

**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 2023**



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

Pastor's Contact Information

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Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

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Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Roger Gehman, Betty Firestine, Ruth Hollinger, Caleb Leonhard, Gene Hackman, Martha Brubaker, Vince Brubaker, Deb Zerbe, Roy Latshaw, Ella Felker, Shirley Sweigart, Sam Heiser, Dorothy Hutchinson, Amanda Benton, Jeff Moyer, Mary Weidman, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Alicia Brubaker, Nevin & Pat McQuate, Vivian Gehr, Jay Weaver, Barb Moyer, Jeanette Engle, Betty Cordes, and Judy Meckley.

Brethren Village, Lititz: Beverly Sweigart

Ephrata Manor: Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer & Joan Wentzel

Keystone Villa: Harriet & Jay Stoltzfus

Lancaster General: Donald Hain

Legends of Lititz Home: Pauline Martin

United Zion Home Lititz: Ethel Leed

Heartis Yardley Assisted Living, Yardley: Sally Wealand

Paramount Sr. Living, Maytown Hospice Care: Patricia Kieffer

Pleasant View Manor: Bill Nodeen

Somerset Rehab: Grace Wentz

Meredith Palmer, Althea Hillegas, Brenda Gabig, Bob Weaver, Cory McQuate, Carl Nincke, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Mary Morton, Ben Gunzenhauser Jr, Dale Moore, Megan Harting, The People of Israel and Gaza, Cheryl Vincent, Alex Chambers, Theda Raffauf, Robyn Redcay, Ray Vargo, Randy Gockley, Scott Zimmerman, Bobbie Ann Loose, Tom Craven, Letitia James, Bruce Reed, Corrina Bender, Mick Smyer, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, Donald Craven, Mike Fasnacht, Dennis & Lois Steffy in their Disaster Relief Ministry, Matt Thorn, Cynthia Peters, The People of Ukraine, Virginia Leed, and Tom Dittoe.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Clara Ingram, Pastor Vaughn Glover, Elva Leisey, Marc Wise, Virginia Reed, Pastor Jim Miller, Cynthia Starling, Pastor Bob Kurz, Bill Cordes, Barry Weitzel, Ed Leed, Arlene Halterman, Thomas Bates, Horst Berendt, Carl Benda, Charlie Messner, Ann Pooler, Jake Holsinger, Donna Myers, Michael Setley, Marvin Showalter, Kent Weinhold, Doug Lintner and Vera Wike.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “*Coronation*”

- Joseph Prentiss

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #855** *“Crown Him With Many Crowns”*

***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**

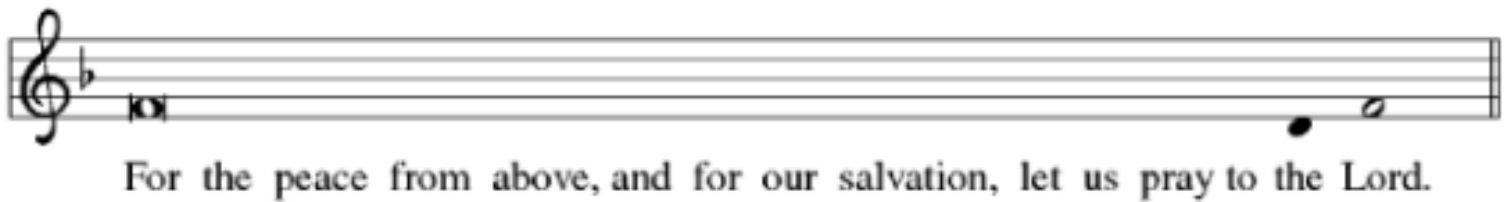
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***THE KYRIE**



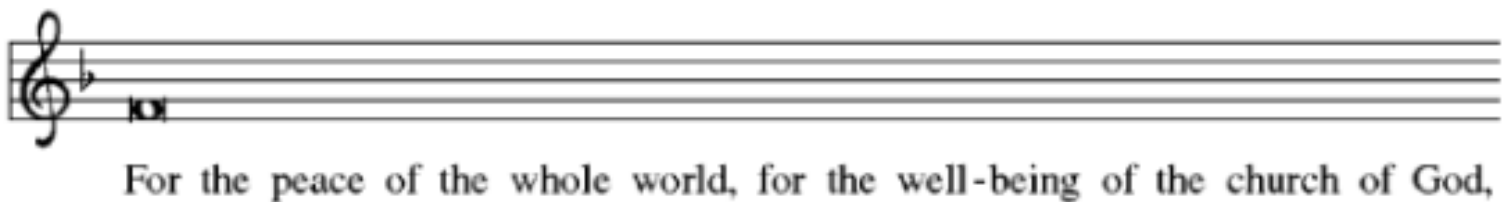
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



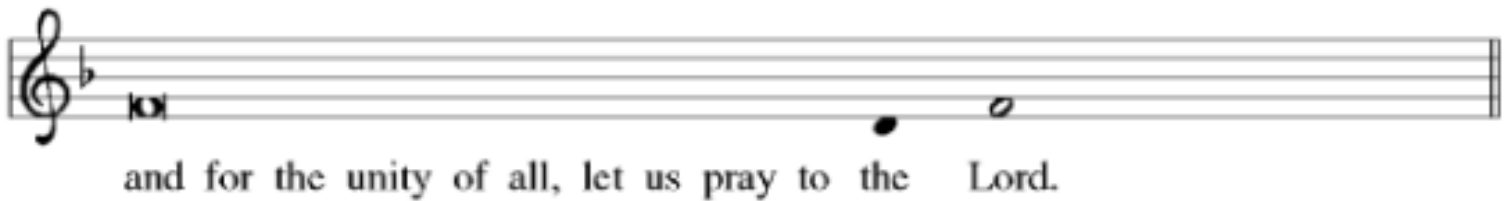
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE:



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

Lay Reader (Linda Netzley): A reading from Ezekiel the 34th chapter. *Because Israel’s kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, “my servant David,” who will feed and care for the people.*

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

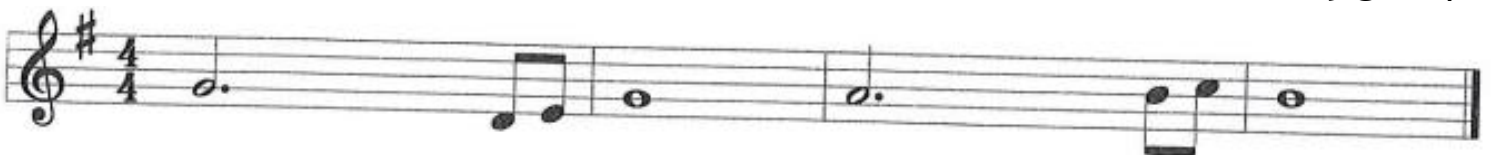
²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 95:1-7a



We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

**²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

**³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.**

**⁴In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**

**⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.**

**⁶Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

**^{7a}For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's
hand. R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:31-46

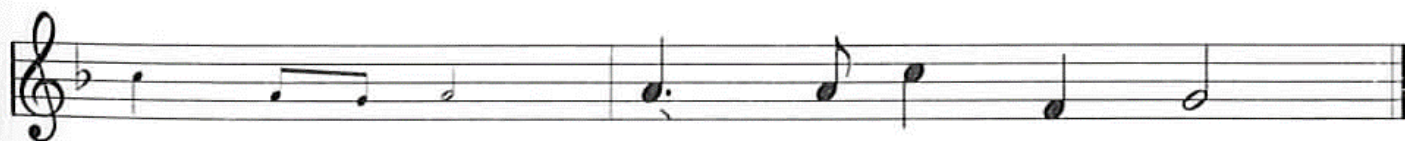
P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *“Do You Want The Good News First?”*

-Pastor Tim Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Christ is the King”*

-Kathy Donlan Tunseth
Chancel Choir

***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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

† Prayers of Intercession †

***P:** Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation (*especially*). We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us (*especially*). Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

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

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN: "Give Thanks"**



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

Last time



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*OFFERING PRAYER

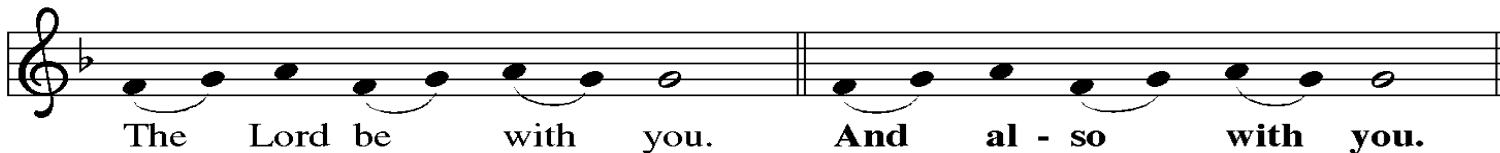
P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

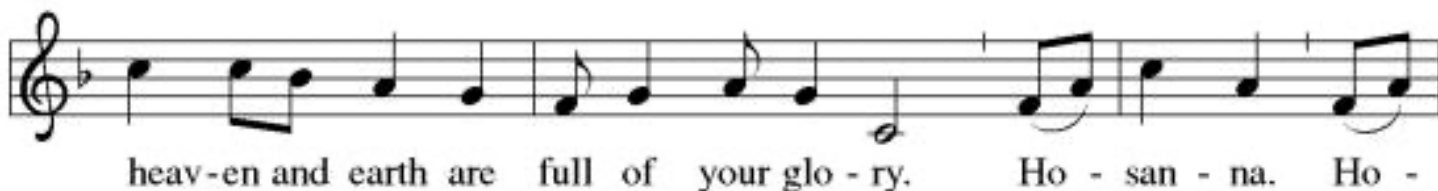


*THE PREFACE:

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

We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

*THE SANCTUS



san-na. 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.

***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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

All Baptized Christians Are Invited To Receive Holy Communion at the Communion Rail. We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communicating Children with Them. 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 the Pastor's Instruction.

During Communion

Hymn #439: *"Soon and Very Soon"*

Hymn #820: *"O Savior, Precious Savior"*

Hymn #241: *"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

Hymn #251: *"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"*

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

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: #858 "Beautiful Savior"**

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Immortal, Invisible"

- St. Denio Todd Kendall

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Linda Netzley

Communion Assistant: Linda Weaver

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: Troy Adair

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Lowell Yost, Randy Brubaker, Linda Weaver, & Jean Lausch

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated
to the Glory of God by
The Leonhard Family
in memory of Kenneth Sweigart



*Hanging of the Greens/Congregational Christmas Party
Sunday, December 3, 2023 following Worship Service.
Appetizers and Coffee. Lunch (Chicken Noodle Soup,
Beef and Pork BBQ, Macaroni and Cheese) at 11:30 AM.
Please sign the chart on the table to attend by Sunday,
November 26, 2023.*

Christmas Gifts for Children

This year Social Ministry is asking the congregation to consider purchasing a gift for a child. You choose the gift of your choice for a child of any age you would like.

Return unwrapped gifts to the church by December 17th. Any questions please see Anita Soto or call 717-419-5520

Thank you and God Bless, Social Ministry



Bell Choir 6:00 Wednesday
November 29

Choir 7:00 Wednesday
November 29