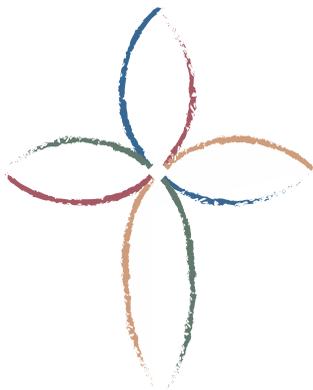
A black lantern with a handle is lit, casting a warm glow. Inside the lantern, a winter scene is visible, featuring snow-covered trees and a bright light source, possibly a fire or a lamp. The background is a gradient of colors, transitioning from a bright orange and yellow on the left to a dark blue and purple on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The lantern is positioned in the center of the frame, and the text is overlaid on the right side of the lantern.

***Be dressed for action  
and have your lamps lit***

LUKE 12:35



**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 7, 2022**

**St. Matthew**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**CENTERED IN CHRIST**

**Celebrating Love • Serving All**

Phone: 717-637-7101

General mailbox ext. 221

30 W Chestnut Street Hanover PA 17331

Email: [info@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:info@stmattlutheran.org) [www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org)

Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

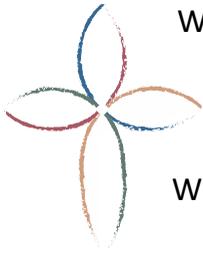
Livestream Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthewLutheranChurchHanoverPA>

**Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:**

-----  
Names of everyone attending Sunday, **August 7, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.:**

-----  
Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**



Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

**For Children:**

Children's Church  
Children's Choirs

**For Teens:**

Youth Connections  
Mini-Minister Puppets

**For Adults:**

Choirs  
Women of the ELCA

**About today:** *We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.*

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday outdoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed). Our Faith Connections hour during the summer includes refreshments in the Gathering Place.

Words About the Day: ***Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.***

PRELUDE

*The Promise*  
(Diane Hoffman-Neail, Violin)

Loveland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one  
another.

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Gracious God,

**All: have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead  
in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy  
Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**All: Amen.**

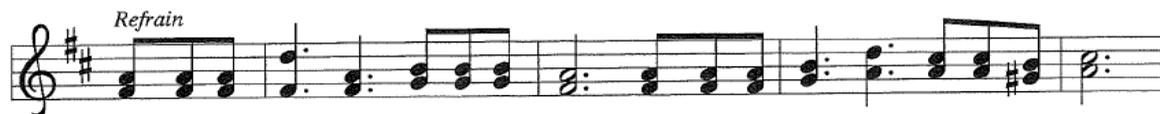
**OPENING HYMN..... *Blessed Assurance* – Crosby/Knapp**



Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**All: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace,

that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet Stacy Parsons at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**THE READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16** *Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### 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.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40** *Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE MESSAGE

Pastor Taylor Berdahl

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Children of the Heavenly Father*  
(Diane Hoffman-Neail, Violin)

Albrecht

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

Pastor: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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

Pastor: Each petition concludes, "*Merciful God,*" and the congregation responds, "*receive our prayer.*"

## PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)*

**Children return from Children's Church.**

**GENEROSITY MOMENT**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**A Blessing**

**Salsbury**

Ev'-ry-thing we have has been giv-en us\_\_\_ and it all comes from Your  
hand,\_\_\_ like this meal we share and these friends with us\_\_\_ and the  
boun-ty of the land.\_\_\_\_ Dear Lord, You've blessed us  
o'er and o'er,\_\_\_ and we lift our hearts in praise, And up -  
on these gifts ask a bless-ing now, we are grate-ful, Lord. A - men.\_\_\_\_

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray,

**All: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.**

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:**

**our selves, our time, and our possessions.  
Use us, and what we have gathered,  
in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in several ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

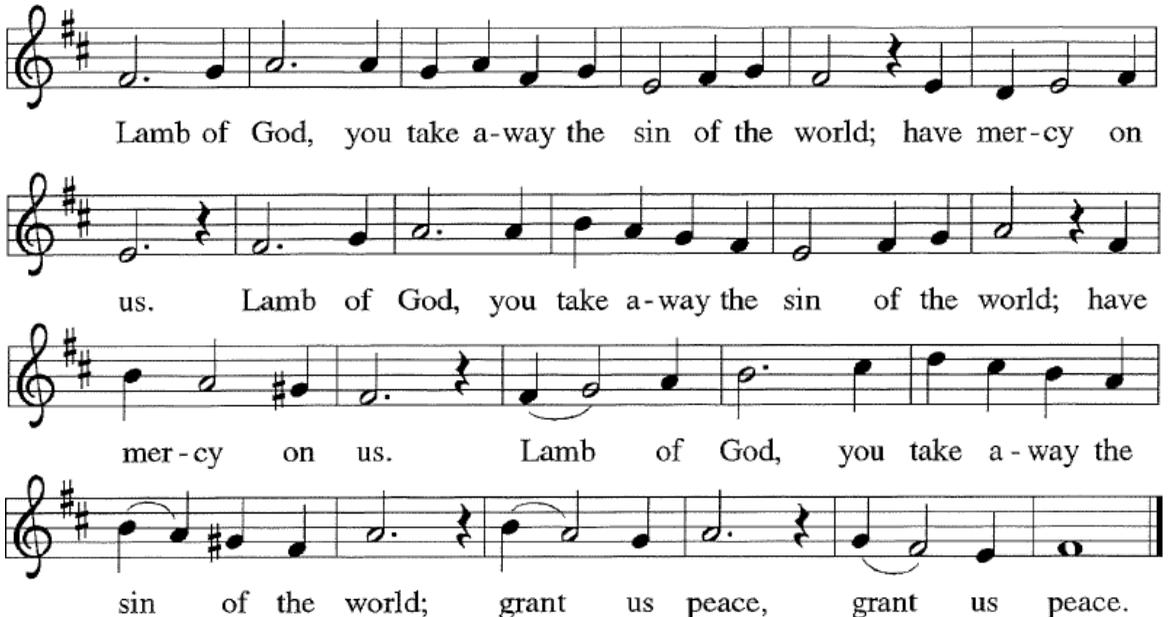
**Continuous manner** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it. **Children who do not yet receive communion** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

**Individual packets** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

**If you are unable to come forward**, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

## BLESSING OF IN-PEW COMMUNION

### 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN ..... *Come, Let Us Eat* – Kwillia



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, generous God,

for in this bread and cup  
 we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
 where hunger and thirst are no more.  
 Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
 that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN..... *Have No Fear, Little Flock* – Jillson/Zimmermann**

Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231  
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Taylor Berdahl, Associate Pastor, ext. 229  
pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Scott G. Fredericks, Minister of Music, ext. 235

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, *youth@stmattlutheran.org*

Stacy Parsons, MA, NCC, Children and Family Ministry, *sparsons@stmattlutheran.org*

Doris Deitzel, Lay Pastoral Assistant, *ddeitzel@stmattlutheran.org*, ext. 225



***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in the Sunday 10:30 worship services:

- Musician.....Diane Hoffman-Neail, Violin
- Altar Guild ..... Diane Hoffman-Neail, Penny Rutters
- Communion Assistants ..... Andrea Hersh, Sara Staub
- Communion Preparers..... Bob & Barbara Strangfeld
- Couriers.....Sara Staub, Drew Steffens
- Greeters ..... Ken & Peggy Warner, Vicki Wildasin
- Lector ..... Melissa Crabbs
- Live Stream Technician ..... Doug & Jane West
- Ushers ..... Team 6 – Jim Menges, Kim Beard, Sharon Bollinger, Sally Staub

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given to the Glory of God and in honor of Barbara Rebling on her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday today by Ed, Linda and Kathy; and in loving memory of Sally Yelland Ehrhart who would have celebrated her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7 by her loving husband Sid Ehrhart; and in loving memory of Doris E. Gouker who would have celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 8 by Ed, Linda and Kathy; and in loving memory of Anna E. Baker who passed away on August 6, 2013, by her son Philip Zinn; and in loving memory of William and Geraldine Schuler by their daughter Connie and grandson Andy and his wife Jenn and their sons Jack and Liam; and in loving memory of Cletus and Ruth Houck by the family.

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sally Yelland Ehrhart who would have celebrated her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7 by her loving husband Sid Ehrhart; and in loving memory of and in loving memory of William and Geraldine Schuler by their daughter Connie and grandson Andy and his wife Jenn and their sons Jack and Liam; and in loving memory of Cletus and Ruth Houck by the family.

<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	(07/30)	Saturday .....	49
	(07/31)	8:30 a.m. Service .....	90
		10:30 a.m. Service .....	106
	(07/25-07/31)	Online views .....	336
	<b>Total</b> .....		<b>581</b>

<b>RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS</b> for the week beginning August 7:	
Sunday: Luke 12:32-40	Thursday: Hebrews 10:26-31
Monday: Hebrews 11:1-7	Friday: Hebrews 10:32-39
Tuesday: Hebrews 11:17-28	Saturday: Matthew 24:15-27
Wednesday: Luke 12:41-48	

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calendar**  
**August 7-14, 2022**

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot) .....	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave) .....	10:30 a.m.
Mon.	Devotional Biking and Hiking (Moul Field) .....	6:00 p.m.
Tues.	Staff Meetings (Library) .....	10:30 a.m.
	All Committee Night (Fellowship Hall).....	7:00 p.m.
Wed.		
Thurs.	The Five Love Languages book study (Upper Room) .....	6:00-7:00 p.m.
	Youth Connections (Rm. 304) .....	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fri.		
Sat.	Worship with Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall) .....	5:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot) .....	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave).....	10:30 a.m.

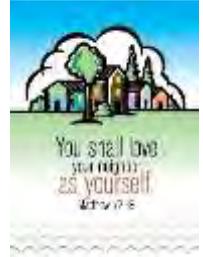
***RISING 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADERS*** are invited to participate in our confirmation program where we prepare together to publicly affirm our baptism in the context of our congregation. This three-year rotating curriculum includes Sunday morning classes during Faith Connections, 2 weekend retreats in the fall and spring, and All Saints Confirmation Camp for one week in the summertime. If you or somebody you love would like to learn more or be included on the confirmation mailing list, please contact Pastor Taylor at [pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:pastortaylor@stmattlutheran.org).

***DEADLINE OF AUGUST 31 HAS BEEN SET! PLEASE REMEMBER*** to complete your registration forms for the **church directory**. Forms are on the Hospitality Desk, from an usher and can be found on the church website. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket at any worship service. If you need assistance with forms or pictures, you may call Mike Jones at 717-965-6680.

***DEVOTIONAL BIKING & WALKING GROUP*** We gather as a group at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays at Moul Field in Hanover. For questions, more information, or to get on the email list for weather updates, email Amy Schlitzer at [asms1210@gmail.com](mailto:asms1210@gmail.com)

## ***Love Your Neighbor...***

Let us get to know the neighbors of St. Matthew. Starting in August, the Social Ministry Committee would like to provide a meal once a month for our downtown neighbors. Let us come together for a meal and show our neighbors how much we care. Our first meal will be Wednesday, August 24 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We will need help to **Cook/Serve** each meal as well as **set-up/clean up** at each location. For the first meal or two, we will also need help **distributing door hangers** in the surrounding neighborhoods.



Since the first dinner will be the night before school starts in Hanover, we would like to collect school supplies in hopes to give a gift bag to each of the children. We are looking for donations of **Pencils, Notebooks, Crayons, Markers, Erasers** (any last-minute school supply). School supplies can be put in the box in the Gathering Place or brought to the church office. If you would like to be a part of these meals, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Beck, 717.404.1994 or [Abeck1976@comcast.net](mailto:Abeck1976@comcast.net). Thank You in Advance!



***WANT TO HELP IN BUILDING*** the connection of faith for the young people of our congregational community? If so, we would love you to help us as we foster spiritual growth for our kids. We are looking for adults interested in teaching our faith formation class(es) for our children ages 3-11. We are hoping to have enough volunteers so that individuals would only teach one class a month. If you are interested or have any questions, please let Stacy know at [sparsons@stmattlutheran.org](mailto:sparsons@stmattlutheran.org)

***CHILDREN'S CHURCH ONLINE!*** Each week a new video is added to our YouTube Channel under the Children's Church playlist. There is a new kid-friendly Bible story each week read by Stacy Parsons, our Children and Family Ministry Team Leader. Watch together, play the video before bedtime, or make a game out of it!





## ***Discovery Place Preschool*** **DONATIONS**

Our church preschool program has been BLESSED by your generous donations in the past- THANK YOU!

This year, instead of listing specific items for collection, we are instead asking for gift cards, so that we can better address our needs as they occur.

Some examples of how we will use gift cards:

- purchasing snacks, to be used within their 'best by' time
- office supplies like printer paper and ink
- craft materials for a particular art project

Gift cards are welcome at any time of year, not only at the start of our preschool year. You can simply put the Gift Card in an envelope with "Discovery Place" listed on the front and place it in the offering plate during worship. Or you can drop off your donation at the main church office during the week.

Stores we often use for supplies include:

Walmart      Staples      GiantFoods      Amazon

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT!**



**UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY GETTYSBURG FOOD PANTRY** - The St. Matthew Women of the ELCA are collecting gift cards thru August 14. Please send or drop off gift cards at the church office. Place in an envelope marked *Women of the ELCA*. Thank you for helping the seminarians.

### **CAMP HEBRON – FALL RETREAT**

Sponsored By:

The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 28,29,30

The retreat theme is "*Jesus is the Vine. What does it mean to be a branch?*" Our leader this year is Rev. Barbara Barry, who is currently serving Soloman's Lutheran Church as interim pastor.

At Camp Hebron there will be faith renewal in worship, laughter and tears, getting acquainted with old friends and making new friends, refreshing walks in the outdoors or sitting quietly in meditation. Camp Hebron offers motel-type accommodations including linens, private bath and 5 delicious meals (no cooking for a whole weekend ladies!). There will be carpooling from the church lot for those interested. There is also an opportunity for Saturday only registration. Registration forms can be picked up in the church office or on the Hospitality Desk. Registrations must be postmarked by Monday, September 12. For additional information call Johnnetta Miller, 717-637-4259.

## Donors needed for whole blood and “Power Red”

Monday, August 22, 2022

12:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Blood donations drop off in the summer, but the need for blood does not.

Your donation is even more important right now. The Whole Blood donation process takes about 1 hour, while a Power Red donation takes about 1 ½ hours. If your blood type is O positive, O negative, A negative, or B negative, please consider making a Power Red Donation.

If you have questions about your eligibility to be a whole blood or Power Red donor, please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more information. You may also call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) with specific questions about your individual medications, health conditions, travel history and how these factors may impact your eligibility.

Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767 today to schedule your donation appointment.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

- Social Ministry Committee,  
Barb Thomas, Blood Drive Coordinator 717-586-7047

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Psalm 33:12-22****SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as

good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

[Jesus said:] "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29–12:2; Luke 12:48–56.

Driver: Lamp on table near the sea at dusk. Copyright © iStock/ksikungwon. Used by permission.

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