

TWELETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 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:

Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Lori Oberholtzer, Jerry Petery, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Wren Dillon, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Dave Haldeman, Mike Leed, 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 for Medical Breakthroughs in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

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

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

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

Donna Kennedy, Robert Hackman, Marion Briere, Fred Griffith, Chris Castellano, Elvin Eberly, Carl Usner, Peggy French, Marion Gideon, Bishop Guy Edmiston, Pastor Marty Sheaffer, George Wolf, Glenn Eidemiller, 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 this morning.

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *"Impossible Things"* -Brown, McClarney, Tomlin & Cash

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #697** *"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"*

***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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 56:1, 6-8

Lay Reader (Pat Haller): Reading from Isaiah the 56th chapter.

L: The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

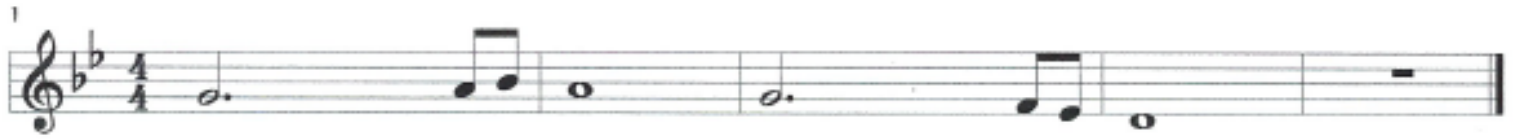
⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 67



Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the
na- | tions on earth. R

⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***THE HOLY GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 15:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: *Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.*

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: “*Courage*”

-Pastor Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: “*To Know Your Heart*”

- Sayburn, Schaap, Shirley & Baxter

***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:** With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

P: For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, 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: “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**

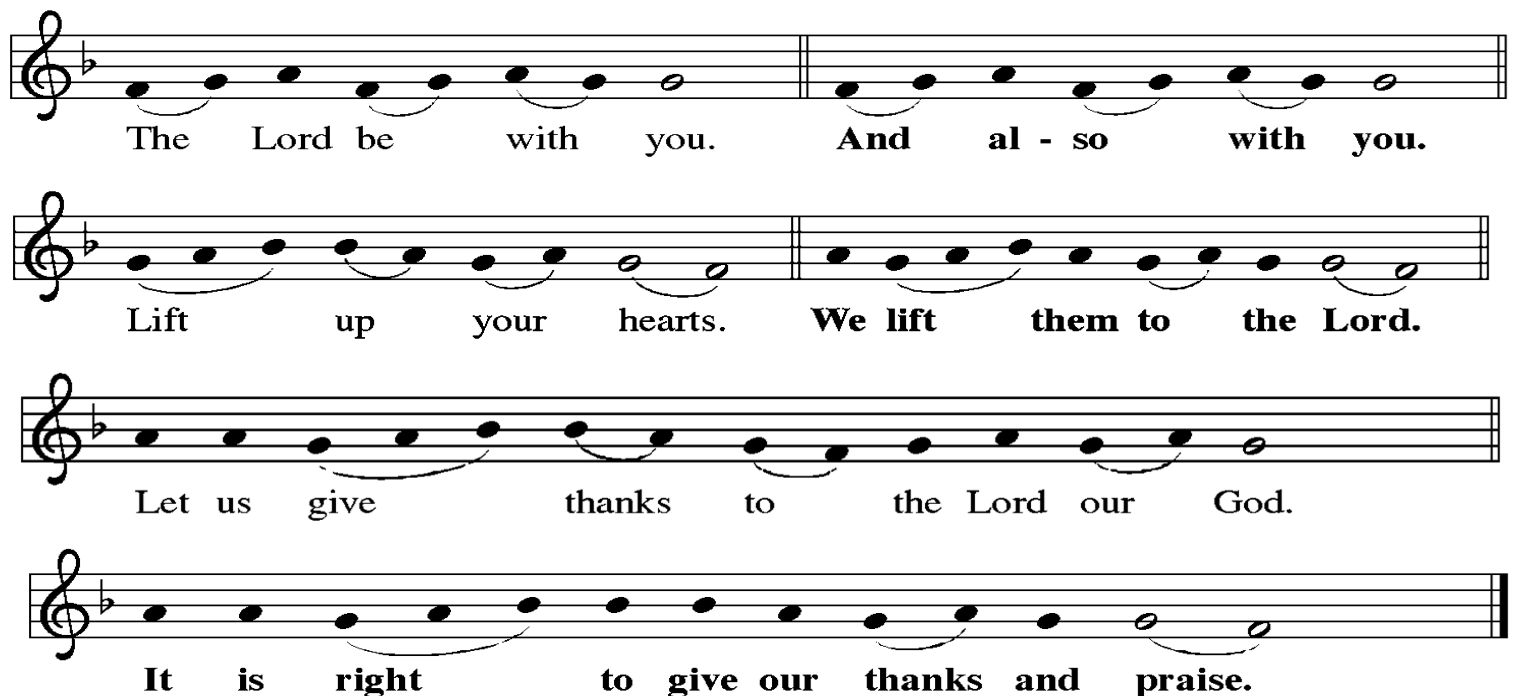
P: Merciful Father,

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 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.

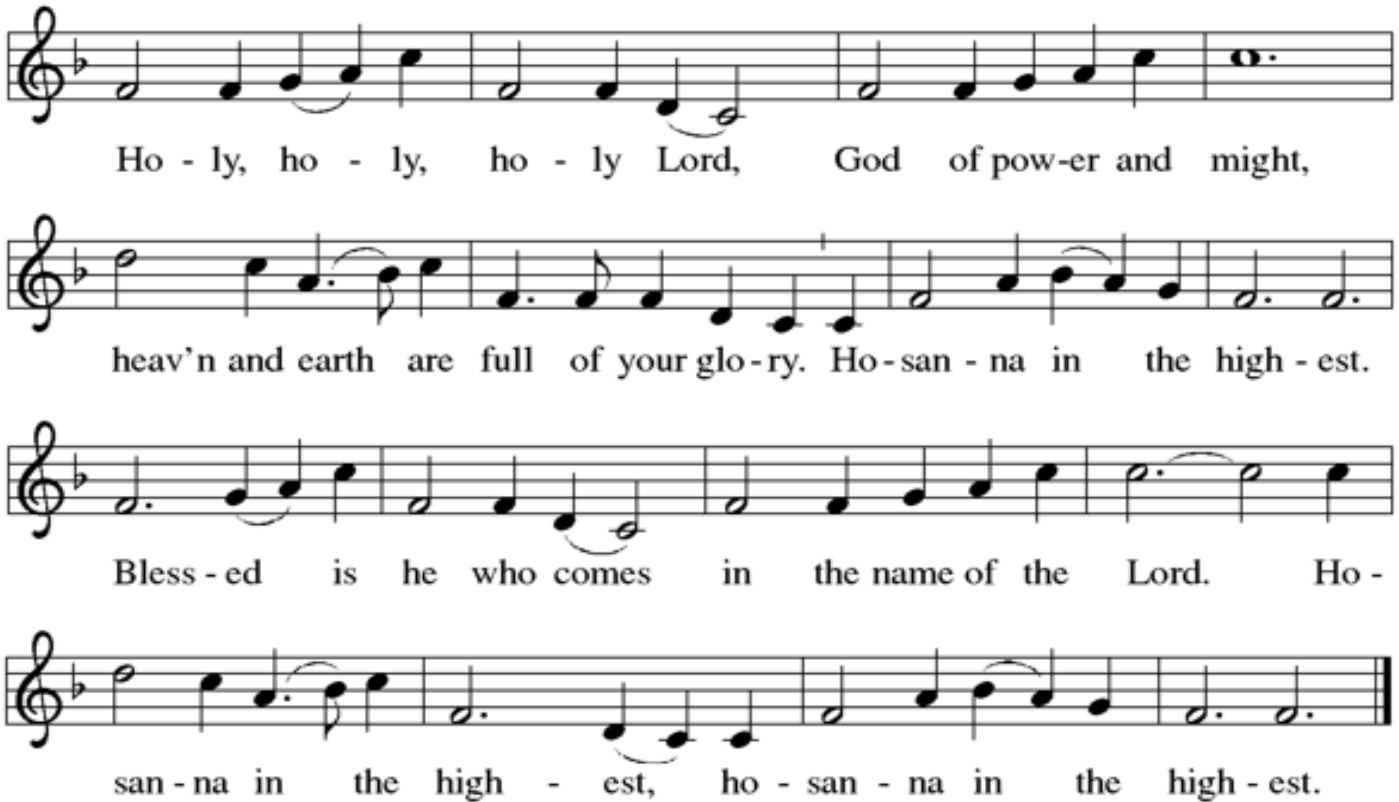
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 #807: *“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

Hymn #481: *“Come To The Table”* Sing x2

Hymn #491: *“Come Let Us Eat”*

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.

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:** *“The Trees of the Field”*

Insert sheet

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: Pat Haller

Communion Assistant: Kimberley Craven

Psalmist: Erin Biles

Videographer: John Biles

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Lowell Yost, Linda Weaver and Vic Richard

Weekly Receipts Report as of 08/13/26	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	56
Online Attendance	160
General Receipts	\$4,520.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



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.



CONCERT BENEFITTING COMMUNITY HIVE PRESENTED BY:

AHAVA

8/16/2026

Admission is free!

Please bring a non-perishable food or toiletry item for the Community Hive pantry.

Social Ministry will provide a picnic-style supper following the concert.



START 4:00 PM

MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

80 Gockley Rd, Stevens, PA

A free-will offering will be collected for Community Hive and to support the picnic-style supper.

Thank God for Teachers



It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

This article was copied from "Church Art" website in their September issue, the office utilizes this site for many of the clip arts and puzzles used in the bulletins and newsletters.