Sunday, December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Communion \* stand +kneel

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Breath Of Heaven (Mary's Song) Chris Eaton and Amy Grant arr. Lloyd Larson

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **C- Amen.** 

P- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.

P- God of mercy,C- we confess that we have sinned.We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P- God of might,C- we confess that we have sinned.We have turned away from our neighbors.We have trusted false promises.

P- God in our midst,C- we confess that we have sinned.We plead: come to us.Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P- A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. C- Amen.

#### GATHERING SONG The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (ELW 265)

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came The gel Ga - bri - el from heav came, 1 an en -2 "For a bless - ed moth - er know thou shalt be, Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; 3 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born with as drift - ed snow, with flame: wings eyes as hon all gen - er - a - tions laud and thee; or God," as "To pleas - eth said. me be it she Beth - le - hem all Christ in on а mas morn, "All hail to thee, 0 low - ly maid - en Mar y, Em - man - u - el, told, thy son shall be by seers fore and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name." "My soul shall laud the world will ev -Chris-tian folk through-out and er say: most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo ri - a! Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

#### **GREETING** (ELW p. 138)

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

#### **\*KYRIE**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* 

P- Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### C- Amen.

The assembly is seated.

#### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life. *The assembly responds:* 

Thanks be to God.

#### LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH VERSE 4



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#### PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

## PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

- ${}^{\scriptscriptstyle 46b}\,My$  soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
  - <sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- <sup>48</sup> for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
- <sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
- <sup>50</sup> You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.
- <sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
- <sup>52</sup> casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- <sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- <sup>54</sup> You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
- <sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

- <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings
  - you have taken no pleasure.
- <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to

the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life. *The assembly responds:* 

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

#### Spoken by All

Alleluia. Here I am, the servant | of the Lord;\* let it be with me according | to your word. Alleluia.

#### GOSPEL: GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

*The gospel is announced.* P- The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

# C- Glory to you, O Lord.

P- <sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

- <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;
  - he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
- <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
- <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
- <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

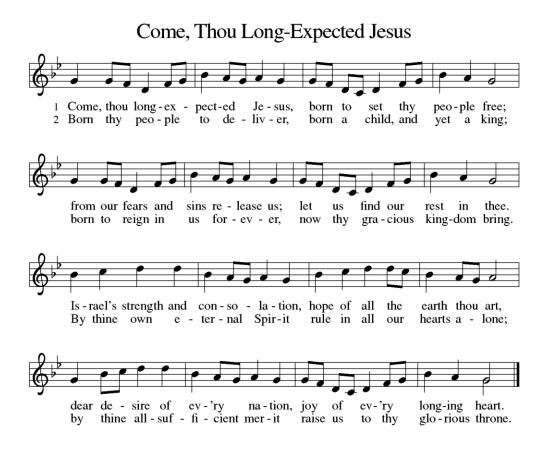
The gospel concludes:

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

## SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

## HYMN OF THE DAY Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

#### **ALL- \*APOSTLE'S 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 to the dead.\* 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

## A brief silence.

P- God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

## C- receive our prayer.

P- God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks, or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

## C- receive our prayer.

P- God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **C- receive our prayer.** 

P- God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

## C- receive our prayer.

P- God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

# C- receive our prayer.

### Here other intercessions may be offered.

P- God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

# C- receive our prayer.

P- Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C- Amen.

## PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P- The peace of Christ be with you always.

## C- And also with you.

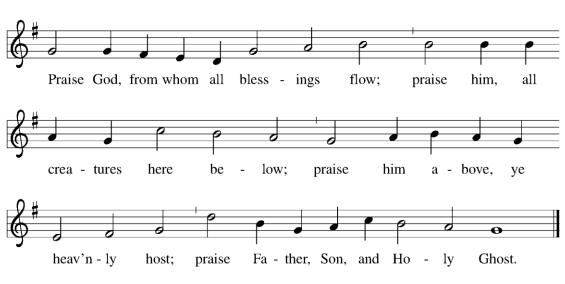
The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

BELL ANTHEM O Come, O Come Emmanuel setting by Martha Lynn Thompson

The assembly is seated. <u>MEAL</u>

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)



Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

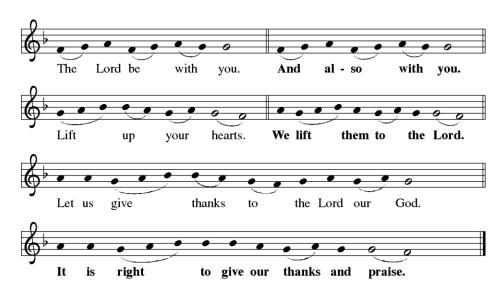
Let us pray.

P- God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C- Amen.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

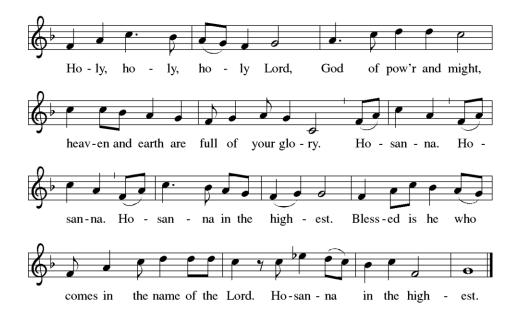
DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P- Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

## C- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P- With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.We look with hope for his coming.C- Come, Lord Jesus.

P- Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C- Come, Holy Spirit.

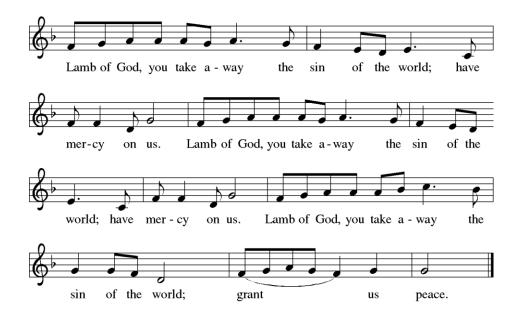
P- All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,Word of God incarnate,Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.C- Amen.

#### ALL\_LORD'S PRAYER

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- God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

#### **\*COMMUNION SONG**



#### COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

P- The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *and each person may respond* 

Amen. The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

#### **\*TABLE BLESSING**

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds P- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

## C- Amen.

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

P- God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C- Amen.

#### SENDING\_

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### BLESSING

P- God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. C- Amen.

SENDING SONG Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

#### Canticle of the Turning



Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### POSTLUDE- Emmanuel Michael W. Smith arr. Lloyd Larson

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One vase placed in honor of Matt Platt's birthday by Glenn and Helen Miller.

One vase placed in honor of Nicholas Maldonado, Happy 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by Mom and Dad.

**Important** Please sign the Friendship Register in your pew. Members with a change of address or visitors should complete the address section and telephone number. Visitors should also include the name and address of their home church so your home church can be notified that you received communion.

**Prayer Requests** – Please email or call the church office with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. You may give names to the person leading service prior to start of service.

**Pastoral Coverage** –Please call Linda in the Church Office with your request. If you and/or a family member are ill at home and not able to attend church, please contact the church office so that Pastor Marie can bring communion to your home.

**Reminder: Hospital visits -**The church is NOT informed when someone is in the hospital by the hospital. The person hospitalized or a family member must call the church to let us know they want a pastoral visit. If leaving a message on the answering machine, please remember to leave the hospital name and the room number. Some hospitals will not give the room number to a visitor, expecting you to know that.

Attendance for Dec 15, 2024 38 in person, 216 views and 2 shares as of Dec. 18, 2024.

On the first weekend of every month there will be a donation collected for Helping Harvest. This organization has put food trucks in areas to help the needy in place of the Pottsville Soup Kitchen after they closed. We will once again provide gift cards for needy families for Christmas. Requests must be given in writing to the office but will only be approved by the pastor.

The annual Mitten Tree will be in the narthex during the Advent and Christmas seasons to accept donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and any other appropriate items. The items will be divided between Servants to All and Schuylkill Hope Center (formerly Women in Crisis.)

Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:30pm

Birthday cards: Betty Bailey will be 92 on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please send cards to: Betty Bailey, Box 277, Auburn, PA 17922

The snowflakes on the tree in the narthex were made by the Sunday School children. The crocheted snowflakes were made by Holly Maldonado.

#### .IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 15- deadline newsletter articles Dec 22- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent-Dec 29 Service at 10:30 with no communion Dec 24- Service at 6:30 pm Jan 4 Spoken service at 5 pm Jan 5 Services at 8 and 10:30 am

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM LAST WEEK:

| Synod/ELCA Benevolence | \$23.00          |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Local Benevolence      | \$103.00         |
| Current                | \$1076.43        |
| Plate Offering         | \$55.00          |
| <b>Total Received</b>  | <u>\$1251.43</u> |

# 2024 weekly envelope and plate budget: \$3,281.21

# "THE WEEK AT A GLANCE" <u>Today:</u> 10:30 am Worship Service <u>Monday:</u> Prayer Shawl

<u>Tuesday:</u> Office Closed <u>Wednesday</u>: Office Closed Merry Christmas Thursday: 6 pm Bell rehearsal

Next Sunday: 10:30 am Worship Service no communion

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon: Luke 1:46b-55; Micah 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:16-21 Tues: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Wed: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 Thu: Psalm 148; 2 Chronicles 24:17-24; Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60 Fri: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:32-36; John 21:19b-24 Sat: Psalm 148; Isaiah 54:1-13; Revelation 21:1-7

# ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Greeter: 10:30 am Troy Hollenbach Acolyte: Lector: 10:30 am Troy Hollenbach Ushers: 10:30 am Mike Troxell Counting Team: Holly Maldonado, Marlene Troxell Council Greeter: 10:30 am Jeff Freeman Communion Assistants: 10:30 am Jeff Freeman

Church Office Hours: 9 am - 3pm Monday - Friday Office closed for lunch 12 pm until 12:30 pm Church Telephone 570-754-7350 www.SummerHillLutheran.org – Church's website Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill Student Loan Committee email: stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

| Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor                 | 716-353-1610 |  |
|--|--------------|--|
| Email: stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com |              |  |
| Matthew Hayes, Director of Music         | 484-794-7902 |  |
| Email: stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com  |              |  |
| Linda Angstadt, Church Secretary         | 570-754-7350 |  |
| Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com        |              |  |
| Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton             | 570-345-1279 |  |
| Stacey Fidler, Church Sexton             | 570-754-7350 |  |
| Eva Waldman, Treasurer                   | 570-754-7350 |  |



Keep in your prayers: Charles Hawk, Sr., Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Adam Brink, Arlene Moyer, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Rosemary Meade, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg

Phillips, Stacey Rao, John and Betty Strauch, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, Kathy Robinson, Brian Hunsberger, Cathy Moran, Diane Werner, Donovan Baker, Kyle Cleary. Peggy Davis, Harry Russell, Carol Beenick, Brittany & Joshua Gallagher, Shawnette Keller, Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler, Betty Fromm Yarnell, Kermit Snyder, Paulette White, Joseph and Linda Catizone, Don MacIntyre, Maxine Vanst, and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson, Mark Weinus, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast.