Sunday, March 16, 2025 Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion * stand +kneel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE At Calvary Daniel B. Towner arr. Alex-Zsolt

*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, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C- Amen.

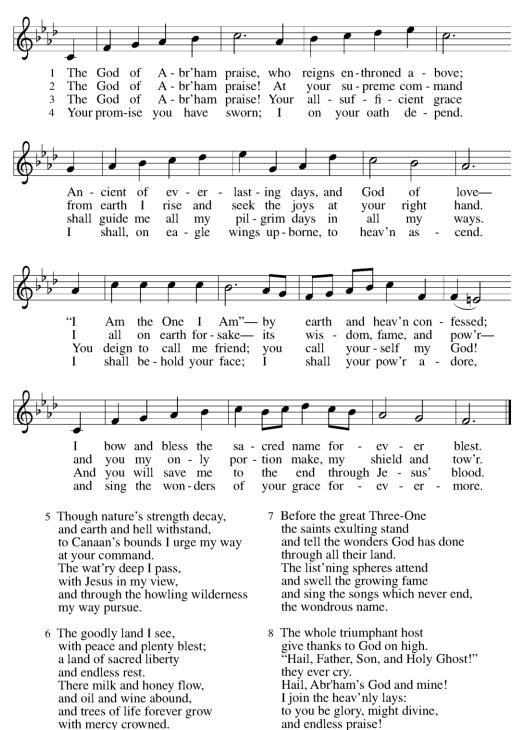
P- Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Compassionate One, C- you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen. P- Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. C- Amen.

GATHERING SONG The God of Abraham Praise (ELW 831)

The God of Abraham Praise



Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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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- God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a

covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The reading may be concluded:

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall. ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken. ⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple. ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock. ⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD. ⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. ⁸ My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek. ⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰ Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in. ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors. ¹² Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence. ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

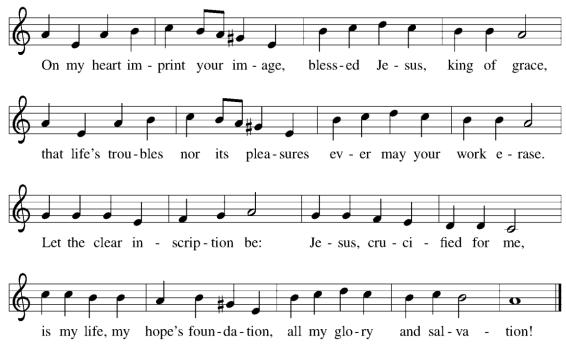
¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, word of life. The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION On My Heart Imprint Your Image (ELW 811)

On My Heart Imprint Your Image



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his

The gospel is announced. P- The holy gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter. **C- Glory to you, O Lord.**

P- sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)



Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

P- Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P- Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **C- receive our prayer.**

P- Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **C- receive our prayer.**

P- Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **C- receive our prayer.**

P- Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (*especially*). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P- Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING



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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 our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C- Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE SPOKEN

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

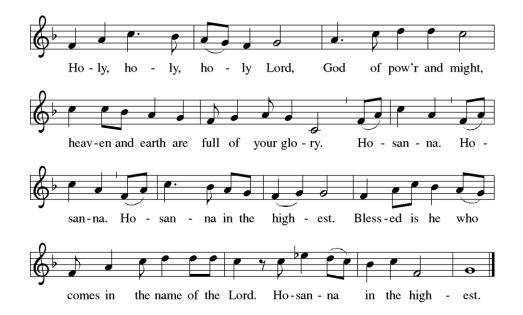
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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- Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: C- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P- O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
C- Come, Holy Spirit.

P- Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.Breathe new life into us.Send us forth,burning with justice, peace, and love.C- Come, Holy Spirit.

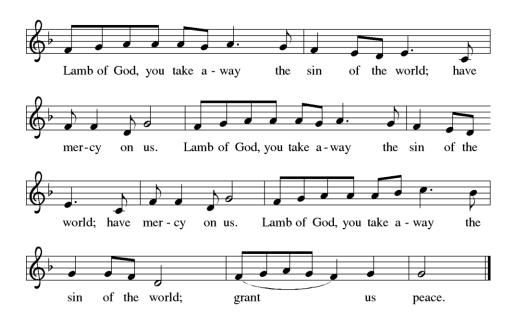
P- With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **C- Amen.**

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- All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

***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- Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C- Amen.

SENDING_

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

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. C- Amen.

SENDING SONG God Be with You Till We Meet Again (ELW 536)



Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

DISMISSAL P- Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **C- Thanks be to God.**

There is no postlude during Lent. Please use the time for the postlude for a quiet reflection of your Lenten journey.

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One vase of altar flowers has been placed in honor of Grayson Rollman's 14th Birthday presented by his grandparents Glenn & Helen Miller.

One vase of altar flowers has been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Regina Phillips by the Schwenk Family.

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 March 9, 2025 (no count given 37 speople signed in) in person, 209 views and 2 share as of March 12, 2025.

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.

The Cemetery Association has set April 12th as clean up day for the cemetery. Please remove any arrangements, that you would like to keep, by that date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Communion at the rail will be served on March 16th and on Easter Sunday.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Palm Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall for children up to and including those in grade 6. Advance registration is requested by April 6. To register your child(ren) sign sheet on bulletin board in back of church or email Reba at <u>llewell@verizon.net</u> or text or call 570-527-5116. Please leave child's name and age.

Egg Hunt Donations – Filled plastic eggs will be appreciated for the children's Egg Hunt on April 13. Please bring egg donations to the church by the morning of April 13 and place on table in the back of the fellowship hall. To sign up your donation, please sign sheet on bulletin board in back of the church or email Reba at <u>llewell@verizon.net</u> or text or call 570-527-5116. Thank you in advance for your donation.

We will be assembling health kids for Lutheran World Relief again this year during the Lenten Season. Please see the insert placed in bulletins starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 for details.

Please see the bulletin board for sign up sheet for donations of food for the mid week Lenten meals held before the mid week Wednesday night services.

The Jolly Quilters are asking for donations of full, queen or king sixe sheets in good condition or new to use as backing for quilts.

The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex from Sunday, March 23rd until Sunday, April 13th. We will be accepting donations of items to be sent to our college students, to have while they are studying for their final exams. Items to be donated include snacks, pens, pencils, or any other small appropriate items. The packages will be given to the students, whose families have provided us with their names and addresses. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity in donating to our project.

DINNER AND A MOVIE: Saturday April 5th after service. **Movie: LIFE WITH DOG** See article in newsletter for description of movie.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 16 Communion at the rail

April 5 Dinner and a Movie April 12 Cemetery clean up April 13 Eatser Egg Hunt April 13 Last Day for School Hoise April 20 Communion at the rail

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM LAST WEEK: (including Ash Wednesday)

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$100.30
Local Benevolence	\$100.20
Current	\$1009.95
Plate Offering	\$47.00
Initial	\$3.00
Lenten Offering	\$110.00
Total Received	<u>\$1370.45</u>

The 2025 Weekly giving needed for budget is \$3,166.75.

<mark>"THE WEEK AT A GLANCE"</mark>

<u>Today:</u> 10:30 am Worship Service <u>Monday:</u> Prayer Shawl <u>Wednesday:</u> 7 pm Mid week Lenten service <u>Thursday:</u> 6 pm Bell rehearsal <u>Next Sunday:</u> 10:30 am Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon: Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12 Tues: Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Wed: Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31 Thu: Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11 Fri: Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6 Sat: Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Greeter: 10:30 am Jessica Rollman Acolyte: 10:30 am Tanner Gormley Lector: 10:30 am Debbie Hummel Ushers: 10:30 am Brian Staller Counting Team: Debbie Hummel, Jeff Freeman Communion Assistants: 10:30 am Debbie Hummel 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, Christopher Tokarick, 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.