NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +OCTOBER 8, 2023+ 9:00 AM



Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church Reinholds, Pennsylvania

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

Face masks are optional inside Church building. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so.

Offering plates are passed. Additionally, there is an offering drop box in the narthex. Online giving via cell phone is easy and secure. Just use this QR code from your phone's camera app.

Visitors are welcome and invited to make themselves at home. If you're interested in learning more about Swamp Lutheran, have questions, or are looking for a church home, speak with Pastor Scott or church members. Please complete a visitor card and place in an offering drop box or sign guest register in narthex.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (lobby) by the coat rack.

The worship service is printed in this bulletin. **Hymns** are found in the red hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church—gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, connects us through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

Children's active presence is welcomed in our worship. There are special kids bulletins available in the narthex.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. We believe "Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink." (<u>Small Catechism</u>, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude Jesus Loves Me

RON MALLORY

HANDBELL CHOIR

congregational responses are in **bold type.**

stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, I Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS ELW 803

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS ARR. RONALD KAUFFMAN HANDBELL CHOIR

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.
³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me

and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall. and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel. and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

righteousness, but heard a cry!

PSALM 80:7-15 read responsively

it took root and filled the land.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.
⁹You cleared the ground for it;

¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

- ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea and its branches to the river.
- ¹²Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- ¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven:
- ¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I

do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the

heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

SERMON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN EVERY AGE

ELW 729

VS. 1,3,8

CREED

We confess the faith of the church, the faith into which we were baptized:

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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

You may share the peace safely. A simple nod to those next to you, with the words "peace be with you" exchanged is always sufficient.

Sit

MEAL

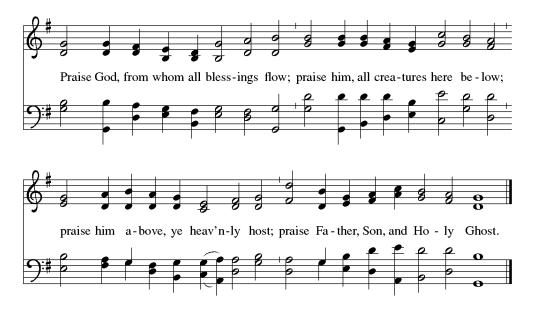
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

As the offering is brought to the table, the congregation stands and sings

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

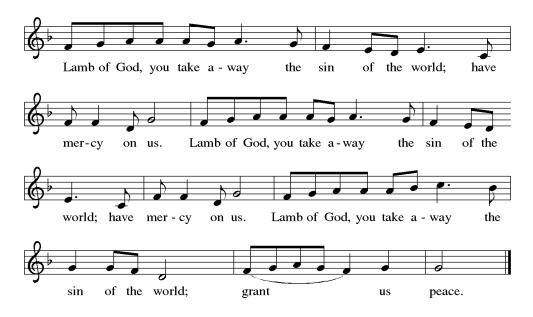
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD remain standing



Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Following the direction of the ushers, approach by the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Please get a cup from the stack by the first pew before receiving bread.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION (CONGREGATION ENCOURAGED TO SING)

Come, Let Us Eat

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 491

ELW 595

After all have communed, stand

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of glory,

☐ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN THINE THE AMEN

ELW 826

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Ed Miller, family of Charles Hoppman, John Wesner, Michael Wargo, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Clair Sweigart, Faith Moyer, Michael A. Crowther, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, Ray Fox, Gene Miller, Kelly Martin, Jean Wolf, Kenny Rauch,

Honey Notobartolo, Charles Moyer, Anna Habecker, Doreen McGonnell, Bobby Hershey, Anna Hershey, Marilyn Gelsinger, Caitlin DePaul, Edith Snyder, Edgar Gress, Jackson Sensenig, Sharon Levan, JJ Johnson, Robert Bachman, Russ Herbein, Teresa Sweigart, Mel and Troy Ulrich, Janey Malafarina-West, Brandon Bailey, family of Jerry Werner, family of Barry Weitzel, family of Bill Fetter, family of Rev. James Miller, family of Rev. Bob Kurz.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of loved ones by Jane Lesher.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of Gerald Werner by the congregation.

THANK YOU to Rev. Bonnie Oplinger who served as organist today.

TAKE NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner (717) 336-7077 or mark Flower Calendar in Narthex if you would like flowers or the candle to be given in honor or memory of someone. Upcoming Sundays open.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (<u>secretary@swamplutheran.org</u>) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2023.

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. Full prayer list is in the newsletter each month.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write "Action Fund" in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS. The Thrivent "Action Teams" program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran's activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: lgockley2@gmail.com or call 717-203-8551

US FLAGS - When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you for your consideration.

Gently Used Sneakers Needed. Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear

including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is an *urgent shortage* of canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, canned meat and tuna, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, cereal, and toilet paper. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



To our knitters and crocheters, our prayer shawls are completely gone. We need Prayer Shawls! We have generously shared with many different organizations, and we have several Nursing Homes waiting for them. The VA Hospital has advised that they have no storage available for any more lap robes now. Any that have not yet been brought to the church will be

distributed when we receive them. Please switch your focus to prayer shawls. When you finish, please bring it to church and leave in library. *THANK YOU!*

HARVEST HOME-The Sunday School classes are collecting items for our food pantry for Harvest Home from now through Sunday October 29. The students invite the congregation to help. Please put donations in the Harvest Home boxes at the front/back door. All items will be displayed on Sunday October 29. Items Needed: Paper supplies - tissues, toilet paper, paper towel Canned goods - soup, vegetables, fruit, canned meat - tuna, spam, chicken, and pasta - Mac n cheese, any noodle variety



INFO FOR PIG STOMACH TAKE OUT

Lip balm

Date: October 21, 2023 **Time:** 1:00-4:00 pick up

Cost: \$29.00

Pre-Order by: October 16, 2023 **Call church office:** 717.336.2849

Pick up at Swamp Lutheran Church Whole Cooked Pig Stomachs only Proceeds Benefit Swamp's Outreach program.

BLESSING BAGS – To honor our veterans this year we are asking the congregation to purchase items from the provided list to assemble into "Blessing Bags" for Homeless Veterans in our area. Please bring your purchased donations to the church by October 29 and leave them in the library. Feedback from this same outreach last year is one of great appreciation. A small token of our appreciation for the service of our veterans. Bags to be distributed on Veterans Day. Items needed are:

Hunting Hand Warmers

Small mirror

Small bottle Hand Sanitizer

Small toothbrush & toothpaste

Warm socks – can be wool

Gloves

Warm scarf

Warm hat

Deodorant

Pager

Razor Weather Proof Blankets Band-Aids Antibiotic Ointment

POINSETTIAS -It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias and cyclamens. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Pricing will not be known until sometime later in October. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions. The following information needs to be provided. Deadline for ordering is November 26.

NAME	Phone Number					
Poinsettias	RED WHIT	E				
In Memory o	f					
In Honor of _						
This Week in the Parish (October 9- October 15)						
October 10	6:00PM	Zoom Bible Study				
October 11	1:00PM-4:00PM 7:00PM	EASS Food Distribution Choir				
October 12	9:00AM 6:30PM	Community Meal Prep Learning Committee				
October 15	8:00AM & 9:00AM 10:15AM	Worship Sunday School				
UPCOMING EVENTS						
October 21	1:00PM-4:00PM	Pig Stomach Takeout				
October 28	7:00AM-10:00AM	Disaster Response Breakfast Fundraiser				
October 29	5:00PM-8:00PM	SLY Fall Fest				
DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK						

Monday, October 9 Psalm 144; Ezekiel 19:10-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 10 Psalm 144; Isaiah 27:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 11 Psalm 144; Song of Solomon 8:5-14; John 11:45-57

Thursday, October 12 Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:1-8a; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 13 Psalm 23; Isaiah 22:8b-14; James 4:4-10

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, October 15 Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION FALL EVENTS

Go to Lutherancamping.org to register and for more information/events or call 717-677-8211.

FALL FOLIAGE DAYS OCTOBER 22/NAWAKA & OCTOBER 29/ KIRCHENWALD 1:00-6:00 PM

Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall afternoon! Enjoy some of your favorite camp activities. An evening meal will be provided. Please register by October 13. \$15/person (4 and under free)

QUILT/CRAFT AUCTION/NAWAKWA NOVEMBER 5, 2023

This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the Camping Corporation's Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities. Dinner follows the Live Auction.

2:00 pm – Silent Auction of Handmade Craft Items

3:00 pm – Live Auction of Quilts

Oct 28 – Nov 2 – Online Bidding – High bids will become starting bids on Nov 5.

WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT/NAWAKA NOVEMBER 10 - 12

Try new techniques, share your latest creations, work on UFO's, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of camp in the fall. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Brommer. All meals provided. Please register (\$175) by November 1 or earlier as this retreat will fill up!

ADVENT DAY APART DECEMBER 9/THE WITTEL FARM 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

We don't like to wait for anything, especially Christmas. With all its secular attraction, this holiday is often a focus on over-indulgence, and too often neglected is the best gift of all...one worth our waiting. You are invited to The Wittel Farm for a day apart from the busyness of life for prayer and contemplation as we journey toward the celebration of Christmas.

The registration fee of \$15 includes lunch.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 8, 2023 LECTIONARY 27 Solidarity in Rejection

People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his rejection in a significant way: "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God's purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God's means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus' rejection becomes the opposite: God's acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn't eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849 Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272 Grady Daub, Assistant Organist – 717-917-2430 Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798 Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM & 9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM

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