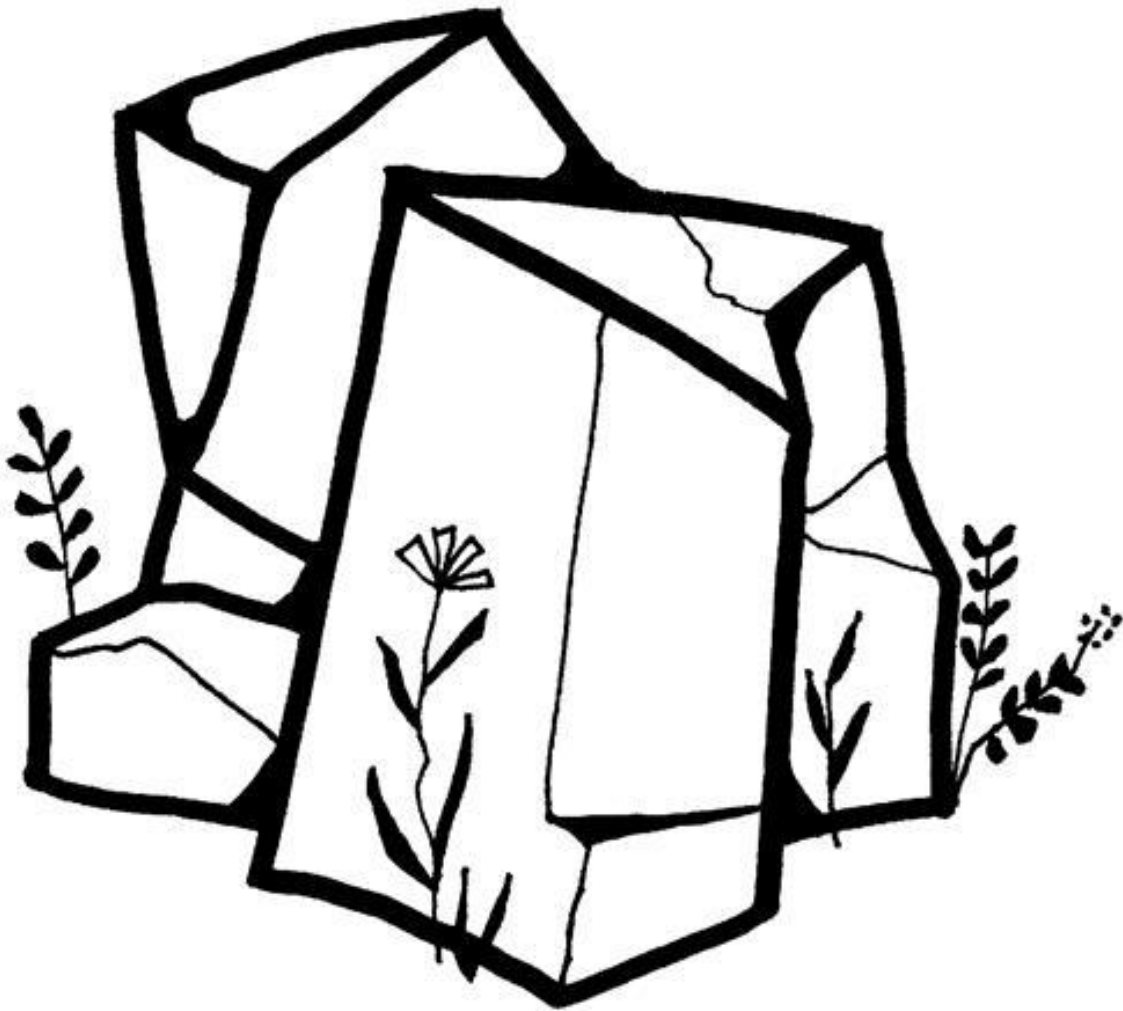


THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 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

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:

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, 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 Firestone & 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:

Carl Nincke, 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, Bud Kneisley, 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:

Rob French, 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

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *“Holy Manna”*

-William Moore
arr. Douglas Wagner

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #807** *“Come Thou Fount”*

***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 God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ROMANS 12:1-8

Lay Reader (Kristi Leonhard): Reading from Romans the 12th chapter.

L: In response to God’s merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit’s renewing work. God’s grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

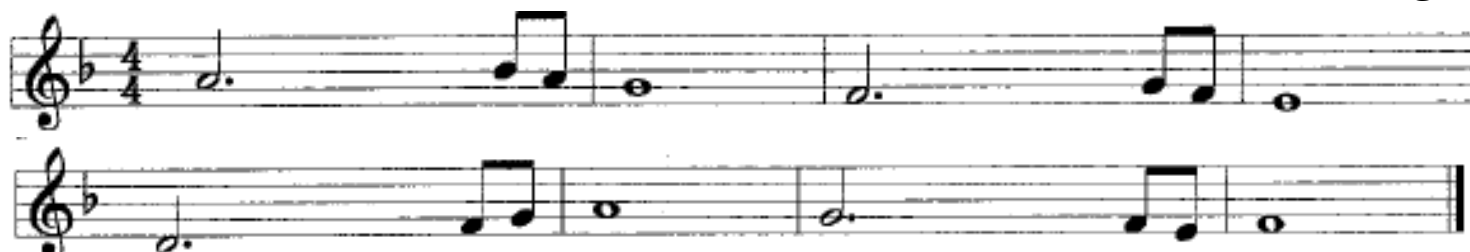
³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 138



O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.

³ **When I called, you | answered me;**
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O Lord,**
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. R

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶ The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.

⁷ **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;**
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my
enemies; your right | hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;**
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not
abandon the works | of your hands. R

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *“The Renewing of Your Minds ”* -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: 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: God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation (*local areas of ecological concern may be named*). Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster (*especially*). Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. 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**

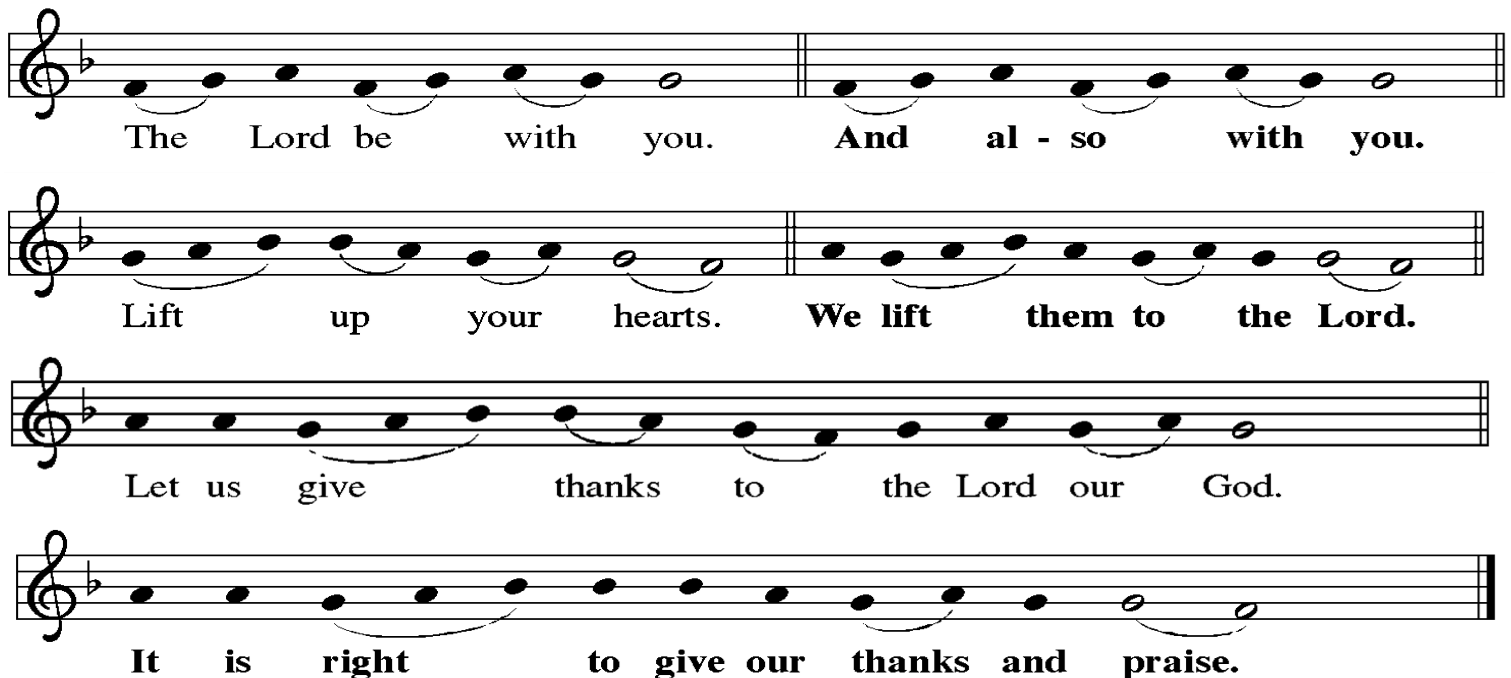
P: Merciful Father,

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

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

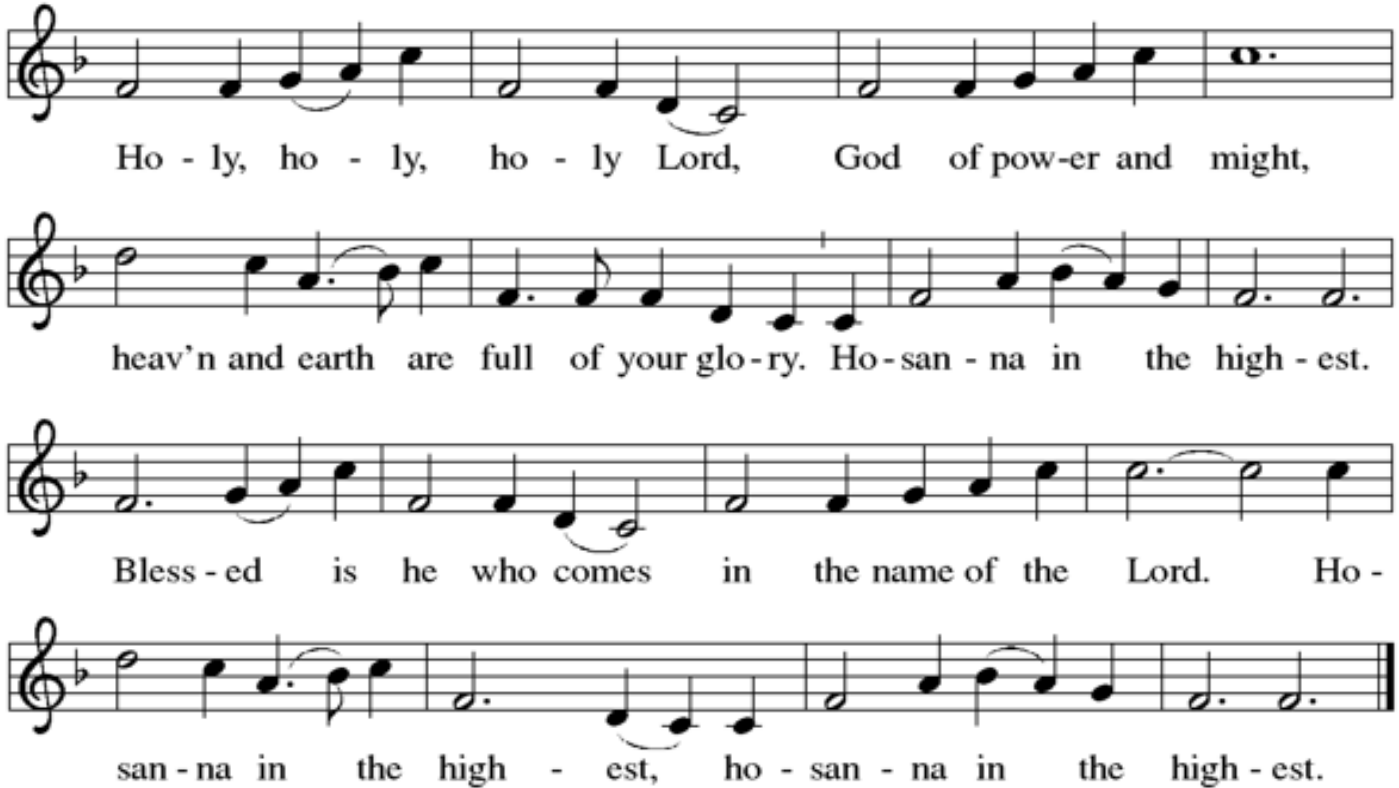
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 #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.

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: #544** *“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”*

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Finale in C”*

-Henry Purcell

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Kristi Leonhard

Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmists:

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Lowell Yost, Randy Brubaker and Nancy Eberly

Weekly Receipts Report as of 08/17/2026	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	71
Online Attendance	216
General Receipts	\$1,920.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



Mums to celebrate the Fall season

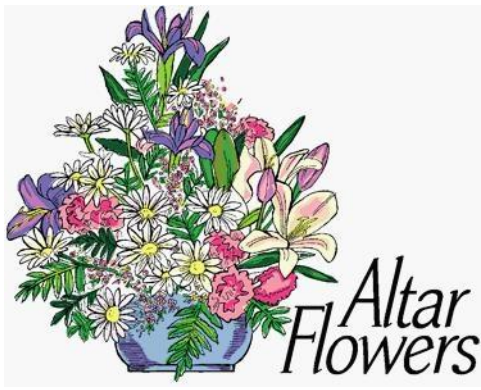


The Special Flowers Committee will once again be taking orders for Mums to decorate the church sanctuary on Harvest Home Sunday; September 27th to honor of God's beautiful fall splendor.

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.



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God by
Randy & Vicky Meckley in Honor of their
59th Wedding Anniversary.



*Cocalico School District
Will start School again on
Tuesday August 25th*



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



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 August 17, 2026 their website <https://community-hive.org> under "Get Involved" the following items are listed as Needed in the pantry:

Canned Fruits, Chunky Soups, Cereal, Snacks and Canned Meat.

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)

Crackers

Spices / Seasonings / Chili Powders

Taco Seasoning / Ranch Seasoning

Tomato Sauce (Jars or Cans)

Canned pastas (Chef Boyardee)

Dry Bagged Beans

Noodles

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