

TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 18, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

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Director of Music

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Barry Kreider, Ethel Sensenig, Jane Pittman, Kelsey Reed Butler, Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Dave Haldeman, Ruth Hollinger, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Mary Weidman, and Marty Leed & Family.

Clifton Center in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer

Ephrata Hospital: Melanie Brubaker

Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr

Gardens at Stevens: Nevin McQuate

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestone & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Philhaven Mt. Gretna: Ashley Leed

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

All in Florida during the Hurricane, Sheri Kiefer, Sam McClearen, Tina Strepko, Scott Coleman, Dave & Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Brenda Reed, Doris McNally, Amanda Stuck, Tyler Herr, Brandi Erhart, Emily Martin, Deb Correa, Jason Mertz, Robert Evans, Martha Miller, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lorna Buohl, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Brian Kerns, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay and Margaret Weller.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Eugene Hackamn, Pat McQuate, Leroy Landis, Marion Dissinger, Helen Blank, Mike Leed, Nicole Bibbus, Rob French, Donna Kennedy, Robert Hackman, Marion Briere, Carl Usner, Peggy French, Marion Gideon, Bishop Guy Edmiston, Pastor Marty Sheaffer, George Wolf, Sally Wealand, Bob Farr, Cheryl Nixon, Bea Hassler, Mary Moore, Orvilla Oberholtzer, Lowell Haws, Mary Jane Goshert, Ed Sieber, Darrell Buchter, Joyce Pannebecker, Barb Mertz, Beverly Sweigart, Maggie Kiralfy, Dale Firestone and Larry Rabold

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Ahava is playing during Service this morning

Welcome / Announcements

Preludes: *"Here I Am to Worship"*

"The Family of God"

- Tim Hughes

- Bill Gaither

† GATHERING †

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #763** *"My Life Flows On"*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: 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

P: 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. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive 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

P: 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

***GREETING**

P: 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.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

I THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Lay Reader (Diane Adair): Reading from 1st Thessalonians the 1st chapter.

L: The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God’s love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 96:1-13



Ascribe to the Lord honor and power (Ps. 96:7)

¹ Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

**² Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**4 For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

**⁶ Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

**⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

[¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all
that | is therein.

**¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your
com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*Awesome God*” sing x2

Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from

Heaven above with wisdom, power, and love

Our God is an awesome God! Our God!

Our God is an awesome God! Our God is an awesome God!

***THE HOLY GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 22:15-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,

“Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it

lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a

denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose

title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give

therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: “*Give To God What Is God’s*”

-Pastor Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: “All My Hope”

- David Crowder

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

C: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

† Prayers of Intercession †

***P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.**

A brief silence.

P: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN “Here I Am Lord”**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

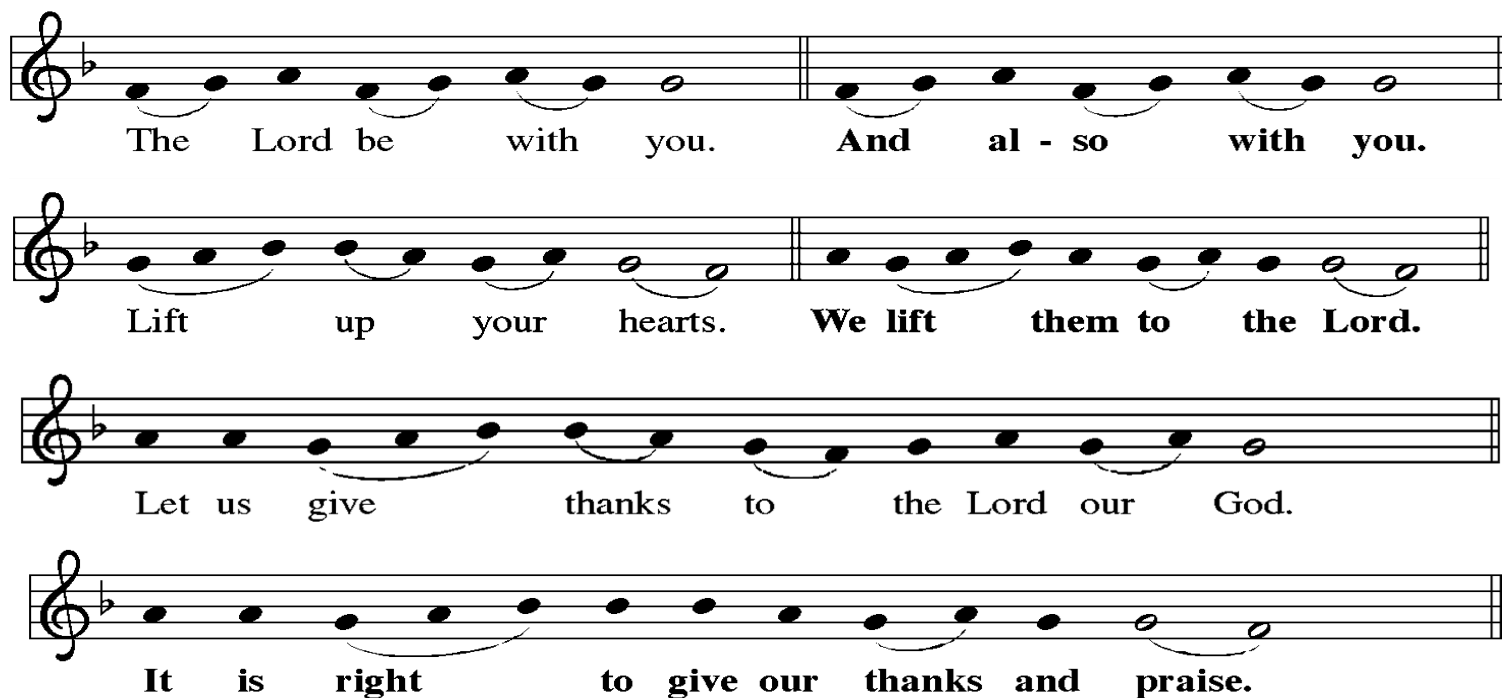
***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under groups of notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

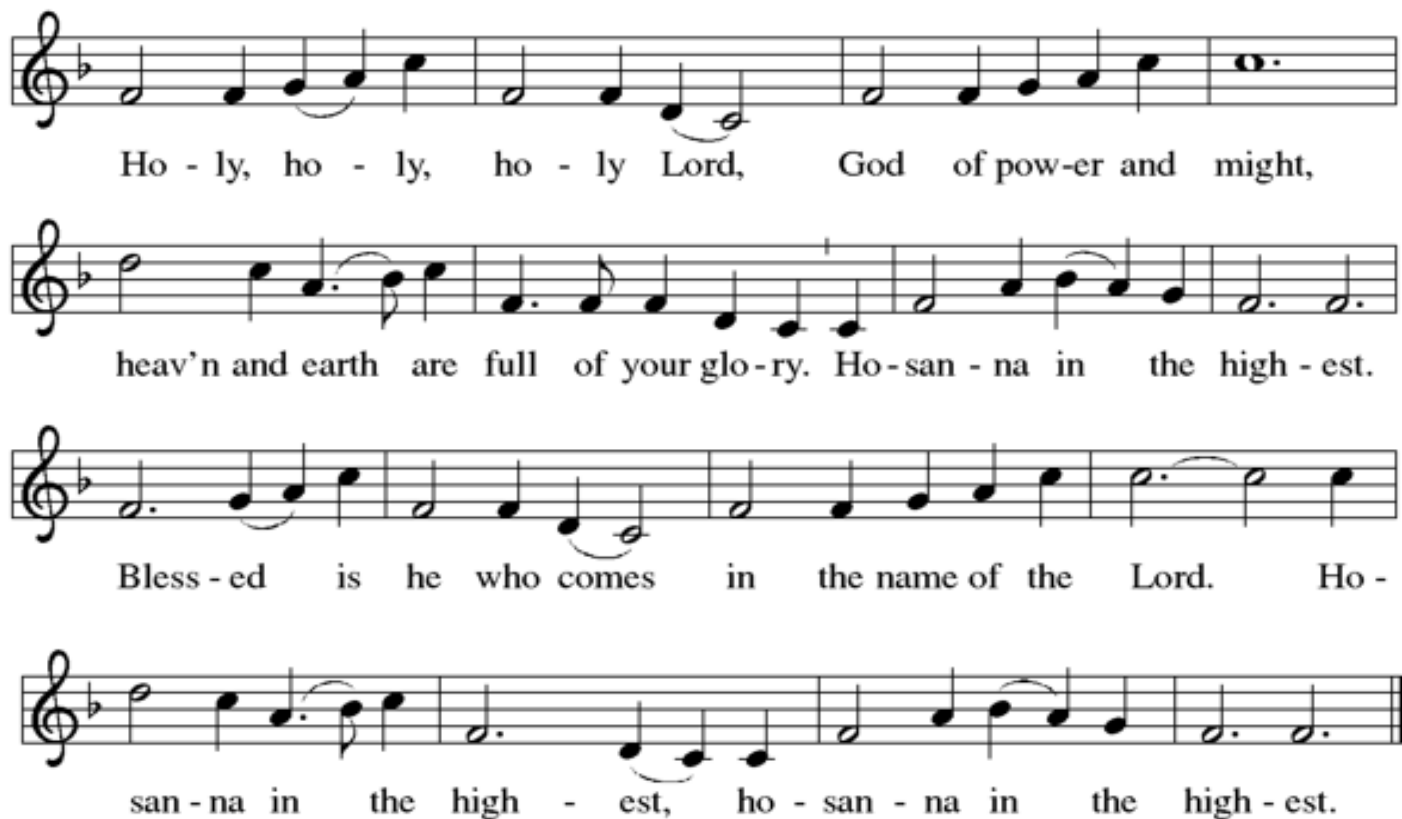
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*TRADITIONAL 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 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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



All Baptized Christians are welcome for Communion.

(If you would like baptized, see Pastor Tim.).

We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. To receive the sacrament wine, take an empty cup from the tray. A grape juice option and gluten free communion wafers provided. If you cannot come to the Chancel, Communion will be taken to you.

Please notify an Usher.

Those in the parking lot partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn #460: *"Now the Silence"* Sing x2

Hymn #471: *"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

Hymn #494: *"For The Bread Which You Have Broken"*

Hymn #616: *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210: *"Blessed Be God"*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN: #335** *“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Diane Adair

Communion Assistant: Tess Freeman

Psalmist: Pastor Craven

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Lowell Yost, Mike Haller and Alternate Jill Showalter

Weekly Receipts Report as of 10/15/2026	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	52
Online Attendance	130
General Receipts	\$4,213.12

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to
the Glory of God by
Our cleaning staff, Journey & Jelyka Lusby
in Honor of their new nephew
Kolton Musser born Tuesday, October 13.
Son of Anthony and Jazzly Musser.



The following dates are available for dedication:

October 25 & November 15

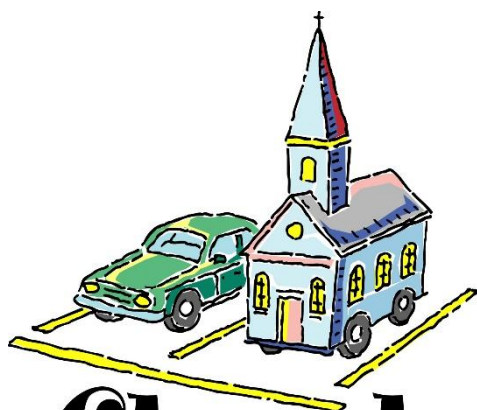
If you select one of the available dates contact Ashley via email, a note in the office or leave a voicemail.



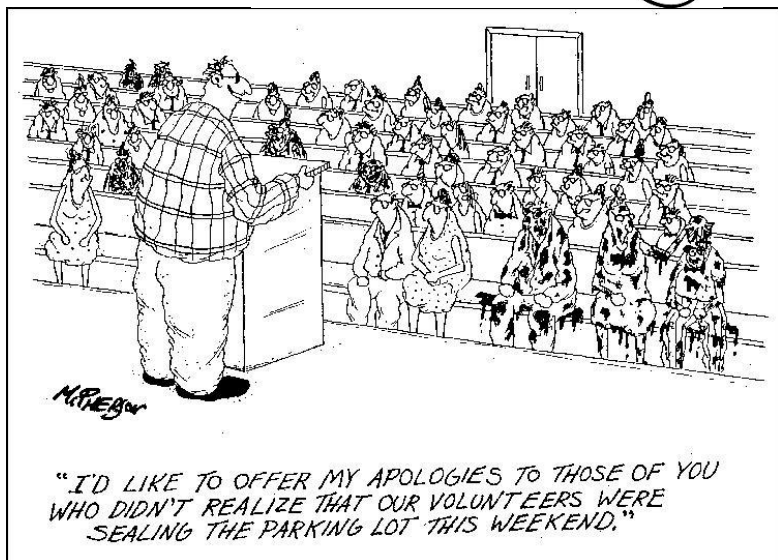
Choir Practice Schedules

Chancel Choir
6:00 pm on Wednesday October 28

Bell Choir
7:00 pm on Wednesday October 28



Church Parking



Parking Lot Update

At Council Meeting last week
we were given dates for the
parking lot.

Thursday October 15th they
did their prep work.

Monday October 19th and
Tuesday October 20th they
will be here working and
completing the job.

Celtic Concert

Sunday, November 1 at 4:00
Mellingers Lutheran Church
80 Gockley Rd. Stevens, PA



Freewill offering will be taken
A light supper will follow the concert

"Summer on Duke," a husband and wife duo, from central PA, combine the award-winning fiddle playing of Christy (formerly of the Celtic Martins), alongside her husband Laverne, an accomplished classically trained guitarist. Together they bring about an engaging blend of Celtic music, from slow Aires to lively Jigs.