

# THE PARISH CONNECTION



## Tri-County Lutheran Parish Mail Packet September 27, 2020, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Parish Connection (with letter from Pastor Sam)	pp. 2-14
Devotions & Prayers	pp. 14-17
Sermon by Vicar Care	pp. 18-21
Zoom Bulletin	pp. 22-34

September 21, 2020

Autumn Greetings!

I was visiting some folks last week and we were having a conversation about Jesus and our role as Christians. While we were talking, I was reminded of that slogan popularized in the 1990's - "What Would Jesus Do?" which was abbreviated for bracelets as WWJD. Remember those bracelets and that question?

After a little internet research, I discovered that the specific question was inspired by an 1896 novel by Charles Sheldon titled "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" The original source of this question stretches even farther back to the 1400s in a book by Thomas a Kempis titled "Imitatio Christi" or "The Imitation of Christ."

It seems that this has been a major question since the beginning of Christendom, with our perspective changing as we experience culture shifts. For instance, I remember in the 1990's when I heard "What Would Jesus Do?" it was always in a response to someone sharing a problem and not knowing how they should proceed. It seemed as though it was a reactive question, though perhaps you had a different experience.

But in the 1400s, the question was posed as part of a spiritual devotional book. How could we form our lives in the example of Christ? How could we imitate Jesus as mere mortals? In that case, it is more of a proactive question - Decide how to be like Jesus, and how to shape your life by his example.

I confess an urging to get back to the 1400s, if only in regard to this question. What would it look like if we walked in the footsteps of Jesus today? What are some things Jesus would do? I have started a list here, and I would love to hear some of your additions, so please let me know!

- Jesus would spend time with people who were not popular
- Jesus would invite people to come and see and listen and learn
- Jesus would talk a lot about money, and how it was of little importance
- Jesus would invite everyone to an impromptu dinner party and feed everyone
- Jesus would point out hypocrisy - and occasionally flip over a table to emphasize his point
- Jesus would step away and pray for self-care
- Jesus would focus on children, women, the infirm and the poor and lift them up
- Jesus would love unconditionally

What else would Jesus do? What are some ways we can imitate Jesus today? Call me or email me to share what you think!

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Sam

### **News and Information**

#### **Pastor Beth Update –**

**Pastor Beth is due around October 15! More Information to come!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([whiteginger20@gmail.com](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([harryavery@yahoo.com](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
- If you have an HR concern, contact Phyllis Keeler or Jeannette Wilber at: [hr@tclparish.org](mailto:hr@tclparish.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Worship Services**

Worship services will continue as they have been, including Zoom. Here is the schedule for 9/27 and October

**9/27** - Castleton 9 am/East Schodack 11 am – Pr. Dan Hahn  
Athens 9 am – Pr. Sam  
Zoom 10 am – Vr. Care  
Zoom Assistants: *Voice of Congregation – Phyllis Keeler*  
*Lector – Cathy McGlaulin*

**10/4** - Stuyvesant Falls(8:30)/Valatie(10:30) - Pr. Sam  
Castleton(9)/East Schodack(11) - Pr. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher  
Athens(9)/Hudson(11) - Vicar Care

\*no Chatham or Oak Hill

**10/11** - Stuyvesant Falls(8:30)/Valatie(10:30) - Vicar Care  
Castleton(9)/East Schodack(11) - Pr. Sam  
Athens(9)/Hudson(11) - SAM Phyllis Keeler

\*no Chatham or Oak Hill

**10/18** Stuyvesant Falls(8:30am)/Valatie(10:30am) - Pr. Beth  
Castleton(9)/East Schodack(11) - Pr. Dan Hahn  
Chatham(9:30)/Hudson(11) - Pr. Sam  
Athens(9)/(\*no Oak Hill!) - Vicar Care

**10/25** Stuyvesant Falls(8:30)/Valatie(10:30) - SAM Duane Keeler  
Castleton(9)/East Schodack(11) - Pr. Beth  
Chatham(9:30)/Hudson(11) - Vicar Care  
Athens(9)/(Oak Hill possibly 11) - Pr. Sam

Attached in this packet is Vicar Care's sermon from last week, a bulletin for next week and a packet of devotions and prayers curated by Vicar Carolyn.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish to worship remotely with us, join us at **10 AM**. Please use this **phone number**:

1. Dial 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
2. Enter Meeting ID: 770 099 7419, **then press #**
3. If the meeting has not already started **Press # to wait**.
4. You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. **Press # to skip**.

If you have internet ability to join us through Zoom, here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTmPrA-l1qlv8PJ-g>

If you would like to serve as a reader or assistant during online worship, please let one of us know!

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor Sam would like to start a **parish-wide prayer group** to meet (either physically or virtually) every other week. If prayer is one of your spiritual gifts, please let Pastor Sam know! The group would meet to pray together, but also be committed to pray regularly for all those on the list.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). In order to make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you are in need of food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Opportunity to Help!!!** Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)**

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: [mmcps@tclparish.org](mailto:mmcps@tclparish.org), which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp [annie2919@gmail.com](mailto:annie2919@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-1335

Patty Bervy [pbervy@yahoo.com](mailto:pbervy@yahoo.com) (C) 518-598-7609

Karen Schubert [kara3215@juno.com](mailto:kara3215@juno.com) (H) 518-731-6751

Duane Keeler [oneservantofgod@gmail.com](mailto:oneservantofgod@gmail.com) (C) 518-610-0164

\*\*\*\*\*

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith:

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to the new email:

[parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org). Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however on Mondays by noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can however, always leave a voice mail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note when I will be back. A more formal sign will be on the door by Pastor Sam's office soon.

Peace, Sharon

### **From Vicar Care –**

**"The TCLP will be starting a book study on 'White Fragility' by Robin DiAngelo. We are meeting every Wednesday at 7:00pm on Zoom, starting October 7. If you are interested in attending, please use the following Zoom ID: 880 9165 9945. Feel free to join us from Chapter 1 or whenever you have the time to delve into some serious but important conversations with your fellow Christians."**

\*\*\*\*\*

**For all the crafty people..... "Are you a pro knitter or crocheter? Have a few needles and a ball of yarn and would like to learn or relearn how to use them? Vicar Carolyn is starting a TCLP Knit/Crochet Club! Whether you can knit a sweater or can barely crochet a scarf, all are welcome! Please contact the Vicar by email ([carolyn.lawrence@lstc.edu](mailto:carolyn.lawrence@lstc.edu)) or cell phone (312-538-3044) if you're interested. She's hoping to get this up and running in the next few weeks, with plenty of time to complete some warm woolly projects before winter!" Peace, Vicar Care**

\*\*\*\*\*

***Jackie reports: "I have heard from a few more people who are interested. I hope there are more of you out there! We will make this happen. So far we are planning on a Saturday after Pastor Beth arrives, so Oct. 17, 24, 31 or Nov. 7. This will be a good opportunity for***

*a specific group of folks to meet & greet her in a smaller physically distant setting. St. Luke's has been suggested as a good place to meet as it is somewhat central and has a large space to offer. Our request to use the hall will be covered at their council meeting Thursday 9/24. We will offer to clean up after ourselves to lessen the burden on them. We will also be accepting craft supplies from folks who don't wish to swap, maybe they are cleaning out. In that case we will ask folks who want those items to put \$ in a donation jar and the crafters would decide where that \$ would go, whether to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief or some other cause. I am leaning toward Lutheran Disaster Response with the \$ going to Fire Relief for the West Coast but that's a decision we should make together. If you haven't already, please contact me with your best date out of the 4 listed above and share this information with folks in your congregation who might be talking about downsizing. If anyone needs help transporting supplies please let me know, we can help with that. Looking forward to seeing many of you and your stuff soon!!"*

The details need to be worked out, but for right now, please send a message to **Jackie Menagh** if you would be interested! E-mail her at: [jamspirit@harddisk.net](mailto:jamspirit@harddisk.net) or phone her at (518) 256-2496

\*\*\*\*\*

### **TCLP Board for 2020**

Harry Avery – President    [harryavery@yahoo.com](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)  
Jackie Menagh – Vice Chair    [jamspirit@harddisk.net](mailto:jamspirit@harddisk.net)  
Duane Keeler – Recording Secretary    [oneservantofgod@gmail.com](mailto:oneservantofgod@gmail.com)  
Chuck Race -- Treasurer    [ctracejr@tclparish.org](mailto:ctracejr@tclparish.org)

**If you have additions, deletions, changes, etc. for the Parish Connection, bulletins, etc., please either call the Parish office at 518- 758-6526 or e-mail: [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org).**

**Thank you!**



## Congregation Announcements

### EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact -- Duane Keeler [oneservantofgod@gmail.com](mailto:oneservantofgod@gmail.com)

**Emanuel, Stuyvesant Falls will start in-person worship on October 4!**

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Duane Keeler	President	
Leslie Dumont	Vice-President	
Linda Frick	Co-Treasurer	
Dick Frick	Co-Treasurer	Not on council
Chuck Albertson	Secretary	Not on council
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Karen Albertson	Harry Avery	

### Committees

OUTREACH (Joint committee with St. Luke's)	Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson
WORSHIP (Joint committee with St. Luke's)	Phyllis Keeler
PARISH SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM	Karen Albertson, Duane Keeler (Chair)

### ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- Kara Udway [Karap1969@aol.com](mailto:Karap1969@aol.com)

### Council Members

Kara Udway, President	518-821-0437	<a href="mailto:Karap1969@aol.com">Karap1969@aol.com</a>
Barbara Slater, Corresp. Secretary	518-392-7798	
Ken Schomaker, Treasurer	518-758-1246	
Linda Dickson, Financial Secretary	518-610-8056	
Ethan Race	518-209-7829	
Tim McGlaufflin	518-756-4644	
Mike Schunk	518-610-8201	
Janis McGlaufflin	518-828-1857	

### Committees

Education	Ethan Race
Outreach	Kara Udway, Linda Dickson, Janis McGlaufflin

Parish Care	Janis McGlauflin	
Property	Larry Eleby	518-929-1432
Safety and Security	Sharon Smith	518-929-9765
	Chuck Race	518-917-3547
Stewardship & Finance	Ken Schomaker, Linda Dickson, Tim McGlauflin	
TCLP	Tim McGlauflin, Jon Strodl	
Worship & Music	Ted Fiebke	518-794-779
	Janis McGlauflin, Kara Udway	

**St. Luke's Valatie will start in-person worship on October 4!**

**More Details to follow!**

**Dear St. Luke's Family,**

**It is my pleasure to announce that we will be opening our doors to in person worship starting October 4<sup>th</sup>! While we do have safety guidelines and some restrictions in place, it will be wonderful to be able to worship together, Praise God!**

**Please know that a face covering (snuggly fitting over the nose and mouth) must be worn at all times. Upon entering the building, you will be asked to sign a waiver (one time only, not each time) as well as sign in with your name and phone number (for contact tracing) and enjoy a squirt of hand sanitizer! There will be no greeters or ushers, bulletins will be placed in the pews that are available for seating and all will be clearly marked. Sadly, singing is not permitted in the building.**

**Working together, we can make our worship space safe for everyone who would like to attend!**

**God bless you all and keep you well.**

**Kara Udway**

**St. Luke's Council President**

**EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S check back soon!**

**Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald [rfatbellspond@yahoo.com](mailto:rfatbellspond@yahoo.com)**

**Council Members**

Pat Brundage, President

Dick Fitzgerald, Treasurer (not a Council Member)

Debra Garrison, Secretary  
Linda Baker

## **Zion, Athens**

**Contact -Gethen Proper**

[gethen7@gmail.com](mailto:gethen7@gmail.com)

### **In-Person Service at 9 AM**

#### **Council Members**

William Darling, President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer, Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary, Treasurer	845-797-6084
Nancy Clark, Financial Secretary	518-444-8096
Gethen Proper, Council & Church Secretary	518-755-8395
Carol Serazio	518-731-9050
Karen Schubert	518-731-1190
John Wais	518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg	518-945-1184

**The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.**

**Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.**

**Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.**

**Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm**

#### **ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL**

**Contact - Jackie Menagh [jamspirit@hardsdisk.net](mailto:jamspirit@hardsdisk.net)**

#### **Council Members**

Jackie Menagh, President  
Karla Tyson, Treasurer

Sally Lord, Secretary

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever.

Please watch your mailboxes for a note or card from the Church Council looking for your input again on when/if you would feel safe & comfortable returning to in-person worship. How about an Outdoor Service? We will try to take this kind of poll on a more regular basis. Also, anytime you would like to let us know how you feel about this topic please contact Jackie by email, Facebook Messenger, text or call, 518-256-2496.

Since we have installed internet service at St. Paul's, attending church on a computer is available. If you would like to participate in the service but don't have access to an internet capable device, please call Jackie at **518-256-2496** and arrange to meet her at St. Paul's on Sunday morning at 9:45am. There are multiple devices available for use. Please call a few days before so a bulletin can be printed OR better yet, bring the bulletin you received in the mail. **Please Bring Your Mask! We will be physically distanced.**

## **CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM**

**Contact – Jeanette Wilber [tam20kfw@aol.com](mailto:tam20kfw@aol.com)**

### **Council Members**

Jeanette Wilber, President

Kurt Hoelter, Vice President

Heidi Brennan, Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Cate MacPherson

Richard Mac Donald (Mac)

Henry Bartel

*Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at [www.chathamLutheran.org](http://www.chathamLutheran.org) to get started!*

**Hi Everyone!**

**Doris Witthoft will be 93 years young this Thursday. It would be great if we could shower her with cards to let her know how much we ❤️ love her.**

**Her address is :**

**Doris Witthoft**

**141 Hudson Avenue  
Chatham, New York 12037**

**More news to follow on the opening of church and the sale of the  
parsonage, stay tuned!**

**Stay well and blessings**

**Jeanette**

**Council President**

## **St. Stephens, E. Schodack**

**Contact – Alice Senrick [Asenrick29@gmail.com](mailto:Asenrick29@gmail.com)**

**or call 518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504**

**In-Person Worship is at 11 a.m. with Communion**

### **Council Members**

Alice Senrick, President [asenrick29@gmail.com](mailto:asenrick29@gmail.com) 518-852-1504

Charles Senrick, Treasurer (Non-Voting member)

Cathy Teeter, Secretary

Brian Schell, Vice President

Deborah Deerfield

Diane Middleton

Charles Mayrer

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

## **TRINITY, CASTLETON**

**Contact – Nicole Gardner [scullynik@yahoo.com](mailto:scullynik@yahoo.com)**

### **Council Members**

Anne Philipp      President

Eric Knodler      Vice President

Rik Cosgrave      Treasurer (not on Council)

Nicole Gardner      Secretary

Mike Wiley

Flo Ball

Joseph Fahd

Lois Bult

**In-Person Worship is at 9 a.m.**

**Financial Secretary Needed** Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

\*\*\*\*\*

**What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org)**

**Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: [parishadmin@tclparish.org](mailto:parishadmin@tclparish.org) and she can help direct you to the right person!

**CONTACT US:**

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: [whiteginger20@gmail.com](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Transitional*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --[pastordanhahn@gmail.com](mailto:pastordanhahn@gmail.com)

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence E-Mail: [Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu)

TCLP Website: [www.tclparish](http://www.tclparish)

CHATHAM WEBSITE: [www.chathamlutheran.org](http://www.chathamlutheran.org)

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: [www.slelc.com](http://www.slelc.com)

**Devotions and Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - curated by Vicar Carolyn**

**“Morning Has Broken” ELW #556**

Morning has broken  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken

Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day!

"Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

**--Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

"Maybe I was praying for him then, in my own way. Does God have a set way of prayer, a way that He expects each of us to follow? I doubt it. I believe some people-- lots of people-- pray through the witness of their lives, through the work they do, the friendships they have, the love they offer people and receive from people. Since when are words the only acceptable form of prayer?"

**--Dorothy Day**

"Its words are but whispers;

Yet if I understand them aright it never ceases preaching.  
All things seen in the world and in Eve's race are a sermon;  
Each generation passing, another takes its place.  
May we listen to the world's sermon."

**--Cormac Ruadh O'Huiginn**

"The prayer of someone who harbours a grudge is like a seed upon a stone."

**--St. Isaac of Syria**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**--Hebrews 12:1-3 NRSV**

"Our life finds meaning when it is above all the living response to a call from God."

**--Brother Roger of Taizé**

### **A Poem by Joy Harjo**

"To pray you open your whole self  
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon  
To one whole voice that is you  
And know there is more  
That you can't see, can't hear  
Can't know except in moments  
Steadily growing, and in languages  
That aren't always sound but other  
Circles of motion.  
Like eagle that Sunday morning  
Over Salt River. Circl'd in blue sky  
In wind, swept our hearts clean  
With sacred wings.  
We see you, see ourselves and know  
That we must take the utmost care  
And kindness in all things.



Breathe in, knowing we are made of  
All this, and breathe, knowing  
We are truly blessed because we  
Were born, and die soon within a  
True circle of motion,  
Like eagle rounding out the morning  
Inside us.  
We pray that it will be done  
In beauty.  
In beauty.”

“Joy is the reward, really, of seeking to give joy to others. When you show compassion, when you show caring, when you show love to others, do things for others, in a wonderful way you have a deep joy that you can get in no other way. You can’t buy it with money. You can be the richest person on Earth, but if you care only about yourself, I can bet my bottom dollar you will not be happy and joyful. But when you are caring, compassionate, more concerned about the welfare of others than about your own, wonderfully, wonderfully, you suddenly feel a warm glow in your heart, because you have, in fact, wiped the tears from the eyes of another.”

**--14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso**

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”

**--Martin Luther**

“Open your heart and quietly to yourself say the only prayer that’s ever needed: Thank you, thank you, thank you. You’re still here. You get another chance this day to do better and be better, another chance to become more of who you were created and what you’re created to fulfill. Thank you. Amen.”

**--Oprah Winfrey**

## Vicar Carolyn's Sermon on Matthew 20:1-16

*You awake long before the sun will begin to rise in the eastern sky. You bid farewell to your family as you head out to the public square, gnawing worry in the pit of your stomach. Will you be able to make a living wage today? Will you find work to buy bread and food for your little ones at home?*

*The sun rises as you gather with other day laborers, each weighed down with the same fears of survival. Managers come and take a few workers out into their fields. But surprisingly, there is a landowner searching for workers as well. Usually managers do the hiring work, but this man is picking and choosing his laborers himself. He promises the workers he gathers a denarius. It's not enough to save for tomorrow, just enough money for bread for one day. But what wouldn't you do for that money, for the security that comes with a coin in your pocket!*

*But you are not chosen. The sun moves high in the sky and its rays beat down on you. You wipe your brow, sweating in the scorching heat. If only you were sweating from work, from an honest day's labor! But instead you remain standing, waiting. Your fear intensifies--how can you go home to your family with nothing?*

*That strange landowner returns, taking more men with him out into his fields. You're surprised at his reappearance—did he not hire enough workers the first time around? He, too, is sweating from the heat, yet he still chooses to go out again to find workers. He promises these men a just*

*wage. You assume they'll be paid half a denarius, maybe a little more, but you would take anything at this point.*

*He keeps coming back, as the sun makes its descent to the west. And finally, finally, he picks you. He doesn't promise you a just wage, he doesn't even make mention of how much he'll pay you, but at this point you really don't care. You need something, anything, to buy your daily bread, to survive. He asks you, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" You respond, with a hint of defensiveness, "Because no one has hired us."*

No one has hired us. As the pandemic continues, fear around employment, about getting enough money for your daily bread, remains. While jobs are being re-added to the economy, we still have high unemployment and know all too well that some businesses will never recover from the financial strain of lockdown. I know many friends of mine, and folks in the parish, who are yearning to go out into the fields of their jobs and work. They are willing and able, but why are they unemployed?

In this parable that is full of sheer grace, I have heard many complaints about this passage. "The landowner isn't being fair! If he was fair," the argument goes, "he would pay the first workers more or the last workers less." But just as God challenges Jonah in our first reading, so too are we challenged by Jesus' words here. Who are we to determine God's fairness? God doesn't have to play by our rules. The landowner at first says he will pay a denarius, which is akin to minimum wage, enough money for one day's food. Then he tells the others he will pay them what is just, what is right. And the landowner determines that what is right is making sure that all his workers are paid enough to survive. If we have a problem with

that, then maybe we are the ones who need to re-evaluate what fairness truly is.

God sees the value of every human being, regardless of the work they do. God does not determine your worth from your work. You are valuable simply because you are a child of God.

God's salvation doesn't play by our rules. Regardless of your work, regardless of your long standing commitment to your church, regardless of anything, you receive God's salvation through sheer and abundant grace. That grace is sufficient for the last workers in the fields, and it is sufficient for those who have labored all day long.

This parable stops—it doesn't really have a true ending. There is no resolution between the first laborers and the landowner, nor the relationship between the workers themselves. There is a question in the air that remains unresolved. Will the workers grumble away, or will they recognize the generosity behind the landowner's actions?

Jesus cannot finish the parable because it is up to us to determine its ending. Will we grumble at God's generosity for those whom we think may be undeserving of it? Will we see the value in every child of God, knowing that they too deserve their daily bread? Will we be the managers of God's grace, giving away mercy as we have received it?

The ending is ours to make.

*The sun sets, and your work is over. The steward calls you over, his coin purse in hand, and you eagerly draw near. You've only been at work an hour, but it seems like you'll at least get paid something.*

*And a denarius is placed in your hand! A whole denarius! For you! You didn't earn it, not really, but it's here to save you. You leave the fields, knowing there are some who grumble at your wages. But it doesn't matter what they say.*

*Your children won't have to go hungry tonight. You can get bread, and maybe even some fish to go along with it. You hold the coin tenderly in your palm. It is a lifeline. It is enough for the day. The landowner gave you what you didn't deserve but desperately need, and that is the end of your story.*

That grace, that mercy, is the end of our stories.

**Tri-County Lutheran Parish**  
**September 27, 2020, 17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Based on the ELW, Setting 1 Worship Leader: Vicar Care**  
**Voice of Congregation: Phyllis Keeler Lector: Cathy McGlaufflin**  
**Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/7700997419>**

**Announcements**

**Silent Meditation & Prayer Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **C: Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

L: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive 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.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

Hymn *Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun* ELW 557



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy  
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and  
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -  
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all  
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from  
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of  
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with  
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.  
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**Greeting**

L: 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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

**C: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.



**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with

fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**C: Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

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

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

<sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

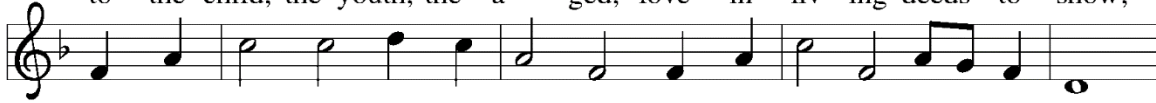
Hymn *Lord Whose Love in Humble Service* **ELW 712**



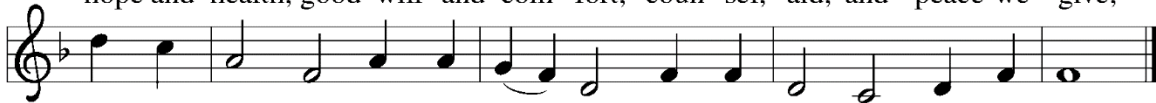
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**Apostles Creed**

**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, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into 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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. ***A brief silence.***

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, Jared Frick, and Deborah Holtz. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. We pray especially for our military, John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main and Angela Silliman. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. We pray for people among us who need your healing touch, especially: Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Richard Lindheimer, Shirley Morgan, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Margaret Schmidt and family, Edward Lyons, Debbie Hammond, Rebecca, Veronica, Janis McGlaufflin, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Krystal, Karla Tyson, Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Karen Lasher,

Lynn LaFave, George Flanders, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, , Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary-Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Richard Hutchinson, , Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Annie, Karen Mink, Donna Wactel, Delores Havlick, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Pastor Dan Hahn, and our parish members who due to COVID-19 are unable to attend In-Person worship, and those we name before you... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you, especially for our Bishop, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean, Pastors, Vicars, and Seminarians. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for travelling mercies for all who travel. Keep all safe whether for work, family or vacation destinations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you Lord, for the healing mercies for: Steve Grimm, Carol Voeks, Bob Shelato, Sheri Patterson and Shirley Bryan. We ask for your continued mercies as they recover. We are grateful for the safe arrival and birth of: Annabelle Catherine Shelato Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. We pray especially

Jack Fratianni, Norman Bollinger, Charlie Ropollo, Sandy Fancher, and Georgia Olivia Tucker and their family and friends. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud now on our lips or in the silence of our hearts. *(Pause and allow Pastor/Vicar to offer prayers, or add prayers sent through Zoom chat here)* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

L: I will give you all a moment to unmute yourselves... The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

### **Offering**

We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given in person, sent electronically or by mail; for the mission of the church including the care of those in need.

### **Offertory**

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

**C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

**C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

**C: unite them with the prayers we offer.**

L: Grace our table with your presence,

**C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

## **Dialogue**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## **Preface**

L: 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:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

## **Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

#### **Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

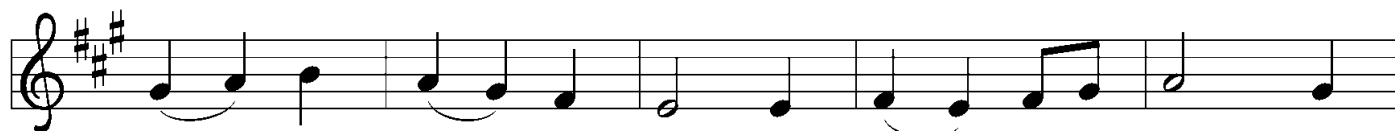
L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen**



Hymn *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* **ELW 729**



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

**Dismissal**

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: Please unmute yourselves... And all God's people say:

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA!**

## PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, and Vicar Carolyn Lawrence.

For the families and friends of... Jack Fratianni, Norman Bollinger, Charlie Roppolo; Sandy Fancher, and Georgia Olivia Tucker, mother of Pastor Pamela Hoh.

For the Baptism into Christ's family of Nathaniel Slonina, Raymond Vitale, Gabriella Rose Hotaling and Genevieve Ruth Bartlett.

For those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, Jared Frick, and Deborah Holtz.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing...Arlene Taylor, Joan Crow, Billy Crow, Robin Crow, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Sasha Shultis, Robert Millius, Richard Hutchinson, Shirley Bryan, Bob Shelato, The Pfrommer family, Richard Lindheimer, Jack Lyons , Millie Sparks , Tom Sanford, Grace Balint, Shirley Morgan, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Margaret Schmidt and family; Rebecca, Veronica, Janis McGlauflin, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake, Robert and family, Etta Shultis, Krystal, Karla Tyson, Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Karen Lasher, Vivian Becker, Lynn LaFave, George Flanders, Joy H., Kirk Dixon, Jean Bruce, Ed Schomaker, Dave, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Joyce, Frank Johnson, Bill Duke, Patty Bervy, Carol Voeks, Matt White, Mac McDonald, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Adeline Carr, Mary-Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Steven Grimm, Edward Lyons, Debbie Hammond, Tonya, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Annie, Karen Mink, Donna Wactel, Delores Havlick, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Pastor Dan Hahn and our parish members who due to COVID-19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.

For Thanksgiving for healing and further recovery mercies: Steve Grimm, Carol Voeks, Bob Shelato, Sheri Patterson and Shirley Bryan.