St. Peter's Church



Sixth Sunday of Easter May 6, 2018

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310 Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Relgious Education classes are in session.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name	 	 	
Phone	 	 	
Address	 	 	

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371~ Fax: 570-724-6322 Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00-2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann stpreled@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon; Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.



Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360 St. John Neumann's Prayer Group –Christina Simonis 570-724-2085 Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047 Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023 Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216 Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175 Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 Pat Gorda 570-724-3035

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360 Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591 Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529 Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970 Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085, Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371

Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371

Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite - Lori Makos 570-724-3371

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention	
Monday 5/7 Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4	No Mass		
Tuesday 5/8 Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11	7:30am	In Memory of Mike & Mary Demusz (Fermenic Family)	
Wednesday 5/9 Acts 17:15,22-18-1; Jn 16:12-15	5:00pm	In Memory of Jean Getgen (Joan Getgen)	
Thursday 5/10 Acts 1:1-11; Eph:17-23; Mk 16:15-20	12:10pm 7:00pm	In Honor of Rev. Michael Bryant (Suzanne Niles) In Memory of Mary Lou Bonk (Bonnie, Shelley, & Brenda)	
Friday 5/11 Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Gerald Matthews (Grab Family)	
Saturday 5/12 Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions Our Mother's Day Intentions	
Sunday 5/13 Acts 1:15-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11-19	8:30am	Our Mother's Day Intentions	

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of **John Curtosi** (Frank&lda Dziengowski)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, May 6, 2018

Religious Ed – Pre-School: 8:30-9:30am

May Crowning – 8:30am Mass

Religious Ed. End of Year Social – 9:30am, Parish Center

MONDAY, May 7, 2018

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, May 8, 2018

Adoration – **11:00am**-6:30pm, Benediction- 6:30pm

(Please note the change in the Adoration time for this week.)

Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 2018

Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am

St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

Social Concerns Meeting – 3:00pm, Parish Center

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, May 10, 2018

Rectory Closed

FRIDAY, May 11, 2018

Rectory Closed

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: popcorn, eye drops, "to go" powdered drink mix, travel size wet ones, beef jerky, & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.) Note: No chocolate items during the summer months. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *Creamy Peanut Butter and Grane Jelly*. A donation box can be found at the church entrance.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening – 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield Sunday Morning – 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

May 9th/10th - Ascension

5:00pm Vigil

Servers: J.Grab, W.Feil, J.Lubera Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, C. Evert

E. Min.: V.Anthony, N.Ostapowicz, D.deGuzman, G.Brown

12:10pm

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, T.Straniere, K.Wilcox, L.Whitney

7:00pm

Servers: X.Tellgren, L.Germino, A.Dunkel

Lectors: C.Waclawik, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: B.Chiaramonte, K.Tellgren, D.Sherman, M.Bialas

May 12th/13th 5:00pm

Servers: M.Mann, B.Levindoski, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson

E. Min.: T.Straniere, B.Chiaramonte, B.Butler, G.Brown

8:30am

Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, K.Kramer

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: A.Singer, D.deGuzman, N.Ostapowicz, L.Whitney

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages- In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

Sixth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

In entering the home of the Gentile Cornelius, Peter takes a radical step for a Jew. In a vision, Peter has come to an awareness of God's inclusive nature and boldly states that "God shows no partiality. Rather in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly, is acceptable to him." Peter is interrupted by the Spirit who proceeds to descend upon all. Jewish believers are astounded that the Spirit is gifting both Gentiles and Jews. Peter responds by saying that if Gentiles are acceptable to the Lord, then who are we to stand in God's path. He orders Cornelius and his entire household to be baptized. Often we too need to scrutinize our beliefs and actions to make certain that we are not standing in God's path.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 98

Psalm 98 acclaims the Lord for making his salvation known. As Easter people, for us there is nothing like God's saving power in Christ Jesus, nor will there ever be. This power extends to the ends of the earth. Through our witness, we invite others into the gift of God's salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-10

We are exhorted to love one another because love is of God, and whoever loves knows God and is begotten by God. God is love. That love is clearly manifested by the Father taking the initiative in sending Jesus to show love's depth, even to the point of being willing to die for another. Whoever does not love, does not know God. Easter Time invites us to reflect on how we practically and realistically demonstrate our love of God.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17



In his farewell address to his disciples, Jesus exhorts them to love one another as he has loved them. The depth of love is the willingness to die for the other. Jesus has chosen them, revealed all that the Father commanded him, and promises

to love them and remain in them. All he asks in return is to remain in him by loving one another. Intimacy with God rests on our willingness to believe in and imitate Jesus in loving one another even unto death. Our communities would certainly be different if we all took this message to heart in all our dealings and encounters.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

We continue during these 50 days of Easter Time with heartfelt devotion in honor of the risen Lord. On this final Sunday before the Ascension, we are invited to remember that the miracle of the Resurrection is ultimately one of love - a love that is so powerful that all forms of death aredefeated by it.

Parish News and Activities

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

Thank you to all who came and helped with our cemetery clean up last weekend, especially St. Peter's Youth



Group and Sue and Arnie Sticklin. A very special thank you to Howard Rutledge, who tirelessly volunteers to oversee all aspects of our cemetery operations.

LAYETTE PROJECT

Peter's Social Concerns Committee will be collecting and assembling layette sets for donation

to women who deliver at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital and are poorly prepared for their baby's arrival. Also, disposable diapers will be collected for donation to Seeds of Hope. Donations of new blankets, Newborn size infant clothing and disposable diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6 should be placed in the boxes at the back of the church by Tuesday, May 8th. No time to shop? Cash donations will be gratefully accepted to support this project. Kindly place your donations in an envelope marked "Layettes" and drop it in the weekly collection. Questions? Call Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.

SAMARITAN HOUSE - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

"Before and above all things, care must be taken of the sick, of service to our that they be served in very truth as Christ is served."

Samaritan House is celebrating 20 years community, helping guests die with dignity and loving care. We have

served over 100 souls in our 20 years, on an all volunteer basis. Currently we are seeking to increase our volunteer base. Our volunteers, some of whom started this ministry, have aged out, become ill, are caring for family members or have moved away. When a guest is in residence, there are 35 shifts per week to fill. Daytime shifts are 4 hours and nights are 8 hours. We ask for family involvement but often they are unable to do so. No medical experience is required to volunteer, just the desire to lovingly serve each guest. Volunteers work with an experienced volunteer until they feel comfortable. End of life care is about safety, comfort and caring. The ability of Samaritan House to accept guests is totally dependent on our volunteers. We URGENTLY need to recruit new volunteers! Please visit Samaritan House website www.samaritanhouseofwellsboro.com to review our history and comments from volunteers. An application can be downloaded and emailed to dstager@ptd.net. or dropped off at the Rectory. Please call Julie Stager (570-376-2424) or Laurie Coffee (570-549-2210) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this important ministry!

Religious Education News Religious Education Social



Today is the last day of Religious Education Classes. There will be a donut/coffee/juice social in the parish center following the 8:30am Mass. All are welcome!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

Today marks the end of the Religious Education year. A special thank you to all our catechist and volunteers for their dedication and willingness to share their faith with the children of our parish — Abby Feil, Grace Feil, Kaitlyne Kramer, Maddie Mann, Lindsay Levindoski, Emma Poirier, Lauren Singer, Kristen West, Nick Ingerick, Lizzie Poirier, Lisa Banik, Jill Campbell, Patti Perry, Kirsten Tellgren, Ginny Reindl, Marilyn deGuzman, Meghan Henneman, Coleen Evert, Anja Stam, Val Anthony, Priscilla Walrath, Glenn Poirier, Steve Tokarz, Helen Mazur, Lisa Feil, Patty Kramer, Teri Austin, Katey Pacific, Terra Tokarz, Aaron Singer, Sarah Hazelton, Jason Fletcher, Tom Campbell, and Nate Singer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Last Sunday 14 children from our parish received their First Holy Communion. They are:



Brayden Benjamin Evan Lisowski Stephen Poirier Jackson Sensenig Ransom Schultz Wyatt Sporer Luke Szentesy

Gwenevere Buck Shaina Harrison Abigail Hazelton Reagan Johnson Claire Smith Ella Steinbacher Stephen Tokarz

Lord Jesus, bless all those who are receiving you in Holy Communion for the first time. May each one of them know your love and mercy in a personal way. May all your people open their hearts to receive you that they might be transformed by your love. Amen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for Vacation Bible School! This year VBS will take place from July 15th - 18th. More information to come in upcoming bulletins.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for April 29th: \$6,056.00 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$ 306.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$6,636.93 We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries!

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The readings today teach us that God's love for us takes precedence over our love for him, and that his choice of us takes precedence over our choice for him. "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you" (Gospel). In a society that places such a high value on "freedom of choice," this truth is especially important. It is God's choice of a human life that gives it value, not our choice. It is God's decision to entrust us to the care of each other that creates the responsibilities we have toward human life, not the choice we make to be responsible for them. If our responsibility to love and care for human life, starting with our own children (born and unborn) is rooted in God's eternal choice and his decision to love us (and those children), then we do not have the moral right to reject that responsibility, love, and life. command given to us to love, therefore, is a command both to receive and give the kind of love God shows. "Love one another as I love you" (Gospel). We are to lay down our lives for one another, which is exactly the opposite of laying down others' lives for ourselves (as so many do by abortion and other forms of violence). www.priestsforlife.org

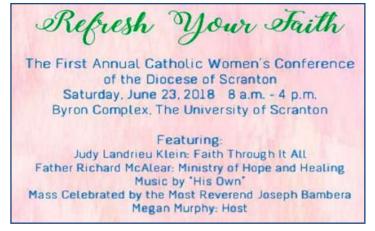
CALLING ALL RUNNERS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Center is hosting a *Pound the Ground for Ultrasound* 10k and 5k race on Saturday, May 26th beginning at 8:00am. Call 570-721- 2936 or visit *www.empccfree.com* for more information.

Diocese of Scranton News

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

There are now sign-up sheets on the handout table. For those who have not already signed up on line, please fill out and turn into the rectory no later than May 29th with payment of \$20. St. Peter's will pay the balance. For those who have signed up on line, please call the rectory and let us know, so that we can make sure you are on the bus list and refund to your our portion of the fee.



St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending.

That's The Way It Is!



Seven German bishops have asked Pope Francis to allow the Protestant spouses married to a Catholic to receive communion in the Catholic Church. The Vatican has rejected this proposal. Now the news is reporting that the pope and German bishops

will discuss the proposal further. The whole discussion begs the question: What is the big deal? Catholics and Protestants celebrate a common baptism, we worship the same God, our beliefs are similar, we work together on many charitable projects. Why can't the Catholic Church just allow Protestants to receive communion in their churches? Why Can't the Catholic Church allow Catholics to receive communion in Protestant churches?"

I need to make one thing clear: the reason Catholics and Protestants do not share intercommunion has nothing whatever to do with Catholics thinking they are better than Protestants. Catholics recognize Protestants as their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We indeed share many common beliefs. We share a common baptism; we have the same God and Father, the same Lord Jesus Christ, the same care and concern for each other and the same care and concern for the poor. For this reason there are many things we can do together. Unfortunately communion is not one of those things.

For as much as Catholics and Protestants hold in common, there are many things on which we are nonetheless divided. We cannot ignore these divisions; we cannot pretend they do not exist. These divisions are not just over matters of taste, theological emphasis or otherwise insubstantial things. These divisions are over what both Catholics and Protestants would consider substantial things, not the least of which is the meaning of communion itself. It is due to these divisions that we do not have intercommunion.

In order for Protestants and Catholics to have intercommunion, Protestants, would, in essence, have to give up the unique beliefs that set them apart as Protestants. In order for Catholics to receive communion in a Protestant church, they would have to give up the unique beliefs that set them apart as Catholics. What are some things that Catholics and Protestants substantially disagree on? The disagreements between Protestants and Catholics can be reduced to two things: 1) The question of authority and how it works in the Church, and 2) The question of salvation and how the Grace of God works to save us.

The disagreement on the question of authority in the Church is why Protestant churches tend towards a democracy while Catholic churches do not. It is why Protestants do not believe unity with the pope and bishops is an essential component of what it means to be the Church. It is why Protestants place so much emphasis on the Scriptures and demand scriptural proof for all teachings of the Church. For Protestants, the Scriptures are the only mechanism that speak with the authority of God in the Church today. Protestants, therefore tend to draw a dichotomy between Scripture, the leaders of the Church and Tradition. Catholics do not make such a dichotomy. Catholics believe Scripture, the leaders of the Church who are the pope and bishops and Tradition all

manifest and speak with the authority of God—but in their own unique ways.

The disagreement on the question salvation is why Protestants reject the Priesthood as Catholics understand it and the need for sacraments. It is why Protestants believe we are saved by Faith alone and that human works play little to no role in our salvation. It is why Protestants believe that praying to Mary and the saints is idolatrous and sinful. It is why Protestants do not have the spiritual disciplines of Catholics such as fasting and abstinence during Lent, indulgences, novenas, etc. Protestants believe we are saved by Christ alone through Grace alone by Faith alone. Catholics believe we are saved by Christ alone through Grace alone by Faith and works. For Catholics, Faith works in love. For Catholics, works done in Grace are saving. To some, this may sound like a small matter. Trust me, it is not. It is a huge, huge deal.

The point is that these disagreements are why Protestants and Catholics cannot share inter-denominational communion. These differences and disagreements must be overcome in order for us to have inter-denominational communion. In danger of death, a baptized Protestant who can profess the Catholic belief in the Eucharist may receive communion. However, in ordinary circumstances we cannot share communion unless or until our differences are overcome. In ordinary circumstances, professing Catholic belief in the Eucharist is a start but it is not sufficient because we are divided on more than just the nature of communion.

I will end on this note: to any Protestant who wants to receive communion in the Catholic Church because you profess the Catholic Faith regarding the Eucharist, why don't you consider becoming Catholic? On the other hand, to any Catholic who does not profess the Catholic Faith regarding the Eucharist; that is, you reject Transubstantiation, why exactly are you Catholic? In my mind, without the Eucharist there is little point to being Catholic. The Eucharist is why I am Catholic and it is the only thing that keeps me Catholic.

That's the way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel

St. Peter's Church

Italian Dinner

Friday, May 18, 2018 ~ 4:00 - 7:00pm

Adults - \$10.00 ~ Children (under 12) - \$5.00





Menu

Chicken Cacciatore, Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Meatballs, Italian Wedding Soup, Salad, Bread Homemade Desserts, Coffee, Soda, Tea, Lemonade

In order for this dinner to be a success, we need volunteers to work during and after the dinner, donations of some food items and baked goods, and donations of filled baskets for the raffle.

Signup sheets can be found in the back of the church.



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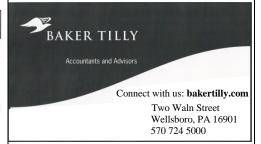
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> F 570.662.1078

BULLETIN ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

We currently have advertising space available in our weekly bulletin. If you are interested in placing an ad, please call the rectory.

A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Parish Prayer List



Kenneth Mitchell Owner

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Susan Cleveland, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol

Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Jack Worden, Teagan Kohler, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniw, and Ruth Russell.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.