

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24th, 2025



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

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*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,
Study, Service & Witness*

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Tawny Mummah
Julia Martin & Braedon Walton
Hope Miller, Thea & Brea Beward
Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp
Ron & Christie Yorks

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Offering Counters

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – All students are welcome to come forward for a blessing with their backpacks, even if they don't have a backpack.

COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF – All teachers and school district staff are invited to come forward for a blessing.

* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of +

Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" #429 (vss. 1-3) Green Hymnal

* GREETING

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

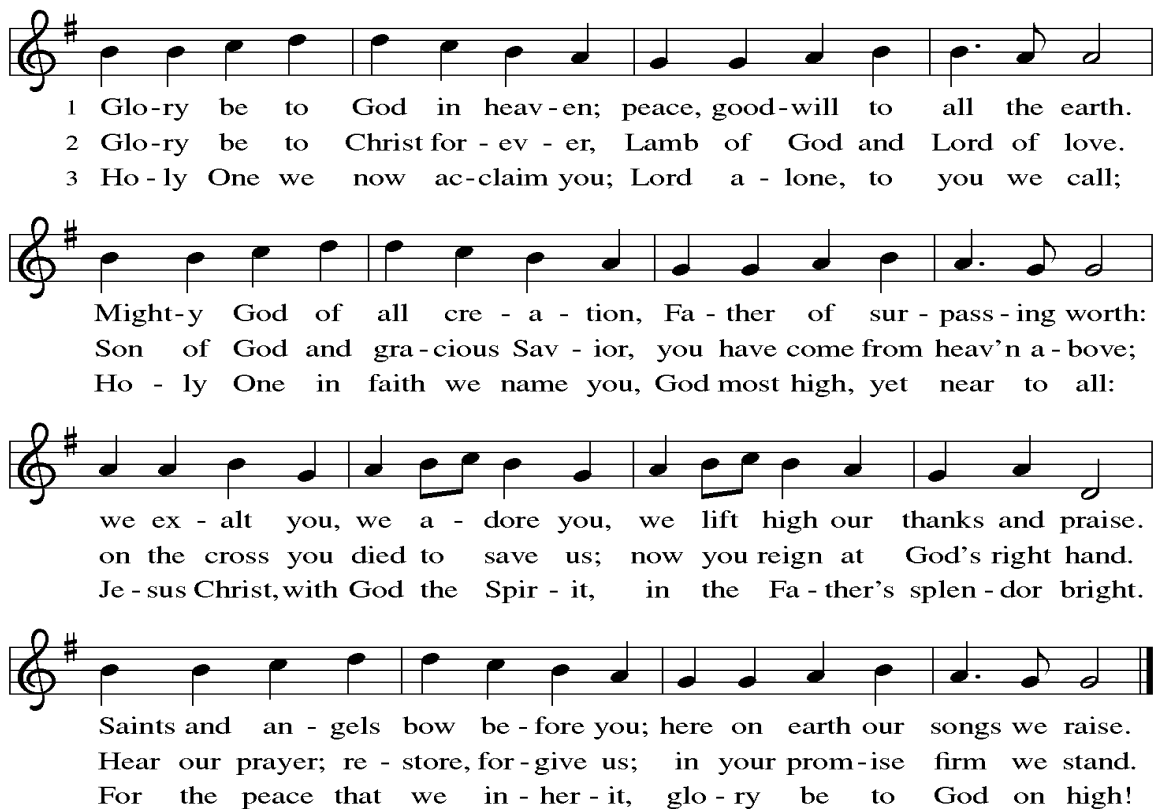
C And also with you.

* KYRIE



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (*In Unison*)

P Let us pray...

C **O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 58:9b-14

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 103:1-8 (*Responsively*)

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

SECOND READING.....Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 13:10-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Pastor Leister

Pastor Leister

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" #429 (vss. 3-6) Green Hymnal

*** APOSTLES' CREED (*In Unison*)**

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**

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

*** PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

*** SUNG OFFERTORY ("Vineyards")**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C For through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P 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.

C Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail"] – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by

the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion).

* COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

#752 Blue Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Olivia Mummah & Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Julia Martin, Ella Harris & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp (8/18/25) – (9/7/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Tammy Brackbill

AUGUST OFFERING COUNTERS:

31: Clint Miller & Nick Beward

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

JUST A THOUGHT – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): The confession of evil works is the first step of good works.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – Today, during the worship service, Pastor Sam will be providing a “Blessing of the Backpacks” for any students returning to school, college or even those who may be returning to further their education or those who are beginning their education in pre-school. All students of any age are welcome to come forward with their backpacks (even if they don't have one) to be blessed for the new and upcoming school year.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday, September 7th, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **“God's Work, Our Hands.”**

THE NEXT VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the Boards.

JOIN THE CHOIR! Our choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.. If you are in junior high school or beyond, “make a joyful noise,” you are certainly welcome to join us! Our first rehearsal for the fall will be Wednesday evening, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

BIBLE STUDY WILL BEGIN on Tuesday, September 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will begin an examination of the Gospels.

AUGUST'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be continued support for the Juniata County Food Pantry's Summer Backpack Program. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry to continue assisting in the effort to feed the children of our community through the summer months. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

NEW ALTAR GUILD & OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULES are being organized for "Year A," which runs from Sunday, November 30th, 2025 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 (Christ the King Sunday). If you would like to join the Altar Guild or help in the baking of Manna Bread for communion or would like to volunteer a few Sundays a year to help count the morning offerings, please let Slone Smith or Bob St. Clair know as soon as possible. Thanks to all those who serve!

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to Bob at stclairbjr@gmail.com or the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS:

WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS:

- 161 blue or black ball point pens (NO gel pens)
- 32 (2½ inch erasers)
- 12 pencil sharpeners
- 51 packs of 16-24 crayons
- 15 rulers with inches and centimeters
- 147 (70-80 sheet college-rule 8x10½ notebooks)

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

JUNIATA COUNTY FAIR VESPER

Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Free Stage (weather permitting)

JUNIATA COUNTY CLEARING HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Monday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church. We will share statistics from the past 12 months. Please plan to attend and learn about how this ministry works in our community.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

ANY TYPE OF DRY PASTA, CANNED CARROTS, CANNED BEETS,
ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT,
SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER,
SCHOOL SUPPLIES, (ESPECIALLY 1' BINDERS
FILLER NOTEBOOK PAPER, PENCIL BOXES, PENS).
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF
CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS

P.O. BOX 44, 114 N. MAIN ST., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
PHONE: 717-436-9718 HOURS: TUES. 9-12 & 1-5, SAT. 9-12

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

Monday: -5:00 p.m., Lion's Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.

Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Friday: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

Sunday: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-4:00 p.m., Fair Vesper Service.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Bill Book
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Deb G. Chambers
Nathan Clark
Kenton Cohenour
Family of Glenn Compton
Jean Compton
Scott & Heather Compton
Bill Conn
Stacy Couture
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil Fisher
Bentley Fulkroad
Kristen Gaisor
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Josslyn Geedey

Sheree Goss
Amanda Gregg
Fred Gross
Mark Harvey
Bill Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Karen Henry
Sawyer Henry
Nox Hepburn
Nancy Howell
Annie Ingle
Michael 'Doc' Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
George King
Jesse Kint
Nancy Kramer
Pastor Sam Leister
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Fred Parnell
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton
Betty Ranck

Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Diane Rowles
Greysley Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Lowell Shearer
Wyatt Shellenberger
Gail Sherman
Althea Smith
Dave Smith
Jennifer Smith
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Barry Strawser
Kenton Stuck
Vicki Suoja
Amy Swartz
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Roscoe Warner
Sandy Wert
Todd Wert
Kathy Whitesel
Jim & Heidi Woltman
George Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

--Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
--Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044