

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church  
419 Bossardsville Road  
Stroudsburg, PA

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The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

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“Whoever welcomes  
**one such child**  
in my name  
**welcomes me.**”

MARK 9:37, NRSV



**Welcome to Christ Hamilton!** Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at [www.chrighthamilton.org](http://www.chrighthamilton.org). Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that **all are welcome** at Christ Hamilton! If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. Please note there are also kids kits in the back for the children to utilize during the service. LARGE PRINT bulletins are available and hearing assisting devices, please ask an usher if you would like one.

**Today's service:** *Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

**Altar flowers** are given in loving memory of Mike Butts by his brother George Butts.

**Altar Flower Delivery:** Laura Young

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

## SONG

## THY HOLY WINGS

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

# HYMN OF PRAISE

# Glory to God



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



① Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



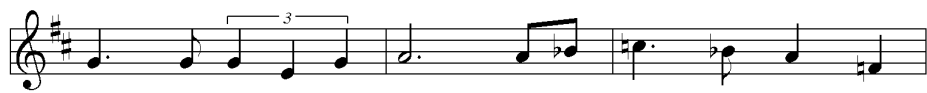
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



② Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks in the work of your kingdom, and help us to order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**FIRST READING****JEREMIAH 11:18-20**

Reader: A reading from the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Sung responsively.*

**PSALM**

**Psalm 54**



Cantor: Save me, O God, | by your name;  
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

**All: Hear my | prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words | of my mouth.**

Cantor: For strangers have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have | sought my life,  
those who have no re- | gard for God.

**All: Behold, God | is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.**

Cantor: Render evil to those who | spy on me;  
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

**All: I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.**

Cantor: For you have rescued me from | every trouble,  
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

## SECOND READING

**JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8A**

Reader: A reading from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of James.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.     **All: Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**GOSPEL**

**Mark 9:30-37**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”<sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”<sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.<sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”<sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,<sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

# Loving Spirit



- 1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Assisting Minister: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities so that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer especially those we lift to you now. Transform systems that oppress the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, especially Kevin, Mark, Bessie and console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, Holy God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Peace is shared with one another.*

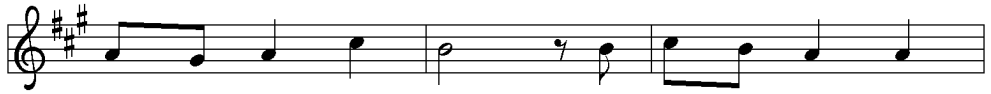
## **Offering**

# Offertory

# We Walk by Faith v. 1, 4



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
you are near and seek where you are found:  
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . Merciful God,

**All: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

## Preface

Minister: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Minister: 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

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

### Communion

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.*

*Please come forward by way of the right aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the left hand aisle as you return to your seat.*

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

# Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three numbered lines of text.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three lines of text.

*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain begins with the word "Refrain" in italics. The musical notation shows the start of the refrain with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics "Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me," are written below the treble staff.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second part of the refrain continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics "yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so." are written below the treble staff.



# This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

Detailed description: This system contains the first three lines of lyrics and the first two lines of musical notation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff. The word 'oh,' appears twice at the end of the system, corresponding to notes in the bass staff.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

Detailed description: This system contains the next three lines of lyrics and the next two lines of musical notation. The notation continues from the first system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff. The word 'oh,' appears at the end of the system, corresponding to notes in the bass staff.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

Detailed description: This system contains the next three lines of lyrics and the next two lines of musical notation. The notation continues from the second system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff. The word 'oh,' appears at the end of the system, corresponding to notes in the bass staff.

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Detailed description: This system contains the final three lines of lyrics and the final two lines of musical notation. The notation continues from the third system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff. The system ends with a double bar line.

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**All: Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true  
bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant  
that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and  
blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled  
with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

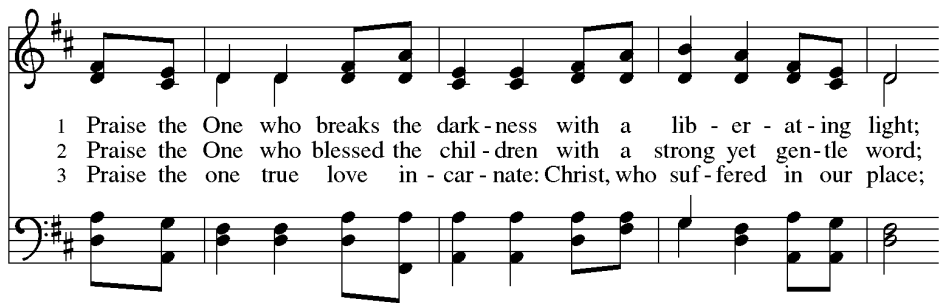
### **BLESSING**

Minister: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

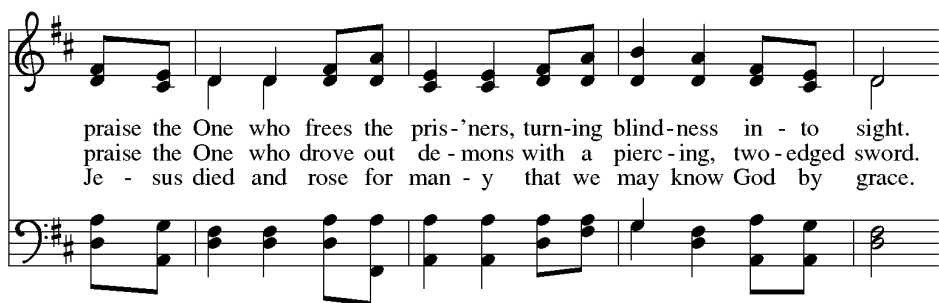
**All: Amen.**

## SONG

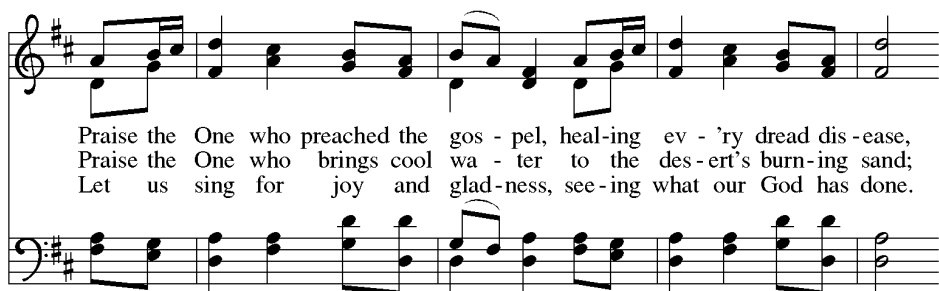
## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



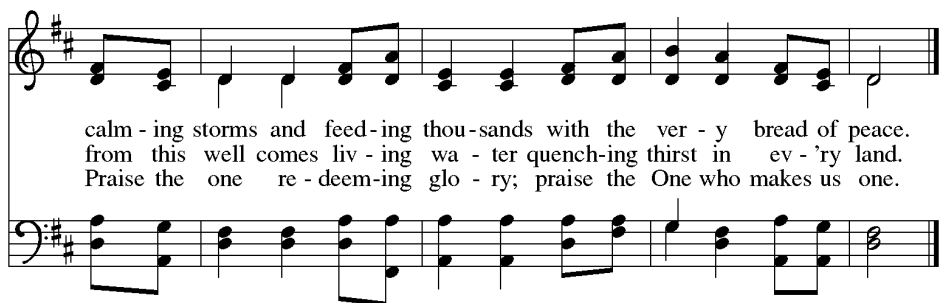
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

## **Dismissal**

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **Worship Leaders**

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Organist:	Beth McElroy
Lector:	Janet Catina
Lay Assistant:	Janet Catina
Greeters:	Bill Smyth & Laura Young
Choir Director:	Tassy Gilbert
Announcements:	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

**Prayer at the Rail** - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

**Please Remember in Prayer:** Sandy H., Jim, Don and Jackie. **If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.**

**Readers, Greeters and Assisting Ministers Wanted** – We would love to have you share your gifts and talents in worship. Let Amanda (the announcement lady) know if you are available.

**Bingo Prizes Needed!** Lunch box size snack packs, small stuffed animals, stretchy beaded bracelets and crossword puzzle books can be dropped off in the office.