

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 This week!

**Mon. (7/27) - Thur. (7/30) 6-8 p.m. Vacation Bible School  
"Rainforest Falls" (Info page 14)**

Fri. (7/31) Reading Phillies Game (Info page 15)

**Sun. VBS Closing Sunday**

**8/2 9:00AM Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall**

Mon. (8/3) 6:30PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

**Sun. Holy Communion**

**8/9 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Sat. 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport  
8/15 (Belleman's Month to serve)

**Sun. Bluegrass Sunday**

**8/16 9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**

Mon. (8/17) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Tue. (8/18) 5:30PM Community Meal at the Fellowship Hall

**Sun. Blessing of the Backpacks**

**8/23 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

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Acknowledgements:

Permission by CCLI license #2391601

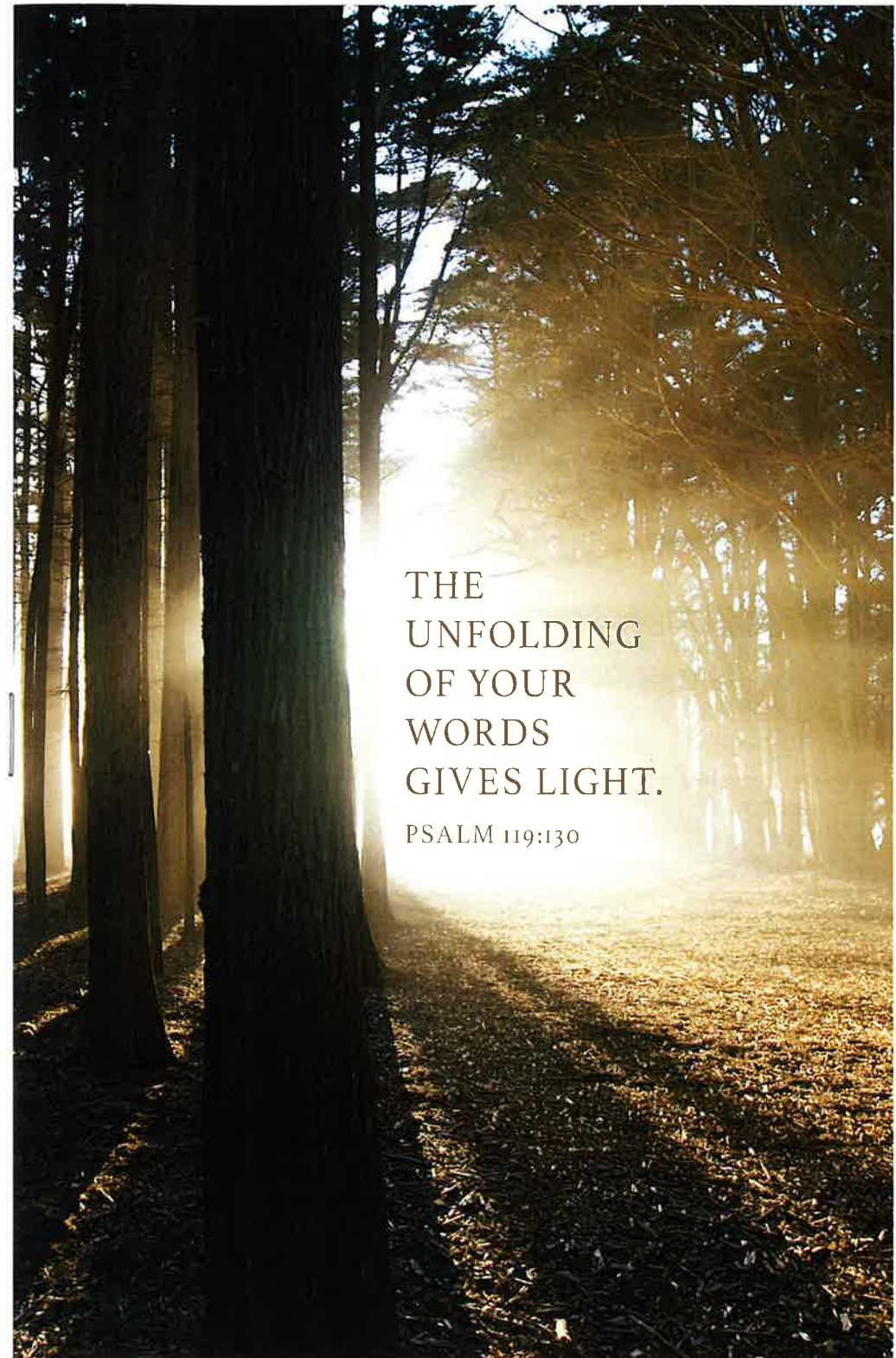
The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978

Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life
and Leadership, 1986

The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004

www.ministrymatters.com

Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023 (pp. 139-
140). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.



THE
UNFOLDING
OF YOUR
WORDS
GIVES LIGHT.

PSALM 119:130

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 (610-334-5130)  
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.bellemanschurh.org

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Summer Sunday Worship Time is at 9:00 a.m.

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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.**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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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, Mathew Machmer, Xavier Shaffer, Larry Blatt, Joe Barton Sr., Robert Elliott, Batdorf Family, Laura Schoeller, Deb Steffey, Lester and Gloria Gambler, Dennis Linderman, Rick Phillips, Shirley Felix, Dave Reager, Donna Newhall, Donald Fair

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*

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

*\*Gathering Hymn*

**Lord of all creation, Of water, earth and sky  
The heavens are Your tabernacle, Glory to the Lord  
on high**

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy  
The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy  
Lord of heaven and earth  
Lord of heaven and earth**

**Early in the morning I will celebrate the light  
And when I stumble in the darkness I will call Your  
name by night**

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy  
The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy  
Lord of heaven and earth  
Lord of heaven and earth**

**Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth  
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth**

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy  
The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy  
Lord of heaven and earth  
Lord of heaven and earth**

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*\*Call to Worship*

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.  
**It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.**  
When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.  
**Even the birds can find places in its branches for their  
nests.**

God's transforming love begins in small ways to enter our  
hearts.

**Lord, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in  
us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in  
your name. Amen.**

*\* Call to Confession*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, as we seek you, search our hearts and  
ease our troubled spirits. Where we are frightened and  
unsure of your love, restore us with the assurance of  
your grace. Even when we give up too easily, we long  
for the courage to reach for new beginnings. We yearn  
to know deep in our bones that nothing in heaven or  
on earth can separate us from your great love. 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)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks, give thanks.**

*\*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**Spirit of God, you intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. Set our hearts and minds on you, God, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. Amen.**

*Proclaiming The Word - Read by Dennis Felix*

*SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:26-28, 31-39*

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 119:129-136*

<sup>129</sup> Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

<sup>130</sup> **The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Redeem me from human oppression, that I may obey your precepts.**

<sup>135</sup> Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees.

<sup>136</sup> **Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.**

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." <sup>33</sup> He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough." <sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. <sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup> "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. <sup>52</sup> He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

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

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering: VBS Mission Project*

Hymn: "This is My Father's World" Pew Hymnal # 58

*Sermon*

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*



Baptized  
into the  
**Faith**

**Logan Kane Marks**

*Son of*

*Cody and Lynda (Yoder) Marks*

**Welcome**

Pastor: People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he became indignant and said to them:

**People: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."**

**Address**

Pastor: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### Questions of the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have Logan baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?  
*We do.*

Pastor: Will you encourage him to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of a new life in Christ?  
*We will, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Will you encourage Logan to explore his faith and to grow and mature in the love of God and Jesus Christ?  
*We will, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of the Savior and to participate in Christ's saving work through his church here on earth?  
*We do, with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to grow with Logan in the Christian faith, to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, and to lead him by your example so he may grow to affirm his baptism through work and worship?  
*We do, with the help of God.*

### \*Congregational Assent

(Would those who are able please rise.)

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Logan as he lives and grows in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support and care.**

### \*Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places by confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

**People: We believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: We believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: We believe in the Holy Spirit.**

(Please be seated.)

### Blessing of the Water

Pastor: Bless by your Holy Spirit, Gracious God, this water. By the power of your Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ so that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and always shall be, world without end. Amen.

### Act of Baptism

*We welcome Logan into Christ's church  
and to the Salem Belleman's Church community.*

*Congratulations!*



Offering

Offertory Selection

*\*Offering Response (Sung)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*\*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 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.**

*\*The Benediction*

*\*Sending Hymn bulletin page 13: "For the Fruit of all Creation"*

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

*Postlude*



*\*Sending Hymn*

1 For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re-ward of la-bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev-ery na-tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in-her-it, thanks be to God.

For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,  
In our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun-gry and de-spair-ing,  
For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

Fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## Belleman's Vacation Bible School



This Summer's Vacation Bible School event will be conducted the evenings of **July 27-30, 2026** from **6:00PM to 8:00PM**.

**Again this year, VBS will be located at the Church Grove/ Fellowship Hall!**

**Please use the QR code link to the sign-up page...**



We hope you will come and be a part of Vacation Bible School 2026!

**We cap off the week of VBS with "Belleman's Night at the Reading Phillies"**

# R-Phils

**Date:** July 31, 2026  
**Gametime:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$12 each

This game is open to everyone! Please, signup in the chapel or contact James in the church office with any questions.

Please keep in mind.... ***Belleman's ongoing program*** in support of the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry

Non-perishable donations may be dropped off in the Narthex and will be delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on a monthly basis.

**Canned Fruit is currently in need.**

**Thank You** for your participation!

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SV Food Pantry needs your help...mark your calendars!

Belleman's is the sponsoring church for the **August 15, 2026** distribution. **That means that we need your help at the food pantry that day.** Help will be needed from **8 a.m. till noon**. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday
August 23, 2026

Students are invited to bring their backpacks along to worship for a Blessing. We will also offer a prayer for teachers, administrators, staff and volunteers as they all embark on a new school year!

