

Second Sunday of Lent ~ March 16, 2025

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

We are a Loving Family, Growing In Faith,
Sharing the Hope of Christ...

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS –

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

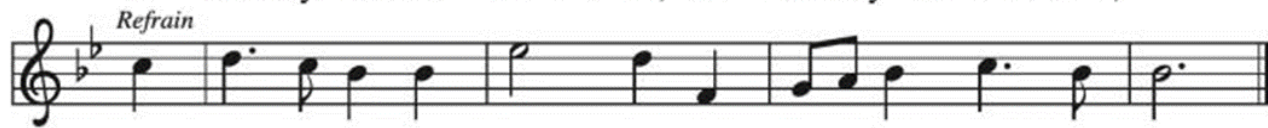
GATHERING HYMN – O Beauty Ever Ancient



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,

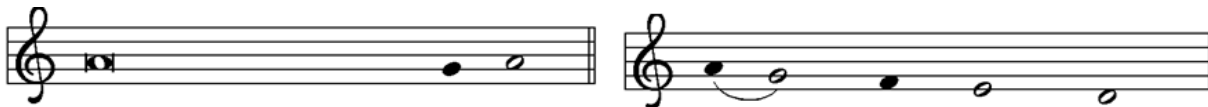


in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

GREETING

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



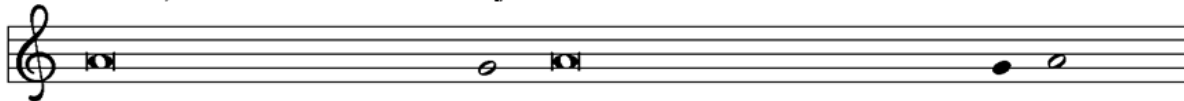
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



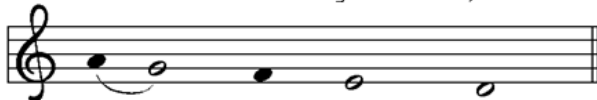
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

cont'd

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-2, 17-18

¹After 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." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But 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." ⁵He 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." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. **cont'd**

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 27

Sung Responsively



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart I will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell
in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the
hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround
me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of
rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God
of my salvation.

¹⁰**Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²**Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴**Wait for the LORD and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17–4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and

mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of

1. God. 2. God. Last time

Verse 1

1. Now the time of grace has come, the day of sal -

va - tion; come and learn now the way of our God. D.C.

Verse 2

I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you, a heart of compassion and love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-15

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON – Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN of DAY – ELW 613 *Thy Holy Wings*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for people living in fear or need and for those who are ill in body or mind.

We pray especially for: Evelyn's Family. Also, Pastor Bill, Norma, Maury & Linda, Dan & Peggy, Ellie, Dick, Judy J., Damian & Marcia, Marjorie, Ron F., Larry & Barb, Tom, Judy N., Esther & Dawn, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Don & Donna, the prayer requests from the Little Library, and those we name before you now either aloud or in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and Presentation of Gifts

OFFERING – Psalm

OFFERTORY HYMN - Create in Me

Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve ___
You; ___ Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might be re -
-newed. So fill ___ me and heal ___ me, and bring me ___ back to ___
You. ___ Cre - ate in me ___ a clean
heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve ___ You.

OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray together. **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

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

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS - *A Song of Unity*

As a moth - er hen gath - ers her chicks, as an ea - gle
lifts up her young, you have called to your ta - ble all
peo - ple as one; God, we thank you for your pres - ence here. *Fine*
As we share in the bread and the wine, come to us, ho - ly
Je - sus. in love. Let the gift of your sac - ri - fice
o - pen our eyes; we are one in your bo - dy and blood. *D.C. al fine*

Instrumental Meditation

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN – *Better Is One Day*



1. How love - ly is Your dwell - ing place, O Lord al - might - y. For my soul longs and
 (2. One) thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beau - ty, to find You in the



e - ven faints for You. For here my heart is sat - is - fied with - in Your pres -
 place Your glo - ry dwells. One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beau -

CHORUS



ence. I sing be - neath the shad - ow of Your wings. Bet - ter is
 ty, to find You in the place Your glo - ry dwells.

§



one day in Your courts, bet - ter is one day in Your house, bet - ter is one day in Your courts than thou - sands



else - where. Bet - ter is one day in Your courts, bet - ter is one day in Your house, bet - ter is

1

2

23

Last time to Coda \oplus



one day in Your courts than thou - sands else - where, than thou - sands else - where.

2. One else - where.

BRIDGE 1



My heart and flesh cry out for You, the liv - ing God. Your Spir - it's wa - ter to my soul.



I've tast - ed and I've seen. Come once a - gain to me. I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You,

BRIDGE 2

to You. Bet - ter is one day, bet - ter is
 45 one day, bet - ter is one day than thou - sands else - where. Bet - ter is one day, bet - ter is
 47 *Asus* *G2* *Asus* *D.S. al Coda*
 one day, bet - ter is one day than thou - sands else - where. Bet - ter is
 50 *Coda*
 else - where. _____

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES - March 16, 2025

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com

ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

Please keep in your prayers, the Family and Friends of Evelyn Senger.

Also members and friends: Maury and Linda Allen, Norma Buerk, Pastor Bill Cox (Prince of Peace), Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Damian and Marcia Santabene, Esther & Dawn Klakamp, Larry & Barb Ruhlman, Dick Brucker, Judy Johnston, Ron Froess, Tom Cirillo, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Ellie Cherpak, Judy Nordin, Don & Donna Holder and requests from our Little Library.

Receiving Communion: If it is a **challenge for you to come forward** to receive communion, **please alert the usher...**you will be served communion at your seat.

Sunday, March 16: Worship, 930a - Choir: 9a & 1045a Bible Study: 10:45a

Sunday, March 23: Healing Service, 9:30a - Choir: 9a & 1045a

Bible Study: 10:45a

Monday, March 17: All ladies (friends too) are welcome to gather for Prayer Shawls 10a-12n. Join the group for prayer, good conversation, knitting shawls, lap robes etc. for the homebound. **No experience? Showing "how to" offered!**

Wednesday March 19, Fellowship Hall @ 12:15p: Lenten worship, **"The Sign from Jonah"** followed by **soup, bread & dessert** with our friends from New Hope. A sign-up sheet to bring soup etc. is in the narthex.

Tuesday, March 18: Care Group @ 12:30p. Team **members learn** about **participating in the Service of Healing** on March 23.

Wednesday, March 19: Prayer Warriors @ Home. Pray with us silently for whatever time you can or wherever you are **between 1-3p.** Through intercession prayers, believers can bring comfort and encouragement and hope to those facing difficulties.

Wednesday, March 19: Men's Night Out, 630p, Chico's W. Ridge Rd, Fairview RSVP not necessary. Just stop in and join the AH guys for good food & conversation.

Thursday, March 20: All ladies welcome to Ladies Night Out at Brewerie, Union Station, 530p. RSVP sign-up sheet in the narthex (please indicate if you need a ride) by **Tuesday, March 18.** Drivers/riders meet @ ALC, 5:00p.

Sunday, March 23: Pr. Jean Kuebler, **Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Rd. Harborcreek** is offering a **lay communion distributor's class.** If anyone is interested, call Pr. Kuebler: 717-440-3515.

Meals for Members: The church is starting a new ministry to provide meals for members during a time of need (illness, post-surgery, etc.). Looking for **volunteers** to cook, package and label frozen meals for two for reheating in a microwave. Cookies, muffins, quick breads to freeze also welcome. **Sign-up,** in narthex, for the initial **meals needed for the week of March 23.** Bring in meals on Sunday 3/23 or during office hours.

Altar Flowers: To **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, fill in the weekly **sign-up sheet** and **request forms** on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form, payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 930a-330p. Wednesday, 930a-1230p. For **immediate pastoral assistance,** call **Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.**

*Wednesday's at 12:15
ALC Fellowship Hall
Lenten Service & Soup Luncheon*

Come for worship and study,
"A Visit from Jonah", followed by Soup
luncheon with our friends from
New Hope Presbyterian Church.
Wednesday afternoons during Lent at
12:15 beginning March 12th.



Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
2402 W Grandview Blvd.
www.abidinghopeerie.org
All are Welcome -
Handicapped Accessible



New Hope Presbyterian Church
5445 Washington Ave.



Sign-up in the narthex
to bring soup or bread
or dessert.

Worship Leaders – March 16, 2025

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Jacque Holmberg
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Communion Cups	Ed Whitbred
Communion Tray	Carol Whitbred
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	John Holmberg
Counters	Andy & Lois

ALL NEW – BEGINNING FEB 23RD

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP - 11 AM

LUKE... A BIBLE STUDY

BY N.T. WRIGHT

Prayer Shawl Gatherings

Come to knit, crochet a project, or make a lap robe or prayer shawl for the homebound. Yarn and instruction provided...or just come for good conversation and friendship.

The group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 10 to 12 noon in the Conference Room.

Abiding Hope
Lutheran Church

Thursday, March 20th - 5:30pm

Ladies Night Out at
THE BREWERIE
at Union Station

All ladies welcome! Sign up in the narthex or RSVP to Jacque by Tuesday, March 18th

Men's Night Out ~ Wed. March 19~6:30PM

No RSVP-just show up for good eats and conversation.

Chico's

Family Dining on
West Ridge Road in Fairview, PA

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

An up-to-date Abiding Hope
Member Directory is coming soon!

FOR YOUR ACTION.

Before March 25th, if possible!

Please review your personal contact information printed in the master directory on two clipboards in the narthex at church.

If your information is **accurate and complete** (name, address, phone (land and/or **cell**), email address, names of children 23 years old and younger living with you), please write "OK" by your entry.

If your information is **incorrect or incomplete**, please ***change/add the updated information*** beside your entry in this directory.

If you notice any additional needed corrections, please write down what you noticed on the last page of this directory and include your name.

If you have a *current*, clear **PHOTO** you would like to include in this updated directory, place it (along with your name) in the Holmberg mailbox at church, or scan your photo and send it to jholmberg@roadrunner.com.

Updated photographs will be taken after worship services at a later date, as needed.

Thank you. *Jacque Holmberg*