



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Seventh Sunday in Easter
Sunday, May 21st, 2023—9:30 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Helena, Montana

*(Please respond with the words in **bold print** and stand, as you are able, at the places marked with an *)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Alelluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn "Rise, O Sun of Righteousness" ELW#657**

1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, 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.

*Canticle of Praise.....“Now the Feast and Celebration”



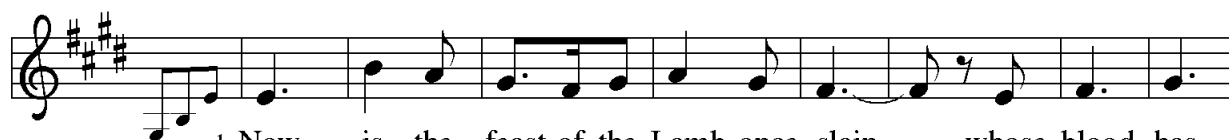
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray,

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading.....Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm.....Psalm 66:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;**

as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;**

I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,

you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;**

but the rebels shall live in desert places.

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,**

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
 you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰**Your people found their home in it;**
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision ¹ for the poor.

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
 sing praises ¹ to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;**
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,**
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

***Gospel Acclamation**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

***Gospel.....John 17:1-11**

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me,

because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

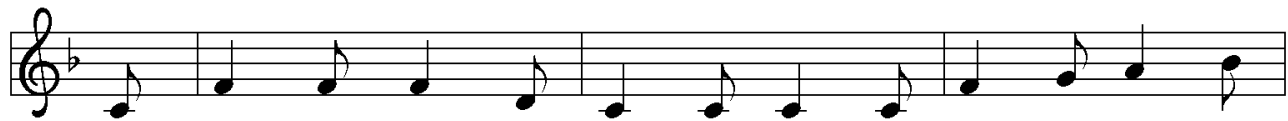
Children's Message-Presentation of "David & Goliath" Model

Worship arts materials for all ages are available in the back of the church for you to use and enjoy during worship.

Sermon.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

***Hymn of the Day....."I Come With Joy" ELW #482**



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

***Prayers of Intercession**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection,
 let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

***Prayer Response** *(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.)*

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. *Sisters and brothers* in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for *these* new *members* in *their* life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

We give you thanks for our new members,
whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ
and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith.
Keep us close together in your Spirit,
in the breaking of bread and the prayers,
and in service to others.

***Sharing of the Peace**

(...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19))

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone
we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need and the communion table is set.)

Offertory MusicSt. John's Sanctuary Choir & Nicole Evans, oboe

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" arr. M. Burkhardt

***Offering Prayer**

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life, and so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you, do this in 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 which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. Amen!

*Lords Prayer

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 and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn....."Let Us Break Bread Together" ELW #471



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

***Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

***Benediction**

The God of all, who raised ✙ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn....."Lord, You Give the Great Commission" ELW#579, verses 1-2, 5**



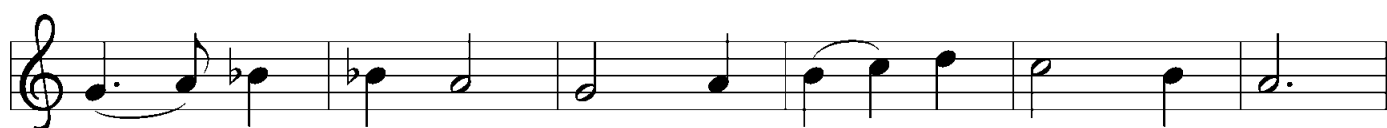
1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Keith Weatherford
Assisting Minister	Lorrie Vennes, LPA
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Technology	Angela Conley
Acolytes	
Ushers	Brent Bushnell
Lectors	Jeannie Kieckbusch
Communion Servers	Rebekah French, Thurston Dotson, Lee & Tami Rhodes
Altar Guild	Mait Board, Mildred Twingley, Jennifer Wintersteen
Witness to the Gospel	Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

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In our prayers: Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Dick and Barbara Wolgamott, Ken Downing, Dean Rueb, Mark and Renee Slocum, Laurel, Rosita Moe, Tom Morrow, Bruce Gottwig, Vicki Alpiner, Bob Sorensen, Larry Brandvold, Deb Berg, Anne Tennant, Meg Biggs and family, Karen Sturm, Erma Polich, Dale Twingley, Richard Bomar, Emma Rose Plute, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Chris Gibbs, Randy Holmes, Lester Anderson

Our New Members at St. Johns

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:

Troy McGee, Wanda Kruckenberg, Niki Right, and all the Saints in heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:

Rosita Moe, Hazel Aasved, Esther Fuehrer, Marge Mihelish, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Bill Mattfeldt, Jimmie McGee, Karen Nave, Mary Gardinier

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Grayson Alm

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon
Missionaries around the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, May 21st: New Member Sunday & Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Conley & Walsh Studio Recitals at 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 23rd: Morning Circle at 9:30 am

Brian Rogge Studio Recitals at 3:30 pm

Evening Circle at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 24th: Midweek Summer Edition Dinner at 5:30 pm (potluck night!)

Midweek Summer Edition Worship w/Holy Communion at 6:30 pm

Midweek Summer Edition Fellowship Time at 7:00 pm

Monday, May 29th: Memorial Day, Office Closed

Wednesday, May 31st: No Midweek Connection Summer Edition

Thank You WELCA

Thank you to our WELCA unit for providing the pre-service coffee for worship today!

Wear Red Next Sunday

Don't forget to wear your Pentecost Red next Sunday, May 28th.

May Social Ministry Offering-ELCA Good Gifts

To support and coordinate with the Sunday School "Goat Sale", ELCA Good Gifts will be the Social Ministry cause for the entire month of May. Animal gifts given through ELCA Good Gifts are some of the most popular gifts that they offer in their catalogue. These gifts support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, and resources to help the community care for animals and to create new market opportunities like starting a small business of selling eggs, meat or dairy products. The Sunday School chose goats this year because they are able to live in harsh climates (cold & hot), they can live in a variety of landscapes, and they provide many resources to a community. Please support this "boots on the ground" ministry by sending in your money to the office or place your offering in a pew envelope and check the "Social Ministry" box.

Open House & Packing Party on Sunday, June 4 at Rebekah's

Drop by 2155 Alpine Dr. anytime between 2:30 and 6:30 on Sunday afternoon.

Beer, Wine, Non-alcoholic beverages, and Snacks will be available to reward your packing efforts.

Update from the Synodical Women's Organization

Members of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Synodical Woman's Organization (SWO) Board will be assisting with registration and voting at Synod Assembly on June 2 and 3. In an effort to get women involved in the Women of the ELCA, we will be holding a drawing for a basket of goodies at the SWO table. If you would like to contribute a hand-crafted item to the basket, please let Rebekah know so she can take it with her to Great Falls on June 1.

Flowers For The Taking

We have bins of left over artificial flowers down in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to take as many as you'd like for your own craft projects and spring cemetery arrangements.

Midweek Connection Summer Edition

Join us each Wednesday for our Midweek Connection Summer Edition! Dinner is at 5:30 pm, Worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm, and a time for Community and Fellowship at 7:00 pm.

VBS/Day Camp with FLBC

We are excited to host **VBS/Day Camp** with our favorite counselors from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp again this summer. VBS/Day Camp is designed to be a fun highlight of the summer, while providing opportunities for growth in faith, leadership, and friendship. Day Campers experience these gifts through a wide range of carefully crafted programs and activities (worship, Bible study, service projects, community building games, outdoor time, and much more!)

Who: Kids ages 4-Kindergarten & Kids entering 1st Grade
and through 6th Grade this fall

When: June 19-23 daily from 9:00 am-1:30 pm

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church (1000 Helena Avenue)

Cost: \$50 for the week-scholarships available

Theme: Holy Trinity. Wholly Love.

Registration forms are available online on our website or in the church office. Please fill out the form and return to the church office with your payment.

P.S. Have you aged out of camp? We would love to have our Middle School and High School kids help out junior counselors and we will have a Youth Night on Wednesday, June 21st free of charge.

P.P.S. Are you an adult who still wants a VBS/Day Camp experience? We will have MANY opportunities to help so please stay tuned! We promise it is the best week of the summer.



Holy Trinity. Wholly Love.

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first
and the last, the beginning and the end."*

Revelation 22:13

Quilters and School Kits Annual Report 2022-2023

So starts another year.

On May 12th the truck rolled into Helena and we loaded 151 school kits and 167 quilts that will be sent around the world by ELCA World Relief.

The quilters are always looking for twin, queen or large flat sheets or nice cotton or cotton blend material. Be on the lookout for them while you are at garage sales, etc. White sheets are discouraged by the ELCA because of the lack of laundry facilities in most countries.

We gave graduates quilts, and supplied quilts for baby and adult baptisms, Festival of Angels, God's Love, Flat Head Bible Camp, and Project Promise.

This years' school supplies will be on sale soon. The following list is the same as last years'

- Four 70 sheet note books
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils
- One ruler with both inches and centimeters
- Five black or blue ink pens
- One pencil sharpener
- One box 24 crayons
- One blunt scissor
- One 2 ½ inch eraser

This year with your help we hope to meet our goal of two hundred quilts and two hundred school kits. Collection boxes are in the narthex.

This project of love could not be accomplished without all of the congregations help.

God's Work, Our Hands

Linda Roessner & Mildred Twingley