Bendersville Lutheran Parish

St. James Wenksville 8:25 am Christ Aspers 9:45 am

Bethlehem Bendersville 11:00 am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

• April 28, 2024 •



Parish Office:

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

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- C: Amen.
- P: Look, here is water!
- C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!
- P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.
- P: Look, here is water!
- C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

- P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.
 We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C: Amen.
- P: Look, here is water!
- C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

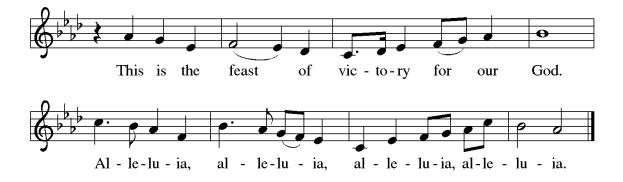
*GATHERING HYMN: "Now the Green Blade Rises"

LBW 148

***GREETING**

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**









***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P: Let us pray.
- C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through 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:

The First Reading is from Acts, the eighth chapter.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

L: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

L: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

L: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING:

1 John 4:7-21

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

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand.)

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL:**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fifteenth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord. **C:**

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Pastor Susan E. Scott

HYMN OF THE DAY: "The Day of Resurrection!"

(Sung to the Tune: "The Church's One Foundation")

NICENE CREED

SERMON

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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

LBW 141

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 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.

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in

your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

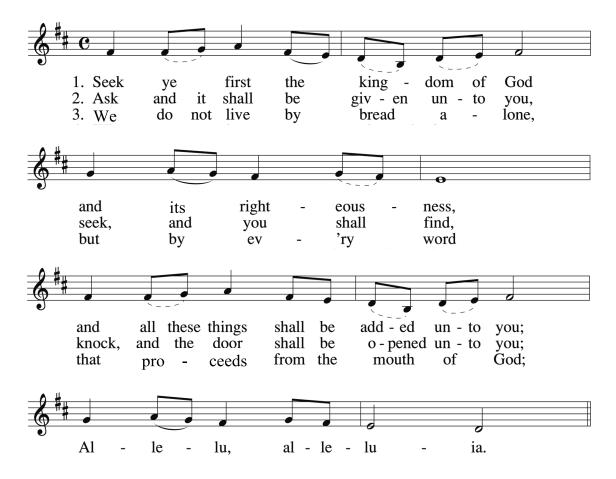
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially those on our prayer list and those we silently name in our hearts. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.
- P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors, especially Steve Tuckey and Larry Wolfe. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" WOV 783

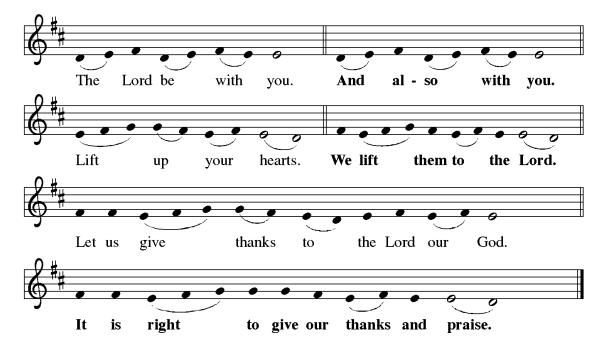


OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

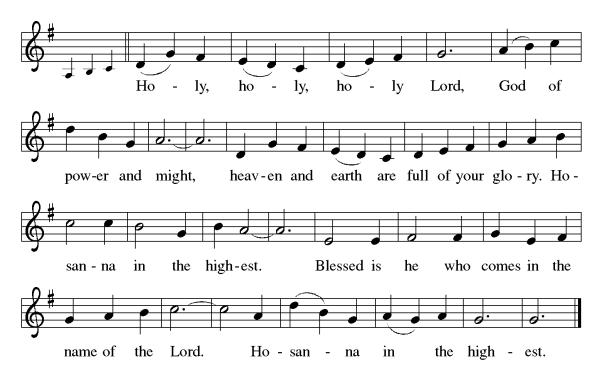
C: Amen.



DIALOGUE

PREFACE (sung by the pastor)

SANCTUS



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

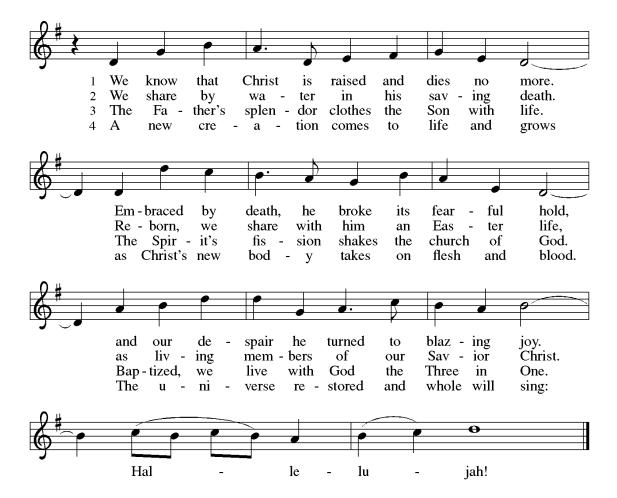
P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

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.





***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.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

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 HYMN: "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" LBW 363

*DISMISSAL

- P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
- C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE

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• APRIL/MAY 2024 •						
SUN. Apr. 28	MON. Apr. 29	TUES. Apr. 30	WED. May 1	THURS. May 2	FRI. May 3	SAT. 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 & 18 'Priscilla, Phoebe, Lydia & Rhoda'	Birthday: Larry Gantz	Birthday: Mary Chronister	
SUN. May 5	MON. May 6	TUES. May 7	WED. May 8	THURS. May 9	FRI. May 10	SAT. 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
SUN. May 12	MON. May 13	TUES. May 14	WED. May 15	THURS. May 16	FRI. May 17	SAT. May 18
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem Anniversary: Adam & Heather	*Conference: Pastor Susan 1:00 to 3:00 pm: New Hope Ministries (Bethlehem) 7:00 pm: Council Meeting	*Conference: Pastor Susan Birthday: Jonathan 'J.J.' Lang	*Conference: Pastor Susan Birthday: Hunter Taylor	*Conference: Pastor Susan	Anniversary: James & Kelly Lang	Anniversary: Tony & Bev Bretzman

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

<u>Lector</u>

Greeters/Ushers

<u>Altar Guild</u> Harold & Kathy Stoner

J Harold Stoner

C Steve Haller

B Jeanette Schachle Loren & Ginger Mortorff Kathy Singley



ALTAR FLOWERS:

St. James, Christ & Bethlehem

To the Glory of God



Deb & Dave Copenhaver

OFFICE HOURS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Pastor Susan has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. 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.*

PASTOR SUSAN TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

• MAY 13 through MAY 16 •

Pastor Susan will be attending the Festival of Homiletics conference from May 13 through May 16 and will be unavailable.

If you would need pastoral care while she is attending the conference, please contact: Pastor Dennis Probst at 304-886-3200.

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).

* 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.)



BIBLE STUDY +

We will gather for Bible Study this Wednesday, May 1, at 7 p.m. at Bethlehem with a continuation of "Women of the Bible". The study will be from ...

> Romans 16 and Acts 12, 16 and 18: Priscilla, Phoebe, Lydia and Rhoda

CARE & SHARE CARD MINISTRY

The Care & Share Committee's mission is to give emotional support to the church members and parish friends through cards of congratulations, encouragement, and condolence.

The Care & Share Card Ministry meets the last Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at 896 Upper Temple Road.

• NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 30th •

Also, we work on card design and preparation on a "different day" from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. before meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. Anyone wishing to offer help or wanting more details, please contact:

Jackee McCartney - 717-321-0979

"Donations of stamps are always appreciated."



FRUIT CUP DONATIONS NEEDED FOR JOHN'S MEALS!

John's Meals is currently serving approximately 165 students weekly. They would appreciate donations of the following fruit cups:

- MIXED FRUIT
- PEARS
- MANDARIN ORANGES
- PEACHES

PINEAPPLES



GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

Francene Gantz would like to offer support for any who are grieving. If you need a listening ear, please contact Francene for one-on-one support and encouragement at 717-253-6569.

- Francene Gantz, BS Grief Counseling & Bereavement Education -



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



REMINDER

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS •

3churches@bendersvillelutheranparish.com

WEEKLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a reminder, items for the bulletin should be received at the church office by Wednesday noon for that week's Sunday Bulletin.

PRAYER LIST GUIDELINES

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." – Ephesians 6:18



The Bendersville Lutheran Parish prays for one another, the world, and all those in need. Sometimes, though, we forget to tell others that someone has healed or has moved on to eternal life.

Let us be good stewards of the prayer list. Names on the prayer list will be removed after <u>one month</u> unless you let us know to keep praying.



REMEMBER OUR BLESSING BOXES

Things we need to include:

Mac 'n cheese, soups, canned pasta meals (aka Chef Boyardee), instant potatoes, canned veggies, canned meat, canned fruit/fruit cups, instant rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, beans (dried or canned), fruit gummies, sugary cereal, peanut butter, applesauce, instant cereal/oatmeal, toiletries (TP, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer)

Our Blessing Boxes are definitely filling a need in our community!

Here are a few additional ideas of things we might think about contributing:

Shelf stable milk, powdered milk, can openers, canned food with pop tops, oil (cooking, vegetable, canola, olive, etc.), spices, salt, pepper, tea bags, coffee, sugar, flour, tuna packets, crackers (all kinds), bread, cake mix, frosting, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent

* Please don't buy bulk dry goods (rice, beans, pasta, etc.) and re-package at home. *
* Due to food safety concerns, only factory sealed packaging should be put in the box. *
* Be aware of glass items that might break. Take note to EXPIRATION DATES. *
* Do not leave items OUTSIDE the box. *

"THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED!"



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 Kathy 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

<u>Friends of the Parish</u>

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

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