

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

80 GOCKLEY ROAD

STEVENS, PA 17578

717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Jerry Petery, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Wren Dillon, 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.

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

Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr

Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Penn State Hospital: Ashley Leed

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

University of Pennsylvania Rehab Hospital, Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

Scott Coleman, Carl Nincke, Dave & Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Brenda Reed, Doris McNally, Amanda Stuck, Tyler Herr, Brandi Erhart, Emily Martin, John Robertson, Deb Correa, Bud Kneisley, Everett Kimball, Jason Mertz, Robert Evans, Martha Miller, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, 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:

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

Today we welcome Dr. Jay Hertzog playing on the Keyboard.

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “He”

-Richards / Mullan

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #879** *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

***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.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ROMANS 13:8-14

Lay Reader (Kimberley Craven): Reading from Romans the 13th chapter.

L: The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 119:33-40



I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

- ³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.
- ³⁵ **Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.**
- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.
- ³⁸ Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.
- ³⁹ **Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.**
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





*THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:15-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: *Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *“The Amor of Light”*

-Pastor Craven

***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:** Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.
A brief silence.

P: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need.
Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (*We pray especially for. . .*) Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

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

***OFFERING HYMN: "Open Our Eyes Lord"**

Open our eyes Lord
we want to see Jesus
to reach out and touch Him
and say that we love Him
open our ears Lord
and help us to listen
open our eyes Lord
we want to see Jesus

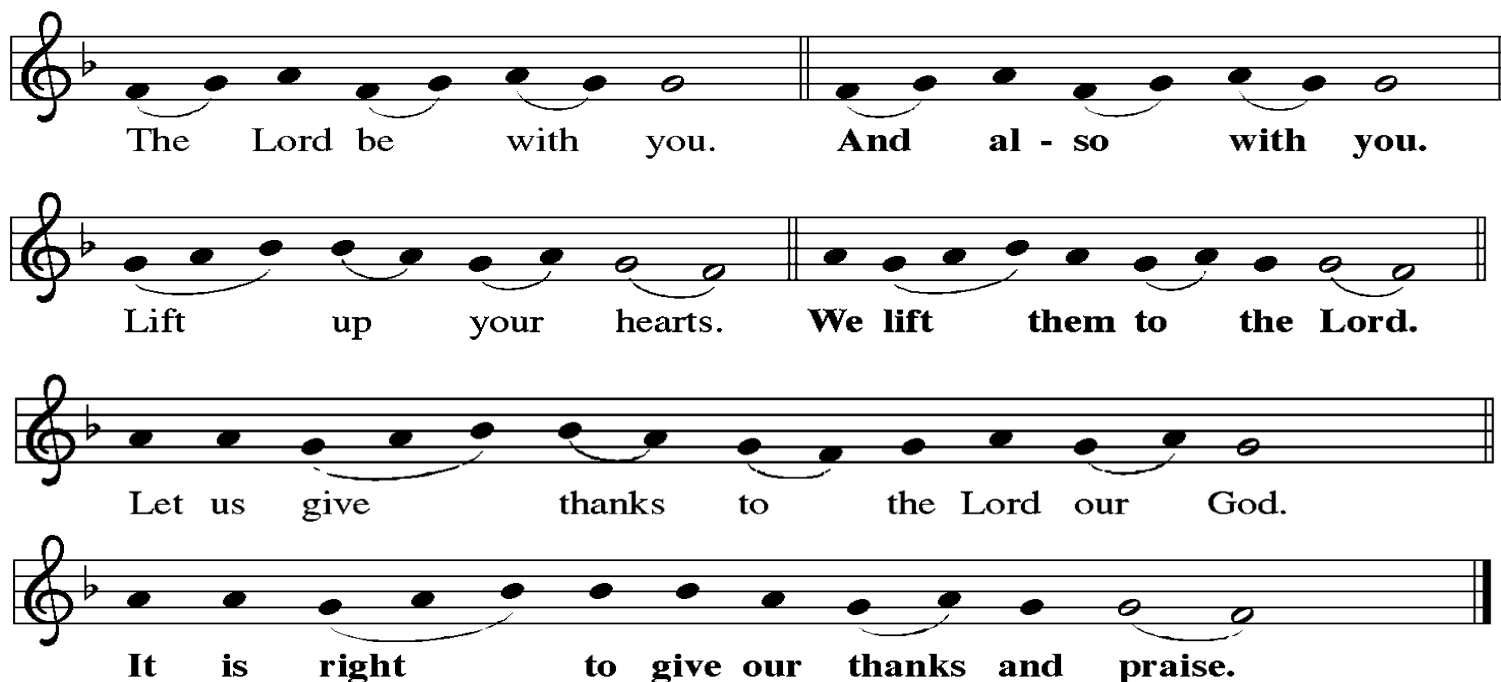
***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

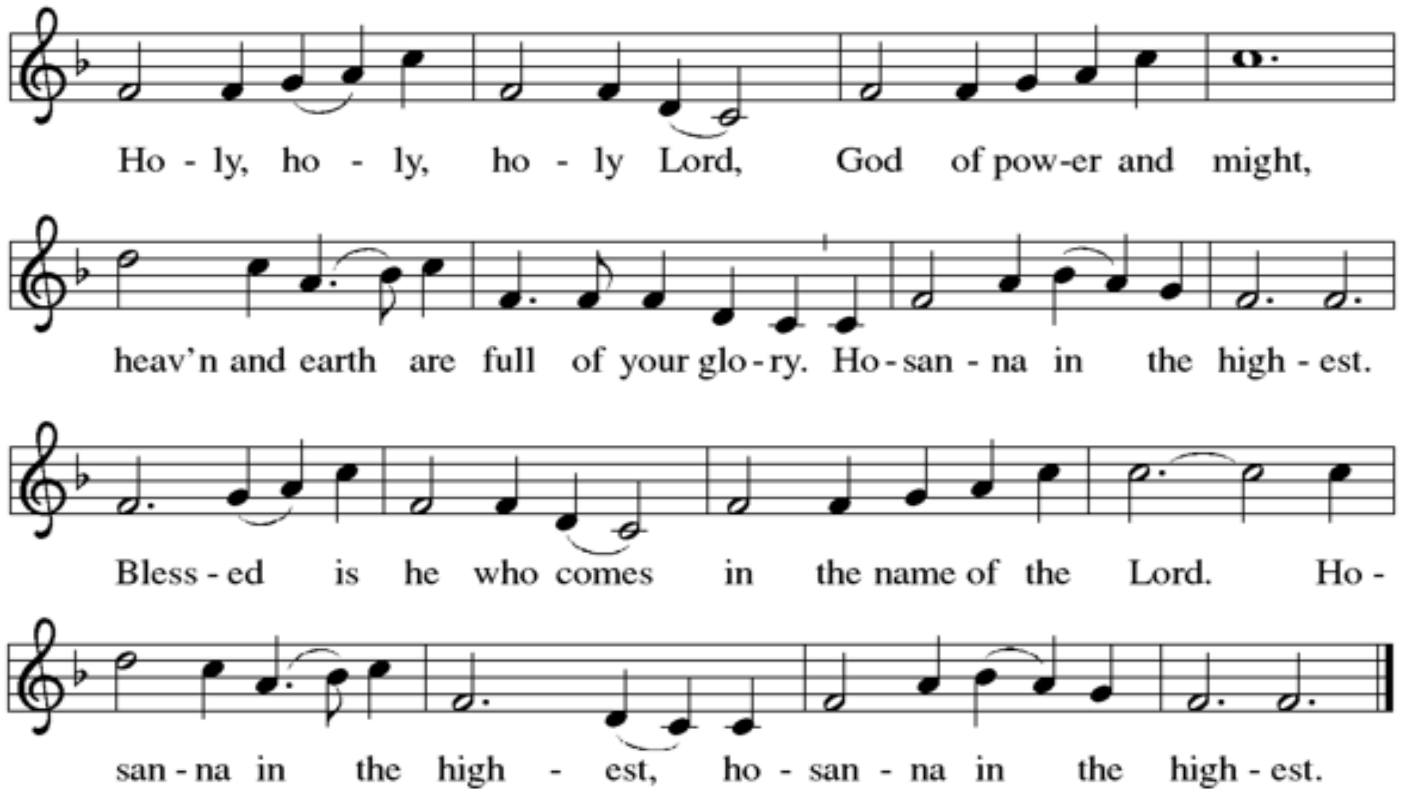
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



**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 #592: *"Just As I Am"*

Hymn #608: *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"*

Hymn #666: *"What Wondrous Love This Is"*

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: #836** *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

- Miller / Jackson-Miller



ALTAR FLOWERS In Honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary



Sunday School is back in session on
Sunday September 13th
From 10:15 am to 11:00 am.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Keyboard: Jay Hertzog

Lay Reader: Kimberley Craven

Communion Assistant: Brittany Hartlove

Psalmist: Pastor Craven

Videographer: The Boys

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Linda Weaver, Vic Richard and Alternate Lowell Yost

Weekly Receipts Report as of 09/03/2026	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	72
Online Attendance	118
General Receipts	\$1,188.00

Mums to celebrate the Fall season



The Special Flowers Committee will once again be taking orders for Mums to decorate the church sanctuary on Harvest Home Sunday; September 27th to honor of God's beautiful fall splendor.

Mums can be purchased to remember, and honor loved ones. One mum plant is a 9" pot for \$6.50.

Mums will be assorted fall colors, you can ask for a preferred color but it is not guaranteed. On the order form please list to whom you would like your flowers made in memory or in honor of. Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided and place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give to Pat Haller at church. Please make checks payable to Mellinger's Lutheran Church.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday September 13.
Please pick up flowers after the service on Sunday September 27.

Labor Day: Honoring Work and Rest

Labor Day gives us an opportunity to honor the work of our hands and the many ways people serve their families, churches and communities. As we pause from our usual routines, may we give thanks for meaningful work, remember those seeking employment and receive God's gift of renewing rest.



Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen





During the month of September we are having a food drive for Community Hive. The following list are items to consider contributing. Thank you for helping our neighbors.

As of Thursday September 3, 2026 their website <https://community-hive.org> under "Get Involved" the following items are listed as

Needed in the pantry:

Chunky Soups, Saltine Crackers, Cereal, Pasta Noodles, Canned Meat, Canned Fruits and Flavored Oatmeal Packs.

Other Items on their list to consider contributing:

Paper Towels

Laundry Soap

Toiletry Items

The following are other items we have contributed:

Cooking Oils (Olive or Canola)

Spices / Seasonings / Chili Powders

Taco Seasoning / Ranch Seasoning

Tomato Sauce (Jars or Cans)

Canned pastas (Chef Boyardee)

Dry Bagged Beans

Powdered Milk

Instant Coffee / Powdered Creamers

Oatmeal (packets, quick oats, steel cut)

Quinoa

Broths / Gravy

Jelly / Jams

Applesauce pouches / Jars

Canned Veggies (Peas and Carrots)

Condiments

Hamburger Helper

Instant Rice

Carrots

Cake Mixes / Icings

Sugar

Flour

Baking Powder

Baking Soda

Diapers

Feminine Products