St. Paul Lutheran Church "Let's Make a Difference Together"



158 Fish Hill Road PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372 Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator's Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.
Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals
Christian Education: Sunday's at 10:15 A.M.
Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

<u>OUR MISSION STATEMENT:</u> Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family?? Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION... Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

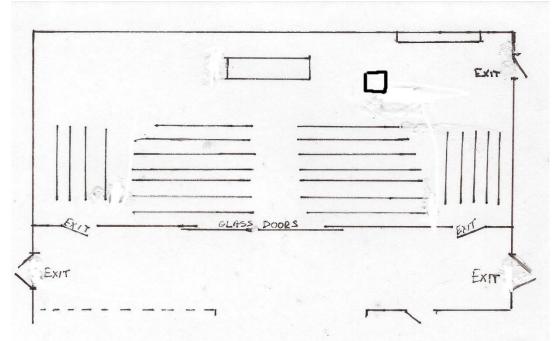
Pastor: Reverend Rashion "Woody" Santiago Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2023 Council Members

Grant Allen, Dawn Bartron, Bill Below, Chris Kinsley Sr., Nicole Kresge, Carl Reindl, Deb Storman, Beth Werkheiser, Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A



Worship Service Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 1, 2023

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own.

Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Chimes

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

As we are called into worship today, it is sobering to remember that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him. Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. People of God, behold and see your God!

We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom. We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise. We open our hearts to offer him our love. He is Lord!

*Confession

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away

^{*}Please stand, if able.

from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Absolution

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Redeeming King"

You are the Lord
Exalted above the most high
The Ruler of all
Worthy of all my praise
You are the Lord
Mighty in all of Your ways
Forever the same
So worthy of all my praise

Chorus

And I lift my hands
In holy devotion to You
My life is my sacrifice
Daily surrendered
And I lift my voice
Unashamed of my love for You
For You are the Lord
My redeeming King

You are the Lord
Exalted above the most high
The Ruler of all
Worthy of all my praise
You are the Lord
Mighty in all of Your ways
Forever the same
So worthy of all my praise

Chorus/ Chorus/ Chorus

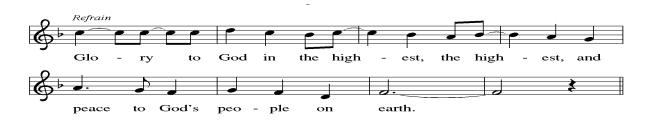
*Greeting

You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.





*Hymn of Praise





*Prayer of the Day (Lector)

Let us Pray.

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

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

- ¹The word of the Lord came to me: ² "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel: 'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ As I live" this is the declaration of the Lord God "you will no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴ Look, every life belongs to me. The life of the father is like the life of the son both belong to me. The person who sins is the one who will die.
- ²⁵ "But you say, 'The Lord's way isn't fair.' Now listen, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair? Instead, isn't it your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns from his righteousness and acts unjustly, he will die for this. He will die because of the injustice he has committed. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will preserve his life. ²⁸ He will certainly live because he thought it over and turned from all the transgressions he had committed; he will not die. ²⁹ But the house of Israel says, 'The Lord's way isn't fair.' Is it my ways that are unfair, house of Israel? Instead, isn't it your ways that are unfair?
- ³⁰ "Therefore, house of Israel, I will judge each one of you according to his ways." This is the declaration of the Lord God. "Repent and turn from all your rebellious acts, so they will not become a sinful stumbling block to you. ³¹ Throw off all the transgressions you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, house of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in anyone's death." This is the declaration of the Lord God. "So repent and live!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

- ¹ Lord, I appeal to you.
- ² My God, I trust in you. Do not let me be disgraced; do not let my enemies gloat over me.
- ³ No one who waits for you will be disgraced; those who act treacherously without cause will be disgraced.
- ⁴ Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; I wait for you all day long.
- ⁶ Remember, Lord, your compassion and your faithful love, for they have existed from antiquity.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my acts of rebellion; in keeping with your faithful love, remember me because of your goodness, Lord.
- ⁸ The Lord is good and upright; therefore he shows sinners the way. He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

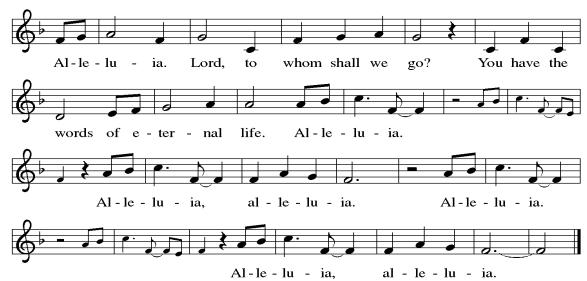
- ¹ If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴ Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.
- ⁵ Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even to death on a cross.
- 9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth 11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (Lector)

*Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When he 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? Who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I will also ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did John's baptism come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we're afraid of the crowd, because everyone considers John to be a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

- ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'My son, go work in the vineyard today.'
- ²⁹ "He answered, 'I don't want to,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ Then the man went to the other and said the same thing. 'I will, sir,' he answered, but he didn't go. ³¹ Which of the two did his father's will?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him. Tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; but you, when you saw it, didn't even change your minds then and believe him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

"Authority"

Verse 1
Creation knows the voice
That spoke into the void
The breath that brought the dust to life
And sang the stars to form

Verse 2
The darkness fears Your voice
That drove it back before
And though the night is long
I know Your light
Will drive it back once more

Chorus

One word from You
Things change on Your authority
Your word it's true
Things change on Your authority

Verse 3
My fight is not my own
Its end is in your hands
I worship You because I know all things
Must bow to Your command

Bridge
Will heaven not prevail
And strongholds not be moved
Will spirits not be silenced
And cower at His rule
For if my God is for me
Then what have I to fear
And I will not deny Him
The glory that is His

Bridge
Heaven will prevail
And strongholds will be moved
Spirits will be silenced
And cower at His rule
I know my God is for me
So what have I to fear
For nothing will deny Him
The glory that is His

Brooke Ligertwood, Chris Brown, Scott Ligertwood, Steven Furtick
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*The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of the People (Lector)

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

At this time, you are welcome to share your joys and concerns, either out loud or silently. *Pause.* Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Then the assembly is seated.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

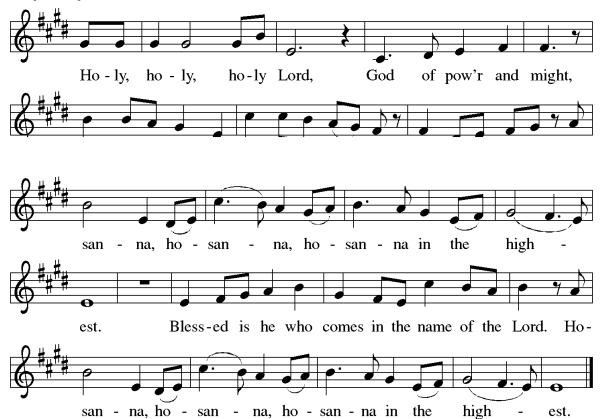
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Proper 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; 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



*Words of Institution

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me."

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*The 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

Jesus invites us to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

*Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

*Blessing

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"All Over the World"

Even as the world began
The stars they sang
And all the angels shouted for joy
Shouted for joy
And looking back through history
Your people they have always had
A song they must sing
A song they must sing

We are the people of God We'll sing Your song here on the earth

All over the world Your song will resound
All over the world Your praises ring out
We're living to see Your name and renown
All over the world

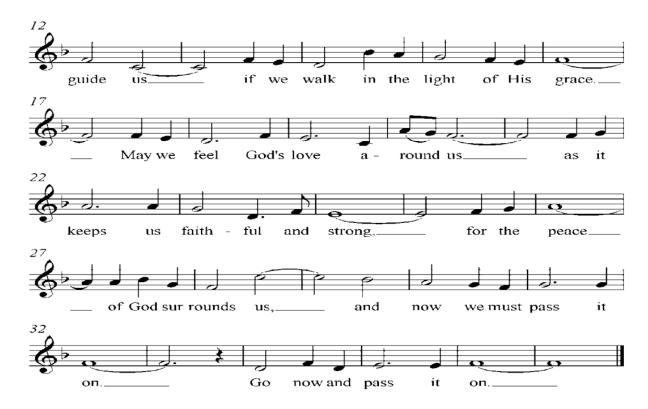
Young and old near and far
There's a place for every heart
To join in Your song
Join in Your song
Ev'ry nation tribe and tongue
Come together join as one
Give glory to God
Glory to God

Great is Your name and great will be Your song
Great is Your name and great will be Your song
We lift up our hands and pray
We lift up our hands and pray
For holy is Your name

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*Choral Benediction "Go Now and Pass It On" May the Lord walk be - side us as we leave this qui-et place, for the Lord will al-ways



*Charge to the People

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

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Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgt. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Jamie Fisher; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Charlie Hemple; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Donna Myers; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Rafael Santiago; Claudette Segear; Frank Schambra; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; for the people of Ukraine; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the families and victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic. Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. Items of particular need are cereal, pasta (not spaghetti), canned white potatoes, carrots, kidney beans), canned fruit, tuna and baby food.

Trunk or Treat

We will be having a Trunk or Treat event again this year! It will be held on Saturday, October 28^{th} from 3:00-5:30pm. Sign-up to decorate your trunk and hand out candy or just to donate candy. Sign-up sheet is on the round table in the narthex. We had so much fun last year, we hope you will join us this year!

Worship Leaders

Pastor is asking all worship leaders to join her in a short prayer each Sunday you are scheduled. To enable the ushers to participate, we will meet in the Narthex at 8:45am.

Reformation Sunday Joint Service

Pastor Woody has been asked by the Lutheran Church she grew up in to preach the sermon in their Community Reformation Sunday Service on October 30. Pastor is inviting you to join her. This service is being held at Christ Lutheran Church, at 1301 Luzerne Street, Reading and will begin at 4:00pm.

Inside Out Church

Inside Out Church is held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, in the parlor. We join together with a meal and a deep dive into the scriptures. This is an opportunity to grow your faith and increase your knowledge and understanding of God's Word and the Bible.

Annual Report

It's that time again! It is time for all Committee Chairpersons and Group leaders to submit their annual report. Remember, this report includes information from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023. This must be completed before the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, that will be held on November

Help Wanted: Parish Administrator

While we are still searching for a replacement for Leanna, we need volunteers to come into the office one or two days a week and do some simple tasks. Tasks may vary, but may include answering the phone, checking the answering machine, picking up the mail at the post office, and opening it, coding invoices for payment, checking email, printing necessary documents. Training will be provided, if you volunteer while Leanna is still here. Please contact Bill Below, Deb Storman, Pastor Woody, or Leanna to volunteer of if you know anyone who may be interested in the job.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 5:1-7 The song of the vineyard

Psalm 80:7-15 Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine.

Philippians 3:4b-14 Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ

Matthew 21:33-46 The parable of the vineyard owner's son

		Worship	Assistant	Schedule		
	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
10/1/2023	Eli Kresge	Beth Reindl	Bill Below	Dawn Weiss	Beth Werkheiser	Beth Werkheiser
		Carl Reindl		Dawn Bartron	Deb Storman	Leanna Wickline
10/8/2023	Deb Storman	Charlie Hempel	Dawn Bartron		Barbara Allen	
		Donna Warner			Donna Warner	
				Leanna		Beth
10/15/2023	Dawn Weiss	Linda Below	Kris Kent	Wickline	Barbara Allen	Werkheiser
		Deb Storman		Dawn Weiss	Beth Werkheiser	Leanna Wickline
10/22/2023	Linda Below	Beth Reindl	Bev Otten		Donna Warner	
		Carl Reindl			Deb Storman	
	Christian					
10/29/2023	Kent	Charlie Hempel	Joan Rinker		Barbara Allen	
		Donna Warner			Deb Storman	

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please contact the office.