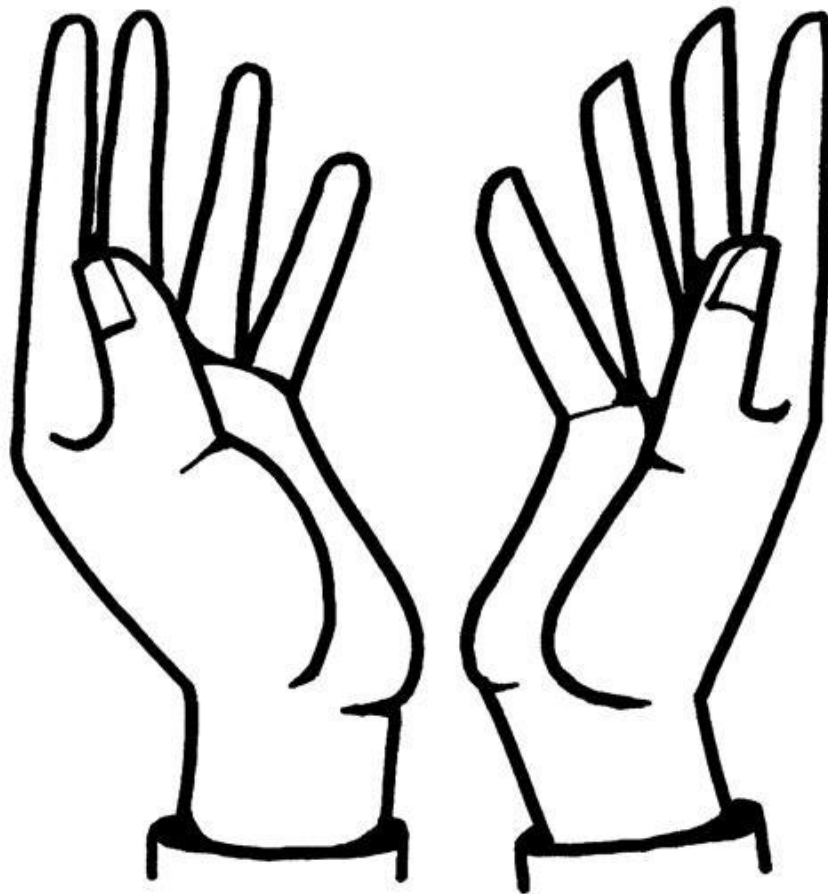


REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2025



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

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

Home: (717) 738-3838

Mobile: (717) 468-9049

E-Mail: revtlc@ptd.net

Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

E-Mail: vickiekissinger@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education

Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Shirley Sweigart, Jay Weber, Mike Leed, Pray non stop for Peace, Betty Cordes, Amy Weik, Kristi Leonhard, Tom Fassnacht, Molly Brown, Jerry Yost, Carl Mohler Jr., Lynn Spotts, Jay Weaver, Dave Haldeman, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Jay Stoltzfus, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Sam Soto, Roy Latshaw, Amanda Benton, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel and Barb Moyer.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand Brethren Village: Beverly Sweigart
Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer
Gardens at Stevens: Nevin & Pat McQuate
Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen
Luther Acres Personal Care: Judy Meckley
Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla
Penn State Hospital; Lancaster: Sharlene Miller

Vickie Kissinger, Barb Mertz, Elsie May Sensenig, Cory Sensenig, Rachel Landis, Carol Schaeffer, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, Liz Roman-Reich, Mike Messner, John Rachal, David Taimuty, Keith Freeman, Paul Reefer, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Dave Bentz, Natalie Redcay, Ruth Mae Grace, Doug Cody, Fred Leathery, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Kara Trowbridge, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler, Kelly Root, Karen Leonhard, Sue Kreitz, Dale Firestone, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller and Cynthia Peters.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Zach Caflin, Bob Weaver, Pastor Conrad Youse, York County Police Officers, the Colorado shooting victims, Charlie Kirk, Karen Krater, Vesta Reber, Jean Shober, Joyce Boyer, Joan Wentzel, Jeff Moyer, Melissa and Mark Hortman, Anna Weinhold, and Kenton Shaffer.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Ahava will be playing this morning

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “*Psalm 23*”

-Stuart Townend

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #504 “*A Mighty Fortress*”**

***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.

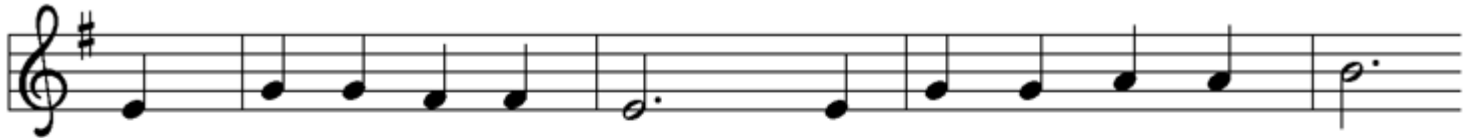
C: Amen

***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 KYRIE**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

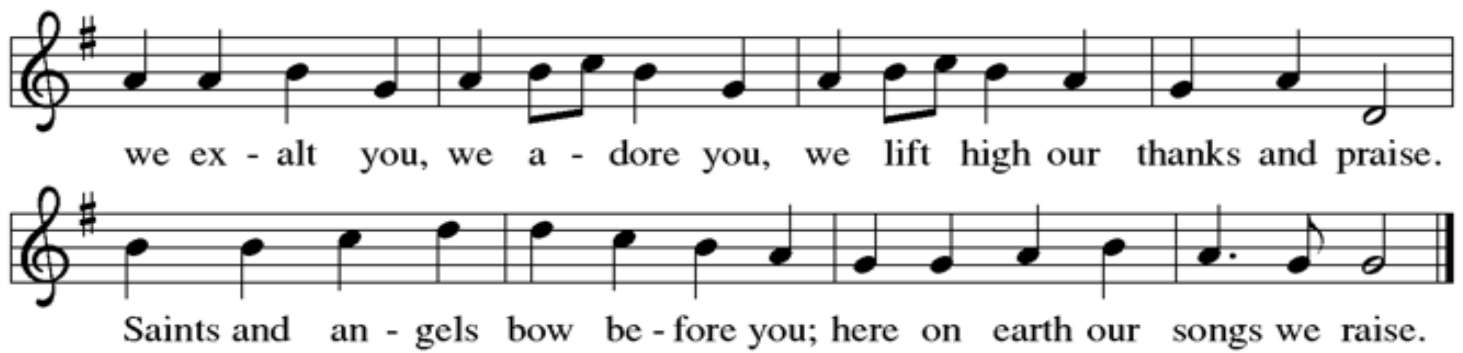
***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



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:



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ROMANS 3:19-28

Lay Reader (Pat Haller): Reading from Romans the 3rd chapter.

L: Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

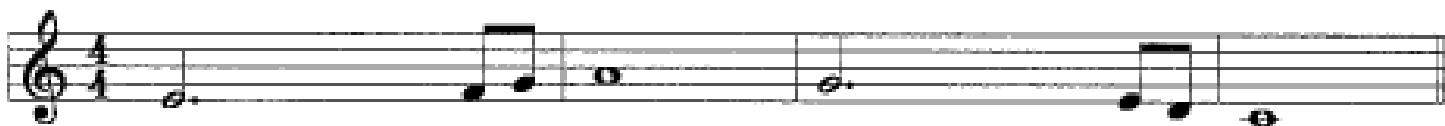
²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 46



*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
(Ps. 46:7)*

¹ *God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.*

² ***Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the
sea;***

³ *though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.*

⁴ ***There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of
God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.***

⁵ *God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
 God shall help it at the | break of day.*

⁶ ***The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
 God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R***

⁷ *The Lord of | hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.*

⁸ ***Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
 what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;***

⁹ *behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
 the | shields with fire.*

¹⁰ ***“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in
 the earth.”***

¹¹ *The Lord of | hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R*

CHILDRENS SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Awesome God”

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above
 with wisdom, power, and love Our God is an awesome God!

***THE HOLY GOSPEL**

JOHN 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*P: Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known
 through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in
 my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and
 the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are
 descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What
 do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits
 sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the

household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *“The Courage to Believe!”*

-Pastor Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Lamb of God”*

-Twila Paris

***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:** Renewed in God’s everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

P: Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints (*especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt*). Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, 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.

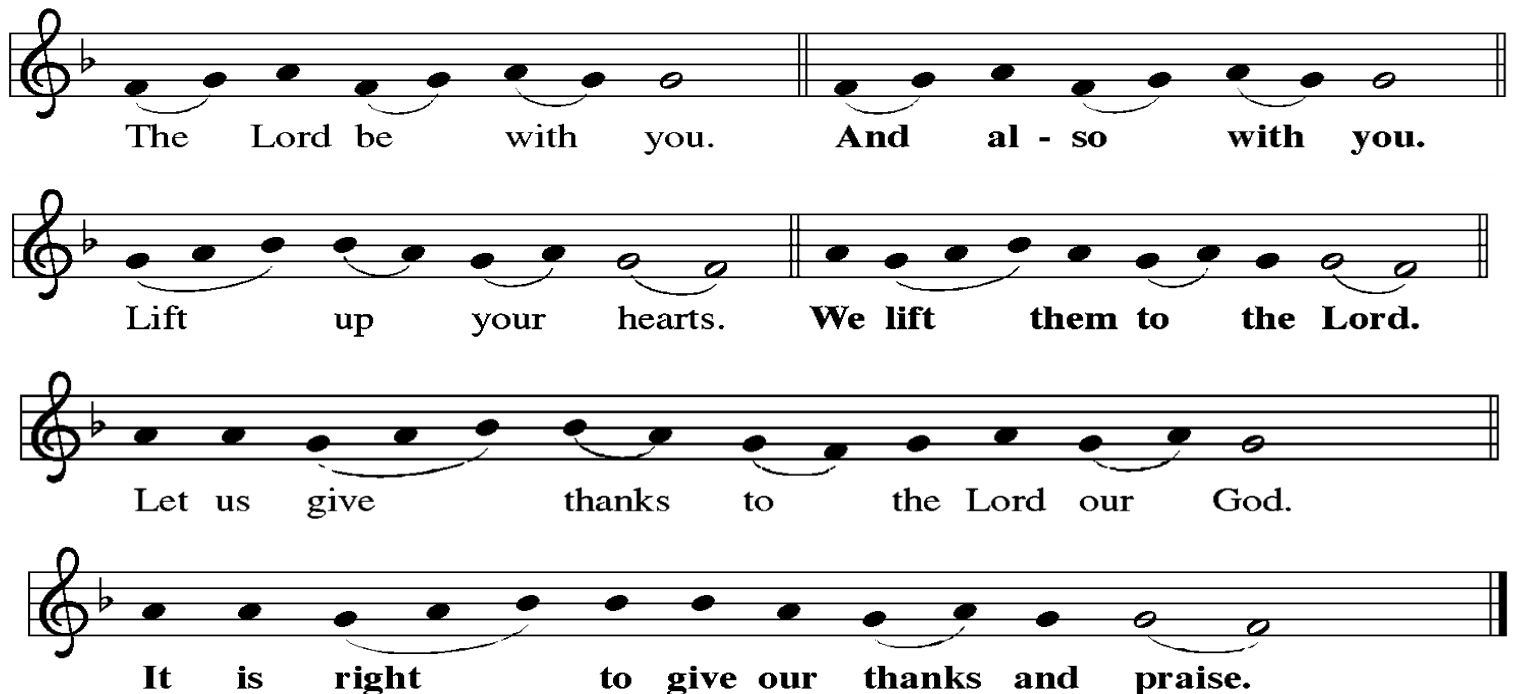
***OFFERING PRAYER**

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 in bold.

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

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

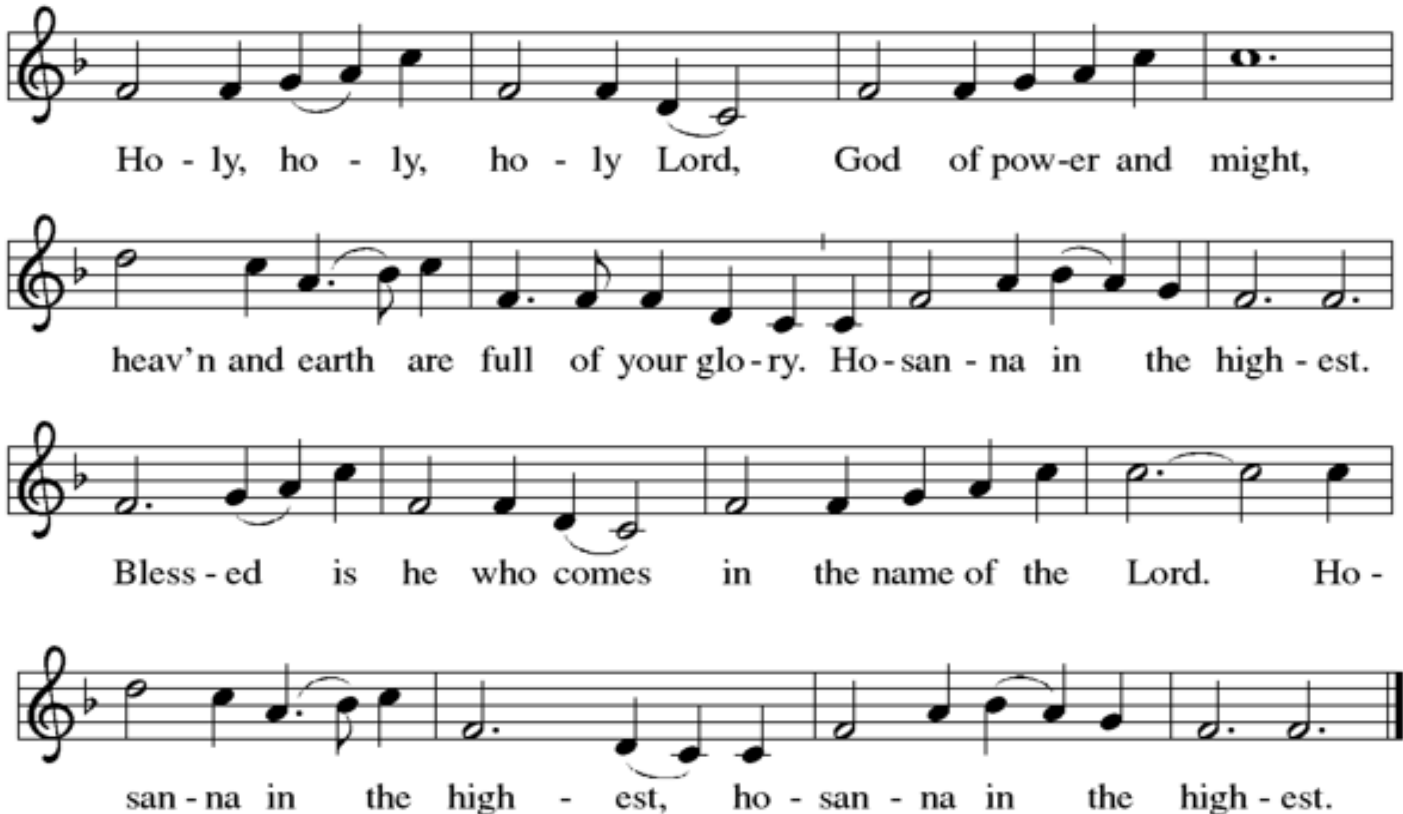
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. Pick up an empty cup. 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 #501: *"Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus"* Sing x2

Hymn #502: *"The king of Love My Shepherd Is"*

Hymn #779: *"Amazing Grace"*

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: #638 “Blessed Assurance”**

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are
dedicated to the Glory of God
by Andy & Kristi Leonhard in Honor of
their 23rd Wedding Anniversary.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Pat Haller

Communion Assistant: Pat Haller

Psalmist: Pastor Craven

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Kristi Leonhard, Joan Moore Alt Piper Leonhard

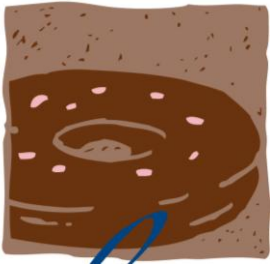
Weekly Receipts Report as of 10/23/2025	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	73
Online Attendance	116
General Receipts	\$1,760.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



**TURN YOUR
CLOCKS
BACK!**

Saturday November 1st
before you go to bed
change your clocks.



Communion Stewards



We are in need of Communion Set Up and Coffee Social volunteers.

If you are interested to help, please contact either Lisa Reed, Pastor Tim or the Church Office for the Communion Set up.

For the Coffee Social you can contact Anita Soto, Kristi Leonhard or the Church Office.



The following dates are available for dedication:
December 21

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



There are no choir or bell practices the remainder of this month and November at this time.



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY
BETHLEHEM
BETHSAIDA

CAESAREA PHILIPPI
CANA
CAPERNAUM
DECAPOLIS
EGYPT

EPHRAIM
GALILEE
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JORDAN RIVER
JUDEA
MAGDALA

MOUNT OF OLIVES
NAZARETH
PEREA
SAMARIA
SIDON
TYRE
WILDERNESS

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K