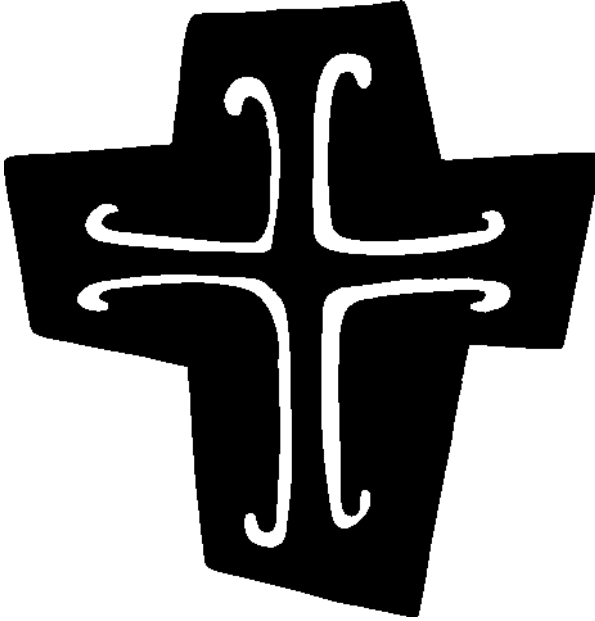




HOLY CROSS DAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

308 Market St. / PO Box 246, New Berlin, PA 17855
www.newberlinlutherans.com | 570-966-2815

Beverly Hoffman, Synod Approved Minister

Please contact Beverly Hoffman for all pastoral needs.

1-570-428-4876 | bevhoff@ptd.net

Christine Rowe, Parish Secretary

christinerowe@newberlinlutherans.com

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

Navigating Worship

Congregational responses are written in bold.

** indicates to stand as you are able*

AED Available Downstairs

In case of an emergency, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the stair tower on the first floor.

Nursery

The nursery is available downstairs—please wipe down toys used.

Streaming Video

We extend our worship from our building into our community on Facebook, and YouTube. The front two pews and chancel are visible on the video.

Today's Worship Leaders:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Presiding: | Beverly Hoffman |
| Greeter/s: | John Showers |
| Lector: | John Showers |
| Acolytes: | John Showers |
| Cantor/s: | Alicia Saxon |
| Music Dir: | Frank Shue |
| Video Operator: | Philip Heggenstaller |
| Communion Set Up: | Ronald and Frances Blatchley |
| Communion Baker: | |
| Altar Flowers: | Kay Trick |

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WELCOME AND WORSHIP NOTES

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

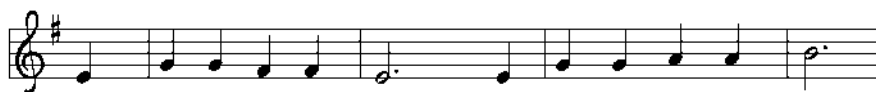
660

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

*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.



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



FIRST READING

NUMBERS 21:4B-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ They spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

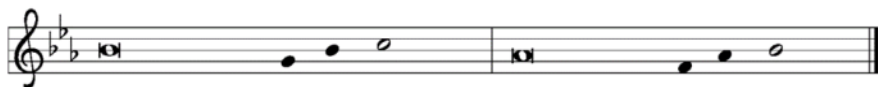
RESPONSE

PSALM 98:1-4

Refrain (sung twice at the beginning and once at the end)



Psalm Tone



¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the na-
tions.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹
house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing. R**

(Repeat Refrain)

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL**

JOHN 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to St. John
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son-of-Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God loved the world in this way, that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

BEVERLY HOFFMAN

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

608

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

***APOSTLE'S CREED**

PRESIDING BEGINS

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

*PEACE

Feel free to shake hands during Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



MEAL



OFFERING

*An offering is collected in the plates located in the narthex and by the elevator.
You may give electronically at <http://newberlinlutherans.com/give>.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

AARON MCMICHAEL

O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES

MUSIC WRITTEN BY SAMUEL WARD. LYRICS BY KATHERINE L. BATES

*OFFERTORY

186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

*OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

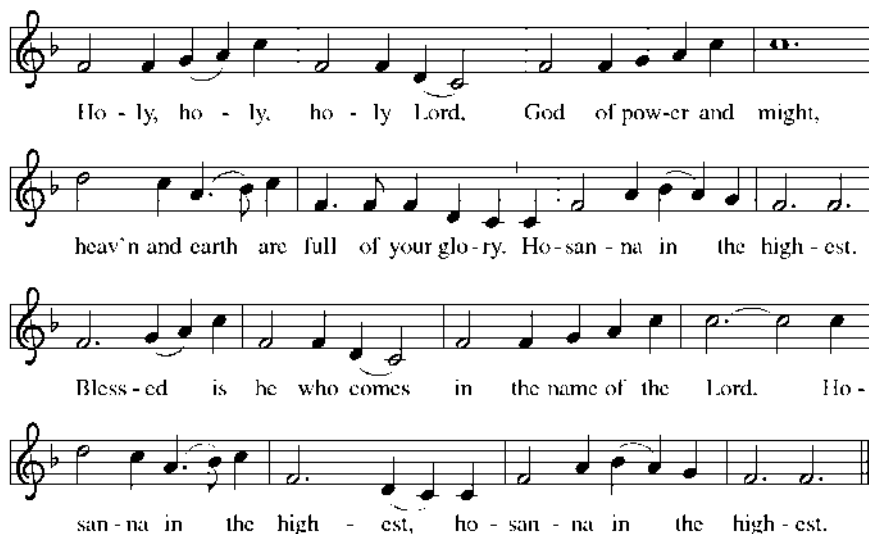
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us.

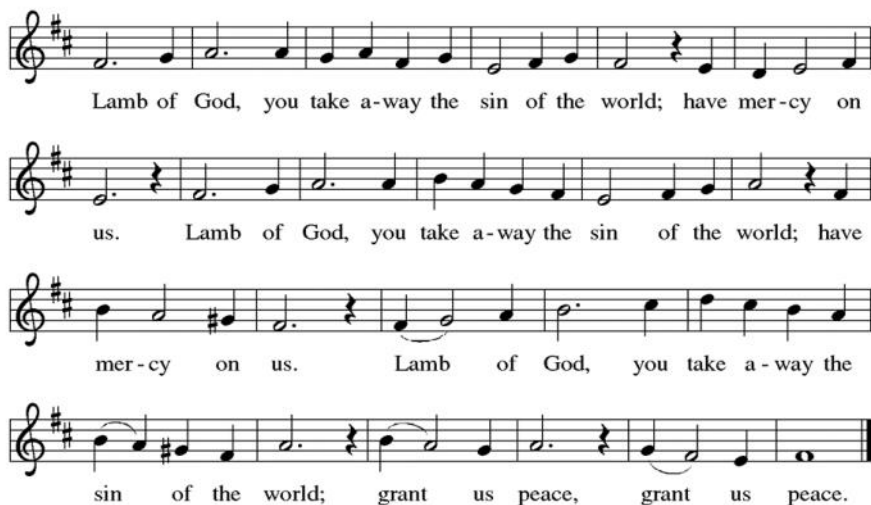
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

*COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Both sides process forward simultaneously by the center aisle.
At the front pew are empty cups for wine. The cups that are filled are grape juice.*



COMMUNION SONGS

AMAZING GRACE

779

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

810

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



SENDING



*BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

✙ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS # 803

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

We hear "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" as we go forth to

LIVE GOD'S GRACE; SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE; SERVE THE LORD

All are invited for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the parish hall.

The flowers on the altar were placed
to the glory of God by
Kay Trick
In memory of Dottie Geiswite.

Fellowship After The Service

Join us for fellowship every Sunday after the Worship Service.

Today's Fellowship is hosted by Ronald and Frances Blatchley

Sept. 21

Sept. 28

Chancel Choir

IT COULD BE YOU!



Family Focused Faith Formation

Join the fun with our neighbors at United In Christ and Christ's Lutheran this Fall for Faith Lab! The program has something for all kids from grades K-6, as well as adult formation to accompany the lessons the kids are learning about! Plus, each gathering ends with

**A FREE MEAL! YOU READ THAT RIGHT PARENTS!
A NIGHT YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING
FOR DINNER!**

We will gather every first and third Sunday of the month; first Sundays will meet at Christ's Lutheran in Lewisburg and the third Sundays will meet at United in Christ outside of West Milton.

Don't have kids in the age group but still want to help out? We'd be thrilled to have you sign up to host the meal portion of one of the monthly gatherings.

Just Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!

The graphic is a promotional poster for 'Buffalo Valley Faith Lab'. It features a yellow background with various icons: a molecular structure, a bar chart, a cross with radiating lines, and gears. A QR code is located in the upper right. Text is arranged in a clear, bold font, providing details about the program's schedule and locations. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for 'United In Christ Lutheran Church' featuring a tree.

**BUFFALO VALLEY
FAITH LAB**

Scan to sign up!

**1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month
4:30pm-6:30pm
September-May
Grades K-6
Free family dinner!**

**1st Sunday @ Christ's Lutheran
100 S. 3rd Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837**

**3rd Sunday @ United In Christ
1875 Churches Rd.
Lewisburg, PA 17837**

United In Christ
Lutheran Church

CarolAnn Miller is willing to provide transportation to Faith Lab for anyone who needs a ride from either the Mifflinburg area or can meet at Messiah Lutheran.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 21

YOUTH GAME NIGHT

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's first gathering for the new school year on Sunday, September 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme is game night, so bring your favorite board game. We will spend some time getting to know each other, playing games, and enjoying some refreshments. This is a program of Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Initiative.

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
JUST SHOW UP WITH A GAME!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Christian Education
Sunday School for ages 4 to 5 grade
Begins Today!

Ladies, Mark Your Calendar
W.E.L.C.A. begins again September 17th
@ 3:00 pm in the Church Library.
All Are Welcome

Journey to Justice

On October 9th at 7:00 pm, Journey to Justice, a nonprofit whose mission is to facilitate the protection of elders from abuse, will be our featured guest presenters with a presentation titled, "Navigating the Challenging World of Dementia and Abuse Prevention". This evening is for anyone seeking further understanding of dementia and the challenges it presents. Discussion will also include resources available to help navigate the uncertain pathway as the disease unfolds, steps to follow, and questions to ask.

Light refreshments will be serve. Please feel free to invite your friends and family.

Have you missed the Choir?

No need to fret. They will soon make their performance debut!
Want a sneak preview? Join the choir. All are welcome!

Rehearsals begin **NEXT SUNDAY!**



THEOLOGY ON TAP HAS BEEN CANCELLED
THIS WEEK.

Look for an updated schedule in the weeks to
come.

Worship Leaders for Sunday, September 21, 2025

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Presiding: | Beverly Hoffman |
| Greeter/s: | Emily Moyer |
| Lector: | Deb Wetzel |
| Acolytes: | JR Erdley and Deb Wetzel |
| Cantor/s: | JR Erdley |
| Music Dir: | Frank Shue |
| Video Operator: | Nancy Morgan |
| Communion Set Up: | Paul Kaler and Ginny Engel |
| Communion Baker: | |
| Altar Flowers: | Bob and Janet Neidig |

Last Week 9/7/25

Attendance: 41

Giving: \$1334.00

Have a prayer request?

Fill out the yellow Prayer Request card and drop it in the offering plate or put it in the secretary's mailbox.

Need immediate prayers? Contact Tom Milbrand (272-305-0058), Diane Walter (570-966-0333), or Frances Blatchley (570-966-0288) to have prayers shared on the prayer chain.

Please remember to give Christine Rowe an update on the status of those on our prayer list.

Remember to fill out at least one Communion card each year.

Can't make it to church in-person?

Attend remotely on Facebook, YouTube and the phone. To listen in on the phone, call 570-989-8899.

In our prayers

Healing, wholeness, and encouragement

Long Term

Alicia Saxon, Noah Navickas, Matthew Myers, Steve Boonie,
Lori Haines, Jeffrey Ames, Oliver Auman, Aimee Erdley, Bev Fausey,
Christine Koons, Darrell O'Bryant, Robert "Butch" Hestor, Betty Reber,
Michael Callahan, Angela Golfieri, Todd Miller,
John Hollenbach, Eric Brosious, Kay Fleming, Taryn Myers,
Brantley Herman, Timothy Shomper, Jane Ohlidia, Weston Treas,
Trudy Livingston, Mick Hauck, Lark Springer, Logan Roush,
Katelyn Mattison, Tena Decker-Norman, Mary Hoover,
Laurie Thomas, John Wagner, Beth Ann Troutman,
George Hauck, Sandy Raymond, Kathy Spangler, Dianne Bailor,
Doug Aikey, Loretta Weatherill, Melissa Boonie, Adam Guzenski,
Julia Hauck, Ellie Crane, Jami and Dylan Crane, Tracy Sassaman,
Paul Burkholder, Sue Ulrich, Charlie Stabler, Shawna St. Claire,
Stanley St. Claire, Larry St. Claire, Daytona Wentzel, Tim Walsh,
Ted Kolvich, Ron Trick, Cameron Osgood, June Bingaman,
Michelle (Pam Erdley's friend), Grant Snyder, Robert Sauers, Rick Slear,
Joe Hoffman, Tommy Ward

Short Term

Mary Wagner, Ken Walter, Carole Jacka, Deb Wetzel, Diane Walter,
Randy Rim Fultz, Mary Lou Shoop, Mary Agnes Hackenberg,
Bryce Johnson, Mim Keister

Providence and Protection for first responders and
military service men and women

Stanley Miller, Benjamin Pilko

Companionship, Prayer and Support for our Homebound

Carol McJilton, Valda Sassaman, Julia Fetter, Mick and Mary Hauck,
Nancy Hummel, Carole Jacka

Comfort for those who Grieve:

For the friends and family of Gary Keister, Brian D. Bryson

This Week

Sunday, September 14

9 am Service of Holy Communion

Fellowship

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes

2 pm Youth Game Night @ Christ Lutheran, Lewisburg

Tues., Sept. 16

12:30 pm Quilt Tying

6:30 pm Council

Wed., Sept. 17

3 pm W.E.L.C.A.

Thurs., Sept. 18

10 am Food Pantry

Sunday, September 21

9 am Service Of Holy Communion

Fellowship

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

4:30 pm Faith Lab @ United in Christ, W. Milton

READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Psalm for Monday-Wednesday is Psalm 73

| | | | |
|-------|----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mon. | Sept. 15 | Amos 7:1-6 | 1 Timothy 1:18-20 |
| Tues. | Sept. 16 | Jonah 3:1-10 | 2 Peter 3:8-13 |
| Wed. | Sept. 17 | Job 40:6-14;42:1-6 | Luke 22:31-33, 54-62 |

Psalm for Thursday-Saturday is Psalm 113

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Thurs. | Sept. 18 | Exodus 23:1-9 | Romans 3:1-8 |
| Fri. | Sept. 19 | Ezekiel 22:17-31 | Romans 8:31-39 |
| Sat. | Sept. 20 | Isaiah 5:8-23 | Mark 12:41-44 |
| Sunday, Sept. 21 | | Amos 8:4-7 | |
| | | Psalm 113 | |
| | | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | |
| | | Luke 16:1-13 | |