

## Prayer List



Please remember the following people in your prayers.  
To add someone to our list of concerns, call the church office  
at 610-285-6157.

Our Members and Friends:

**Lutheran Members:** Lori Brawn, Jerry Miller, Carol Merkel, Nancy Geiger, Jason Fronina, Drena Merkel, Clarabelle Dangler, Deanna Quay, Marley Evangelista, Tammy Bauer, Beth Lamkin, Lena Fox, Veronica Leibensberger, Kirsten Wert, Derek Green, Dave Purugganan, Gloria Herber, Dennis Rothermel, Michelle Quirer, Annabelle Koplín, Sherry Lauer, Bradley Heintzelman, Helen Gambler

**Friends and Family:** Jack Johnson, Mike Henry, Jr. Myrna Kamp, Ella Grace, Dale Zellner, Ricky Gilliard, Pastor Jack Ivey, Elaine Decembrino, Denice Trexler, B. Henry Halverson, Joycy Hermony, John and Marilyn Voitase, Gerald and Anna Breininger

**Military and Friends in the Military:** Dale Host (Airman, Air Force Reserves) Sgt. Garth Ritter (US Army), Ben Beitler (US Navy), Sgt. Scot Esterly (US Army), Sgt. Chris Owens (US Army), Connor Smith (US Army), Jessica Albright Thomas (US Army), Cadet *Josh Wynn* (US Air Force Academy) and those serving in areas of danger.

## **Ziegels Lutheran Congregation Newsletter September 2022**

*The September newsletter is sponsored by Marlene Evangelista in honor of George and Linda Windish's Wedding Anniversary*

### **Sponsors Are Needed!**

Can you help by sponsoring one of the following? It's a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

- **Altar Flowers and Piano Vases** – Contact Gloria Hausman at 610-285-6741.
- **Bulletins** – Cost is \$18 per week. Contact Sandy Rothermel at 610-966-0712 or [Sandyravon@aol.com](mailto:Sandyravon@aol.com)

**Family Promise** is seeking a congregation representative from each supporting church to attend agency meetings. A few years ago, Ziegels hosted families at the church. With limited volunteers to maintain an active hosting facility, Ziegels Lutheran Congregation decided to continue as a supporting congregation through designated benevolent funds. With benevolent donations, this agency has improved its organization and services to homeless families in the Lehigh Valley. The new executive director is interested in keeping communication connections with both host and supporting churches. If you are interested in this mission to serve the homeless families and willing to represent Ziegels Church, please contact Keith Harwick, Lutheran Council President. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

For more information regarding Family Promise, visit their website at <https://familypromise.org/>.



**MAILBAG:**

July 15<sup>th</sup> Letter from Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries:

Thank you for having a caring heart and loving your neighbors. Your gift of \$175.00 through the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for June 2022 for Diakon Adoption & Foster Care is a wonderful expression of love for the countless adults and families who depend on Diakon for care and services.

Thank you for continued prayers and generosity.

Gratefully,  
Scott D. Habecker  
President/CEO

Thank you Note from Nate Miller:

Ziegels Church,

Thank you for awarding me the educational grant. This will be very helpful in my college success. It will alleviate some of the costs of going to Penn State. I am honored to have been considered for this grant. Thank you so much and god bless.

Sincerely,  
Nate Miller

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating their birthdays in September!

9/1	Amy Miller
9/2	Ken Highley, Theodore Riddle,
9/3	George Borgman, Gloria Herber
9/4	Marie Nitterour,
9/5	Matthew Miller, Meredith Peters
9/8	Timothy Roth, Colton Shaffer
9/9	Vickie Beitler, Shawn Gngaware, Emily Parker
9/10	Ashlyn Hausman
9/11	Marlene Evangelista, Curt Yerger
9/12	Rhonda Dengler, Rita Grillo, Sandra Infanti
9/13	Christine Heintzelman, Kathleen Siegfried
9/14	Donna Dengler
9/15	Kina Leiby, Emily Normandin
9/17	Connor Heckendorn, Nathan Miller, Mckenzie Schuler
9/18	Jessica Fronina, Harry Millward, Dennis Strohl
9/20	Dennis Houser
9/22	Linda Gorgas
9/23	David Harwick, David Purugganan, Ilean Ruhe,
9/24	Deborah Geist
9/25	Diane Hemerly, Michelle Quier, Ann Wertman
9/26	Luanne Oliver
9/27	Kimberly Hausman, Harold Merkel
9/28	Kimberly Malsch, Stephanie Peters, Joel Schmoyer, Joann Wendling
9/29	Deanna Quay, Steven Schiffert, Dolores Shade
9/30	Barbara Frey

## Harvesting the Bounty

The garden is full of mint. It has expanded well beyond its initial planting site and now wanders out into the paths around most of our garden beds. We have weeded it, in the Spring and through the Summer, from each individual bed; so it's not, actually, behaving like a weed. But sometimes it is impossible to navigate the garden without stepping on mint leaves, mint stems, mint flowers.

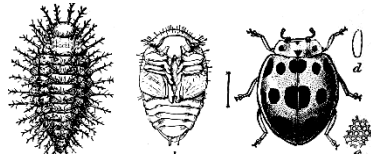
To be fair, Lynnette does harvest some of the mint. She pulls off several bunches every week to make mint tea (or, more accurately, a drink called "Orange Minty," a combination of orange and lemon juices and mint tea) that she truly likes to drink throughout the non-Winter months. And the mint has, evidently, served its purpose well. The purpose was to discourage Mexican Bean Beetles from ransacking our beans. (Hear me out!)

In the Summer of 2018, everything was going well, growing well, doing fine. Our bean plants – green bush beans, green pole beans, purple pole beans and yard long beans were all thriving and beginning to produce. And then They came. Mexican Bean Beetles are little yellow ladybug sized beetles who produce an insane number of tiny yellow larva. These squishy yellow blobs covered and "harvested" our bean leaves. In a month, our bean plants were a lattice work sculpture and the beans themselves withered away. Our bean harvest in 2017 had been unmanageably large; in 2018 it was ridiculously small.

We were determined that it would not happen again. We read up on it and found that there were some steps an organic home gardener could take in remediation against the yellow scourge. We knew to get ladybugs – and where – and we got them. But we also read that MBB (the rascals!) despised mint. We had a discussion. We knew about mint. I was in favor of using pots next to the plots. But, in the end, we went ahead and put a few – just a few – plants next to where the beans grew.

All things considered, the mint plants are preferable to, say, thistle. And we have not had any MBBs since then. None. Did it work? Only God and the beetles know for sure. But we have been harvesting beans the last three years, pretty successfully. (In 2019, most of our bean crop was "harvested" by a groundhog that made its home inside the enclosure designed to keep deer away from the garden.)

It is the time of year for harvesting. We are bringing home boxes of stuff. Tomatoes, as always, a small amount of sweet corn, and lots of beans (take that, MBBs!!). We have lots of yellow squash, and some small, winter squash volunteers (that might be miniature calabazas?)



that have already made a pot of fabulous soup. What else? Kale, parsley, basil (for pesto!!), and okra. In one of the places where the limas refused to come up this year, Lynnette planted extra okra. It has been very good.

We appreciate a bountiful harvest. It's always better to have lots of crops coming in rather than few. In the Parable of the Over-Zealous Farmer (my title) in Luke 12, the guy who tears down his barns to build bigger ones is not punished for the harvest, but more for the arrogance of thinking his success demonstrates that he is impervious to mortality. (Plus, really, he could've shared it with his neighbors.) But I want to note – he is rightfully overjoyed that he has a huge harvest. Having a good harvest reduces the uncertainty in our lives by reducing our concerns about food.

We do not replace our food purchases with what we grow, or even reduce them all that much really, we find joy in the small abundances that come in. It gives us pleasure to work the soil and water and sunlight for food that we eat and share. Home grown produce tastes better not just because it's fresher and picked ripe (instead of weeks ahead), but because we had a hand in it.

And we share it, as well. We unwittingly (and unwillingly) shared our beans with MBBs (the scoundrels!) and, the next year, with that reprobate grundsau. But we share in other ways. Most recently, we've seen that our mint has begun flowering, attracting late season honeybees and painted lady butterflies. Again, the mint is providing an unintended bounty! Grasshoppers eat some of our kale. Other bugs chew a bit on some of our plants. Predators – bugs and birds – enjoy their own bounty of critters attracted by our crops.

We are connected with the planet in a web created by God in love, and benefit from all the bounties that come to us. Beyond even the garden, we harvest the warmth of compassion and the joys of community – the loving connections that feed us and make our lives bountiful in emotional and spiritual ways. We can be one another's harvest of love. More lasting than the mint, more bountiful than the beans, more satisfying than the taste of a tomato plucked off the vine, warm from the sun, with juice down our chins.

The fruits that God grows in the garden of our lives abide with us from day to day and year to year. They are the bounty that sustains us. They await our harvest, now and always.

-- AWM