The 6th Sunday after Pentecost July 9, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar

with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P*: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
- P: Righteous and merciful God,
- C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak and spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.
- *P:* 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.
- C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Before You, Lord, We Bow

ELW # 893

*GREETING

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C:* And also with you.



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbf{R}

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbf{R}

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbf{R}

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

- [Laban, Rebekah's brother, received a visitor who said,] ³⁴"I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'
- ⁴²"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going!

- ⁴³I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"— let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'
- ⁴⁵"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."
- ⁵⁸And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." ⁶¹Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.
- ⁶²Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

L: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 45:10-17 (read responsively)

¹⁰"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; forget your people and your father's house.

¹¹The king will desire your beauty; he is your master, so bow before him.

¹²The city of Tyre brings tribute; the wealthiest of the people seek your favor."

¹³All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth-of-gold.

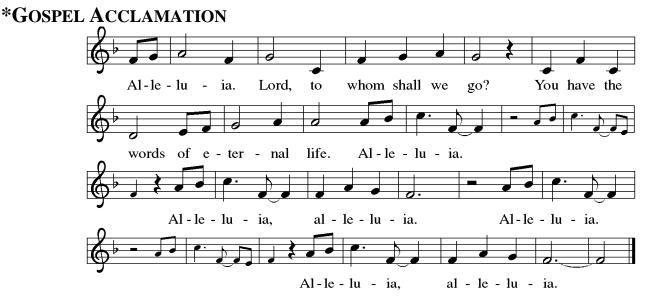
¹⁴In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

- ¹⁵With joy and gladness they are brought, and enter into the palace of the king.
- ¹⁶"In place of ancestors, O king, you shall have sons; you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- ¹⁷I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever."

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

- ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.



*Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

- [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'
- ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
- ²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- ²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. *C*: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***HYMN OF THE DAY** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW # 807

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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 THE CHURCH**

- A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.
- A: God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- *A:* God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- *A:* God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- *P:* 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. *C:* Amen.

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us: A: Let us pray ... God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- *P*: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

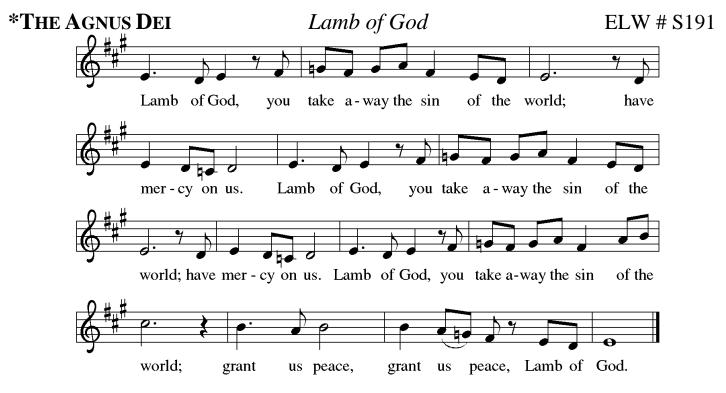
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- *P*: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
- When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.
- 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 acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
- Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
- Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- *P*: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



***INVITATION**

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION HYMNNow We Join in CelebrationELW # 462

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A: Let us pray... We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. *C*: Amen.

*SENDING SONG God Be with You Till We Meet Again ELW # 536

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. *C*: Thanks be to God.

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Hazel Hoover from Rod Hoover and family.

Serving God and Us		
Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew		
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott		
Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith		
Our Organist – Mary Nelson		
Our Missionary Family – Leslie Hand, On Eagle's Wings		
Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel		
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck		
Our Sexton – Phil Claar		
Our Assisting Minister – Stacy Kuster		
Our Lector – Peggy Steinfurth		
Our Usher – Paul Decker		
Our Altar Guild – Tina Harclerode		
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster		
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner		
Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to "OEW and Missionaries"		



Lutheran Day at the Altoona Curve Sunday, August 13, 2023 Game begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7:00 each Register with the Synod Office by Friday, August 1, 2023



Food Pantry

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursday, July 20, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers from Brethren in Christ Church will be assisting, along with our regular volunteers to distribute the food.

Items most needed for July: Juice/Beverages, Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Hamburger Helper, and Paper Towels.

Note: During the Summer, donations seem to slow down, and children are home from school, so please fill our church basket.

Also, garden produce on the days that Food Pantry is open, are very welcomed to be dropped off at the pantry. *Thank You! Linda Smith*

Church Messenger

The July 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lori – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday -	Fellowship Hall in Use $1:30 - 2:30$ p.m.	
Wednesday -	Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.	
Sunday –	Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.	

Email Address: In January 2023 we stopped using stmatthewluth@aol.com as our email address. Please delete that from your email contact list and start using our NEW email address: **stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com**.

- **Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.
- Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Debbie Imler, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dennis Smith, Cindy Thomas, Zachary Tremmel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Our college students: Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Sight and Sound Bus Excursion to see Moses!

Join the Martinsburg Boosters for this exciting excursion to see Sight & Sound live on stage production of Moses on Wednesday, October 4th, 2023. **Price per individual will be \$160.**

From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, MOSES is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family! Set adrift as a baby, he is an unlikely hero—until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai. Experience one of the Bible's most epic stories as MOSES comes to life with massive sets, special effects, and live animals in this original stage production.

Price Includes:

- Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation
- Reserved Main Floor Seating 11 am show
- Dinner stop made on return-Hoss's in Carlisle (on own)

Depart:

• 7 am from Morrisons Cove Park

Reservation Deadline:

• August 20, 2023

Payment:

• Check payable to Duane Bordell or Cash

For More Informaton:

Contact Duane Bordell, Raystown Transit Service at 814-944-2585 1117 Logan Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602

2023 ALSM ANNUAL AUXILIARY APPEAL



Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is celebrating 75 years of service to ALSM residents who have limited funds. The Auxiliary supports ALSM'S senior communities through benevolent care and gifts to enhance the daily lives of residents by funding life enrichment

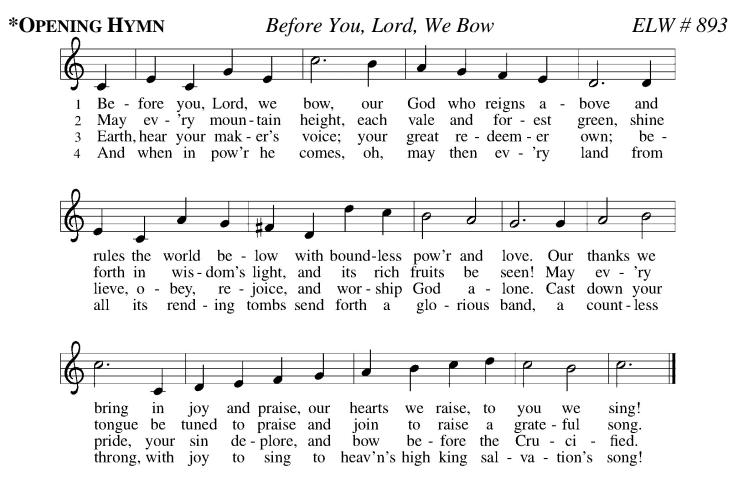
programs. Auxiliary members have contributed more than \$2 million annually in benevolent care to those ALSM residents with limited funds. St. Matthew has always been a significant contributor to this benevolent care program. Any amount of gift will be greatly appreciated. A gift of just \$10.00 provides a meal for a resident. St. Matthew's appeal will run for the months of July and August. Please fill out the form in the bulletin insert and return with your gift (cash or check) to the church office, Martie Gilbert or to ALSM. Additional forms are located at the Usher's Station in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider giving to this very life sustaining appeal.

To support this appeal, you may also place Cash or CHECK PAYABLE TO – <u>"ALSM AUXILIARY</u>" in a plain envelope along with indication and names if this is in "Honor" or "Memory" gift. Please make sure your name is included and give to Martie Gilbert, Key Lady. (Deadline for donations is Sunday, August 27, 2023.)

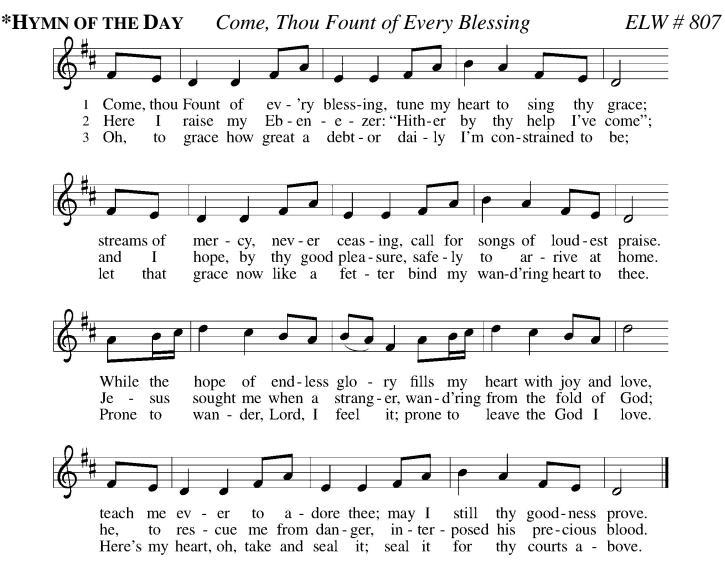
lease accept my (check or \$875 \$100 \$75 \$30 \$10 ther: \$	gift of: (e, please) Thank You for helping us touch lives over the past 75 years!	Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries Attn:Advancement Office 998 Logan Blvd.	
y gift is in honor of	check payable to Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries : (living) of: (deceased)		
	2023 Annual Auxiliary A	A CONTRACT OF CONTRACT.	
	Email		
Address	Code	n	

City

Congregation (if applicable) _____



Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt. Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt. Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813



Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896