#### **Bendersville Lutheran Parish**

St. JamesChristBethlehemWenksvilleAspersBendersville8:25 am9:45 am11:00 am

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

• April 21, 2024 •

"Blessing of the Blossoms" ~ Of the Land and Seasons Liturgy



#### **Parish Office:**

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

Office email:

3churches@bendersvillelutheranparish.com

#### The Rev. Susan E. Scott:

Phone: (717) 497-1013

Email:

pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com

www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*Please stand as you are able.

#### **PRELUDE**

#### \*THE BLESSING OF THE BLOSSOMS

- P: God has created all things and has given us the earth to cultivate and to be the source of our food.
- C: He has made us stewards of the earth and caretakers of his vineyards, orchards and fields.
- P: He sends the sun and rain to bring forth vegetation.
- C: He makes the seed to become trees and plants.
- P: He teaches us how to care for what is planted.
- C: He holds us accountable for our stewardship of what really belongs to him.
- P: Let us ask God to bless the blossoms and our fields, orchards, gardens and mountains that by his grace the harvest will come with abundance to feed us and all living things.
- C: Let us ask God to send abundant rain, warm sunshine and to make fertile our ground so that our crops will be produce and flourish.
- P: Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth abundantly productive and fruitful so that everything we need to sustain our lives can be produced. Bless those who work in the fields and orchards; give us seasonable weather and everything that we need to bring forth a bountiful harvest. Teach us to be ever mindful of those in need that they too may rejoice in your goodness and love. And now O Lord, bless the blossoms + that they will burst forth as the fruits of the orchards and produce abundantly, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior.
- C: Amen! Thanks be to God for the orchards surrounding us!

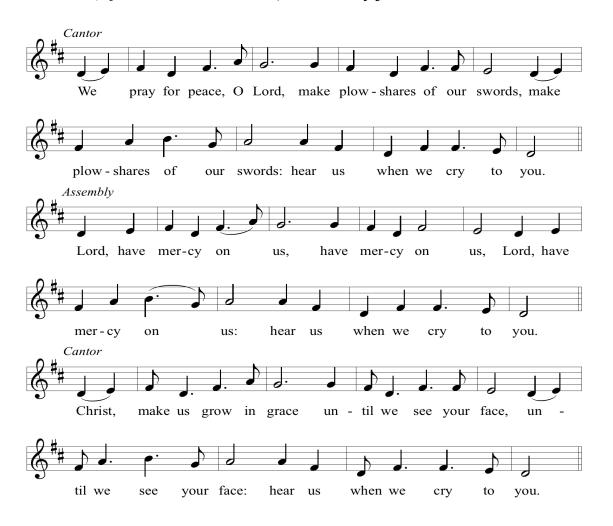
# \*GATHERING SONG: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LBW 210

#### \*GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

# \*KYRIE (Of the Land and Seasons): "We Pray for Peace, O Lord"





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### FIRST READING:

Acts 4:5-12

The First Reading is from Acts, the fourth chapter.

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

- L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- L: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

#### **SECOND READING:**

1 John 3:16-24

The Second Reading is from First John, the third chapter.

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

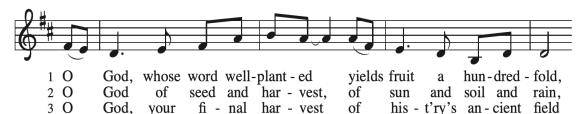
<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

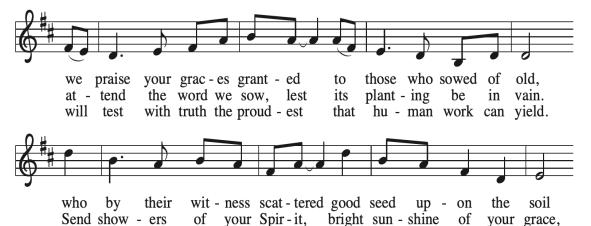
L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand.)

#### \*GRADUAL HYMN: "O God, Whose Word Well-Planted"





Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



\*GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

# C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

<sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

#### **SERMON**

Pastor Susan E. Scott

# HYMN OF THE DAY: "The Lord's My Shepherd"

**ELW 778** 



- I The Lord's my snep-nerd; III not want. He makes me down to lie 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
- 4 My ta ble thou hast rich ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
- 5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,



lead - eth pas - tures green; he me the qui - et wa - ters bv. in righ-teous-ness, e'en with - in the paths of for his own name's sake: for thou art with me. and thy rod and staff me com - fort still: head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. my and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be:



He lead - eth me. he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by. righ-teous-ness, e'en with - in the paths of for his own name's sake. and thy for thou art with me. rod and staff me com - fort still. a - noint, and My head thou dost with oil my cup o - ver - flows. and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall

#### 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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 of the seated.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE CHURCH

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

# C: hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

# C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

## C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. We pray especially for comfort and healing for those on our prayer list and those we silently name in our hearts. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

## C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

#### C: hear our prayer.

P: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel. We especially give thanks for Steve Tuckey and Larry Wolfe, who now rest with you. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

#### **PEACE**

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

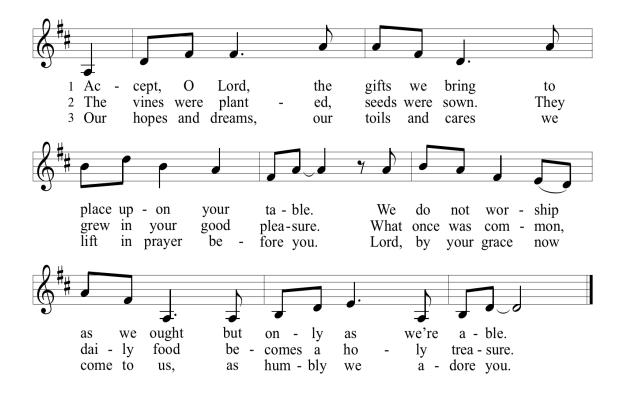
C: And also with you.

#### **OFFERING**

OFFERING HYMN: "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"

('Offering Hymn' on Next Page)





#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

# P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### C: Amen.

#### **DIALOGUE**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: "Long, Long Ago in Jerusalem" (Holy, Holy, Holy)

('Sanctus' on Next Page)





#### **EUCHARISTIC 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: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

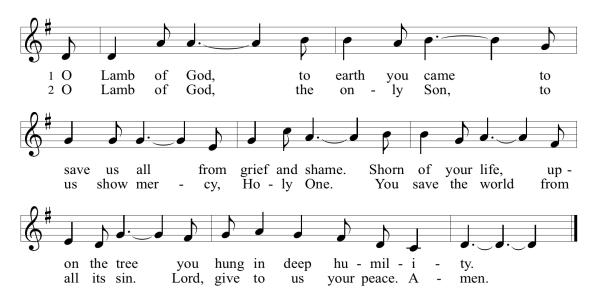
C: Amen.

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

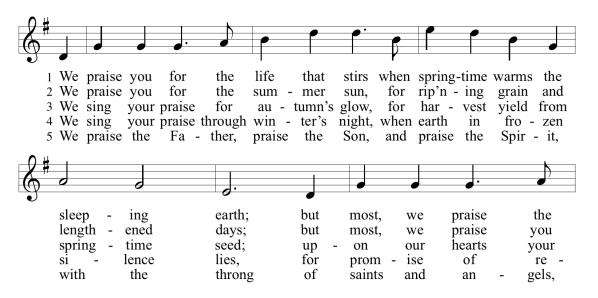
All who wish to encounter Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to the Table. As directed, please come forward. The elements will be given by Pastor Susan or the Communion Assistant. If you would like a verbal blessing only, please let the Pastor know. Holy Communion may also be received at your seat.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

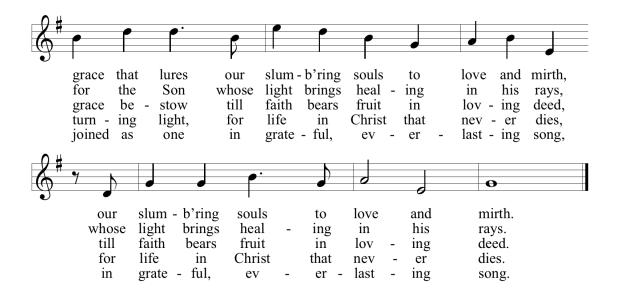
The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

# COMMUNION SONG: "O Lamb of God, to Earth You Came"



# COMMUNION SONG: "We Praise You for the Life"





#### \*POST-COMMUNION

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

C: Amen.

# \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: "O Lord of the Blossom"

('Post-Communion Canticle' on Next Page)





#### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us.

Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

#### \*BENEDICTION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope 
+ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

\*SENDING SONG: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" WOV 754

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### \*POSTLUDE

# • APRIL/MAY 2024 •

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Apr. 21	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27
Blessing of The Blossoms 8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem		7:00 pm: Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting (Bethlehem)	7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)  Matt. 26:6-13 Mark 14:3-9 Luke 7:36-50 John 12:1-8 John 11 Luke 10:38-42: 'Mary & Martha'	Birthday: Adam Albright Adam Ascencio		
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem		1:00 pm: Care & Share Meeting (Home of Jackee McCartney)	7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)  Romans 16 Acts 12 Acts 16 Acts 18: 'Priscilla, Phoebe, Lydia & Rhoda'	Birthday: Larry Gantz	Birthday: Mary Chronister	
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem	Birthday: Diane Kuhn		7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem)  Luke 8 Matt. 27 & 28 Mark 15 & 16 Luke 24 John 19 & 20: 'Mary of Magdala'	Anniversary: Joe & Anna Saum		Birthday: Brian Kuhn

#### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

<u>Le</u>	<u>ctor</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>
J	Harold Stoner	_	Harold & Kathy Stoner
C	Larry Gantz	<del></del>	Deb & Dave Copenhaver
В	Vicki Cuttitta	Loren & Ginger Mortorff	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*.



# BIBLE STUDY •

We will gather for Bible Study on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem with a continuation of "Women of the Bible".

We will be studying ...

Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8, John 11, and Luke 10:38-42: Mary and Martha

#### CARE & SHARE CARD MINISTRY: TUESDAY, APRIL 30th

The Care & Share Card Ministry meets the last Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at 896 Upper Temple Road. Call Jackee for more information at 717-321-0979.

# \* CELEBRATION \* 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Pastor Robert McEllroy III

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024, at 10 a.m.

- Joint Service at Bethlehem -

On Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate Pastor Bob McEllroy's 50th anniversary of ordination with one service at 10 a.m. at Bethlehem, followed by a luncheon. Pastor Bob was ordained on May 21, 1974.

There will be sign-up sheets at each church for side dishes, drinks, and condiments. Also, in order to get an idea of how much food we need, please **RSVP** by **May 12**. However, if you don't RSVP, you are **STILL invited to come!** 

If you would like to send a card for this special occasion to Pastor Bob directly, his address is:

#### PASTOR BOB McELLROY 2688 Sarah Place • Chambersburg, PA 17202

In lieu of gifts, Pastor Bob has requested a donation be made to SpiriTrust Lutheran at Luther Ridge for their Compassionate Care fund which helps residents who may have financial challenges. You may donate directly to Luther Ridge (2998 Luther Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202) or with your regular offering. (Just include a note "gift for Pastor Bob" with your envelope.)

# **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

• THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Meeting Room
25 Franklin Street • Biglerville, PA 17307

Please sign up using the Red Cross Blood Donor app or call 1-800-733-2767.

# **INVITATION TO JOIN OUR SPECIAL CHOIR!**

A choir is being organized and participants are being sought to sing on Sunday, May 19, at Pastor Bob's 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration event and at the parish's joint Memorial Weekend service at Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 26. Both services are at 10 a.m.

On Sunday, May 19, a Pentecostal Song will be sung for the Prelude and following the Prayer of the Day, we will be singing "We All Are One in the Lord," which was written for Pastor Bob and Pat.

There will be two practices: **Tuesday, April 30,** and **Tuesday, May 14,** at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem. If interested in participating in this choir for just one Sunday or both, please text or email Donna.

**Contact Information for Donna is:** 

Text - (717) 253-3430 · Email - donnakkime@gmail.com



# "A SPECIAL THANK YOU!" ...

Special thanks to those who helped with the funeral luncheon reception on Thursday, April 18, and to the ladies who provided cakes.

Your assistance with the luncheon was so greatly appreciated!

- Iackee

#### **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).



# Prayer List - Parish Members

Dixie Atha c Eric Black j Dot Bosak b Ruth Bretzman b Tony Bretzman b Mary Chronister b Adam Clapsadl j Wahnettah Harvey c Harold Heller j Linda Heller j James Lang b Betty McCauslin j Loren Mortorff b Carol Rex j

Lois Rinehart b Mike Rinehart b Alan Showers j Bill Slaybaugh j Dan Turner c Mike Wolfe c

# Friends of the Parish

Connie Adams June Cline Celine Horner Douglas Barbour Nicole Cline Susanna Kidwell Dick Cook Mary 'Sis' Becker Kinley Adam Black Carl Corl Karen Lowson **Emily Maiolo** Barry Black Jeanne Cuttitta Peter Cuttitta Gary Black **Bradley Metz** Jeff Black Helen Daniels Diane Myers Bev Bretzman Bonnie DeHaven Zach Pelc Brian Reed Nathan Bretzman Luann Fix Ginny Rinehart Valerie Bushey Galen Hartz

# 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).

Steve Tuckey and Larry Wolfe