

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

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Website: www.flcwarren.com

The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ewing, Pastor, pastor@flcwarren.com

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music



August 16, 2026



“All are accepted and affirmed just as we are, with all our differences and gifts – unique children of God. No matter your race, ethnicity, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, social or economic status, we have a place for you. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, anti-homophobia, social & economic justice, and environmental care. As part of the whole complex, colorful spectrum of God’s creation in all its diversity we are all one in Christ!”

Land Acknowledgement Statement

As we gather in this place, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Seneca Nation (Onödowá'ga:'). We remember that we also share this land with other parts of God's good creation: plants, birds, and animals. May we be good stewards and good neighbors.

Scan for online giving.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please let the lighting of the altar candles signal our time to quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

Cantabile

G.F. Handle

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#886

*GREETING

P; The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

Response: **And also with you.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

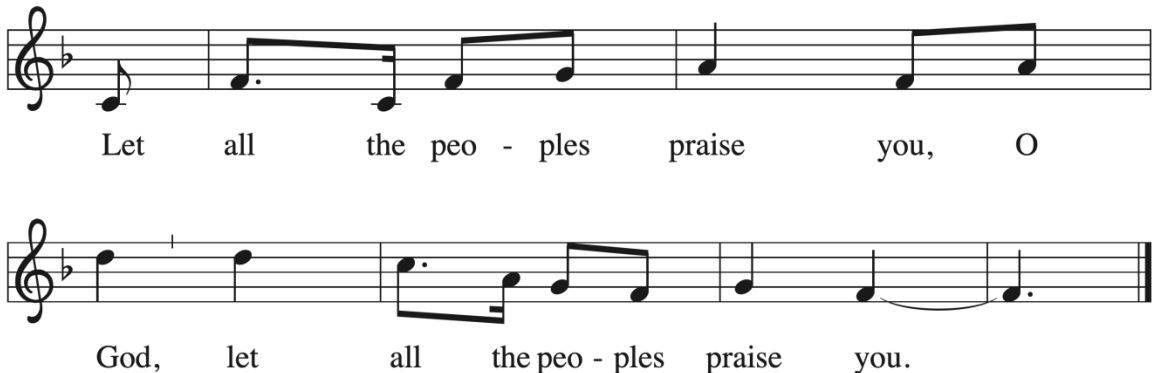
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 67 *Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)*



Psalms 67:3

Psalms refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ May God be merciful to ¹ us and bless us;
 may the light of God's face ¹ shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known ¹ upon earth,
 your saving health a- ¹ mong all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
 let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and ¹ sing for joy,
 for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- ¹ tions on earth. R**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
 let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought ¹ forth its increase;
 God, our own ¹ God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God ¹ give us blessing,
 and may all the ends of the earth ¹ stand in awe. R

SECOND LESSON Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to ...

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

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 15: 10-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to

the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Jeffery B Ewing

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

In Christ There Is No East or West

#650

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

Assistant: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

Congregation:

**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**

A: ... Merciful, God.

C: ...receive our prayer.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

A: The Peace of the Lord is with you!

C: And also with you!

MEAL

OFFERING *The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC [8AM]
[10AM]

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Songs I Long to Hear
Adri Hunt, soprano
Kevin Hunt, piano

Gordon Young
McKibben & Christiansen

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

We Give Thee but Thine Own
Verse 1 & 2

#686

**1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord is with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

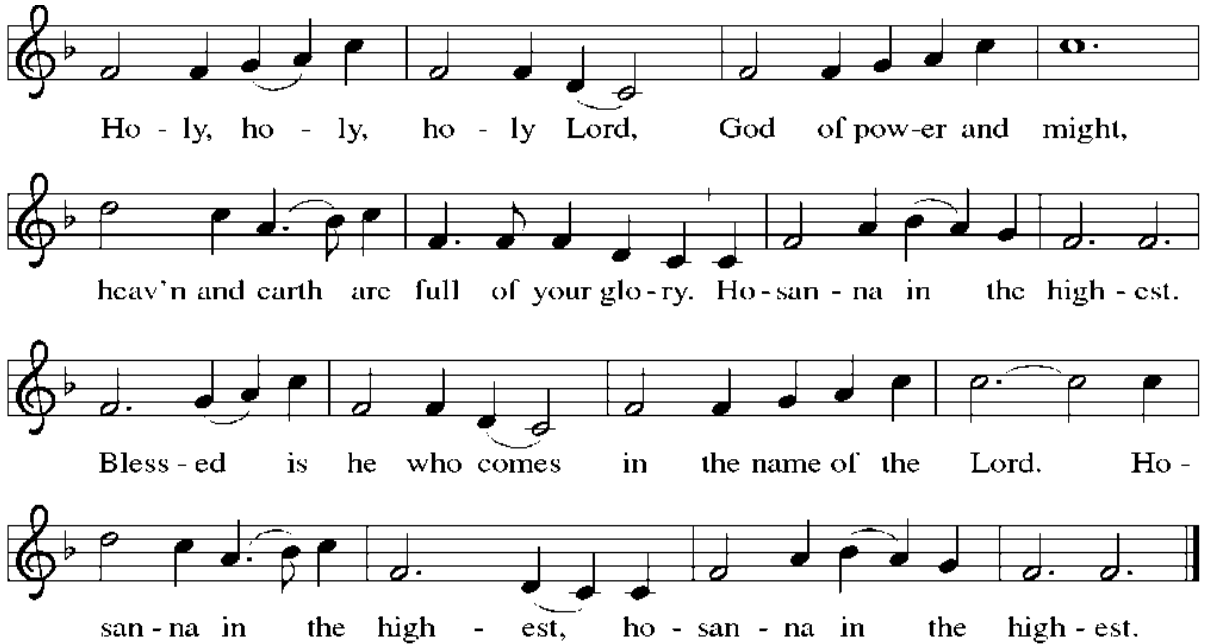
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** *Congregation:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Thanks be to God!

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

As Lutherans we believe that Jesus is present in the elements of communion, bringing forgiveness and new life to all who receive it. The table is open to everyone, and the gift is always given, never taken. Simply make a cradle with your hand(s) as you receive the bread. **Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available from the ushers. Bring them forward to be blessed by the pastor.** The response after receiving both the gift of bread and wine is ***"Amen."***

*For those who would like to continue to celebrate in the pews, please let the usher know.
For our friends who are not celebrating communion, simply fold your arms across your chest
and receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

*There is a Balm in Gilead
Healer of Our Every Ill*

#614
#612

*BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: May the blessing of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the gifts of His body and blood strengthen,
keep and unite us now and forever,

C: Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

I Come with Joy

#482

Verse 3 & 5

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends
Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Compassionate God

C: through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#759

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

IN Christ There is No East or West

Dalewood

Please feel free to exit during the postlude

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Today's Altar Flowers

Given in memory of Bill Kridler's birthday from the Kridler Family.

Given by Charles Merroth in Memory of my wife Ruth.

Organ Vase given by Linda & Earl Ross in memory of father, mother and son.

Serving Today
Cantor

August 16

(8AM) John Beard
(10AM) Carolyn Worley

August 23

Anne Benson
Dave Campbell

Assisting Minister

(8AM) Don Reed
(10AM) Keith Hedges

Elizabeth Dustin
Denny Pearson

Acolyte

Jen Kersey
Allyx Hoden

Jen Kersey
Allison Kellogg

Children's Message

Cynthia Klenowski

Anna Bielawski

Digital Deacon

Penny Lester

Denise Whipp

Counters

Steve Horsley
Dave Campbell

Dave Campbell
Brenda Hunter

CLERGY RENEWAL SERIES EVENT SEPTEMBER 15TH AT 6:30 PM.

Join a discussion of the international best-selling book, *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. Copies of the book were purchased through a Thrivent Action grant and are available for participants to borrow. They are located on a table in the narthex. Check one out and don't forget to return it so that others may read it, too.

Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression of outreach and affection. The old man, no stranger to sadness and loss, quickly becomes a welcome presence in the community but his new friends and neighbors wonder, who is Theo? And why is he here?



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS NEEDED

Do you like working with kids? Whether it is as a helper, substitute teacher, or regular teacher, there are opportunities where you can serve! Please contact Cheri Kellogg at 814-688-0640 or by emailing her at

christianed@flcwarren.com.

PRAYER LIST

Names will remain on the list for a period of three weeks.

Names may be returned to the prayer list by contacting the church office.

Please receive permission before submitting names to be included on the Prayer List.

Prayer Requests: servicemen & women, especially Andrew Shodi, Swede Backhus, Adam & Ben Frederick, Shane Simpson, Curtis Royek, Ty Elmquist, Julie & Joey Gilman, Hunter Feeny, Kohl Feeny, Jordan Curtis, Erik Dippold

The ongoing ministries of Warren Area Refugee Resettlement Network.

The Clergy Renewal Program, particularly Pastor Jeff & Kari

August 16: Larry Rambish, Alyssa Dennewitz, Ron & Lois Hart, Connie Buerkle, Terry Pearson, Val & Nancy Condio, Brent Casey, Kristin Frick, Joel Nowacki, MaryBeth Nawrocki, Ariel Mickle, Dee Schultz, Addy Landrio, Christopher Saylor, Margie Campbell, Judith Melton, Mike Doty, Freyja Nordin, Penny Lester

August 9: Kim Tome, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, Janet Wilson, Sarah Downey, Jeff Bastow, Elaine Powers, Donna Smith, Kia Lee, Betty Berdine, Vic Wolfe, Cara Smith, Joe Krall, Jerry Johnson, Mariah Nowacki, Barry Seastead, Maryann Long, Jim Rapp, Linda Philhower, Dusty Johnson, Lori Lee, Roberta "Bobbi" Hessley, Sue Burke, Nicole Hall, Cody Fetzeck, Teri Granger, Jim Berkey, Lynne Sears

August 2: Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Katie Silvey, Laura Dieter, Ralph Gallo, Cindy Hillard, John Morrissey

Please contact the Church Office if you, a family member or someone from the parish is in the hospital. Help us help you when pastoral care is needed!

SUMMER HYDRATION STATION MINISTRY

The summer heat has arrived and our hydration station has been well utilized. We are most in need of cases of water (8oz – 10oz preferred) and electrolyte packets. Our hydration station ministers to the unhoused, children in our community, neighbors who spend their workdays outside in the summer heat, and people who just happen to pass by. We provide cold bottled water, electrolyte packets, sun tan lotion packets, aloe packets, and wet wipes. If you are able to help with this ministry in any way it is greatly appreciated.



We have added an element of collecting prayer requests at our Hydration Station. Please take a moment to pray over the collection of these prayer requests on the Clergy Renewal bulletin board.



FRIDAY NIGHT OUT

Friday Night Out will be September 11th at the Peppermill. Note the time change this month. We will meet at 645PM, and order off the menu. Sign up in the narthex. We hope you can join us.



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING- NEXT WEEK

Calling all students, teachers, librarians, aids, admins, custodians, food service, bus drivers, and anyone else going back to school for any reason. Bring your book bag, lunchbox, briefcase, etc. to church on August 23 for our annual Back to School Blessing.

This year we are asking the members of the congregation to take a name of a student or adult going back to school and pray over them for the entire school year. Be sure to watch for the opportunity!

FLC wants to hear your story!

As a part of our Clergy Renewal Program we want to chronicle the faith journey of our congregation. The youth of our church will be interviewing the adults about their faith journey for a video about our church family. There is a sign up in the narthex for time slots for interviewer and interviewees on *Sunday, August 23 from Noon to 3PM* and on *September 19 from 10AM to 1PM* at First Lutheran Church. It should only take about 20 minutes of your time. If these times and locations do not work for you, please contact Cheri to schedule another time and location. You can call her at 814-688-0640 or by emailing her at christianed@flcwarren.com.



WALKING TOUR

Another session of our “Culture Classes,” a historical walking tour of downtown Warren, will be held Tuesday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. We’ll gather in front of the Warren Public Library. Leader of the tour will be historian Dave Winans. We’ll stroll downtown streets and surrounding neighborhoods and learn about the development of the city, the people who built the buildings and homes, and architectural styles. It’s a leisurely walk on flat sidewalks and will take about a little over an hour.



CABBAGE STOMP

”The annual Lutheran Men in Mission Sauerkraut Stomp will be held at 6:03PM this Tuesday August 18th in the First Lutheran Church kitchen. We’ll be slicing, dicing, shredding, and stomping to smithereens 150#’s of fresh cabbage, thanks to Warren Shurfine.

This fine mess (vegetated vegetable) will ferment (rot) for eight weeks and then we will hold our annual LMM Sauerkraut Dinner on October 20th. Please come help us turn water into wine or in this case cabbage into sauerkraut!!

If you see Evelyn Keller today, please wish her a happy birthday!



Music old and new

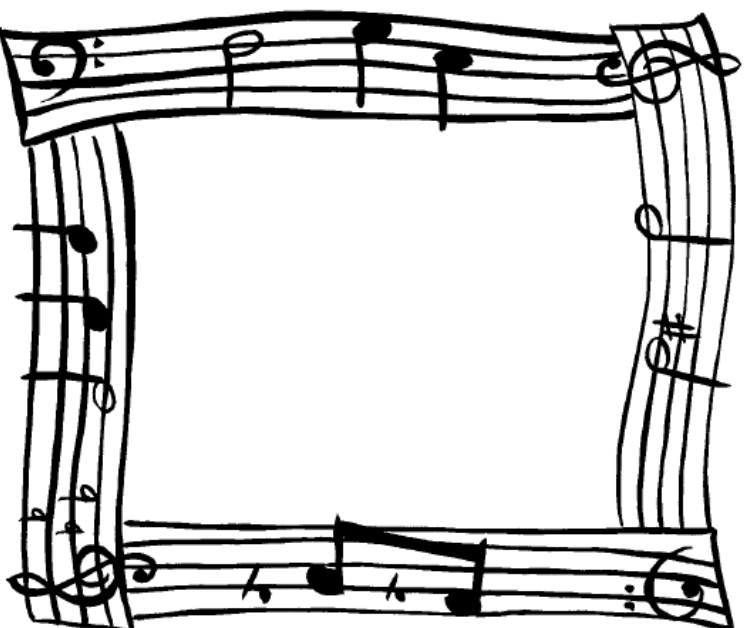
Psalms 67

A psalm is a poem or song about God. The Bible has a whole book of psalms!

Write the numbered words in the blanks below to read the words of Psalm 67.



1 the peoples 2 you. O 3 ;
4 the 5 praise 6 (Psalm 67:3).



The woman is playing a harp. Draw other musical instruments that help sing praises to God.



Talk about the sounds and words of music at worship.



Refrigerator Schedule

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS **Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday at 6:30 PM**

*HP/Hansen Parlor; NH/Niewoehner Hall; OFH/Old Fellowship Hall,
YR/Youth Room, UC/Upstairs Classroom, SY/Sanctuary, CR/Choir Room
UCR/Upstairs Community Room, NX/Narthex, K/Kitchen, Y/Yard*

Sunday, August 16	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
Monday, August 17	1:00 PM	Mahjong (NH)
	6:00 PM	Christian Ed (HP)
	7:00 PM	Council (HP)
Tuesday, August 18	3:00 PM	Cabbage Stomp (K)
	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	5:00 PM	Widow's Group (HP)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	7:00 PM	RIC (NH)
Wednesday, August 19	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NX)
Thursday, August 20	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
	<i>PRODUCE EXPRESS</i>	
Sunday, August 23		<i>BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING</i>
	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	12:00 PM	Faith Journey Interviews
	2:30 PM	Kim Tome Baptism at the River
	4:00PM	Watson Home Worship

VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking for volunteers in the office. Would like to serve your church staff by helping in the office. We are currently looking for people who would be willing to help Lori count on Monday mornings and people to cover phones and the desk when Jessica is out of the office. Contact the office to learn more.
(814) 723-6450.

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!



RIVER BAPTISM: Everyone is invited to be a part of Kim Tome's baptism at Gary and Penny Lester's camp on Shipman's Eddy on Sunday, August 23rd at 2:30 p.m. We hope you can come and celebrate with Kim on this special day! Due to parking space limitations, we ask that you carpool there as much as possible and let us know if you will be coming – there's a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex! Be sure to plan on staying for goodies afterwards!