

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 3, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

This service is livestreamed on our Facebook page and posted to YouTube.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Let the Little Children Come to Me"

Quartet

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them;
let the children come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God
like a little child will never enter it.

Text: Mark 10:14-15

Music: Theodore Beck

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Therefore, receive now, with glad hearts, the forgiveness of all your sins. †

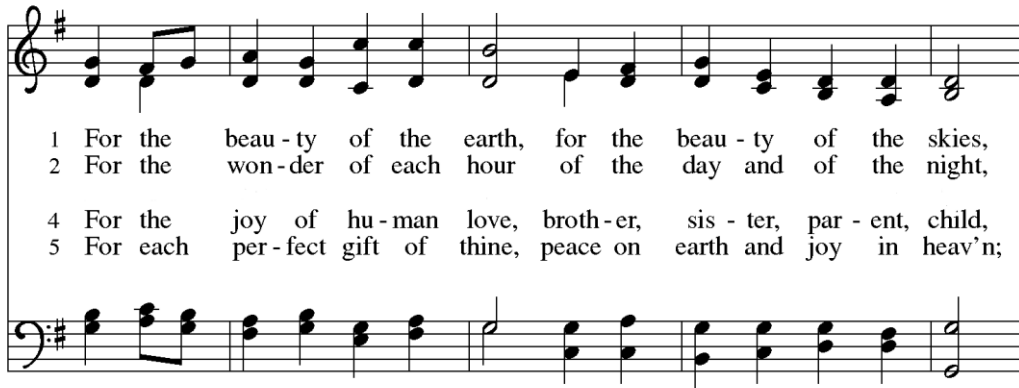
C: **Amen.**

Greeting

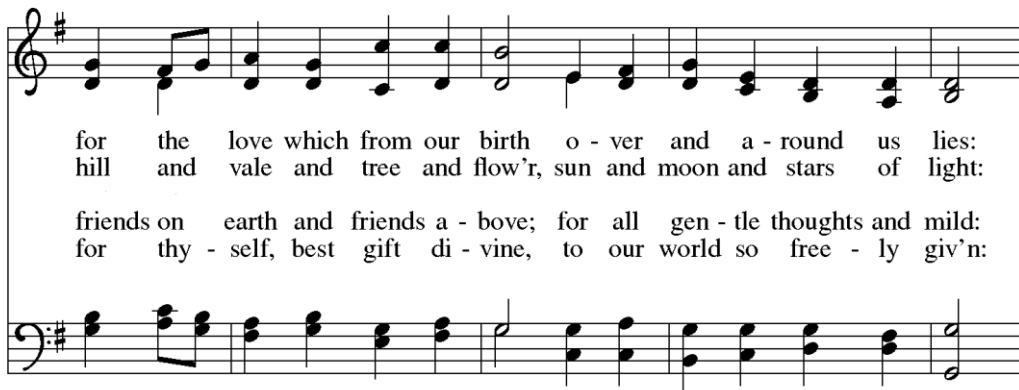
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise ~ "For the Beauty of the Earth"



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the beau-ty of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
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:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

A: The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

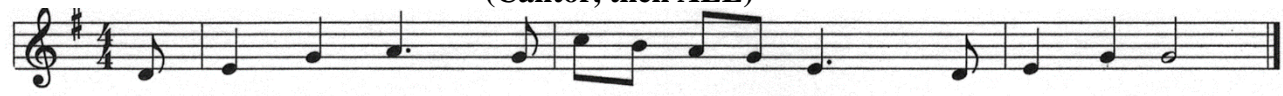
Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8

(Cantor, then ALL)



O Lord, our God, how won - der - ful your name in all the earth!

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what are we that you should keep us in mind,
mere mortals that you care for us? **Refrain.**

Yet you have made us little less than gods;
and crowned us with glory and honor,
you gave us power over the work of your hands,
put all things under our feet. **Refrain.**

All of them, sheep and cattle,
yes, even the savage beasts,
birds of the air,
and fish that make their way through the waters. **Refrain.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

A: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For

the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Once by All.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: If we love one another, God lives in us, and God’s love is perfected in us.
(Repeat Alleluia)

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

P: Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

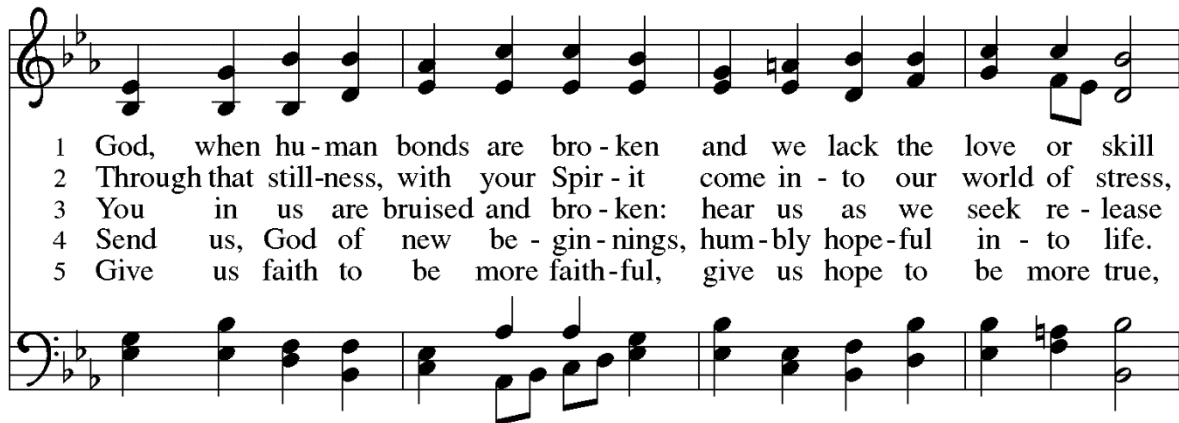
People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.


Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ "God, When Human Bonds are Broken"



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889
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Apostles Creed

P: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

C: **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

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: God of all people, we continue to pray for relief, medicine, compassion, and an end to this pandemic. Inspire scientists, comfort healthcare workers. Bring peace, bring healing, bring aid. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. We pray for all who are sick especially Amy, Melissa, Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Carolyn, Jean, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

¶ **Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluia, alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father, break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia, alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living, make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia, alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

Text: Percy Dearmer

Music: Harold W. Friedell

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

- 1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*
- 2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.*
- 3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

For communion: *Prepackaged elements are available on tables nearby. Be sure to take one. The chalice shaped cups are wine and wafer. There are purple topped cups with red and also cups with white grape juice. There are some GF cups with red grape juice that are labeled on the tab. All are welcome.*

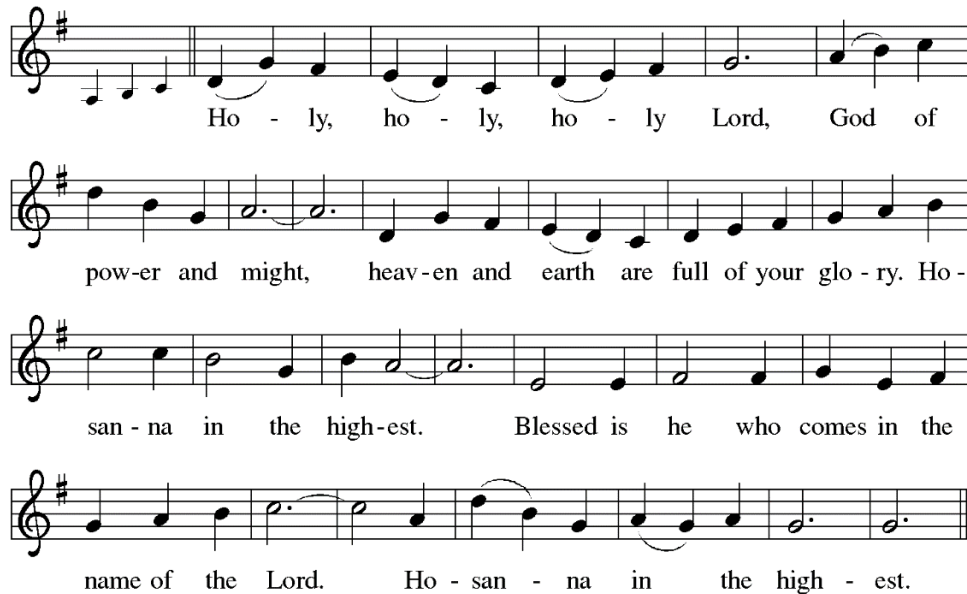
Offertory Prayer

- P: God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

The Meal

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- P: 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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:



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

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.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

The meal is shared together with the pastor leading with the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." then, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion Hymn~ “Blest be the Tie that Binds”

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

Benediction

P: People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ “Our Father by Whose Name”

Charles Callahan

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker

Diane Stein

Deborah Swider, Joy Schauer

Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

Spirit Walkers- Next meet-up will be Wednesday at **9:30 a.m.**, at Wentz Run Park.

Weekly Outdoor Services will continue Sundays at 10:00 a.m. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

Do you get our emails? We send out important announcements and notifications through a weekly email. If you are not on our list, you are missing important things! Contact the office for help signing up. We've been having trouble with our MailChimp program and emails are ending up in Spam folders or being blocked. If you need help figuring out how to change settings in your email provider let us know. Meanwhile we're trying to figure out if we can do anything to help fix it.

When it Rains - A reminder that when our Praise Lot services are rained out, we do not meet in person. However, you can stream the service online on our Facebook or on YouTube later in the day and we'll see you again when the sun is out!

If anyone lost an earring in the Praise Lot, please contact Sue in the Church Office.

Lectors are still needed for October 24 and November 21 and 28. If you can help, please contact Sue in the Church Office.

Save the Date Reminders:

- **Today** - Blessing of the Animals 4-5 p.m.
- **Oct. 10** – *The Arts at St. John's* ~ Music for Trumpet and Piano
- **Oct. 23** - Evangelism will host a Beer Tasting event. See Joan Linton for tickets after worship.
- **Oct. 31** – Treats from the Trunk, following worship

This Week at St. John

Sunday, October 3

9:15 Sunday School for Children & Youth
10:00 Worship [PL]
11:00 Youth Gathering Mtg. [FH]
4:00 Pet Blessing
5:00 Youth Meet & Greet

Monday, October 4

9:00 Nursery School
9:30 Quilting Group [YC, MPR]

Tuesday, October 5

9:00 Nursery School
10:30 No Pastor's Bible Study
10:30 Nursery School [GR]

Wednesday, October 6

9:00 Nursery School
9:30 Spirit Walkers [Wentz Park]
6:30 Visual Arts Class [FH]

Thursday, October 7

9:00 Nursery School
10:00 Visual Arts Class [FH]
6:30 Visual Arts Class [FH]
7:30 Chancel Choir [TR]

Friday, October 8

9:00 Nursery School
10:00 Visual Arts Class [FH]

Sunday, October 10

9:15 Sunday School for Children & Youth
10:00 Worship [PL]
4:00 *The Arts at St. John's* ~ Music for
Trumpet and Piano

Locations:

[FH] Fellowship Hall
[TR] Troster Room
[GR] Great Room
[YC] Youth Classroom
[PL] Praise Lot

St. John's Prayer List

Amy Burke (*S*)
Melissa Good (*I*)
Tom Hack (*I*)
Kimberly Quinn (*D*)
Jim Hollinger (*I*)
Caroline (*I*)
Joshua Johnston (*I*)
Jean Williams (*I*)
Lois Teada (*S*)
Barbara Tornetta (*S*)
Dick Feron (*S*)
George McKinney (*I*)
Robert Engel, Sr. (*I*)
Tim Ryan (*I*)
Cheryl Ruse (*I*)
Susan Collins (*S*)
John Markiewicz (*S*)
Randy Titus (*I*)
Dorothy Christine (*I*)
Robert McCarty (*I*)
Donna West (*I*)

Legend: (I) illness; (S) surgery; (H) homebound; (D) death in the family.

