

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

### If you are seeking God you are welcome here.

If you have been hurt in a judgmental church, here you will not be judged. Here you will be nurtured in the grace and Good News that our salvation has been accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Here you may discover that, in fact, it is God who has been seeking you!* 

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



### For Your Prayers –July 17-July 23, 2023

**Lectionary readings for this week:** 

*Monday* : Leviticus 26:3-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 92 *Tuesday*: Deteronomy 28:1-14 ;Ephesians 4:17-5:2; Psalm 92 *Wednesday*: Proverbs 11:23-30; Matthew 13:10-17; Psalm 92 *Thursday*: Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9; Psalm 86:11-17 *Friday*: Isaiah 41:21-29; Hebrews 2:1-9; Psalm 86:11-17 *Saturday*: Isaiah Isaiah 44:18-20; Matthew 7:15-20; Psalm 86:11-17 *Next Sundays Lessons*: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17 (11); Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Join your prayers for healing* with God's desires for **Joe Beene, Ed Brown**, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.

<u>*Pray God's comfort*</u> and peace for **Dave Maris** and his family on the death of his brother **Dean Maris**.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff

**Pray for these loved ones of our congregation**: Dawn Allen, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Emily Beck, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, The Brantley family, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Eberhart friends and family, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, William Harbison, Tom Hay, Char Henry, Zac and Jen Holtzman and family, Brian Johnson, Mason Jones, Sean Kelley, The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Ron Luchetti, Julia Mahony, Marnah Lund, Doug Mayes, Laura Mcgolin, Detra Michaels, Bob Myers, Gina Peterson, Paula Rega, Betty Roth, Naomi Schmidt, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig

### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

I. Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned.** We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.

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. **Amen**.

### 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.** 

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**.

### II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

### First Reading

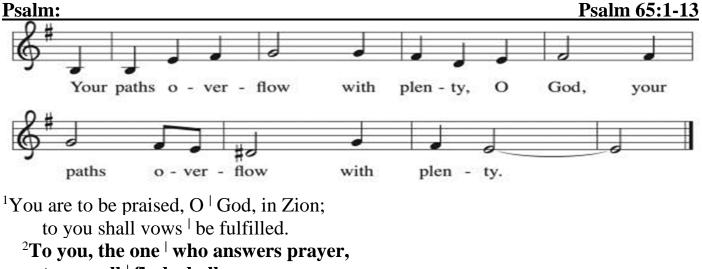
Isaiah 55:10-13

(God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.)

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."



to you all | flesh shall come.

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are strong-<sup>1</sup> er than we are,

but you blot out <sup>|</sup> our transgressions.

### <sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your <sup>|</sup> courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness <sup>1</sup> of your

### temple. Refrain

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of <sup>1</sup> our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

### <sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains <sup>1</sup> by your power; you are girded a- bout with might.

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring <sup>1</sup> of the seas,

the roaring of their waves, and the clamor <sup>|</sup> of the peoples.

### <sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your <sup>1</sup> marvelous signs; vou make the dawn and the dusk to <sup>|</sup> sing for joy. *Refrain*

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

### <sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;

### with heavy rain you soften the ground and <sup>|</sup> bless its increase.

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year <sup>|</sup> with your goodness,

and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

### <sup>12</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,

### and the hills be | clothed with joy.

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them-<sup>1</sup> selves with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. *Refrain* 

### Second Reading

### **Romans 8:1-11**

(There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.)

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."



#### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear)

Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

SermonSeeds of what?Pastor Jon NelsonThe Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take timeduring the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

**Hymn of the Day** God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063 Bulletin page 11

#### **Prayers**

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

### III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

#### Offering

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

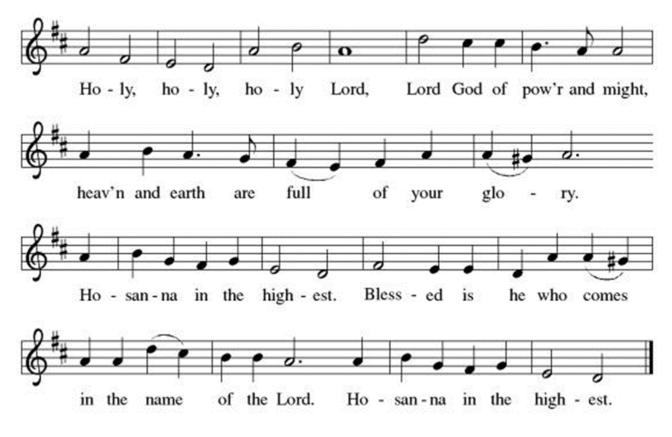
Offering of Music	Amazing Grace
	Ina Berkey and Lew Mabie

### **Offertory Prayer**

### The 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 and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

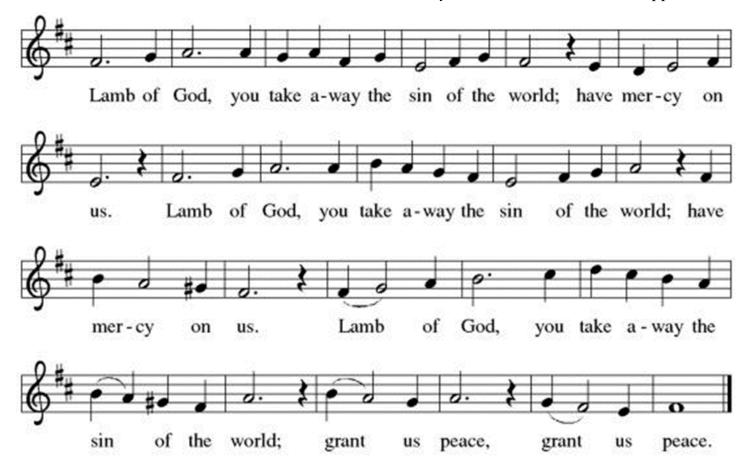


**Words of Institution** 

**The Lord's Prayer** 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

#### **Holy Communion**

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



Communion Music Just A Closer Walk Ina Berkey and Lew Mabie

**Communion Hymn** Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697 Bulletin page 13

#### **Prayer after Communion**

IV. Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Hymn

Blessing 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. Amen.

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.** 

PostludeWhen The Saints Go Marching InIna Berkey and Lew Mabie

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### Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



### God of the Fertile Fields



Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt. Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Text: North American traditional Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

### Sent Forth by God's Blessing



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

### <u>As We Gather</u>

### Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space ask an usher for assistance.

### Assistance is Available for You:

- An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- Large print worship materials are available ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- If someone should need emergency medical assistance, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

### Health Update:

We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

### What's Happening Today

**Flowers this morning** are given to the Glory of God.

### **Upcoming**

**Our Saviors will be hosting Vacation Bible School (8/5, 8/12)** and have invited St. Stephen to participate.VBS will center around the theme: Jesus cares for you. They will have it from **9am-12pm and on August 5 & 12** (Saturdays). There is no cost to sign up for VBS but you will need to register. They are still looking for Volunteers as well. Please refer to Pastor Jon's email for the links to register. If you did not receive the email please contact Hollie in the office and she can email that to you.

Service: Shoes for Grove. This is the 18th year that St. Stephen members have the purpose-filled opportunity to provide sneakers for Grove community students so they can start school this fall in style! If you like to shop, please buy GIRLS sneakers in any size from 6 to 11 or BOYS sneakers any size from 6 to 12, including half sizes for both—these are the most needed sizes but any size will do! Deliver them to the Gathering Space by Sunday, July 30 and we will take them to Grove. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make the check out to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with SHOES FOR GROVE on the memo line.

**Communal Life: Cybersecurity Reminder.** We would like to remind the congregation that no one associated with St. Stephen will ever ask you for money or a gift card or anything like that. If you received a suspicious email, text, or direct message, please feel free to call the church office directly and double check!

Habitat is coming back to James City County. The need for affordable housing has not decreased since St. Stephen's last involvement with Habitat. They have continued to build 200 homes and rehab 400 others in their history in this area. Since their latest builds were in New Kent County, it made it difficult for us to be involved. They are in the process however of securing land in James City County. The Social Ministry hopes we can again be involved in the fall of 2023. In the meantime, other opportunities to show support are available: On August 19 four sponsors are holding a 1mile fun run/5K run or walk. Registration is at www.RunSignUp.com.

**No Shame. Period.** provides packs to area ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE schools in Hampton Roads. Each pack contains a pad, new pair of underwear, a bag for soiled underwear, a wipe and a note or item of encouragement Please join us for a packing party before and after our church service on **August 6**. Thanks to leftover supplies from the SSLC women's retreat, the MOST NEEDED are makeup bags or opaque pencil cases and new GIRL's underwear size 10-16 or WOMEN's size small. A bin for donations is in the gathering space. Consider asking friends who may have a stockpile of freebies! A card making station will be available to make short notes of encouragement to include in the packs.

### **Health Ministries**

### What to do for a sunburn

While we all know the importance of using sunscreen, sunburns will still happen. Knowing what to do can help reduce pain from a sunburn. You need to reduce the skin's temperature which can be accomplished by a cool shower or bath. If it is a small area, a cool cloth will be enough. Put on moisturizer or lotion. Avoid ointments or petroleum jelly or butter. These only hold in the heat and make the burn worse. If you experience itching, a thin layer of 1% hydrocortisone cream will help. If the pain is really intense, you can take Tylenol or ibuprofen. Drink lots of water and stay hydrated. The emphasis is on water, not sugary drinks. If you have a lot of blisters and/or experience a lot of pain, it is time to see a physician.

Prevention is always the best cure, so if you are out in the sun, find shade to spend time in while outdoors. Wear protective clothing and a hat with a wide brim. Keep sunscreen handy and apply often. Stay hydrated while you are enjoying the outdoors. And, most importantly, have fun!

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

### Crock Pot Ministry

"Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water many still thirst Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed." (Christ be Our Light [ELW 715]).

In July and August please support the Crockpot Ministry as we feed two homeless families every Thursday. Hopefully they will receive from us two recipes suitable for preparing in a crockpot each Thursday along with the ingredients to make dinner on Thursday and Friday. Since their refrigerator space is limited, perishables will be purchased with any monetary donations received for the project or please advise that they are in the refrigerator at St. Stephen. Below are the ingredients needed at the church by July 25 for the fourth week. If you cannot help this week there will be seven more opportunities.

Questions can be addressed to Jane Gingerich or Susan Neidlinger and thanks for helping.

### Hash brown potatoes and hot dogs

- 2 1/2 C sticks of butter
- 4 10 1/2 oz. cans of condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 8 oz. sour cream
- 2 2 C shredded Cheddar cheese packages
- 2 packages beef hotdogs
- 2 packages cookies
- 2 packages sliced carrot/celery sticks

### Tuna casserole

- 2 14 oz. egg noodles
- 2 32 oz. container chicken broth
- 2 5 oz. evaporated milk
- 2 4 oz. jar pimento diced
- 2 2 C shredded Cheddar cheese packages
- 2 12 oz. tuna fish
- 2 15 oz. canned peas
- 4 10 1/2 oz. cans condensed cream of celery soup

### St. Stephen Calendar – July 16- July 23, 2023

Our worship service is available on our website <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u>, click on "Worship with Us" and "Services."

### SUNDAY, July 16

- 9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation (Gathering Space)
- 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic (Nurse Office)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

### MONDAY, July 17

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor office)

2:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/ Conference room)

### **TUESDAY, July 18**

### WEDNESDAY, July 19

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### THURSDAY, July 20

12:00 PM Bulletin review (Library/Conference room)

### FRIDAY, July 21

### SATURDAY, July 22

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### SUNDAY, July 23

9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

### Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	John McCurry
Altar Guild	Dona VanDuyse and Amy Bergh
Audio-Visual Team	Nancy Carter
Bread Baker	Janice Svendsen
Cantor	Sandy Peterkin and Jeanne Garrison
Communion Assistants	Lori Harms and Sandy Croushore
Flower Delivery	Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts	George & Linda Vonderheide
Lectors	Sandy Peterkin and Jeanne Garrison
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Linda Vonderheide, Joe Beene
Ushers	Brian Agor and Bill Dichtel

### St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

### Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our BaptismsDoing Ministry in the WorldPastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)Office@saintstephenlutheran.netDiana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.netHolly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

### Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church! Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

July 16, 2023

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
Telephone #
E-Mail Address
Guests Only: I belong to
Church Address
Please check as many as pertain:
Member
First time guest
Regular guest
Guest (out of town)
Student at William & Mary
Looking for a church home
Desire to speak with pastor
Would like more information about Stephen Ministry
Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me
Anno a manage 9. Dia ang ha anno ang managin akang ang managen a

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

### **Prayer Requests**

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/We need a name tag:\_\_\_\_\_