

***The Lutheran Church of the Covenant***  
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”***



*All Saints Sunday*  
*November 6, 2022*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise this God of new life together!

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
- Portions marked with \* are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.
- We will commune from our respective seats, where the presiding minister will invite you to open your respective cups with the Communion elements. We believe this meal is for everyone who wishes to partake, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof. This tangible gift of God's love is meant for the world to enjoy!

### ***Our Worship Leaders & Staff***

Ministers  
Presiding Minister  
Organist  
Lector  
Parish Administrator  
Custodian

All People  
The Rev. Bradley Ross  
Robin Crawford  
Harry Werner  
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush  
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Rd.  
Maple Heights, OH 44137  
Phone: 216-662-0370 Website: [covenantmaplehts.org](http://covenantmaplehts.org)  
Email: [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net)*

## All Saints Sunday

*In baptism, God makes sets us free to be saints in the world. In communion, God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today, we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” However, we also petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the call of our Lord to be his living disciples. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and sustained by Jesus' grace, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's eternal glory. Thanks be to God!*

Prelude *When the Saints Go Marching In* (Hayes)

Welcome & Announcements

\*Thanksgiving for Baptism

*We praise God for the gift of baptism that forever unites us through God's love with one another, and sets us free to serve as disciples for the sake of the world.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water,  
source of mercy, tender and mighty,  
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.  
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water,  
satisfying the thirst of all living things,  
sustaining life in our communities we call home,  
nourishing and delighting us.  
We bless you for all the gifts of water surrounding us.  
Your love flows through the water of baptism  
joined to your life-giving Word:  
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,  
your sea of deliverance from death into life,  
your healing river washing any sin away,  
your living water springing up to eternal life.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.  
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.  
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

Continue to shower us all with new life.  
Fill us with your love.  
Clothe us, and all your precious children, with your never-ending grace.  
Embolden us to do justice.  
Bless us to love mercy.  
O God, guide us to walk humbly with you,  
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen!**

\*Gathering Hymn    *For All The Saints* (Verses 1,3,5,7)

ELW #422

\*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.**

\*Canticle of Praise    *This is the Feast*

ELW pg. 101

\*A Time of Remembrance for All the Saints

O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world. We are surrounded by this great, rejoicing cloud of witnesses. Yet even as we name these most precious ancestors, we thank God for others whose names we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ. We remember before you our beloved Bob Buettner, Don Rusher, Jr., Nancy Werner, Linda Wright, and all those we name in our heart...

For our entire Covenant family, for all who have shared  
their lives and faith among us,  
for all who have done good works in this beloved community off faith,  
we praise you, God of everlasting life.  
**Thanks be to you, O God!**

For those who teach and those who learn,  
for those who serve and share the gospel, for those who are still to come,  
that faithfulness and service may abound,  
we cling to your everlasting hope, God of sustaining grace.  
**Thanks be to you, O God!**

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another,  
and our whole life to Christ our Lord.  
**Thanks be to you, O God!**

O God, we lift up your whole church, the living body of Christ, throughout the world.  
Make all its members grow in love for you and for one another. As you have received  
those who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, bring us at  
last with them into the light of your presence, that in union with all your saints we may  
give you glory forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen!**

#### First Lesson

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

*The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.*

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: <sup>2</sup>I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, <sup>3</sup>and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

<sup>15</sup>As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. <sup>16</sup>I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: <sup>17</sup>“As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. <sup>18</sup>But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

Word of God, word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

6

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

\*Gospel Acclamation



\*Gospel

Luke 6:20-31

*In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>20</sup>Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

ELW #424



**\*Nicene' Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, your church rests on the faithful who came before us, including with our Covenant family. Give all bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders the will to carry the church forward and discern your will for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, the earth is yours and all that dwells within it. Care for places ravaged by natural disasters. Quell raging fires and halt destruction caused by flooding. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, you raise up leaders to guide your people. Kindle in them a passion to care for others, a desire to seek the common good, and the courage to love their enemies. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, you bless those who are poor, hungry, and reviled. Provide food, housing, and security to all who are vulnerable or in crisis. May those who have more than enough give generously. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, hold our Covenant congregation in community with one another. Nurture a spirit of abundant hospitality and intentional inclusion among us, welcoming the gifts of adults and children. Inspire creative visions for our life together. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, we remember in thanksgiving all those who have died, including Bob, Don, Jr., Nancy, and Linda, and all our dearly beloved. Wipe away our tears and comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. **Amen!**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!

**And also with you.**

Music Interlude *Prayer* (Andrews)

\*Great Thanksgiving

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

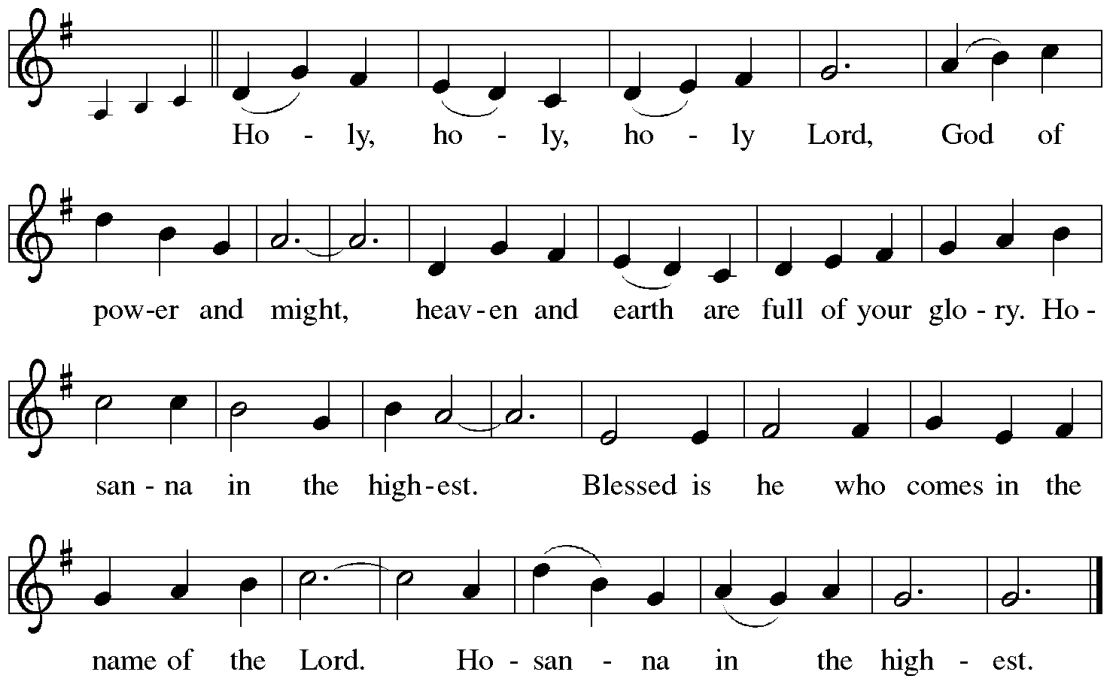
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the witness of your saints  
you show us the hope of our calling  
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,  
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.  
And so, with Bob, Don, Nancy, Linda, and all the saints,  
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### \*Thanksgiving at the Table

With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas, we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds. With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present, we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations. With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross, we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth. With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:

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.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death. With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection. With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning.

With Mary and all who sang of your greatness, we give you thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit. Continue to enliven this gathering in this bread and this cup as the holy presence of the body and blood of Christ.

Form us into a communion of service, and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek. With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal, lead us to a future we cannot yet see, and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love, we proclaim blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to you, o God, forever and ever. **Amen!**

**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

Christ spreads a table of new life before you.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Thanks be to God!**

Communion

Music Interlude *Who Is This Host Arrayed in White?* (Schack)

\*Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.

Enliven us to be your body in the world  
and to serve those who are in need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

\*Blessing

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen!**

\*Sending Hymn *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In*

ACS#950



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the  
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the  
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the  
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they  
 5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that  
 hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.  
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.  
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.  
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.  
 num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

\*Dismissal

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world!

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *Praise God With a Mighty Voice* (Smith)

Praying Together

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:** Gayle Agg, Sheena Cameron, Joan Clark, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Steve Senderak, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Maud Wright, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family, the victims of the shooting behind the Maple Heights Food Pantry.

General Fund receipts for ending 10/30/2022:\$3630.75

### ***Lectionary Blog: Saints***

Mother Teresa, laboring all those years among the poor and dying in Calcutta. St. Francis, abandoning his riches to become a beggar for the poor. Albert Schweitzer, leaving behind great careers as a world-renowned New Testament scholar and church organist to study medicine and go live in the jungle, serving those with no other hope of health care. A man in a small town in North Carolina, spending the last 15 years of his life tenderly taking care of his wife of more than 60 years. A woman in Nashville who, after her pastor husband died of cancer in his 40s, raised her four children by giving music lessons and serving her church as organist/choir director/education director and social conscience. The list could on and on.

When I look back at “these saints,” both those I have known personally and those I have only heard or read about, I don’t feel very saintly myself. I feel like the little boy Lois Wilson wrote about meeting at her door on Halloween. The boy was about 4 and was wearing a Superman outfit. He reached out his hand as he said, “Trick or treat.” Wilson couldn’t resist teasing him a bit. “Where’s your bag?” she asked. He replied, “My Mom’s carrying it. It’s too heavy for me.” Wilson smiled and said, “But you’re Superman!” He looked down at the S on his chest and looked back at her and whispered, “Not really, these are just pajamas.”



Though the Scriptures tell us that because we're Christians we're also saints, most of us don't believe it. We look down at the S on our chest and then plead with God, "Not really. I'm only human."

This is the great mystery of All Saints Day. We are indeed only human, but we are also "the saints who gather" at such-and-such church, as Paul put it in many of his letters. We are, Martin Luther said, saint and sinner at the same time. While we do not go around in Christian pajamas with a big haloed S on our chest, we do have an invisible cross on our foreheads put there at our baptism with the words: "Delmer Lowell Chilton, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

Each of us has that mark on our lives, a mark that calls us forward into saintliness. We are called to continual efforts at living into our name as "child of God," a baptized saint. And we never quite make it. We are always aware of falling short, of not measuring up.

We are also always aware that the other people in our family seldom measure up either. Unfortunately, we are sometimes more aware of the failures of others than we are of our own.

Someone sent me a little poem a few years ago. It's one of those things that got tucked away in a file. I ran across it the other day;

"Oh, to live above, with Saints we love. Oh, that will be Glory.  
Oh, to live below, with Saints we know. Well, that's a different story!"

The struggle of the Christian life is to remember that we are saints despite our failures and to remember that the other people in our church family are saints as well, despite their imperfections.

I am a southerner, and this means I have been to many family reunions—those of the various families I am a member of and those of church members who graciously invited the pastor along to their family reunion for some good food and fellowship. One of the things I love about family reunions is that they are often the most grace-filled moments we share. It is a time when we look beyond the surface to see the mark of the family on everyone. More than once I've been told, "You sure do look like your mother." And I

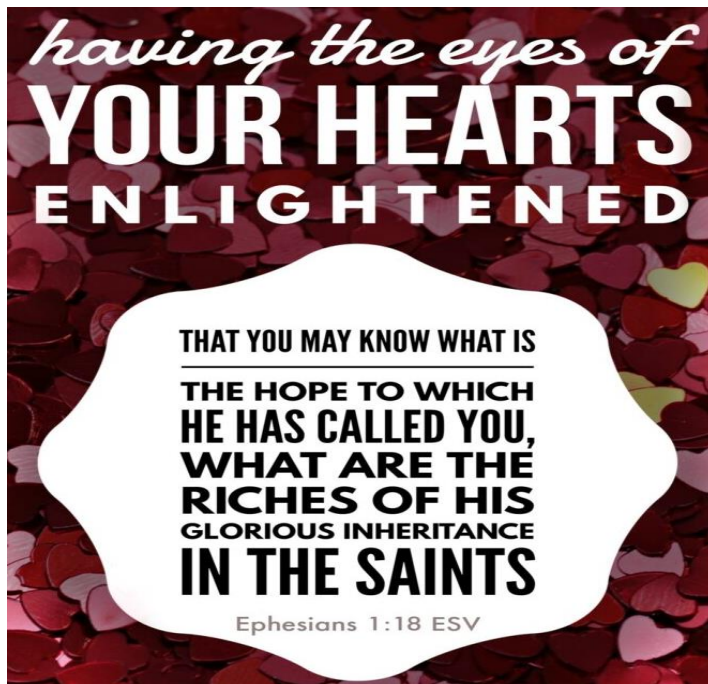
have also been reminded, “You must be a guest or an in-law; you don’t look like a Beaver.”

The church is the family of faith, and we all bear, to some degree, the mark of our family, the mark of Christ. Regulars and irregulars, the faithful and the wandering, the staunch believers and the “barely hanging on to their faith by the skin of their teeth” doubters, those close at hand and those who came from far off—all together in one place, celebrating and enjoying their relatedness to each other and to God.

Our invitation this All Saints Sunday is to remember our saintliness, our blessedness, our holiness, which is a gift from God, a gift we were given for the benefit of the world. It is also a day to remember the saintliness, the blessedness, the holiness of others. To remember that they too are the beloved children of God and that we are to treat them that way. Amen and amen.

- The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton

*Originally published October 31, 2016, on LivingLutheran.org, where you will find other resources for the journey of faith.*



# For All the Saints, Who from Their Labors Rest



**Robert Buettner (July 9, 1925 – June 23, 2022)**

Known as “Uncle Bob” by so many, joined his wife of 63 years on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 96.

Bob’s chosen profession was finance and accounting which he drew upon in every aspect of his life. He was the treasurer for the church and some of the special projects within the church for many years. He loved his church and was continuously contributing to the church’s needs with time and funding. His contributions helped fix the bells, the roof, the organ and probably many more.

Bob’s generosity continued to other charities throughout his life. Some of his and Marge’s favorite charities were to protect and help animals. He was a 10-gallon blood donor for the Red Cross and would have continued to donate if he was able.

Bob also loved his country and was an Army veteran who received a purple heart. I personally, will never forget his quirky sense of humor. He was always there with his support and guidance whenever I or his loved ones needed it.

Your family, church family and I miss you.

- Donna Kobella



**Donald Rusher, Jr. (November 1, 1960 – January 29, 2022)**

Donald David Rusher Jr.: beloved son of Jean (nee Lambrecht) and the late Donald D. Rusher Sr., dear brother of Kimberly (Scott) Russell, Lisa (Tom) King and the late James D. Rusher, father of Haleigh and Paige Rusher, grandfather of Lyla, Sophie and Penelope, loving uncle to Amber, Matthew, Dylan, Alexandra and Blake. Great uncle to many. Don served in the US Army Reserves and the Ohio National Guard

**Nancy Werner (September 28, 1954 – May 8, 2022)**

**Linda Wright (January 5, 1952 – May 23, 2022)**

Beloved daughter of the late Wilbur and Anna; loving sister of the late Sharon Konte; dear aunt of nieces and nephews and friend to all. Animal mother to adopted dogs, Honey Bun, Jelly Bean, and many former dogs. Pittsburgh Steelers lover and a wonderful contributor of Wednesday Words, when we were in between pastors at Covenant, along with many Lenten devotionals between Covenant and Lutheran Church of the Master. Also Worship & Music member and an avid St. Nick Nite craft contributor.

