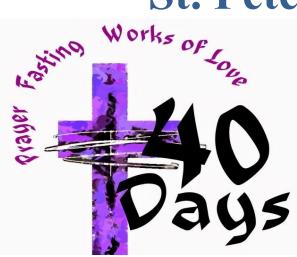
St. Peter's Church



Fifth Sunday of Lent March 26th, 2023

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present-day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310 Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS Heart of Tioga County Pregnancy & Parent Support 570-948-2020

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please leave a message. Fr. Jacek will return your call as soon as he is able.

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for $Pre-K - 12^{th}$ grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name ____ Phone _____

Address

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371~ Fax: 570-724-6322 Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.com

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm **Parish Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net Bookkeeper: Louise Wheaton-stpadm@ptd.net Religious Education: Melissa Mann - stpreled@ptd.net Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Rob Minnich Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm (Livestreamed); Sunday 8:30am Reconciliation

Tuesday through Friday, 11:45am-12:00pm; Saturday, 4:20-4:50pm; or by appointment

A Prayer for Lent

Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth.

Strengthen my life by the humble, obedient example of Jesus.

He fulfilled your will by becoming human and suffering with us.

He died so that I would no longer be separated from you.

Help me to feel how close you are and to live in union with you.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-948-2184 Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175 Parish Rummage Sale – Pat Gorda 570-404-8918 Diane Bill 516-458-9130 Church Decorations - Sue Singer 570-948-2184 Buildings & Grounds - Rick Joachim 570-439-2591 Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529 Dinner Committee - Rectory 570-724-3371 Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085 Samaritan House - Mary D. Grab 607-857-3447 Youth Group - Melissa Mann 570-724-9789 Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092 Finance Council – Tim Gooch – 570-971-5826 Parish Council - Steve Tokarz 570-404-0693 Worship Committee - Christina Simonis 570-724-2085 Prayer Chain - Kate Black 570-916-9573 ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095 Prayer Shawl Ministry - Michelle Sepiol 570-439-6206 Marian Ministries – Linda Sampson 570-404-2180 Fundraising Committee – Tim Gooch 570-971-5826

5th Sunday of Lent

J Sunday Of Lefft		
Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 3/27	5:30pm	In Memory of John & Anna Andrascik (Parsells Family)
Tuesday 3/28	12:10pm	In Memory of Rudy & Rose Thiel (Sue Singer)
Wednesday 3/29	12:10pm	Special Intention (Dennis & Linda Stager)
Thursday 3/30	No Mass	
Friday 3/31	6:00pm	In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt & Family)
Saturday 4/1	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 4/2	8:30am	In Memory of Carrie K. Daugherty (Niles/Daugherty Families)

News Parish and Activities

Church Hours/Adoration

The church will be open for private prayer, Monday through Friday from 8:00am–5:00pm. From 8:00-9:00am, the only entrance will be through the door on the main parking lot side. From 9:00am-5:00pm, the front door and carport entrance will be open. If for some reason the main door is not unlocked, please enter through the parking lot door, as this entrance will always be open from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Saturday, the church will be open from 8:00am–4:30pm using only the parking lot door. The front and carport doors will be unlocked at 4:15pm for those attending Mass. All doors of the church will be unlocked on Sunday morning at 8:00am for those attending Mass. Adoration will take place on Tuesday from 1:00pm-6:00pm, with Benediction but no evening prayer.

Flower Arrangements

Parishioners are now able to purchase the flower arrangements that are placed at the altar, tabernacle, or by the Mary statue in memory or in honor of someone. The cost is as follows:

Altar Flower Arrangements–1 arrangement \$70, 2 arrangements \$140 Tabernacle Arrangements – 2 arrangements \$40 Mary Arrangement – 1 arrangement \$25

You may request a particular flower(s) or color scheme and Akiko's will do their best to honor that if at all possible. The Arrangements will arrive in time for the weekend Masses and remain for the following week. Please stop in or call the rectory for available dates. The Memorial/Honorarium will be listed in the bulletin.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

For the safety of our parishioners, if the local school are **closed**, there will be **no daily Mass or Adoration**. The Church will remain open for private prayer using the parking lot side entrance.

Happening This Week

March 96 9093

Sunday, March 26th

Religious Education Classes – 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12 Penance Service – 3:00pm; Holy Child Exodus 90 – 4:00pm; Adult Ed. Room

Monday, March 27th

The Light Is On For You; Confessions – Following 5:30pm Mass; St. Peter's

Tuesday, March 28th

Women's Bible Study – 10:00am; Adult Ed. Room Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm; Church

Wednesday, March 29th Lenten Services – 12:00pm; Presbyterian Church

Friday, March 31st Children's Stations of the Cross – 3:30pm; Church Stations of the Cross – Following 6:00pm Mass; Church

Sunday, April 2nd No Religious Education Classes Exodus 90 – 4:00pm; Adult Ed. Room

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for March 19, 2023: \$6,599.00 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00 Difference: \$499.00 Year to Date Budget Variance \$186.91

We are grateful to all those who are able to financially support our parish.

Liturgical Reflection ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Ezekiel was a prophet and priest of the Jerusalem Temple, who was among the earliest Judean captives taken to Babylon. By the time of today's prophecy, the final dissolution of the kingdom and destruction of Jerusalem had recently taken place. In the land of exile, the prophet attempted to awaken the captive people to reasons for their catastrophe, principally their continuing refusal to hear and obey God's teaching through the Law and numerous prophets. Ezekiel also centers upon God's power over death. Through the prophet, God promises to open our graves and raise us to new life.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 130

The prayer of the psalmist is a supplication. The psalm was at one time known as the *Miserere*, which also included words from Psalm 51. Both psalms are a plea for the Lord's mercy. The psalmist calls on the Lord to be attentive to his plea, believing that only the Lord is able to give him strength to withstand "the depths" in which he finds himself. The psalmist doesn't give any indication what this might be, or why he is in this state. The focus of his pleading is on the kindness of the Lord; no one else can raise him up.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11

In the preceding verses, the Apostle notes that "the flesh" orients someone toward death, but "the spirit" directs a person towards life – the life of God. Paul then reminds his baptized hearers that they are not "in the flesh", but share in the life of Christ's Spirit, by which they belong to Christ. Because they belong to Christ, even physical death cannot deprive them of divine life, which never ends. Paul points out that Christians are formed in the pattern of Christ. As God's Spirit raised him from death, so also his followers are raised from death through the indwelling diving Spirit.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

The raising of Lazarus is the last of John's signs and one that inspires faith even from many of "the Jews" in the story, thus escalating plans to kill Jesus. Jesus announces the true purpose of this sign: "for the glory of God," that is, to reveal concretely the true character of God, who always wills fullness of life for humankind. Jesus has the power over all that threatens to separate us from God – even death itself. Not only is this central to the Scrutiny, but to the Lenten journey of the baptized into the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. He forgives, enlightening our minds, hearts, and actions – he saves us from death – every one of us who have been baptized into the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ.



Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-HourChild Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at <u>www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis</u>. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

Offertory Envelopes Update

St. Peter's is changing offertory envelope providers.

Parishioners may have received both temporary envelopes from the new company we have signed with as well as envelopes from the previous company. <u>Envelopes from either packet</u> <u>may be used for collection.</u> One set of permanent envelopes will be mailed to parishioners for May.

If you did not receive your envelopes or if you did not opt to receive them in the past but would like them now, please contact the rectory at 570/724-3371.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this transition.



Foot Washers Needed

In the Church, the foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that they should be willing to serve others. Following the homily at the Holy Thursday Mass, parishioners will sit and have their foot washed by the priest. It is a reminder

that we are of the Body of Christ and as such, and as his followers, we too are called to serve others in a spirit of humility.

Twelve volunteers are needed to have their foot washed at the Holy Thursday Mass. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table at the back of the church.

Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with EWTN

Learn more about your Faith during the holiest time of the year with EWTN's first-rate movies, documentaries, musicals, children's program, and much more! Join in the celebration of Mass from Rome and Washington, D.C. Get program details at ewtn.com or visit ewtn.com/channelfinder to find a station near you. Also during Lent, be sure to visit the special Lent website made by EWTN:

ewtn.com/lent.



A Cross Carrying Walk for Jesus

A *Cross Carrying Walk for Jesus* is scheduled to take place in Wellsboro on Good Friday, April 7th, at 10:00am. Participants are asked to meet in front of the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce that morning at 9:50am.

The cross will be carried along the sidewalks of Wellsboro to the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the United Methodist Church. A brief prayer, devotional, song, or meditation will take place at each location. Songs will be sung along the way and participants will take turns carrying the cross.

On Saturday, April 8th at 3:00pm, flowers will be placed on the cross for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. On Easter there will be additional flowers available to be placed on the cross. Flowers from home are also welcome.

Parish Directory Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the directory photo taking effort. Work on the directory took a temporary pause due to the holidays, however we have been working to plan and produce a final draft. We are proposing to have a "Life at St. Peter's" section in which each committee head can submit photos of their ministry. The photo could be of the group itself or action photos of the ministry/group during an event or activity. Each committee can submit these photos to stpdirectory.2023@gmail.com. This section is intended to be a collage of photos without names. Also, any parishioner or family who did not get a photo taken can submit personal photos if they choose. Please submit these photos to stpdirectory.2023@gmail.com. We expect the directory to take several more months to finalize before printing, so we appreciate your patience in this important effort. Please submit all photos by March 26th.

Any questions can be directed to Steve Tokarz at 570/404-0693.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the Easter season memorialize deceased loved ones.

If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and write your name/collection number on the front. On the back of the envelope print the name of your loved one(s) and place the envelope in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Due to the parish switching offertory envelope providers, there will not be a special envelope for Easter Mass Intentions included with your temporary packet. All Easter Mass Intentions should be placed in an envelope labeled "Easter Mass Intentions." Please print your name and the name of the loved ones you would like remembered one the outside of the envelope, and place in the collection basket. The envelopes will be kept on the altar during the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions.

Religious Education Class Schedule Reminder

There are no Religious Education classes April 2nd & April 9th

Classes will resume on April 16th

LENTEN CORNER

The Fifth Sunday of Lent can be seen as a turning point in the Lenten journey as we enter the final days of the liturgical time, with less than two weeks left before we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum. This marks the beginning of what used to be called Passiontide. There is a noticeable shift in focus, to the events, that lead up to the Death of Christ.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm SundaySaturday, April 1st- 5:00pm; St. Peter'sSunday, April 2nd8:30am; St. Peter's11:30am; St. Thomas1:00pm; St. Catherine

Tuesday of Holy Week – April 4th Chrism Mass – 4:00pm, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

> Holy Thursday – April 6th 7:00pm – St. Peter's

Good Friday – April 7th Liturgy of the Word 1:00pm – St. Peter's 3:00pm – St. Thomas

Holy Saturday – April 8th Blessing of Baskets – 12:00pm; St. Peter's Church Easter Vigil Mass – 8:00pm

> Easter Sunday – April 9th 8:30am; St. Peter's 11:30am; St. Thomas 1:00pm; St. Catherine

The Light is ON for You.

As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate at Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience Lent as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving – all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance.

On Mondays during Lent, there will be Mass at 5:30pm at St. Peter's followed by confessions. "The Light is on For You!"

Ecumenical Event – Wednesday Lenten Services

The Wellsboro Area Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 12:00pm with a light lunch to follow.

The schedule for the church who will host the luncheon and lead the prayer service is as follows:

March 29th – Vineyard Church **All are welcome to attend!**

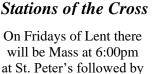
Pick Your Penance

After weekend Masses during Lent you will be able to "pick your penance" which is an extra act of kindness or a prayer that you can perform during Lent. A new "penance" can be picked each week. Penances will be available for adults and children at the parish doors after Mass.

Penance Services

Sunday, March 26th – 3:00pm; Holy Child

Wednesday, April 5th – 6:00pm; St. Boniface, Williamsport



Children's Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:30pm on Fridays. Students are invited to the Parish Center after school for a light snack before Stations begin.

Stations of the Cross.



Samaritan House is Celebrating 25 Years!

This September will mark the 25th year that Samaritan House has offered services to the terminally ill. Powered entirely by volunteers, we provide comfort and care to the person who is in the final stage of life, as well as to their family members.

Following in the experienced footsteps of leaders such as Daria Guelig, Karen Usavage, Anna Dunlap and many others, Mary Grab has joined the team to help coordinate guest admissions. The Grab family has been active members of St. Peter's parish for over 25 years. Mary will work closely with the Samaritan House Steering Committee to continue to provide this incredibly rewarding service to people in need. Mary's contact information is jmgrab89@gmail.com or 607-857-3447.

Steering Committee members include Linda Sampson, Laurie Coffee, Michele Combs, Coleen Evert, Lillian Fox, Mel Rupert, and Julie Stager. They can be reached through the Samaritan House e-mail address:

samaritan.house.3@gmail.com. We have a critical need for volunteers now. Please reach out to Mary, or any member of the steering committee if you have an interest, or know someone who may be interested in this most rewarding ministry.

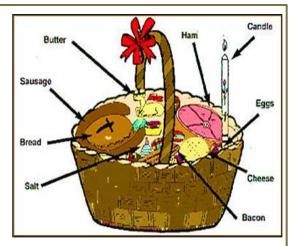
Blessing of Easter Baskets

Baskets will be blessed on Holy Saturday, April 8, at 12:00pm in the church. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Items often found in the Blessed Easter Basket:

The Christian significance of Easter is symbolized in the foods used for the Holiday feast. Baskets are lined with a white cloth and decorated with ribbons and greenery to symbolize spring, renewal, and the Resurrection.

Traditionally, the baskets would include: **decorated hardboiled eggs** (representing Christ's Resurrection), **lamb shaped butter** (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God), **bread** (symbolic of



Jesus as the "Bread of Life"), **ham** (symbolic of great joy and abundance), **sausage** (symbolic of God's favor and generosity), **bacon** (a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy on us), **salt** (symbolizes wisdom and preservation from corruption, it reminds us that Jesus did not undergo corruption in the grave and also reminds us that people are the flavor of the earth), **cheese** (symbolizes the moderation Christians should have at all times), **horseradish** (symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs of the Passover). A **white candle** is often inserted into the basket to represent Christ as the "Light of the World." Lastly, the basket is covered with linen symbolizing the covering of Christ's shroud.



St. Peter's is looking for parishioners to form a committee focused on creating a welcome and inviting climate for new members, visitors, and all guests attending Mass. Volunteers are needed to acknowledge people arriving/leaving the church and to offer guidance to those visiting for the first time who may have questions. Committee members will be scheduled on a rotating basis during both weekend Masses starting next month. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry or for more information, please contact Melissa at stpreled@ptd.net.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35)

Collection Counters Needed

Each Sunday, volunteers count the offerings collected during the weekend Masses and prepare the funds for deposit. There are five teams of counters, and each team serves once every five weeks. We are looking for someone to join a counting team. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the rectory at 570/724-3371.

Marian Ministries Calendar of Events 2023

Divine Mercy Consecration 33 Days to Merciful Love	April 28-May 31
Women's Brunch St. Peter's Church	Sat., May 20th
Women's Conference	Sat., June 10th
Pilgrimage to Scranton St. Peter's Cathedral	July or August To Be Announced
Summer Book Study	To Be Announced
Mt. Saviour Retreat Pine City, NY	Sat., Sept. 23rd
Parish Retreat St. Peter's Church	Sun., Oct. 8th
Living Rosary	Month of October

Save these dates and watch the bulletin for more information about these events.



First Saturday Pilgrimages St. Mary's Church, Blossburg

A carpool is available each First Saturday of the month for those who wish to attend these services. Mass begins at 9:30am, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. The service concludes with Benediction at 11:00 am. Those who wish to join the carpool meet at Whitneyville Fairgrounds at 9:00 am. Contact Linda Sampson at 570-404-2180.

33 Days to Merciful Love

By Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

33 Days to Merciful Love journeys with one of the most beloved saints of modern times, **St. Therese of Lisieux**, and concludes with a consecration to Divine Mercy.

St. Therese was declared a Doctor of



The Church by St. John Paul II, because she had developed a specific spirituality that is recognized as something new and important for the Church. This book hones in on that spirituality, and how it connects with Divine Mercy. Therese made a consecration to Divine Mercy which she calls her Offering to Merciful Love, which is really the culmination of her whole spiritual teaching on her Little Way. Fr. Gaitley thinks this is the most powerful form of consecration to Divine Mercy, and understandably so, since it made her such a great saint in such a short time (24 yrs.).

Her Offering to Merciful Love is based on her profound insight that the Heart of Jesus is full of mercy, and he longs to pour out that Merciful Love on we sinners. Therese realized that sinners often close their hearts to the Lord's great mercy, and their rejection actually causes Jesus deep suffering. So for the purpose of consoling the Heart of Jesus, Therese asked the Lord to pour into her soul all the mercy rejected by others and He did. That experience set her on fire with Merciful Love, so that everything she did, no matter how small, was done for love of Jesus.

So whether you want to deepen your love of Divine Mercy or have a devotion to St. Therese, *33 Days to Merciful Love* is the book to transform you.

Each participant needs a copy of *33 Days to Merciful Love*. This book can be purchased on Amazon or through a local bookstore.***We are trying to purchase the books in bulk at a lower price, so watch upcoming bulletins for more information**. To join the group: email <u>marian-ministries@outlook.com</u> or use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the church.

Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God. - Pope Francis Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



Parish Prayer List

Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Joann Black, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Fran Rose, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Paul Beuter, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Carolyn Tester, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Mary Antoniw, Ruth Russell, Anne Marie Beuter, Skip Warriner, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Lou Kirby, Shannon Jones, Steve Ziemak, Cody Bowers, Carolyn Clark, Don Hayden, Shannon Slaton, Lisa Neil-Keller, Ann Callahan, John Harling, Shawn Wheeler, John Wheeler, Kayleigh Johnson, Mary Clark, Ruth Braham, Richard and Valerie Tobin, Shirley Dixon, Lucy Whitney, Adele Young, Suzan Richar, Lucille Keck, Gloria Fermenic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, B.J. Butler.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.