

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book located in the Narthex.

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### Calendar of Events

#### **Happening Today!      Holy Communion**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
5/6 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### **Sun. Mother's Day/Mission Sunday**

**5/10 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
("Images of Christians" - Rescuers - Colossians 1: 9-14, 21-23)  
**10:00AM Worship Service with Mission Presentation**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
5/13 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thur. (5/14) *Ascension Day*

Sat. 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport  
5/16 7-10PM Community Hoedown at the Fellowship Hall  
Food and Ice Cream beginning at 5:30

#### **Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**

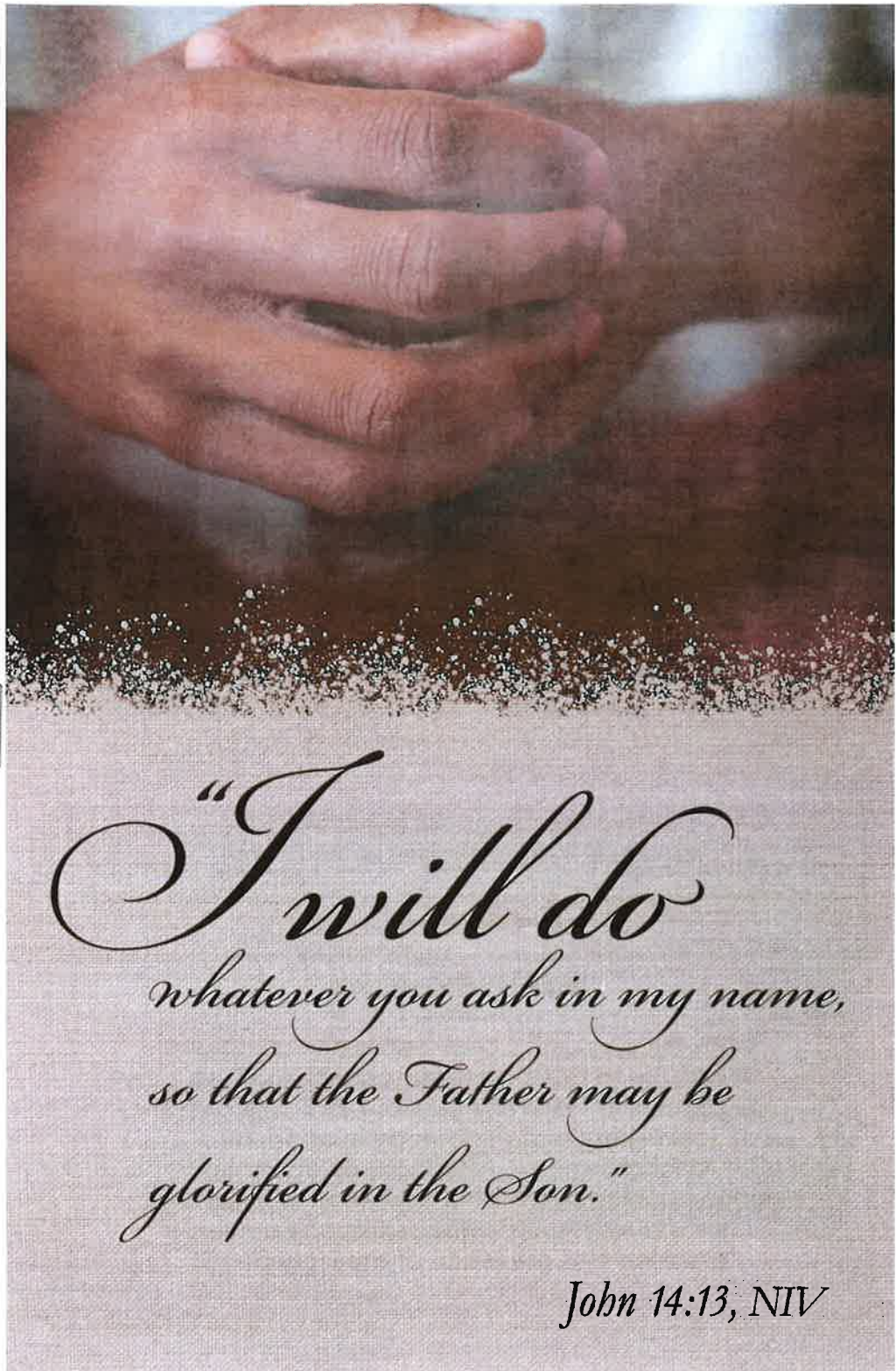
**5/17 9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
("Images of Christians" - Reconcilers - Philemon 1-25)  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

Mon. (5/18) 7:00PM Board Meeting

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Acknowledgements:

Permission by CCLI license #2391601
The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978
Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life
and Leadership, 1986
The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004
Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (pp. 115-118).
Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.



*"I will do
whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be
glorified in the Son."*

John 14:13, NIV

We welcome you to Salem (Belleman's) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

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Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net  
Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:00 a.m. weekly

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*Children's Bulletins are available in the pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

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Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminded us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ – our way, our truth, our life.

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*Welcome and Announcements*

*Prayers for Healing*

Mark Zipp, Peggy Hartman, Maya Hein, Dorothy Dougherty, Richard Hartman, Richard Bausher, Livia Kiwak, Sindy Bachman, Robert Elliott, Shirley Felix, Mathew Machmer, Gene Kemp, Arlene Gilmer, Joan Huey, Audrey Hess, Xavier Shaffer, Larry Blatt, Sophia Moore, Brenda Anderson, Batdorf Family

Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

*Military*

Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner, Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman, Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman, MSgt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts, Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey, MAJ Michael Kufro, SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and women serving our country.

*Prelude*

*\*Gathering Hymn*



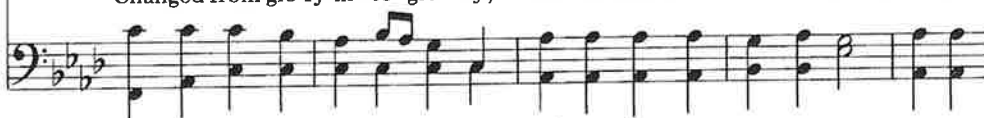
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;  
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov-ing Spir-it In - to ev - 'ry trou-bled breast!  
3. Come, al-might-y to de - liv-er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot-less let us be;



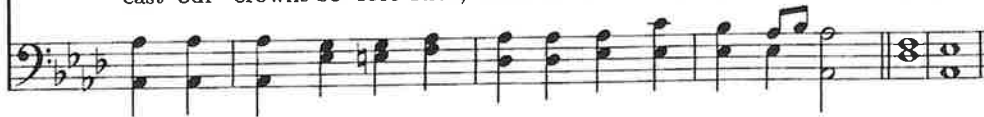
Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell-ing, All Thy faith-ful mer - cies crown.  
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find that prom-ised rest.  
Sud-den-ly re-, turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect-ly re - stored in Thee:



Je - sus, Thou art all com-pas-sion, Pure, un-bound-ed love Thou art; Vis - it  
Take a - way our bent to sin-ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of  
Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and  
Changed from glo-ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we



us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem-bling heart.  
faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
praise Thee with-out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love and praise! A - men.



*\*Call to Worship*

Sing praises to God, you people of faith.  
**We give thanks to God, who heals and restores.**  
Praise God who transforms us, who heals and loves us.  
**Praise God, who clothes us with joy.**  
Do not be silent. Praise the Lord!  
**We give thanks our God, today and always.**

*\* Call to Confession*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
**Loving God, we can be so sure that we know what is best.**  
**We head into life following our own dreams. Interrupt us**  
**with the blinding light of your grace, that we may gain new**  
**vision. When despair and sadness overwhelm us, and**  
**when hope fails us, teach us to dance to the music of your**  
**love. Open us up, O God, that we may see your path, walk**  
**in deeper faith, and be loving witnesses of your glory.**  
**Amen.**

*\*Acknowledgment of God's Forgiveness*

Praise the Lord!  
**The Lord's name be praised.**  
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.**

*Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!*  
*(The sharing of hands/hugs are optional.)*

*\*Praise Hymn (Sung)*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;**  
**Sing to God a hymn of gladness,**  
**Sing to God a hymn of praise.**  
**He who on the cross as Savior**  
**For the world's salvation bled,**  
**Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,**  
**Now is risen from the dead.**

*\*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**Wisdom of God, come and dwell among us. We gather to hear your word, and to sing your praise. We come as we are, trusting that your grace will perfect us. Interrupt our lives with your vision of truth and love. We praise you now and always. Amen.**

*Proclaiming The Word - Read by Phil Kistler*

*SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone— rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him, <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message, which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*PSALM: 31:1-5, 15-16*

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**<sup>2</sup> Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

**<sup>4</sup> Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

**<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*\*Alleluia (Sung)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL: John 14:1-21*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup> Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and

that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

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

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering: Jay Lane, Kutztown House Fire  
 (Frank and Mica Kornfeind's Neighbor)*

Hymn

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from  
 4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's  
 you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are  
 you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come  
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,  
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, All who are wea - ry, come home;  
 come home,

Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

*Sermon*

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

**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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Offering*

Choir Anthem

*\*Offering Response (Sung)*

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!  
Because He lives, All fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!**

*\* Pastoral Prayer*

*Holy Communion*

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Luke the evangelist wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**In company with all believers, in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

**\*COMMUNION PRAYER**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We join with every creature in heaven and on earth, every creature under the earth and in the sea, to sing your praises. You created all that is, bringing forth goodness and new life. You are at work in our world still, transforming lives, healing brokenness, comforting those who mourn. Your people were not always faithful. They followed their own desires, lashing out in anger, forgetting those in need. You sent prophets to call them back to your paths, reminding them of your love, and telling them to care for one another. You were always faithful, for you loved your people. And so, we join all creation as we sing praise to you:

*(Sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

You gave us Jesus to walk with us and to show us your love. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and taught us your ways. He showed us the abundance of your love and reminded us to share it with others. On the night before his death, Jesus gathered with his followers, telling them to love one another. He shared a meal with them, taking bread, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it to them, saying, "This is my very being. When you eat this, remember that I am with you." He took the cup, blessed it, and gave it, saying, "This is the cup of forgiveness, poured out in abundance for you and for all people. As you drink this, remember that I am with you."

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Consecrate by your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us that as we receive them at this table we may offer to You our faith and our praise, we may be united with Jesus Christ and with each other, and we may remain faithful to you o God for the rest of our lives.

**\*BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE**

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

**INVITATION**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are ready.

*(Sung)*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.**

**RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS**

*All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

*Holy Communion will be offered at the altar.*

*(Grape juice is provided in the center of the trays)*

*(Ask the ushers for Gluten-free options)*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of your son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!**

*\*The Benediction*

*\*3-Fold Amen (Sung)*

**\*Sending Hymn**

1. The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,  
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war,  
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,

She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word:  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;  
And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:

From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride; With  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest, And  
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, Like

His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
to one hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee. A - men.

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*

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Communion Assistants Today

Altar Assistants: Carla Rozsitch, Maura Wesner, Dawne Clay
Cup Stations: Eric Weyandt, Roxanne McMurtry
Ushers: Larry Henne, Sam Stump

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**Community Hoedown**  
Featuring Caller Ken Saul  
Saturday, May 16 at the Hall  
Food and Homemade Ice Cream at  
5:30 p.m.; Hoedown 7-10 p.m.



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Join us for the Relay for LIFE of Kutztown & Eastern Berks to benefit the American Cancer Society.

It's more than a walk. There will be food, drink, raffles, fun activities and the Way-Har ice cream trailer.

Has your life been touched by cancer? Consider dedicating a Luminary for a love one, who is a survivor or a loved one lost to cancer. Luminary's are lit at sunset!

Are you a survivor?? you are invited to come at 4 pm for a Cancer Survivor Ceremony followed by a FREE dinner along with other Cancer Survivors.

WHAT.....Hometown Hero's Walk for Cancer

WHEN.....May 16,2026

Time.....12 noon to 9pm

WHERE....Bower's Park,235 Bower Rd, Mertztown,Pa

For more Information: Ann or Mark Stump -6109263416
email: mstarduster@aol.com

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC
at Belleman's Church

Monday, May 25, 2026

Picnic Food available 1:00-7:00 p.m.



Items available include:

Burgers - Hot Dogs - Fries - Turkey BBQ - Drinks
Chicken Noodle Soup - Ham and Bean Soup - Beef Vegetable Soup
Ice Cream - Desserts - Raffle
Quarts of soup and BBQ available for take-outs

Music by: The Washington
Band of Annville
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Leibensperger
Funeral Homes, Inc.



Memorial Day Service - 2:30 p.m.

The service takes place in both cemeteries with participation by local groups including the POS of A and Cub Pack 154.

We need YOU!!!

Your help will be greatly appreciated for Memorial Day.

There are many ways to help:

1. Help by **donating a cake** at the Refreshment Stand.
2. Help in the **refreshment stand**. There are a variety of jobs for you to choose from.
3. Help **setup and clean up** the grove.
4. Help **carry a flag** for the Memorial Service.

There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for these volunteer opportunities or **please contact the church office if you are available to help out. Thank you!**