

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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durhamlutheran.org

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July 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "DAWN"- Josiah James

GATHERING

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
thy and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

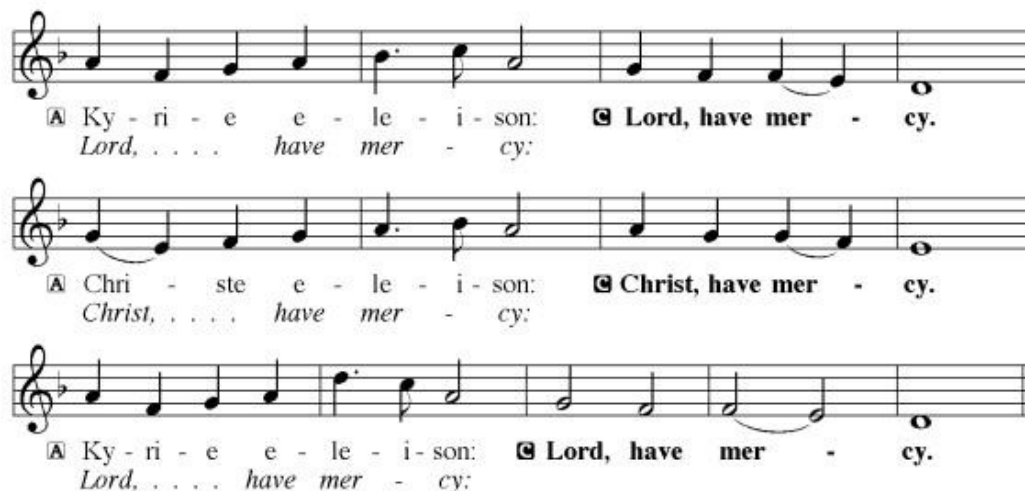
Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓢ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Ⓢ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Ⓐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Ⓢ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
 I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 II you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

L: A reading from the eighteenth chapter of Genesis.

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 138

- L: ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- C: 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 above all things.**
- L: ³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
- C: ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- L: ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.
- C: ⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- L: 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.
- C: ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading -Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

L: A reading from the second chapter of Colossians.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[¹⁶Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of

thinking,¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

(Stand if you are able)



The Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the eleventh chapter.

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

P: ¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if

the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 770

(Stand if you are able)

Give Me Jesus

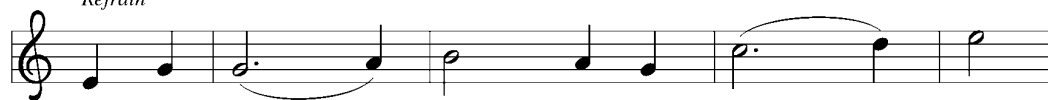


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,,

C: Hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Thy Word" by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh-ing rain.

Refrain
All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Plow the Fields and Scatter'. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first four staves form the main body of the hymn, and the last two staves form the refrain. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WID DER EIGEN Johann A. D. Schulz 1747, 1800

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

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, 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.

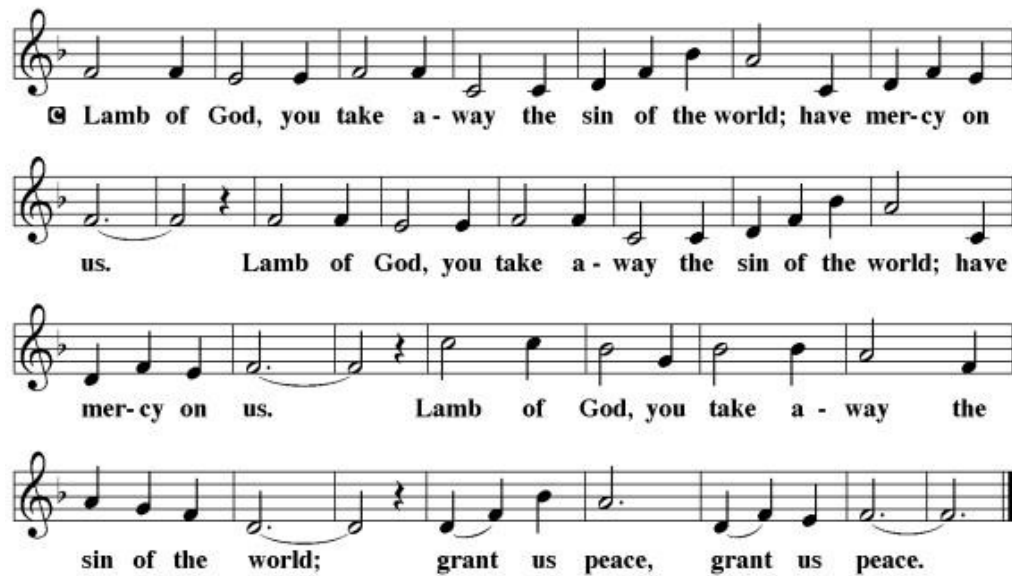
P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.



☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 742

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rowsshare?
Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Prayer after Communion

P: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Sending Song: ELW 543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Our Outreach envelopes for July and August will be split between the two food banks.

Don't Forget! VBS is collecting donations for Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor box in the narthex.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>			
July	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
28		Karen & Jim Beerer (35)	
30	Mary Erceg		
31	Adam Phillipps		
<u>THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES</u>			
Sunday, July 27 7th Sunday After Pentecost		10:00 AM	Communion Worship
Tuesday, July 29		1:00-3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Pastor's Vacation Starts
Wednesday, July 30		6:30-7:30	Wednesday Sundaes
Thursday, July 31		9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Saturday, August 2			St. Peter's Riegelsville 175th Celebration at Riegelsville Borough Park
<u>UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</u>			
Sunday, August 3 8th Sunday After Pentecost		10:00 AM	Communion Worship Rev. David Lutcher
Monday, August 4		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, August 6		6:30-7:30 PM	Wednesday Sundaes
Thursday, August 7		9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Admin Office hours
Sunday, August 10 9th Sunday After Pentecost		10:00 AM	Communion Worship Rev. David Lutcher
Monday, August 11		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, August 13		6:30-7:30pm	Last Wednesday Sundaes!
Thursday, August 14		9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Admin Office hours



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Al Boorse; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mecham; Nancy Morris; Bradley Mundt; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Dennis Phillipps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Debbie Statler; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound:

James Altemose; Jayne Miller.

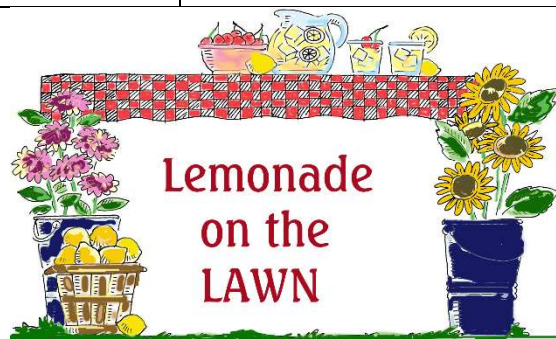
For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Doris Calverley; Cleo Eck; Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ; Jason Gourley; Kenneth Hager; Vivian Harwick; Frank Mammana; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Mark Harwick and Nancy Moskella
Greeter(s)	Kathy and Joe Hlavaty
Acolyte	
Lector	Joe Hlavaty
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Mark Harwick+ help
Counting Team	Mark Harwick
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dianna Streletz



Provided by Kathy and Joe Hlavaty! Thank you!