

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**OCTOBER 11, 2026**



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

## **MELLINGERS STAFF**

### **Pastor's Contact Information**

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### **Director of Music**

*Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575*

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### **Director of Christian Education**

*Diane Adair (717) 715-3124*

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

### **Please pray for the following people:**

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.

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

Ephrata Hospital: Eugene Hackman

Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr

Gardens at Stevens: Nevin McQuate

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Clifton Center in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer

### **Please pray for those in the Armed Forces:** Chris Weidman

### **Please pray for friends and family at home:**

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:**

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

*Today we welcome Pastor Mark Jeske*

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “*Prayer*”

- Camille St. Saens  
(1835-1921)

## †GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

**Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: #362 “At the Lamb’s High Feast”**

## **\*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.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## † GOD'S WORD †

### FIRST READING

### PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Lay Reader (Linda Weaver): Reading from Philippians the 4th chapter.

*L: Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALMODY

## PSALM 23



*You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they | comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of  
my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. R**

## CHILDRENS SERMON

- Pastor Jeske

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

Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom pow'r and love  
Our God is an awesome God

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**MATTHEW 22:1-14**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 14th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*P: Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE: “RSVP”**

- Reverend Mark Jeske

## **\*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: Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P: We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P: We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (*regions in crisis may be named*) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. 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: “On Eagles Wings”**

#### *Refrain*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

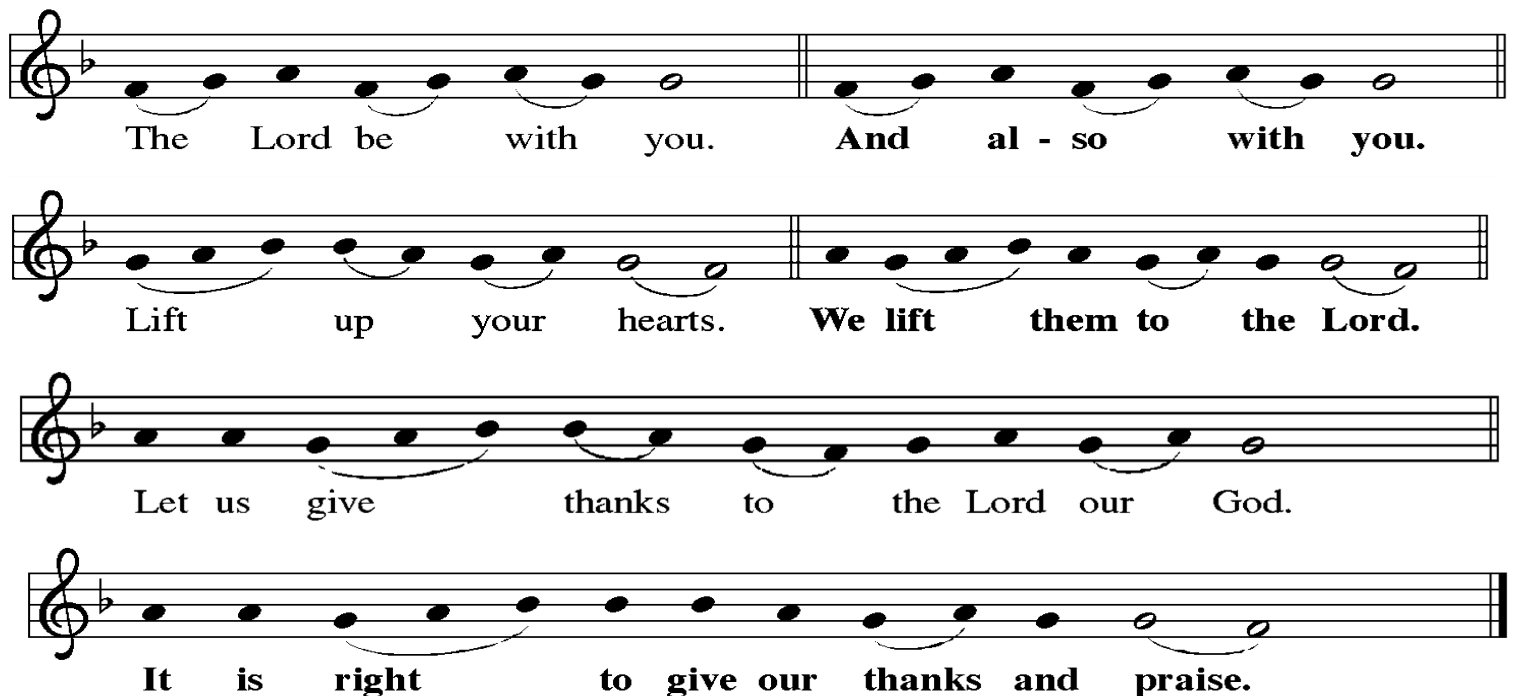
## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**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 quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

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.

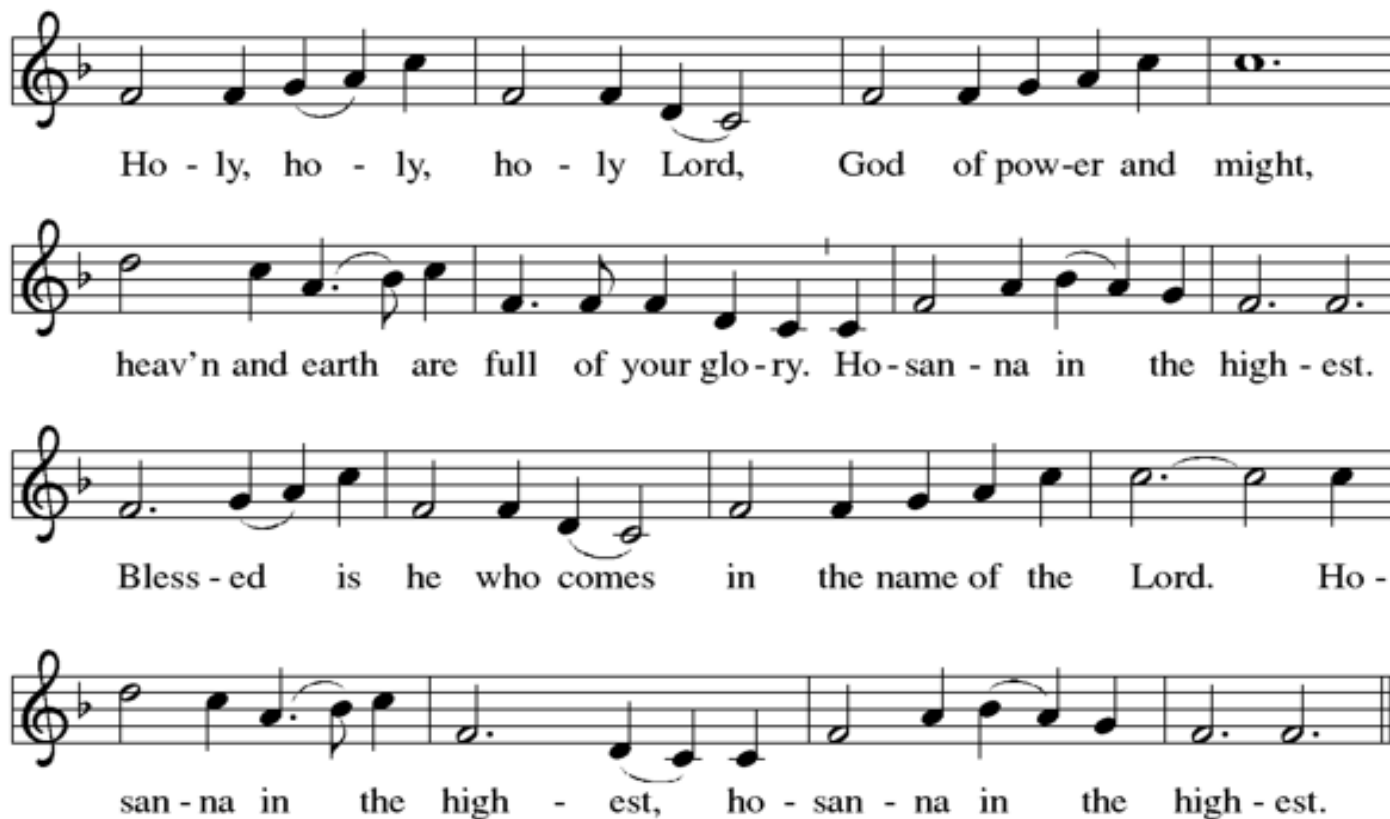
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **\*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 #515:** *“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

**Hymn #461:** *“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*

**Hymn #462:** *“Now We Join in Celebration”*

**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:** #873 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

**DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *“Rigadoon”*

- Henry Purcell  
(1659-1695)

## Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Mark Jeske

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Linda Weaver

Communion Assistant: Linda Weaver

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: John Biles

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Nancy Eberly, Troy Adair Alt Randy Brubaker

Today we welcome Pastor Mark Jeske.

Pastor Jeske is currently serving as the Chaplain at Luther Acres. He previously served at two congregations in the Red Lion area and was a Chaplain for thirteen years at an Episcopal Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was born.

Pastor Jeske grew up in Pennsylvania and has now returned and we are pleased to welcome him to Mellingers this morning.



*The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are  
dedicated to the Glory of God by  
Donald & Linda Netzley  
in Memory of our parents.*

| Weekly Receipts Report as of 10/08/2026 |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)       | 62         |
| Online Attendance                       | 170        |
| General Receipts                        | \$6,345.00 |



Gene Hackman's new address is:

Ephrata Manor

99 Bethany Road

Ephrata, Pa 17522

At this time we do not have a room number.



**LAMP** — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom.

Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,"* reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life.

Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13).

In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

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

# 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.*