

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Todd Bertani

Church Website: smlcestes.org

Office Email: secretary@smlcestes.org 970-586-3900

Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors



September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Women's Thank Offering

Celice Clark, Accompanist

Prelude: "All Are Welcome" Marty Haugen, arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome to the Women's Thank Offering Service,

A women's Thank Offering service is a Lutheran tradition that celebrates the blessings God has given and supports the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). The tradition began in the late 19th century when Lutheran women were given boxes to place in their homes to collect coins as a way to show gratitude for God's blessings. At an annual service, the women combine their collections to support the WELCA's ministries, which include: Justice and advocacy work, training for elected leaders, support for women's organizations, grants and scholarships, and publications.

Additionally, the SMLC WELCA group has joined with the Quilting group to enhance this service by including a blessing of quilts that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief and La Puente.

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Welcome: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: "Awesome God" by Rich Mullins

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer +, and sustainer.
Amen.

Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold.

We give you thanks, O God, for at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good.

We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal.

You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael.

You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus, leading Miriam

to shout out in song. You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own. You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts.

Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "All Are Welcome" Hymn 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,
 Christ the feast that frees us:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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Greeting

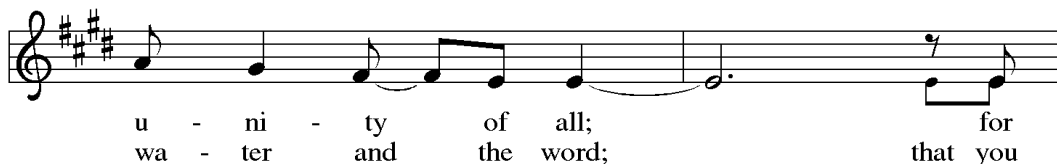
The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Refrain: Congregation



Leader



Canticle of Praise

Congregation

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

God of abundance, We give thanks every time we remember your goodness. Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Linda Schlitt

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you. ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son." ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 *Jet Bertani*

*(Congregation reads **bold** print)*

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**⁴Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;**

⁵hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

**⁶Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;**

⁷he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

**⁸Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

⁹For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

**⁴³Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Lory McDonald

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy
in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the

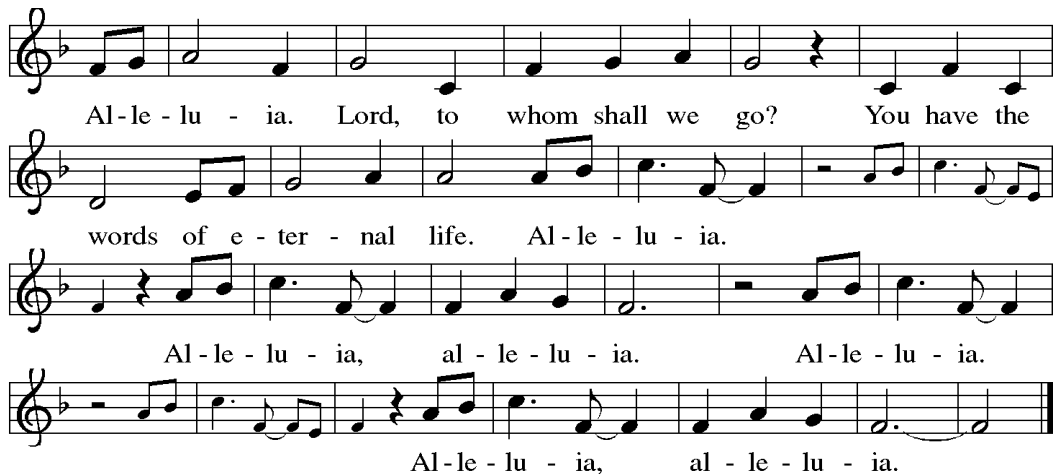
gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 26:6-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew Chapter 26.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,
⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor."
¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial.
¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: "O God, Who Gives Us Life" ACS Hymn 1086

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system has two staves with lyrics for two parts. The second system has two staves with lyrics. The third system has two staves with lyrics. The fourth system has two staves with lyrics. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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Apostle's Creed

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

Linda Schlitt

After each petition : "God of grace"
Congregation Response is **"receive our prayer."**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Choir Anthem: "Give Thanks to the Lord" *by Lloyd Larson*

Offering

All gifts received during the first offering go to the support and mission of SMLC.

Women's Thank Offerings are brought forward & placed in the basket.

All gifts received in the Thank Offering Basket will go to the Women of the ELCA.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Offering Prayer

Ruth Turner

Gracious God,

We give thanks for the generations of faithful women and especially those you have put into our lives and we give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now; our gifts, our time and our whole selves. Bless our Thank Offerings and the work of the Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people might know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ, **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your
light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



The 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

Christ invites you to this table.

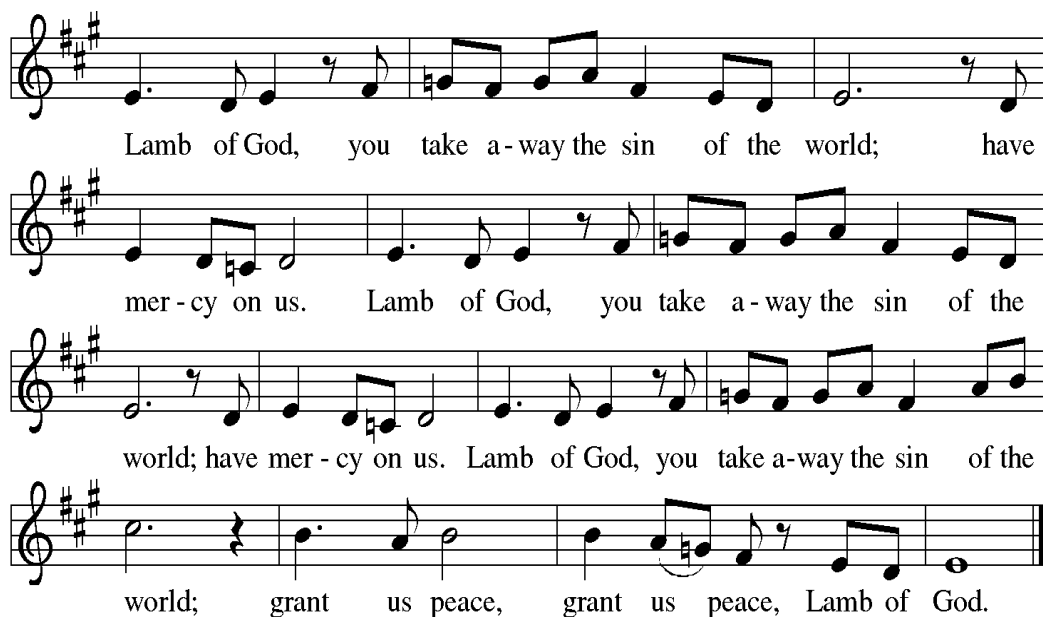
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

*We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" *Hymn 800*

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul to a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780–1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–1897

Post Communion Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Sustaining God,
**with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the
way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

Ministry Calendar

September 27—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—Women's Thank Offering Service

September 28-October 1—Monday– Thursday:

Pastor attending Rocky Mountain Synod Theology Conference in Utah.

September 30—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

October 1—October 4—Thursday– Sunday:

La Puente Service Trip

October 1—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 04—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—***Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer—supply pastor***

LuMin—Campus Ministry Visitors: Fabian Kaltenbach & Victoria Burkett

October 6—Tuesday:

9:00 a.m.: PEO HF

1:30 p.m.: Vision in Action Meeting

October 7—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

11:00 a.m.: Mutual Ministry Meeting

4:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

October 8—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 9—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Worship at Good Sam

October 10—Saturday:

11:00 Girls Time Out—Creativity Cabin

**Blessing of Quilts
for Lutheran World Relief *and* La Puente**

Estes Valley Piece Corp Quilters come forward:

Please extend your arms out in front of you as an act of blessing.

God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread and sewing machines, used to make quilts. May these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love.

Jesus help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

God, we give you thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected, sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at the collection centers; Lutheran World Relief, and La Puente. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our siblings who are created by and beloved by You. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our Hope and our Light.

Amen

Recognizing God's abundant hope and love, help us to be a sign of hope and love to our neighbors near and far. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth" *Hymn 879*

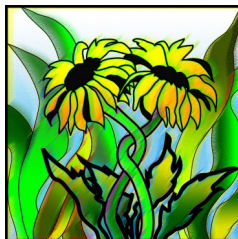
1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872



Blessing

Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose.

Bless the women of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward.

May your love be our guide, and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Trumpet Voluntary” *John Travers*







Thank you for serving!

	<i>September 27</i>	<i>October 04</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Celice Clark	Celice Clark
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Lector:</i>	Thank Offering Women	Linda Schlitt
<i>Ushers:</i>	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson	Sallie Brackman Julie Wilson
<i>Tellers:</i>	Susan Anderson OPEN	OPEN OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Tara McConnell	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	OPEN OPEN OPEN	Miriam Deffenbaugh OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Steve Peter	Bruce Adams
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	Quilters	(Handled by new list)
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Linda Schlitt	Jane Gardner
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Letha Thorn	Susan Anderson

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace*

1 Peter 4:10