

Reformation Lutheran Church

3670 Perkiomen Avenue

Reading, PA 19606

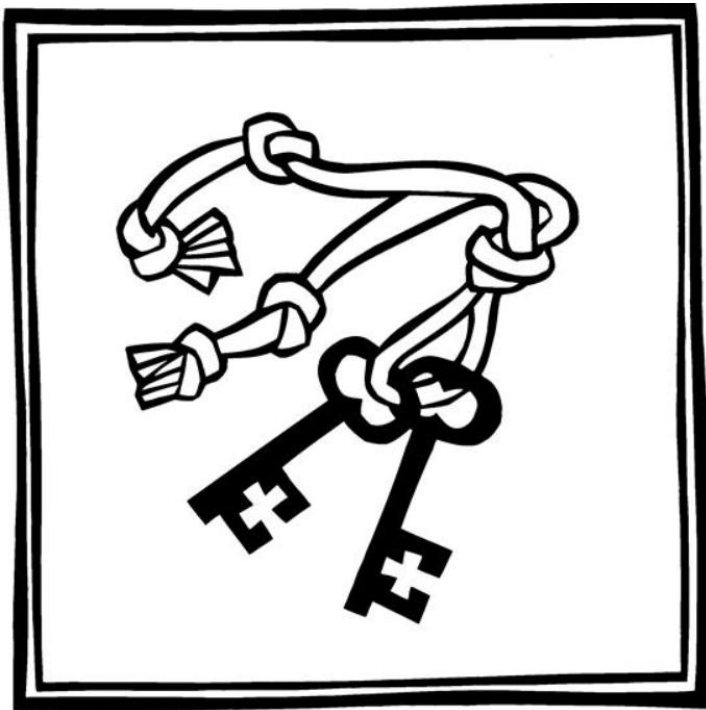
www.reformationlutheran.org

Office (610) 779-0534

Pastor Stoddard (610) 334-1285

13th Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Word and Sacrament

August 23rd, 2026
9:30 AM



In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Welcome to Reformation!

Presiding Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Greg Stoddard
Director of Music:	Dr. Heidi Rochlin
Ushers	Dale and Carole Miller
Reader	Jackie Morrissey
Assisting Minister	Dee Dee Werner
Acolytes	Brion Morrissey and Ethan Pasko
Altar Guild	Maddie and Ryan Klinikowski
Flowers	Morrissey Family=in honor of Guinevere Pasko's baptism Hadley Family-in memory of loved ones
Live streaming	Tom Sahaida, Stu Johnston, Jared Preston, Andy Dobroskey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

BLESSING OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL STAFF

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year,
that both students, teachers, and school staff
will be blessed in their academic endeavors.
Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.
Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,
and students the gift of diligence and openness,
that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.
Support all who teach and all who learn,
that together we may know and follow your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The assembly stands.

Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

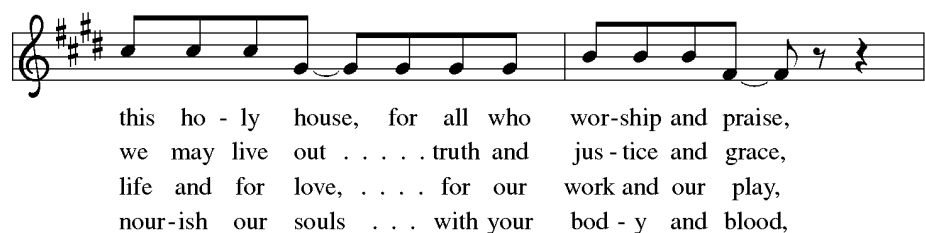
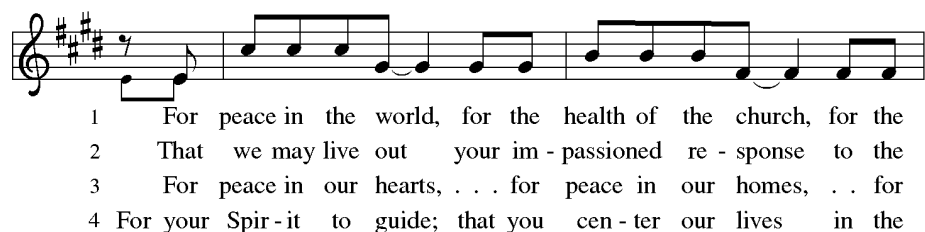
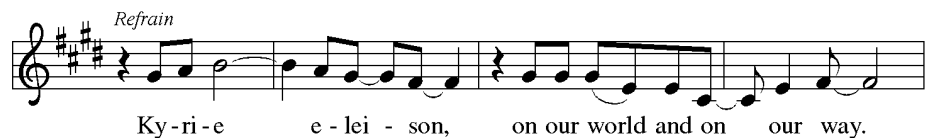
Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

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

And also with you.

KYRIE:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

FIRST READING – ISAIAH 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

SECOND READING – ROMANS 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

We celebrate in the baptism of Guinever Aspen Pasko.

Parents: Ian and Alexis Pasko

Sponsors: Maddyn and Mason Norris

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition of the prayers concludes with these words:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING & ANTHEM

Breathe on Me, Breath of God, *by Larson*

The assembly stands.

We lift our voices. We lift our hands.
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.

Lord use our voices. Lord use our hands.
Lord use our lives they are Yours, we are an offering.

All that we have. All that we are.
All that we hope to be we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices. We lift our hands.
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so
that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the
name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and
forever. 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.

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.
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'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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

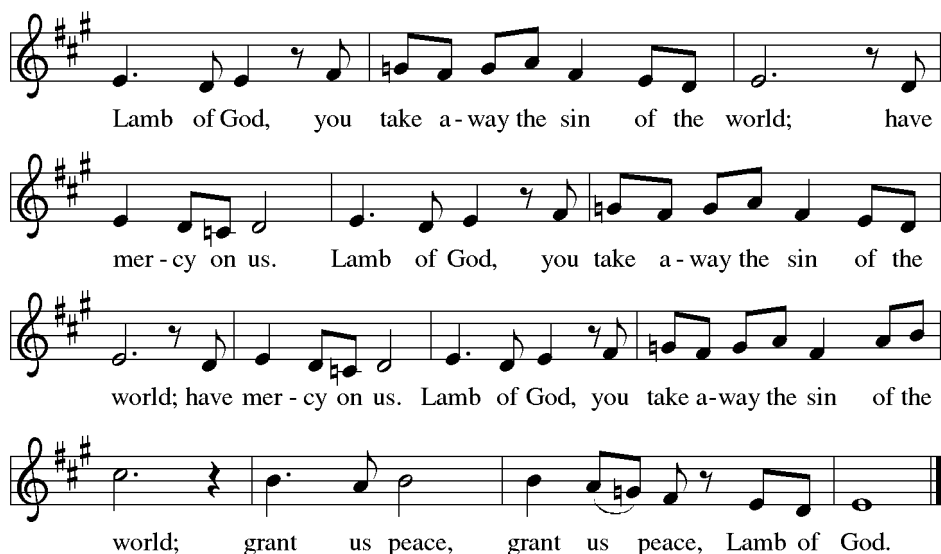
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION & COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Please note that, to be accessible to all, our communion bread is gluten-free, nut-free and lactose-free; both wine (served at the rail) and grape juice (in the trays) are available. When returning your used cups to the trays along the walls, please do not stack the cups. All are welcome to commune.

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 HYMNS

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Remembrance (The Communion Song)

C 26

Music can be found in the spiral Contemporary Hymnal

Oh how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery
Say take this bread, take this wine
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive

By mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful

[Chorus]

Lord, we remember you
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship you
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to your invitation
We remember you

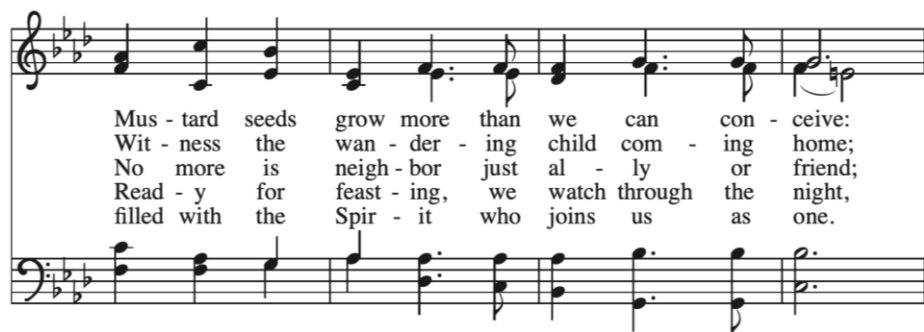
See his body, his blood
Know that he has overcome
Every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed
All are welcome in this place

By your mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful [Chorus]

Dying, you destroyed our death
Rising, you restored our life
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory [Chorus]



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Faith of Our Fathers

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is
 3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -
 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,
 pres - sion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,
 fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,
 mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,
 the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O
 un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O

ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER LIST

Added – none

Reformation Family: Carol Baer, Steve Barnett, Ruth Blatt, Tom Brizek, Millie Castillo, Harriet Clauser, Nancy Edinger, Bob Galbraith, Rich Hawk, Roger Hillibush, Dana Humbert, Maddie Kemp, Rod and Patti Kline, Cheryl Manella, Pat Schonour, Scott, Linda Sell,, Elinor Snyder, Jack Swartz, Erica Sweigert, and Herb Zettlemoyer

Friends of Reformation: Thomas Allmon, Sandy Bender, Andy Bishop, Claire Boarder, Karen Borsak, Michele Boucher, Mary Bowen, Susan Broome, Zena Burkert, Lucille Canta, Cathy, Barbara Connor, Carl and Laura, Patricia Derr. Bernadette Dieumegard, Wilgus Elliott, Judi and Carl Esterly, Ethan, Susan Flicker, Francis, Greg Geesaman, Robert Granko, Brian Gruber, Gino Hinnershitz John Howard, Deacon Kalbach, Kayden, Allison Kunkel, Batya Leidner, Scott Leone, Dana Little, Maryann and Elwood Long, Alyson, Sophie, and Avery Maas, Kathy McCoy,, Tom Mulvey, Andrew Nosti, Amy Papilla, Wyatt Plica, Chris Plue, Molly Regan, Avery Reinert, Keith and Peg Ruch, Garrett Schanfelder, Karolyn Schrufer, Kim Sharp, Linda Smith, Charles Sperling, Herm Spitzer, Jacob Stoner, Taylor Tenuta, and Grace Vetter,

We pray for our Call Committee as they listen and discern during this season of transition.

Next Week's Worship Leaders:

August 30th

Ushers	Joanne Scattergood and Shirley Harner
Reader	Judy Plica
Assisting Minister	Alan Blackburn
Acolyte	Jen Weaver

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER TOGETHER TIMES Every other summer Sunday, we will be gathering in the narthex after worship for a time of conversation, coffee, and goodies. Please plan to stay and visit a while. If you're able to help set up, clean up, or bring something delicious to share, please sign up on the sheets on the door in the narthex. Join us today for our final Together Time!

Health Ministry will be sponsoring a **Blood Drive**. Mark your calendar. Please consider giving the gift of life on Sunday, September 13, 2026. We will be having our Blood Drive in the social hall from 8:00 to 2:00 pm. There will be sign-up sheet or website to sign up for your preferred time. Let us make this successful for Miller Keystone Blood Bank. There is an urgent need for blood.

Call Committee Update – We are in a season of discernment as we seek the pastor God is preparing for us. We have now begun receiving candidates from the synod. At this time, we are meeting with one candidate, and the process is designed to bring candidates one at a time so that we can listen carefully and prayerfully.

The call committee has prepared questions that reflect both the synod's guidance and our congregation's unique needs. These questions will help us discern how a candidate's gifts align with Reformation's mission: *Preach, Teach, Reach*.

Your role in this process is prayer. Please continue to pray for the call committee, for the candidates, and for our congregation as we listen for the Spirit's guidance. After interviews, the committee will discern together and, if led, recommend a candidate to the council and congregation. This process takes time, but we trust God's timing. Please keep the call process in your prayers. May the Spirit guide us with wisdom, patience, and hope as we move forward.

Blessing of Teachers, Students, and School Staff – As we look ahead to the beginning of a new school year, there will be a Blessing of Teachers, Students, and School Staff during the service today.

Games Night

When: Friday Night August 28th from 7 – 9:30ish

Where: Fellowship Hall

Our last games night was a lot of fun, and we had many people express an interest in another one. So, come out and enjoy your favorite board game, card game, or any other type of game. This is open to all ages! We will be bringing a variety of games, but we encourage you to bring some of your own favorites to share with the group. We will also be bringing some drinks and several snack items but if you would like to bring something to add to the snack table, that would be great. We hope to see you there for another fun night together. Feel free to bring a friend. Nadine and Alan Blackburn

Family Promise – Monday Meal Ministry. A very big **thank you** to all of you who cooked meals these past Monday's. And all those who donated items for the "goodie bag". It is appreciated so very much.

Isaac's Fundraiser for Family Promise. On August 31st Isaac's in Wyomissing will be donating 15% of all orders, dine-in, take-out and catering. If you wish to help, there are flyers on the table in the narthex, or take a picture of it. Make sure you let the cashier know you are part of the fundraiser. Isaac's, 94 Commerce Dr. Wyomissing, PA 19610 – all day.

Prayer Shawls – If you know of someone who would like a prayer shawl, we have several. There are many colors and types. Prayer shawls can be given for illness, birth, graduation, retirement or any number of reasons. See Pam Schneeberger or Pastor Greg if you would like to take one to your special relative or friend.

NEW YEAR FOR BURGER-A-MONTH – September begins a new year for Burger-A-Month. If you have participated in the past – THANK YOU! It doesn't seem possible, but over the years since 2008, this program has raised over \$50,000 for ELCA World Hunger Relief. Please pick up your new pack of envelopes (September 2026 through August 2027) in the narthex. If you are not familiar with Burger-A-Month, please read the explanation papers on the table with the Burger Envelopes. Help us slow down the spread of hunger in the world!

"Fill the Truck" - Most Needed Item: New, clean socks are the most requested and least donated item in homeless shelters. Because individuals experiencing homelessness often walk long distances without easy access to laundry, socks wear out quickly. Fresh pairs are essential for basic comfort and to prevent severe health issues like frostbite, blisters, and fungal infections. An easy and simple item to bundle up and consider donating.