

Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, Pennsylvania

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.



The Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

August 23, 2026

8AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (spoken)

Page 2

10AM—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (sung)

Page 9



Christ Church (Episcopal)

Reading, PA

8am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Page numbers on the right hand side of the bulletin refer to parts of the service that can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (the black book in the pews).

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity (said together)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

People: **Christ have mercy**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made

their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 124

If the Lord had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;
**If the Lord had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us;**
Then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;

**Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;
Then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.
Blessed be the Lord!
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
Our help is in the Name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Second Reading Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. 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. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

At the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 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. 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. 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.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated

The Homily

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Lord, we pray for this world and all people; may we sit on the mountainside with you, hear your words, receive your grace and be filled with all you have to offer, as we say, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. We pray for those living in any kind of fear and danger, especially for everyone living in places of war and violence and for all the innocent lives that are taken. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. Be especially with those who are celebrating this week: Dixie Lee Borders, George Fultz, Lincoln Miller, Janet Koller, Stephen Hoare, Will Fanning and Garrett and Joann Hyneman. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way, especially Fr Bryce, our rector, Audrey, our bishop, Kevin, our assistant Bishop, Sean, our presiding bishop, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Church of the Province of West Africa and the churches and ministries of the Diocese of the Susquehanna. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. Be especially with those printed on our prayer list in the bulletin and any that we name now... Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you, remembering Tim Gabrielle, Dale Shelly and Regina Powell. Raise us with them to eternal life. Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Celebrant: O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin 360

The Peace 360

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Prayers for the Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer*) 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 367

The Sanctus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 368

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People: **We remember his death
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory**

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation to Communion

364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: communion rail. and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail.

The Post-Communion Prayer

365

The Blessing

366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant at 8AM and 10AM
The Reverend Bryce P. Wandrey

Homilist at 8AM and 10AM
Chris Spohn

Altar Guild Team
Victoria Wilson (Captain), Doris Schilpp and Helen Peemoeller

8am Service Participants

Lector and Intercessor
Chris Spohn

Usher
Rick Wolf

Communion Assistant
Ellen Sunderman

10am Service Participants

Organist and Choir Director
John Painter

Communion Assistants
Victoria Wilson and Michael West

Liturgists
Ozi Abara and JulieAnna
Gonzalez

Verger
Ian Hoelscher

Readers
Alex Brantman and Lauren
Hoelscher

Acolytes
Jeff Morris and Matt Hoelscher

Intercessors
Elizabeth West, Lillian
Arguelles and Eliza Handy

Gospel Book Bearer
Father Bryce

Gospeller
Derek Morris

Ushers
Zoe Morris (Head Usher), Larry
Whalen and our Children and Youth

Greeting Team
Brenda Guardian, Daniel Harris and Justin Skwiat

Reading, PA
10am Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude	<i>Still wie die Nacht</i>	Carl Bohm, arr. By Edwin Arthur Kraft
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The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for Purity (said together)

The Kyrie Gregory Murray

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The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please be seated

The First Reading: Exodus 1:8–2:10 (see page 2 for the text of the reading)

At the end of the reading

Readers: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Hymn 490 *I want to walk as a child of the light*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 (see page 4 for the text of the reading)

Before the reading

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the reading

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord**

Please be seated

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

358

The Prayers of the People (see page 5)

Intercessor Jesus, Lord of life,

People: **in your mercy, hear us.**

Confession of Sin

359

The Peace

All the Children: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements and Blessing of the Backpacks

**All: Lord, bless these bags and everything within,
May our children excel at math and at gym.
Lord, bless our students and our teachers,
Bless our classrooms and our bleachers.
May this coming year be the best in every way,
Lord, bless our steps now and every day.
God, be in our minds and in our hearts,
Be in our endings and in our starts. Amen.**

The Offertory Anthem *Choral Prelude on "Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme"* J.S. Bach

The Presentation Hymn 380 From all that dwell below the skies (vs 3)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

367

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

The celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 367

Sanctus

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues the Great Thanksgiving on page 368

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
 Celebrant and People: **We remember his death**
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory

The Celebrant concludes the Great Thanksgiving on page 369

The Lord's Prayer

364

The Fraction Anthem

Taste and see, Taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O taste and see, Taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

The Invitation to Communion

364

Everyone is invited to receive. There will be two chalices for receiving: the first to drink from and the second chalice is for intinction (dipping the host instead of drinking.) Gluten Free wafers are available; if you require gluten free please indicate this when receiving. If you would prefer to receive a blessing please indicate this by crossing your arms while at the communion rail. communion rail.

The Agnus Dei

Gregory Murray

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. grant us peace.

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The Communion Hymns 711 *Seek ye first* and 325 *Let us break bread together*

If Eucharist visitors are being sent forth today to take the sacrament to people at home, the following prayer is said after Communion:

Celebrant: In the name of God, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that
those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of
Christ's body and blood.

All: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.
Amen.**

The Post-Communion Prayer 365

The Blessing 366

Celebrant: ...; and the blessing God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and
remain with you always. **Amen**

The Closing Hymn 478 *Jesus our mighty Lord*

The Dismissal

Liturgist: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *The Lost Chord* Sir Arthur Sullivan



The ECW of Christ Church would like to announce the 2026 Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Event. For a \$5.00 donation, you get a pass for 25% most items for one day only, Wednesday, October 21 from 8AM to 11PM. Please see any ECW member for a ticket.

Regular Christ Church Office hours:
Monday: 8:00 am - 2:00 PM; Tuesday 8:00AM-12:30PM
Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 PM

IN the city. WITH our neighbors. FOR everyone.

We are grounded in the values of love, service and faithful stewardship. Firmly rooted in compassionate collaboration, we welcome partnerships that nurture our neighbors and address pressing issues in our community. We endeavor to be a cornerstone for the city of Reading, enabling all that come through our doors to experience the dignity, purpose and opportunities that God desires for everyone.

For those in need of our prayers....

Runette	Todd	Beverly	Mertz Family
Connie	Randall	Byron and Sherry	Randi
Albert	Ellen	Penny	Mary
Laraine	Sid	Darryl M.	Albert
MJ and family	Sandi	Lola and family	Randy
Kate	Max	Sue	Terra
Ashley	Joshua	Jeffrey	Angelica
Frances	Lola and Family	Bruce	Sandi
David,	Lou	Elizabeth	Larain
Steven	Jeri	Nate	

Kindly submit any names you would like to be added to the prayer list by emailing Kim @officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org or writing the name on the paper on the table outside the church.

Cover images:

Center: "Christ Giving the Keys to Saint Peter" by Giovanni Ghisolfi, Italy, ca. 1670-1683

Bottom left: The shield of the Diocese of the Susquehanna

Bottom right: Line drawing of Christ Church, Reading



Youth Mission Trip Presentation

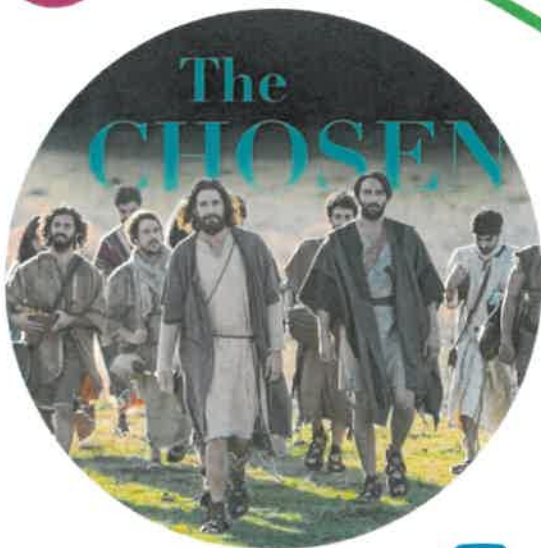
Please join us in the Parlor on August 23rd at 9:05AM to hear about our Mission Trip which took place in June. Our Youth and Leaders will be with us to share their experiences.



Blessing of the Backpacks and free Ice Cream!

Sunday August 23rd at 10am

Please be advised that there is no Rummage Sale in August. Come see us in September and preview some of our fall merchandise. The dates are September 2, 5 and 9 from 10AM to 1PM.



The Chosen People's Choice Awards

Beginning on August 30th during our Adult Forum (9:05AM to 9:45AM) we will be looking at the life of Jesus and his followers through your chosen clips from the TV show *The Chosen*. Please join us for this engaging way to delve into the life of our Lord.

The Covenant Cup

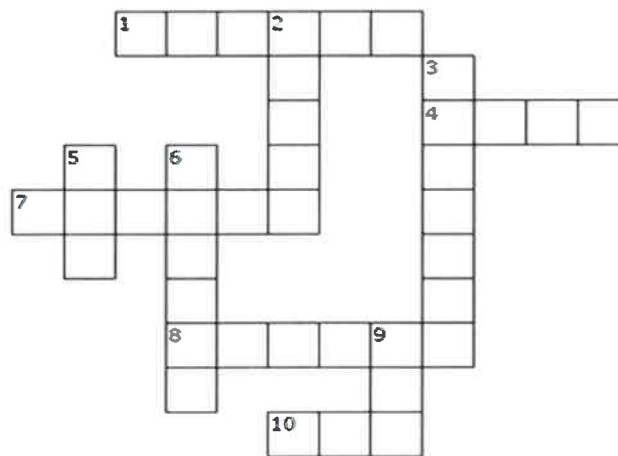
Join us for the second annual **Covenant Cup**, a friendly golf outing between Christ Church and Trinity Lutheran, held at Heidelberg Country Club on **Sunday, September 27th**, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. This year, we are partnering with Habitat for Humanity. All proceeds from this event will go to support Habitat and their mission of providing quality, affordable housing to the people of Reading and Berks County. The afternoon will feature men's and women's longest drive and closest-to-the-pin contests, followed by a celebratory banquet buffet. Final registration deadline is September 15th. Scan the QR code to register today!



Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

DOWN

2. The name **that** Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

PETER	FATHER	PEOPLE	SON	CHRIST
PROPHET	ROCK	MAN	CHURCH	SAY

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

This Week at Christ Church
Sunday, August 23—The Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9:05AM Adult Forum - Mission Trip
Presentation
10AM Holy Eucharist (sung) Children Led
Service with Blessing of the Backpacks
11AM Milah Smith Appreciation Luncheon
11:30AM Sweet Ride Ice Cream
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Monday, August 24
10AM-2PM Church Open Day
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Tuesday, August 25
9:30AM Centering Prayer
10AM Literacy Conversation Class
12PM—1PM NA meeting

Wednesday, August 26
9AM Staff meeting
12PM Noon Eucharist
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5:30-7PM NA Meeting

Thursday, August 27
9:30AM Centering Prayer
9:30AM Bible Study
10AM Literacy Conversation Class
11AM Morning Prayer
12PM—1PM NA Meeting
5PM-6:30PM NA Meeting

Friday, August 28
12PM—1PM NA Meeting

Saturday, August 29
11AM Matthew Iovino Funeral
12PM-2PM NA meeting
6:45PM CCR at the Fightin' Phils

Sunday, August 30—The Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
8AM Holy Eucharist (spoken)
9:05AM Adult Forum - *The Chosen*
10AM Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism
(sung)
4PM—5PM NA meeting

Upcoming Events

August 23 Food Pantry Collection 8AM and 10AM
August 29 CCR at the Fightin' Phils at 6:45PM
September 2, 5 and 9 ECW Rummage Sale 10AM to 2PM
September 6 Blessing of the Football Teams 8AM and 10AM
September 9 Christ Church at the Highlands 2PM
September 9 Interfaith service at Oheb Sholom 7PM
September 13 Sunday School resumes Acolyte training and Pizza Party at 11AM
September 15 ESL Conversation Dinner at 6PM (Sign up near the chapel)
September 16 Beatles' Mass at 5:30PM
September 20 Ministry Fair at 9AM and 10AM
September 27 Covenant Cup Golf Tournament
October 4 Blessing of our Pets 4PM