

Bendersville Lutheran Parish

St. James
Wenksville
8:25 am

Christ
Aspers
9:45 am

Bethlehem
Bendersville
11:00 am

“We are rooted in scripture, watered in baptism and fed by communion. Our mission is to connect with God in community as we care for one another. Our vision is to bear fruit in the Upper Adams community by showing Jesus’ love to our neighbors, planting seeds of kindness, service and hope, trusting the Holy Spirit to grow this fruit in surprising ways.”

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

• May 18, 2025 •



Parish Office:

126 Church St. • P.O. Box 449
Bendersville, PA 17306-0449
Office Phone: (717) 677-9880
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3churches@bendersvillelutheranparish.com

The Rev. Susan E. Scott:

Phone: (717) 497-1013
Email:
pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com

www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.**

***GATHERING HYMN: “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”** LBW 175

***GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: “This Is the Feast”**



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



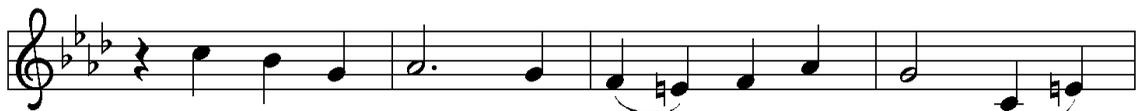
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Go to Verse 2



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

FIRST READING:

Acts 11:1-18

The First Reading is from Acts, the eleventh chapter.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called

Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 148

L: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**C: Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

L: Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**C: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

**C: who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**C: fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

L: mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**C: wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

L: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**C: young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**C: The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING:

Revelation 21:1-6

The Second Reading is from Revelation, the twenty-first chapter.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL:**

John 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the thirteenth chapter.

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

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

Pastor Susan E. Scott

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"I Come with Joy"*

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.



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

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness, especially those on our prayer list and those we silently name in our hearts. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love, especially Sally Gardner, Alice Hair, and Robert Wetzel. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: *“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”*

ELW 860



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad Je - sus lift - ed me,
Sa - tan had me bound, When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

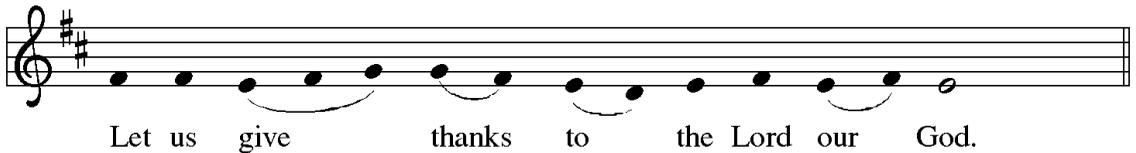
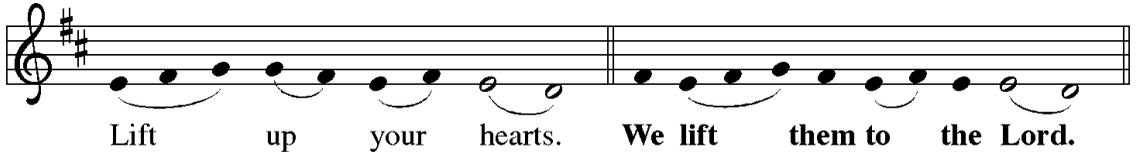
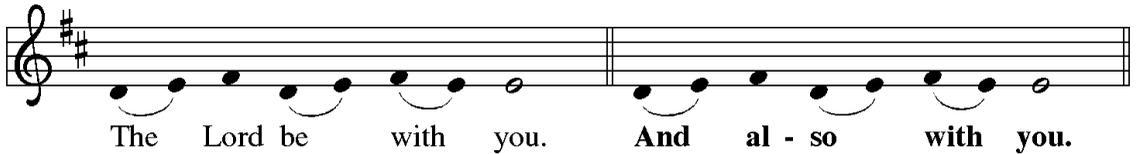
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

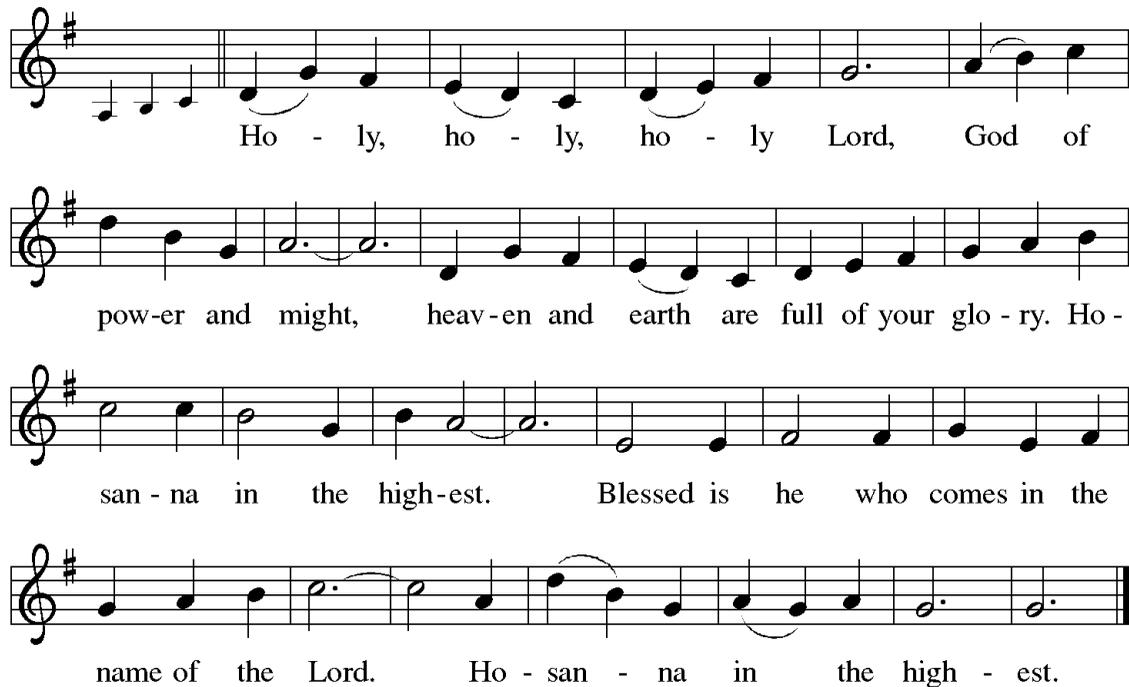
C: Amen.

DIALOGUE



PREFACE *(sung by the pastor)*

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: O God most mighty ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **[Amen.]**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **[Amen.]**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **[Amen.]**

P: O God, you are Breath ... life in you, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray ...

**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

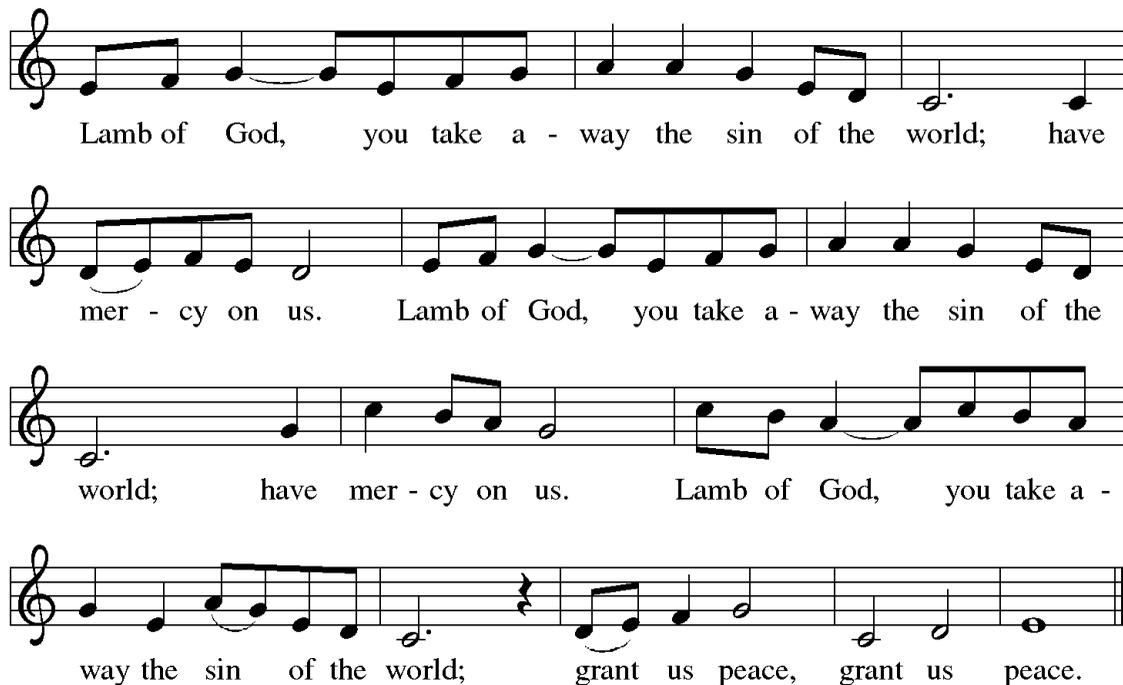
P: Come to the table of grace.
Receive the gift of new life.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to encounter Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to the Table. As directed, please come forward. The elements will be given by Pastor Susan or the Communion Assistant. If you would like a verbal blessing only, please let the Pastor know. Holy Communion may also be received at your seat. Just inform the Pastor or usher. The elements will be partaken at the Pastor's or Communion Assistant's direction:

***The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.***

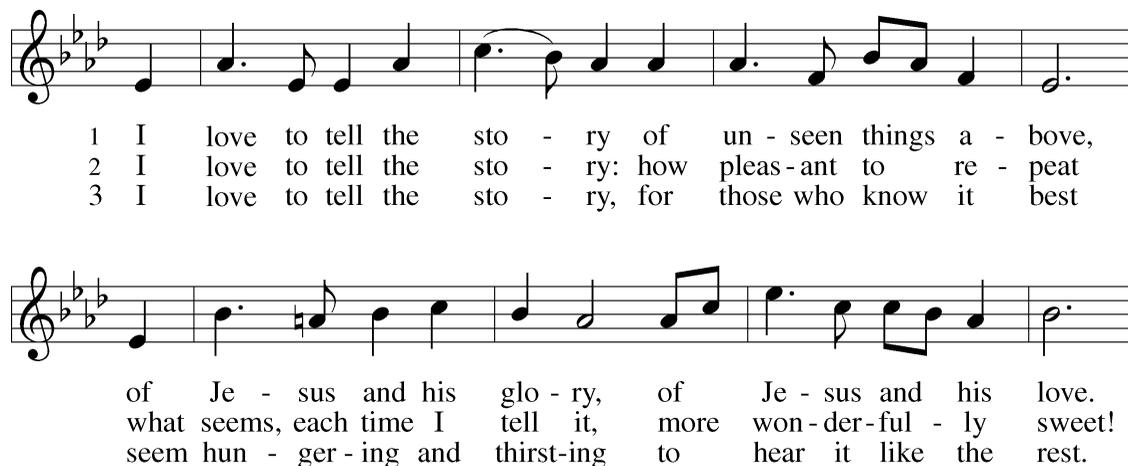
COMMUNION HYMN: "Lamb of God"



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.

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Love to Tell the Story"

LBW 390



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

***POST-COMMUNION**

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

C: **Amen.**



***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

***BLESSING**

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: “*This Is My Father’s World*”**

LBW 554

***DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

***POSTLUDE**

• **MAY 2025** •

SUN. May 18	MON. May 19	TUES. May 20	WED. May 21	THURS. May 22	FRI. May 23	SAT. May 24
<p>8:25 am: St. James</p> <p>9:45 am: Christ</p> <p>11:00 am: Bethlehem</p> <p><i>Anniversary:</i> Tony & Bev Bretzman</p>		<p>7:00 pm: Knit/Crochet Ministry (Bethlehem)</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Roger Chronister Judy Staley</p>	<p>7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)</p> <p>• Hosea • 11-14</p>	<p><i>Birthday:</i> Shelvey Dugan</p>	<p><i>Birthday:</i> Christine Ascencio</p>	<p>1:30 pm: Memorial Day Service (Wenksville Cemetery)</p> <p>3:30 pm: Memorial Day Service (Bendersville Cemetery)</p> <p><i>Anniversary:</i> Larry & Francene Gantz</p>
SUN. May 25	MON. May 26	TUES. May 27	WED. May 28	THURS. May 29	FRI. May 30	SAT. May 31
<p>Memorial Day Weekend</p> <p>PARISH JOINT SERVICE</p> <p>10:00 am: St. James</p> <p><i>Birthday:</i> Eleanor Albright</p> <p>Henry Taylor</p>	<p>“Memorial Day”</p> 	<p>1:00 pm: Care & Share Meeting (Home of Jackee McCartney)</p>		<p><i>Birthday:</i> Samuel Slaybaugh</p>	<p><i>Birthday:</i> Barbara Bretzman</p> <p>Dennis Carey</p>	

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector

J Bettina McBeth
C Chris Cooley
B Joe Saum

Greeters/Ushers

—
—
Tony & Bev Bretzman

Altar Guild

Harold & Kathy Stoner
Deb & Dave Copenhaver
Kathy Singley



ALTAR FLOWERS

• St. James, Christ & Bethlehem •

To the Glory of God



OFFICE HOURS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Pastor Susan has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm at the Parsonage. You are welcome to stop by the Parsonage to visit. Her official day off is Friday, but she is available for pastoral emergencies.

For all your pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Susan Scott by phone/text at 717-497-1013 or email pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com.



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:

PARISH JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

• **SUNDAY, MAY 25th** •

10:00 am

At: St. James Lutheran Church, Wenksville

ON-LINE SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship is livestreamed on YouTube at 11 AM on our Bendersville Lutheran Parish channel (this info can also be found on our website – www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com).



◆ BIBLE STUDY ◆

Bible Study will meet this week ...

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, at 7:00 P.M.
at BETHLEHEM

We will be studying the Book of Hosea: HOSEA 11-14

★ WENKSVILLE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE ★

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

1:30 p.m.

The Wenksville Memorial Day Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 24, 2025, with music being provided by the Apple Core Band. Retired Navy Commander John Santino will deliver the address. Bring your lawn chair, enjoy the music, and honor the veterans buried in Wenksville Cemetery. The service will be held rain or shine.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ BENDERSVILLE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE ★

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

3:30 p.m.

The Bendersville Memorial Day Service will be held at 3:30 p.m. on May 24, 2025, at the Bendersville Cemetery and will include a guest speaker and special music provided by the Apple Core Band. The service will be held rain or shine.

You are cordially invited to

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

for a

POTLUCK SUPPER!

• **TUESDAY, JUNE 17th, at 6:00 p.m.** •

Bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share!

We will gather with other Adams County Lutheran congregations for food and fellowship and learn about opportunities for community service that we might do together.

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 10th, to Pr. Susan Scott
via text 717-497-1013 or email –
pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com.**





“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY

September 7, 2025 • 1:00 p.m.

- *Bethlehem Social Hall* -

The Gettysburg Conference coordinates service projects for “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday. This day is a time to live out one of our most basic beliefs as

Lutherans: “that life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace” (elca.org/dayofservice).

Various service projects from quilting to yard work take place at locations throughout Adams County. Once again, Bethlehem will be a site to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Also, we will be collecting items for these **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**. The kits are sent to students throughout the world who do not have access to basic school supplies. You will find the list below of specific school supplies needed to fill the kits. We cannot use items that do not comply with LWR’s strict specifications. We especially need notebooks and drawstring bags. Please consider donating to this worthwhile cause. Your donations may be given to Pastor Susan.

If you would like to donate items for the school kits, see the details below of each item. We are also accepting monetary donations for postage and to purchase other supplies as needed to include in the kits. **Please Note:** Items donated should not reflect religious, patriotic, or military symbols, to include camouflage, and also note all other specifications.

Items you may donate:

- **70-sheet college or wide-ruled notebooks**
- **30-centimeter rulers (or ruler with centimeters and inches)**
- **pencil sharpeners**
- **pairs of blunt scissors (safety scissors/steel blades)**
- **unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers**
- **black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)**
- **boxes of 16-count or 24-count crayons**
- **2½" erasers**
- **sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bags (approx. 14" x 17" with shoulder straps – NO standard backpacks)**



Prayer List - Parish Members

Adam & Laura Albright b
Dixie Atha c
Tony Bretzman b
Dolly Chronister c
Mary Chronister b
Patsy Gochenauer j

Wahnettah Harvey c
Harold Heller j
Linda Heller j
Lois Rinehart b
Mike Rinehart b
Alan Showers j

Bill Slaybaugh j
Rhonda Slaybaugh c
Dan Turner c
Mike Wolfe c

Friends of the Parish

Douglas Barbour
Adam Black
Jeff Black
Tracy Brandt
Bev Bretzman
Nathan Bretzman
Valerie Bushey
June Cline
Nancy Cline
Nicole Cline
Dick Cook
Carl Corl
Jeanne Cuttitta

Peter Cuttitta
Bonnie DeHaven
Diane Fetters
John Gantz
Galen Hartz
Cody Johnson
Susanna Kidwell
Deb Litten
Nicole Mackey
Barbara Mahoney
Emily Maiolo
Doug Miller
Glenn Mulvey

Diane Myers
Zach Pelc
Brian Reed
Maurine Rickard
Ginny Rinehart
Ethan Shank
Vera Sprenkle
Robert Tate
Connie Weaver
Laurie Weikert
Marlea Williams

With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of those who have died in the faith and who are now at rest with their eternal Father (our saints who have gone before us).

Sally Gardner, Alice Hair, and Robert Wetzel