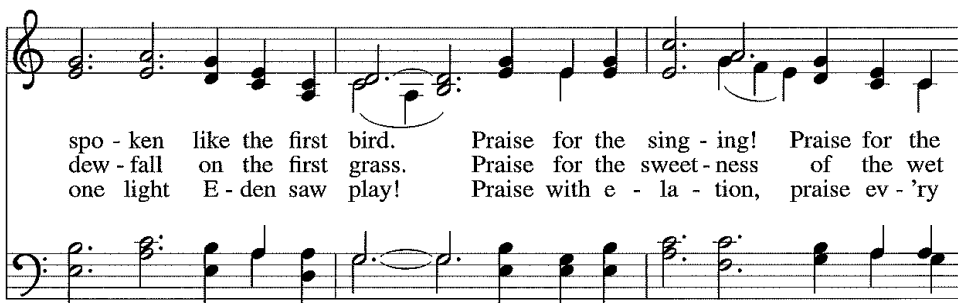
GATHERING SONG

Morning Has Broken

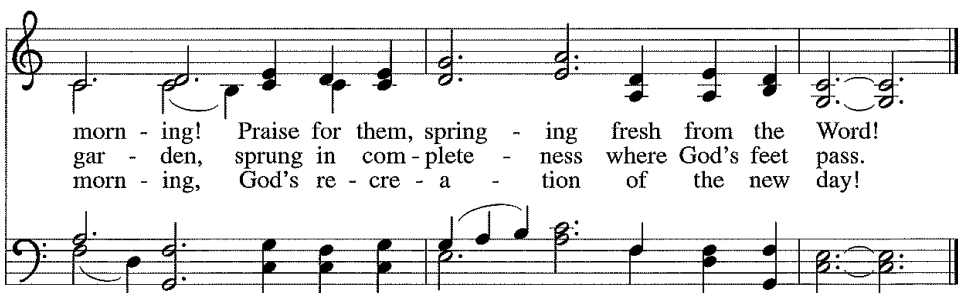
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1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN

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GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.
C: **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties
and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them,
keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us
in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

L: The first reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people
mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no
longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to
me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me.
The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you
Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are
unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness
and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they
have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns
away from the wickedness they have committed and does
what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they
consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away
from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet
the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my
ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are
unjust?

³⁰ "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25: 1-10

L: Please let us read responsively Psalm 25.

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

² **I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ **Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.**

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ **Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.**

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.

**⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

**¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2: 1-18

L: The second reading is from Philippians, chapter 2.

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—
not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—
continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to
fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you
may become blameless and pure, “children of God without
fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will
shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to
the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of
Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am
being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and
service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all
of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

(10:45 am only)

Larghetto - G.F. Handel

Ellen Dodge, flute

GOSPEL: Matthew 21: 23-32

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 21st
chapter.

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

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was
teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came
to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they
asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you
answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these
things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it
from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'"²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

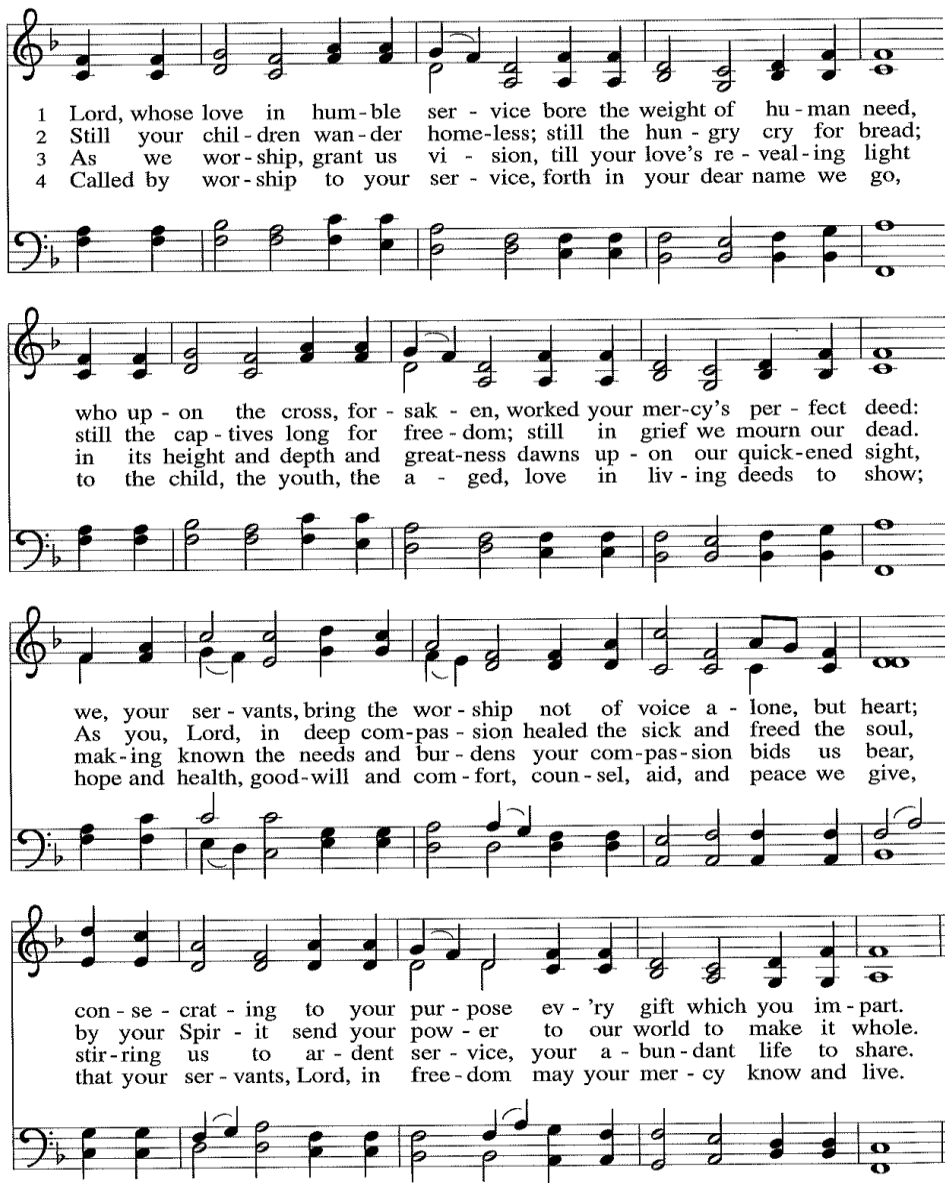
L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

Text © Oxford University Press

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

BEACH SPRING
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APOSTLES' CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

537

On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

HERMAS
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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Let the Whole Creation Cry
- Williams/Larson

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost

Is. 5: 1–7, Psalm 80: 7–19, Phil. 3: 4b–14, Matt. 21: 33–46

WELCOME!

We are so excited that you have joined us today. You are important to our church family. If you are a visitor please see the greeter for a contact card. If you need to speak with a pastor or pastoral leader, please call the church office at 724-352-2333.

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

	8:15 Service	10:45 Service
LECTOR	Jeff Markwell	Rachel Steiner
GREETER	Marge Kollinger	Judy Moser
OFFERING COUNTERS	Jeff Hartzell and Bill Gordon	

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Francine Messmer	27-Sep	Eric and Julie Edder	27-Sep
Chris Arthurs	1-Oct	John and Rosa Nuti	28-Sep
Addis Crouch	2-Oct	Michael and Kristin Crouch	1-Oct
Lukas Nelson	2-Oct		
William Crytzer	3-Oct		

Handbell Alert!



HANDBELL CHOIR

After much discussion, it was decided that Generations Choir will not be possible this season because of physical distancing requirements.

Instead, we are hoping to have a handbell choir. This group is for both youth and adults. Ringers should have a bit of music reading ability - just a bit! We need 6 consistent ringers, 2 bells for each ringer.

We feel we can meet distancing requirements with the bells, plus we already use gloves and can play with masks on.

Please let Holly (hpuet@gmail.com or 412.606.3499) know if you'd be interested. Rehearsal dates will be set according to people's availability. Right now, best are Monday or Thursday evenings.

Fill the Tree

NALC Disaster Response

Loss affected by natural disasters is especially heightened at the holidays. The NALC is continuing to help spread God's love and meet the needs people, across the United States, who experienced hardship this year. Looking at 2020, the NALC Disaster Response is responding to disasters (devastating flooding, fires, tornados and impacts of COVID-19) in various disaster areas.

St. Luke's has consistently supported this wonderful ministry for many years. The past few years, St. Luke's has participated in a "Stuff the Truck" event hosted by the Mid-Northeast Mission District by donating cleaning and school supplies, and healthcare and baby items. This year we are collecting gift cards for Lowes, Home Depot, Target or Walmart which may be used for families who may not have insurance as they rebuild or to help restock the NALC disaster warehouses. The gift cards will be delivered to the NALC at the annual Mid-Northeast Mission District convocation on October 31st.

So, if you would like to donate, all you need to do is purchase a gift card from one of the retailers listed above and hang it on the tree in the hall anytime from October 4th until the 25th. Monetary donations may be place in the offering plate. Please mark the donation for Disaster Relief.

Thank you for helping to **fill the tree!!**

Altar Flowers



As we continue to worship in Centennial Hall, where we can practice the needed measures to keep our parishioners at St. Luke's safe, it was decided that a temporary altar would bring a more spiritual atmosphere to the space. With the addition of the altar, we will have one bouquet of fresh flowers placed on the altar each Sunday.

If you would like to sponsor flowers the cost is \$25.00 and the following dates are available: Oct. 11, Oct. 25, and Nov. 1

Please contact the church office by return email or phone (724-352-2333) with your selected date and dedication. Flower donations can be placed in the offering plate (labeled as such) or sent via mail to the office; PO Box 187, Saxonburg 16056.

OUR JOYS, PRAYERS, CARES AND CONCERNS

Praise and Thanksgiving: for answered prayers (Barb Reuning's successful cancer surgery), for St. Luke's staff, leadership, and our volunteers who continue to minister to others, for the new altar settings in Centennial Hall to enhance our worship experience, for seasons of change and our God who is a constant help in every season.

Healing, Cares & Concerns:

Paul Brewer (*cancer*),
Jackie (*sight*),
Sherry Goodman (*cancer*),
Alexis Gurnard (*stage 4 lung cancer*),
Jennifer (*chemo*),
Roger Laughner (*infection*),
Beryl Mottern (*radiation*),
Mary Ann Hussar (*COVID -19*),
John (*chemo*),
Carol (*cancer, mental issues*),
John Swalanzer (*COVID-19*),
Donna Schnur (*hosp./cancer, husband died*),
Christie (*cancer*),
Corey Lambroff (*COVID-19*),
Sonya Markwell's family, Brazil (*COVID*),
Jimmy Mullen (*leukemia & lymphoma*),
Elaine (*stroke*),
Quincy (*COVID -19*),
Barb Reuning (*test results/treatment*),

Vira (*Sonya Markwell's uncle COVID*),
Velma Boltz (*pacemaker, recovery*),
Kathy McRandal (*restore health*),
Marilyn Miller (*cancer*),
David Whitlinger (*new cancer study*),
Terry Collins (*COPD, heart*),
Linda Crytzer (*hospitalized*),
Bob King (*tests*)
Aileen Mansfield (*breast cancer*),
Libby Satterfield (*breast cancer*),
Bill Wetzel (*heart*),
Bobbie Jo Shearer, (*caretaker for mother in law*),
James Fair Sr. (*tests, health issues*),
Jackie Leslie (*brain surgery*),
Georgetta Burk (*hospital, heart attack*),
Mark Kollinger (*tests for back*)

For families and caretakers, for those who serve others as police, fire, emergency, and medical personnel, for our local businesses and all who provide goods and services, for those whose jobs are lost or in jeopardy, for our government leaders to be open to God's guidance and direction, for those who don't yet believe.

Weekly Schools: All students, teachers, school & bus personnel especially for Knoch Area and Grove City College

Bereaved: Family & Friends of Herb Richards, Mike Schnur, Dorothea Marie Cypher, Maggie Shoaf

Weekly NALC Church St. Thomas Lutheran, Hooverville - Rev. Nila Cogan

Monthly Mission: Sarver-Saxonburg Christian Leadership Network (CLN)