

Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost ~ August 13, 2023

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor ~ Sheryl Williams, Music Minister

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Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

PRELUDE ~ Piano Duet *Andante* from Haydn's Surprise Symphony No. 6

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Thank you to Howard Lyon for providing special music this morning!

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 821 (red book) *Shout to the Lord*

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.**

HYMN of PRAISE ~ Alabaré v.2,3

Refrain



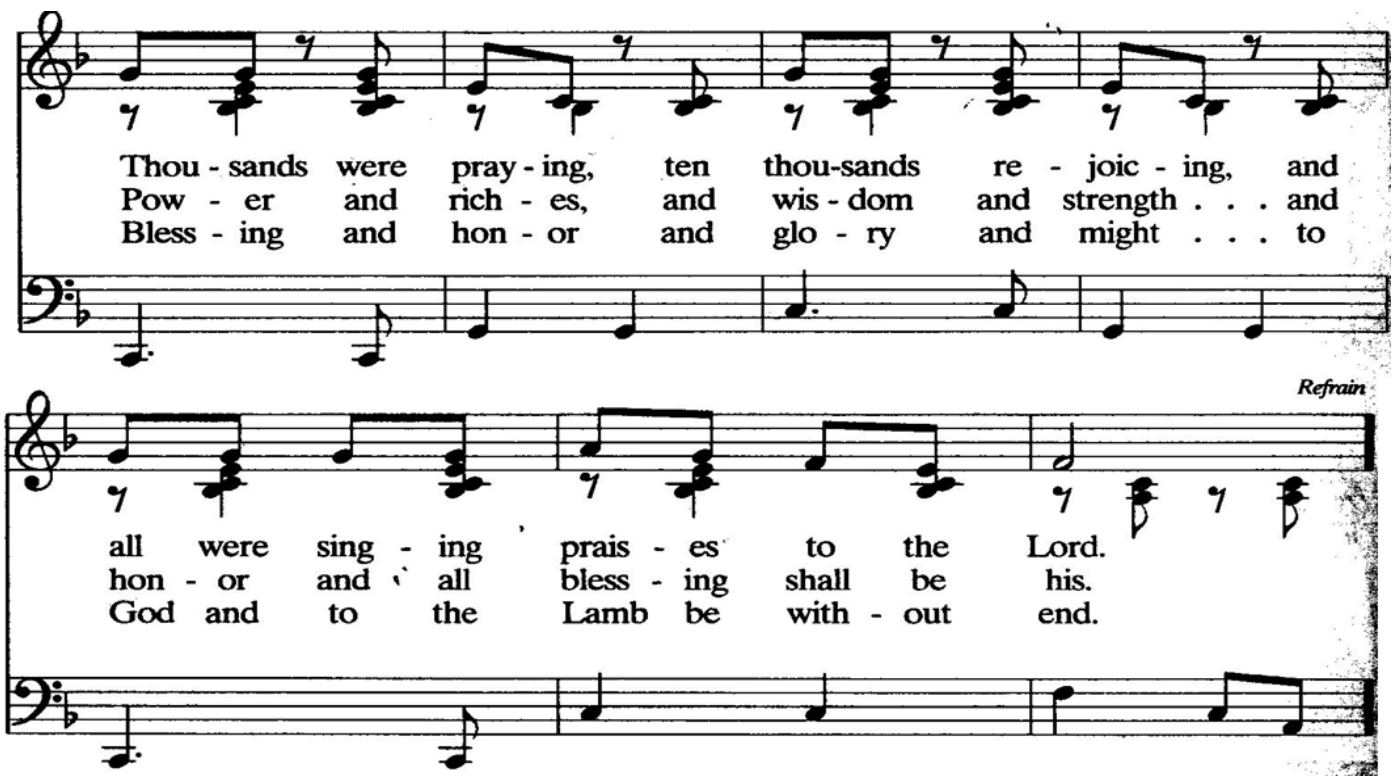
A - la - ba - ré a - la - ba - ré a - la - ba -

ré a mi Se - ñor. A - la - ba - ré a - la - ba -

ré a - la - ba - ré a mi Se - ñor.

1 John saw the num - ber of all those re - deemed, and
2 Wor - thy is Christ . . . the Lamb who was slain, whose
3 Sing with the peo - ple, the peo - ple of God, and

all were sing - ing prais - es to the Lord.
blood has set us free from ev - 'ry sin.
join cre - a - tion in a joy - ful hymn.



PRAYER of the DAY

Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

Cont'd

¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

PSALM: 85:8-13

Spoken Responsively

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,

you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW 755 (red book) Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick, especially: Matt, Natalie, Jane, David, Ed & Jeanne, Margaret, Christian, Colleen, Mike, Harry, Judy, Peggy, Don & Skip, Esther, Jo, Norma, Nicole & family, Ruth, Evelyn, Joyce, Don & Marian, Jack & Marjorie. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor's Prayer

God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service as examples of following your call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

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

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING ~ Piano Duet *Menuetto*

from Haydn's Surprise Symphony No. 6

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ Glorify Thy Name

The musical score is written for a piano duet in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first three lines of the hymn: '1. Fa ther, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You, glo - ri - fy Thy', '2. Je sus...', and '3. Spir it...'. The second staff continues with 'name in all the earth.' and 'Glo - ri - fy Thy name, glo - ri - fy Thy'. The third staff concludes with 'name, glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.' followed by a long horizontal line for a final note or extension.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

PREFACE

We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made divine life available to all. We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. And so, as we gather at this table, we recognize the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence. Together, we offer our praise and join in the hymn of all creation:

S108

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

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 to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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



S 112

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 ~ ELW (red book)

785 *When Peace Like a River*

773 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this holy meal and
for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this
table be reflected in our lives; May the power we receive at this
table make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who
fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's
Reign in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 763 (red book) *My Life Goes on in Endless Song*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ~ Piano Duet *Allegro con Spirito*
from Haydn's Symphony No.1

GOSPEL MESSAGE ~ Here and Now

"Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30). Right now! Right here! Right away! Peter was desperate. Neither Peter nor Jesus was thinking of heaven. The cry cracking through the storm at sea had nothing to do with a hoped-for future in a realm beyond earth in a time to come when the days of this life, here, are no more. In the tumult, in the deep-water chaos and fright, "Lord, save me!" is an urgent cry for Jesus to reach "here"—not to take me "there." Christians can become so bent on "being saved" as an afterlife promise that they go along, living with little discovery of Jesus present in the world, saving the world here and now. "Lord, save" is a refrain repeated throughout all of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. In the first chapter of Matthew's gospel is the prophetic "Wow!" that Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us" (Matt. 1:23). From the moment he begins his ministry, Jesus makes visible and touchable the kingdom of heaven that "has come near" (Matt. 4:17). He gathers a community of disciples, announces and creates good news, cures, teaches the way of blessedness, does mercy, insists on forgiveness, encourages faith, remembers the forgotten, sees the unseen, chooses the rejected, gives courage, offers hope . . . all to save *here and now*.

"Lord, save me!" The saving takes place even before Jesus dies on the cross. The reason for his parables: to save. The meaning of the miracles: to save. The purpose of his teaching: to save. "Lord, save me!" What a courageous appeal those words are, trusting Jesus to be Lord—master not only of a gated spiritual territory, but master on windy seas where we tremble and gasp and sink into the deep waters of a turbulent world that roils our lives. Courageous Peter, with little faith and little doubt, dares us to make his words our own: "Lord, save me!"

PARISH NOTES ~ August 13, 2023

Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,
In memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, from Carol Wunch

Picnic Lunch & Town Hall Meeting following 9:30a worship in the fellowship hall.

Hot dogs/rolls, beverages, condiments and table settings will be provided
by the church along with tureen dishes from members.

Join your Abiding Hope Family for conversation,
good food and to share some laughs.

Please pray for: Matt Zill, Natalie Zimmerly, Jane Penna, David Parsh, Ed and Jeanne Tropper, Margaret Moran, Christian Mueller, Colleen Luke, Mike Paris, Judy Nordin, Harry Speakman, Peggy Kaeberlein, Don and Skip Kleckner, Jo Critchfield, Esther Klakamp, Norma Squire, Nicole Woomer & Family, Ruth Hinkson, Don & Marian Fuller, Evelyn Senger, Karen Shick, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

Summer worship schedule: One worship **service at 9:30 through Sunday, September 3rd.** The service will continue to be posted on FB and on the AHLC website.

Bible Study: Continues **this morning after 9:30a** service with a study of how to discover the deep peace of finding yourself as a child of God.

Thursday August 17: Ladies Night Out, **5:30p** at the **Venango Valley Inn, 21217 Church St – Route 19 in Venango, Pa.** Please contact Jacque Holmberg @ 814-490-4470 by tomorrow, August 14 to RSVP. Drivers and riders will meet at AHLC at 5:00p for anyone who needs a ride.

Tuesday, August 15: Art Committee for Milton Sontheimer's Paintings **first meeting @ 12:30p** to discuss future projects is. Contact Lon Jenkins ... 814-790-8225 or jenkinslon@aol.com with any questions.

Saturday, August 19: "Men Only Breakfast" at **Panos' Restaurant, 9:00a.** All guys are invited to attend for good conversation and a great breakfast.

Sunday, August 20: **Collection for Millcreek Police Depart.** Hot summer days make for hot work shifts for our police officers. Let's show our appreciation by supplying them with healthy beverages: water, Gatorade, etc. Donations, **anytime through 8/20** may be **placed in the Heritage Room.** Special thanks to our MPD. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for promoting these activities.

Sunday, August 27: For children and any teachers, Pastor Karen would like to send you off with lots of prayer and many blessings for the coming 2023-24 school year. **Blessing of the Backpacks and school items will be during 930a worship service.**

A Big Thank You: To all the volunteers who gave their time and talents to make our August 5th “Knights of the Castle” bible day camp a wonderful experience for the 20+ kids who attended. The opening & closing ceremonies, the music class, bible stories, crafts, games and the picnic were all a great success and the outstanding settings & props created by **Lon Jenkins & Sondra Marshall** (New Hope) brought the “Armor of God” to life. A **special thank** you to **Capt. Scott Sebulak** of the **Millcreek Police** for his participation in the closing ceremony with a talk to the kids about putting on the armor of God and seeing the police as helpers.

Prayer Warriors. For Abiding Hope to become known as a praying church for our congregation, neighborhood & community, we need Prayer Partners! If you are unable to join us each month, 3rd Wednesday 1-3:00, please consider sacrificing a portion of during that time, even 10 minutes, to pray with us wherever you are. For those who can join us, it is a time of silence after a brief reading and prayer at 1:00. Come any time, find a place in the Quiet Room or Sanctuary, and pray silently for the needs burdening our Church families and those of the world. God honors our prayers...it is often the only answer when facing overwhelming situations. Thank you for the support shown to us to date—we welcome your presence to join us in prayer.

Little Free Library/Little Free Pantry/Prayer Request Box We are still working on the plan and not quite ready to accept books. In the meantime, we ask you to use your talents to create book marks that will be available for those who will make use of this gift to our community. Bookmarks with uplifting Scripture and inspiring words would be appreciated. Use any type of media: water color, crayon, colored pencil, ink, beads, crochet, knit or even create on your computer. Please put your creations in Connie Vogt’s ‘mailbox’ marked Vogt/Kerr. Check the ‘weekly update’ emails & parish notes for forthcoming details. Questions, contact Connie Kerr Vogt - 814.403.2885

Please notice the TV monitor on the north wall of the narthex. The monitor displays announcements of upcoming events and items of interest. If you have some older photos of AHCL, Zion, or Our Savior or an announcement, please give to Ed Whitbred or email: ejwhitbred@verizon.net. If possible, please identify those in the photos.

Bethany Outreach: Please remember the collection of used clothing and items for the household is ongoing as well as pairs of shoes in good condition for **Chosen**. Drop off in the Heritage Room. Thank you! Analee Cree.

Are you on Facebook? Be sure to “friend” Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, and LIKE and SHARE the post to help promote events at AHLC

KAFP Project Dignity: August – cleaning products. Basket is in the “quiet room”.

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday **9:30a-3:30p**, Wednesday **9:30a – 12:30p**.
For **immediate pastoral assistance**, call **Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266**.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- **\$20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least one week, prior to your chosen Sunday.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

July Income	\$ 8,328.11	Year to Date Income	\$66,829.24
July Expenses	\$12,668.33	Year to Date Expenses	\$78,373.58
July Difference	\$-4,340.22	Year to Date Difference	\$-11,481.34
Year to date Budget \$75,601.65			

Worship Leaders August 13, 2023 ~ 9:30a

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Lon Jenkins
Comm Assist/cups	Michele Rion
Comm. Assist/wine	Jeanne Tropper
Communion tray	Penny Gresh
Presenter	Kayla Miller
Presenter	Michele Rion
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Rick Penn
Counters	Rich Filson & Lois Kuhns