

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



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

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

Home: (717) 738-3838

Mobile: (717) 468-9049

E-Mail: revtlc@ptd.net

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, 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:

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, 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

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “*Meditation*”

-Dean Bye

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*GATHERING HYMN: #835

“All Creatures Worship God Most High”

*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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

Lay Reader (Martha Brubaker): Reading from Romans the 14th chapter.

L: This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 103:1-13



Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

- ¹ Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—
- ³ **who forgives | all your sins**
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ O Lord, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ **You made known your | ways to Moses**
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
- ⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
- ¹¹ **For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord. R

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and

pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

-Pastor Herbener

***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: Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Raise up leaders (*like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today*) to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (*name/s, and*) all those 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 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 musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes with various rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

*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 musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the previous section, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

***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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

**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 #785: *"It Is Well With My Soul"*
Hymn #770: *"Give Me Jesus"*
Hymn #838: *"Beautiful Savior"*
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: #359** *“Where Love and Charity Prevail”*

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Allegro Maestoso”*

-Felix Mendelssohn

Today we welcome Pastor Henry Herbener to Mellingers. Pastor Herbener is a retired Lutheran pastor and former Dean of the North Lancaster Conference of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and last served as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Ephrata.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Henry Herbener

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Martha Brubaker

Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: John Biles

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Troy Adair, Randy Brubaker and Alternate Joan Moore

Weekly Receipts Report as of 09/10/2026	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	59
Online Attendance	169
General Receipts	\$4,330.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



The following dates are available for dedication:
 September 20
 October 18 & 25
 November 15

*If you select one of the available dates
 contact Ashley via email, a note in the office
 or leave a voicemail.*

Choir practice Wednesday
 September 23 & 30 at 6:00 pm.

Bell Choir Practice Wednesday
 September 30 at 7:00 pm.





Ahava
Will be playing during
Sunday Service on
September 20th and 27th



A special note from Pastor Traci Glover:

Weaving the Community Together

The second annual Weave Retreat will be held Saturday, October 3rd, 2026, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 26 Owl Hill Road, Lititz, PA 17543.

The day will be spent assembling 12' x 12' crocheted or knitted squares into afghan-sized blankets. The squares can be made ahead of time, using any color yarn and any stitch of worsted weight, machine washable yarn. Because of allergies, it is requested wool yarn not be used for the squares. Once assembled into afghans, the afghans will be distributed to several local agencies and organizations serving those in transitional housing. Lunch and light snacks will be available throughout the day. Last year's event featured twenty-two people from nine congregations coming together to assemble twenty blankets. The completed blankets were donated to organizations in Lancaster County assisting with homelessness, including the Lancaster Hub.

Registration can be completed online by using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/UjmrKY5JPybrfVKWA> from now until September 20th.

For more information or questions, please call Pr. Traci Glover at (717) 979-8521.