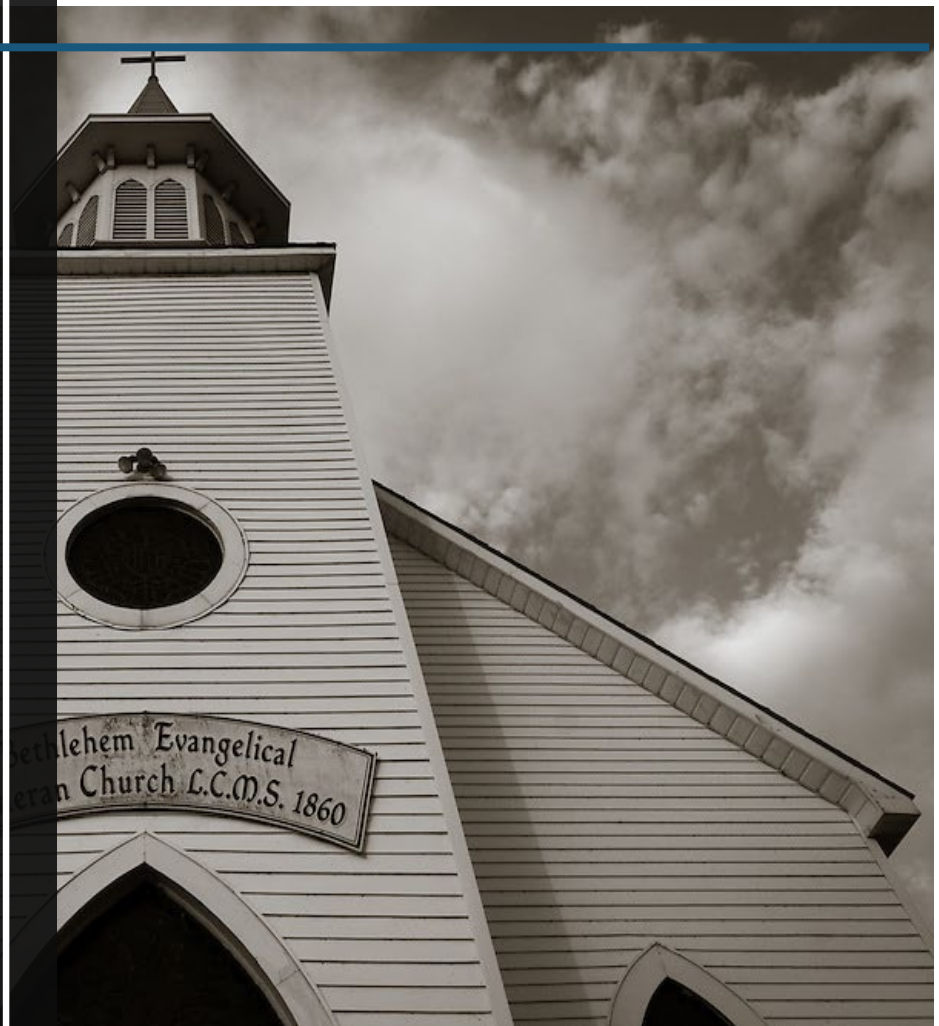


# Ghost Town Gazette

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
William Penn, Texas

Vol. 3, No. 8, August 2025



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“Pray, and  
let God  
worry.”

- Martin Luther

# Pray one for Another

— James 5:16

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST

As the summer months draw to a close and our schedules begin to shift, the Lord calls us back to something that does not change: prayer. James reminds us that prayer is not empty words or wishful thinking. It is the bold privilege of the baptized, who have been made righteous through the blood of Jesus. In Him, our prayers are heard by the Father and are powerful, not because of our strength, but because of His grace.

This month, I especially encourage you to pray for one another. Pray for the sick, the weary, and the burdened. Pray for our congregation's teachers, farmers, families, and leaders. Pray for the lost, that they would hear the Gospel and be brought to faith. And pray with thanksgiving for the forgiveness and new life that are yours in Christ.

At Bethlehem, we are not just a group of individuals; we are one body in Christ. When we pray for one another, we live out that unity. We bear each other's burdens and rejoice together in God's mercies that are new every morning.

Join us this August as we commit ourselves to prayer, both in worship and in our homes, trusting the promise that our Lord hears and answers. In Jesus, even the smallest prayer carries eternal weight.

In Christ's Service and Yours,  
Pastor Krieg

**"The prayer  
of a righteous  
person has  
great power  
as it is  
working."**

**James 5:16**





## THROUGH THE LITURGY: COLLECT OF THE DAY

### What is the "Collect of the Day"?

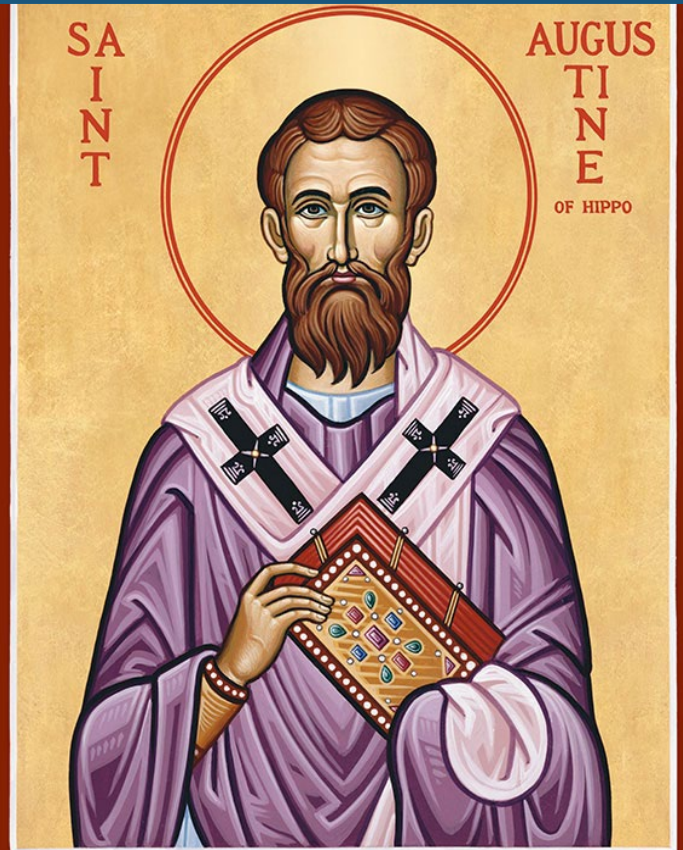
The word "Collect" (pronounced KAHL-ect) comes from a Latin word that means "gathered together." The Collect is a short prayer to God that "gathers together" important promises in God's Word for us to pray about.

### Why do we use the Collect in the Divine Service?

We use the Collect in the Divine Service because it often focuses the congregation's prayers and attention on the readings from God's Word that follow. For some examples of Collects, look in the *Propers* section in the front part of the hymnal. There is a Collect printed for each Sunday of the church year. See if you can find the Collects for August and how they relate to our readings each Sunday.



“God had one  
Son on earth  
without sin, but  
never one  
without suffering.”  
Saint Augustine



## HEROES OF FAITH SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we will highlight one of the many heroes of the Christian faith who have stood firm in the truth of Holy Scripture. We will look at the apostles who knew our Lord Jesus Christ personally, his friends who were witnesses to His miracles, the faithful ancestor of the Old Testament who patiently awaited His first Advent, as well as the many other Godly men and women who have been bold witnesses throughout the years, to the one true faith. We look to them not as people to be worshiped or prayed to but as ordinary sinners, like us, to whom the Holy Spirit gave faith to be extraordinary. They are holy because the blood of Christ forgave their sins. They are holy because the Holy Spirit gave them a living faith in which the love of Christ shone through.

**On August 28, the Church rejoices to celebrate the life of St. Augustine of Hippo, pastor and theologian.**

One of the so-named Doctors of the Western Church, St. Augustine, is considered by most to be the greatest theologian outside of St. Paul for his impact on the church. St. Jerome, in his contemporary, said he “established anew the ancient faith.” A gifted child, Augustine studied the philosophies of his day, living a pagan life until the age of 31 when he came under the tutelage of St. Ambrose of Milan. After his conversion, he would go on to pen many writings concerning Christianity and the church. Amongst them are *Confessions*, *City of God*, *Enchiridion*, *On the Spirit and Letter*, and *Harmony*. He died in 430 AD and was recognized early on as a gift from God for his service to the church.





## HIGHER THINGS



The theme and venue for next year's Higher Things conference have been announced!

The conference will be based on Romans 6:11: "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." Youth League is excited to attend next year's conference in June at Washington University in St. Louis, MO! As more information becomes available, we will let you know.

## NEXT MEETING



On Sunday, August 3, the Youth League will meet for its monthly meeting. We will be discussing elections and upcoming events.

## YOUTH LEAGUE UPDATE

The youth group had an awesome afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and friendly competition! We started at the bowling alley, where strikes and gutter balls alike brought plenty of smiles. After a few games, everyone enjoyed pizza and Coke, because no youth outing is complete without plenty of food to share! To top it off, the group hit the arcade, battling it out on air hockey, racing games, and more. It was an afternoon filled with fun, friendship, and the joy of being together in Christ. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)



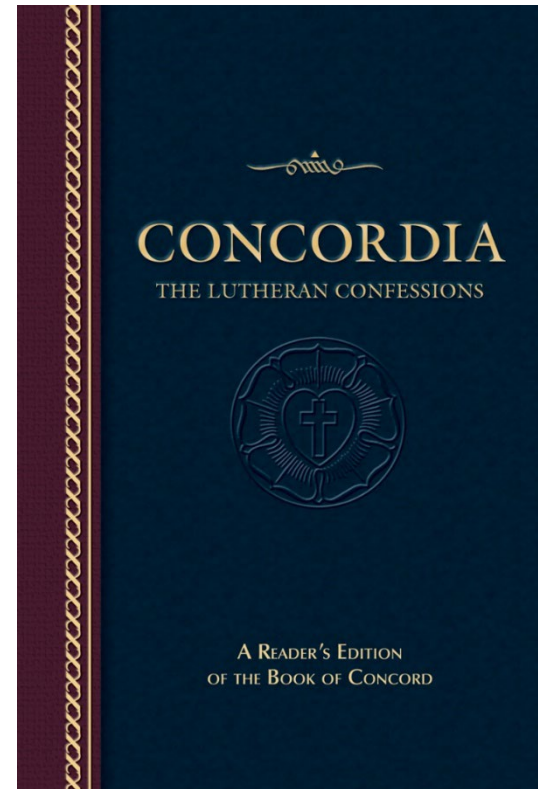
## THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XIII – THE USE OF THE SACRAMENTS

What is a sacrament? How many sacraments are there? When we study these questions, we must realize that the term “sacrament” is a man-made term. The word “sacrament” comes from the Latin *sacramentum*, which means oath or rite. The number of rites recognized as sacraments depends upon how one defines the term sacrament. This month’s article deals with the definition of what a sacrament is, and as a result, leads the way for a discussion on the number of sacraments (which is discussed in-depth in Article XIII of the Apology).

In the Augsburg Confession, the Lutheran Confessors stated: *“Our churches teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but even more, to be signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us. They were instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Therefore, we must use the Sacraments in such a way that faith, which believes the promises offered and set forth through the Sacraments, is increased [2 Thessalonians 1:3].”*

The main purpose of ACXIII was to put the teaching of the Lutherans in contrast to Ulrich Zwingli and his followers, who taught that the sacraments were merely signs by which people identified themselves as Christians. Zwingli adamantly denied that the sacraments had any power to create or strengthen faith. He said: “I know that all the sacraments are so far from conferring grace that they do not even convey or distribute it,” and “They are wrong, by the whole width of heaven, who think that sacraments have any cleansing power.”

This is the teaching of the majority of Reformed churches still today, who also deny the power of God’s Word at work in the sacraments. Lutherans do not deny that the sacraments serve as outward signs which distinguish Christians from those around them, but insist that in addition to being outward signs, they are also means by which God creates and strengthens faith. The idea that the sacraments are “signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us. They were instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them” was a concept foreign to Zwinglian theology. The Lutherans taught that the sacraments are means of God’s grace - instruments through which God conveys to human beings the forgiveness of sins which Christ won for them on the cross.





## THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS – ARTICLE XIII – THE USE OF THE SACRAMENTS

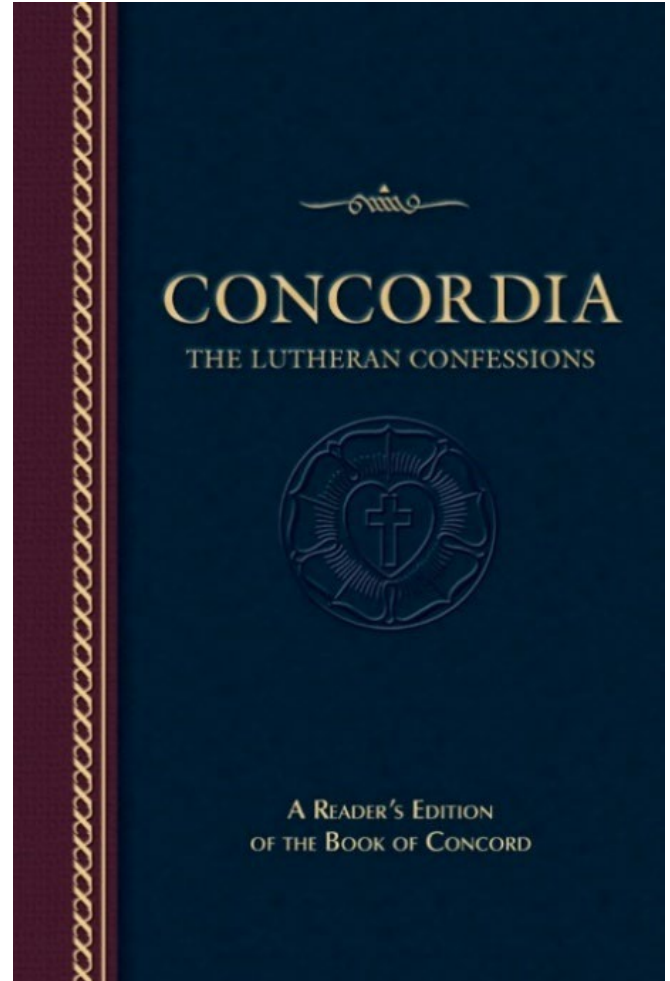
Zwingli argued that the Holy Spirit does not need a “vehicle” through which to convey God’s grace, but works without means. We must understand that while it is not necessary for God to use such a means (since He is all-powerful), He has revealed through His Word that these are the means through which He has decided to distribute the forgiveness of sins won by Christ.

Therefore, ACXIII is correct in its condemnation when it states, “Therefore, they condemn those who teach that the Sacraments justify simply by the act of doing them. They condemn those who do not teach that faith, which believes that sins are forgiven, is required in the use of the Sacraments”.

Generally, we have defined the term sacrament in this way: A sacred act, instituted by Christ Himself, in which there are earthly elements connected to God’s Word, and through which God offers, gives, and seals for us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Based on this definition, there are two rites which we call sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

In the Apology, it states, “If we call Sacraments ‘rites that have the command of God, and to which the promise of grace has been added,’ it is easy to decide what are true Sacraments.... Therefore, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and Absolution (which is the Sacrament of Repentance) are truly Sacraments. For these rites have God’s command and the promise of grace, which is peculiar to the New Testament.”

The critical thing to remember when discussing the Sacraments is not to get tripped up on strict human definitions, but to focus on what they actually offer. Forgiveness, life, and salvation! And for this, we can be most grateful that our loving Father has chosen these means to deliver His gifts.



## JOIN THE BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE: A MINISTRY OF COMFORT AND CARE



When a loved one in our church family is called home to be with the Lord, it is a tender and difficult time for those left behind. One of the simplest but most meaningful ways we can serve during these moments is by providing food and hospitality for funeral receptions. It is an act of love that quietly reminds grieving families that they are not alone.

We are inviting volunteers (men and women) to join our Bereavement Committee rotation. Members of this team help prepare sandwiches or desserts for funeral receptions on a rotating basis. You do not have to attend the reception if you are unable; food can simply be dropped off in the church kitchen ahead of time.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of comfort and community, please contact Gracie Kankel at (979) 836-8775 to be added to the rotation.

This is a wonderful way to serve, share Christ's love, and strengthen our church family during times of sorrow. Together, we can be the hands of Christ for those who need it most.

## LWML UPCOMING EVENTS

- August is back-to-school.
- September: 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- October: Pastor Appreciation Month, LWML Fall Gathering, Election of Officers
- November: Trip to Brookwood, Brookshire; Luncheon and Shopping
- December: Ornament Exchange, LLL/LWML Christmas Party, Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

Any ladies in the congregation who would like to visit or join our little group are welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm for a social gathering, followed by our meeting at 7:30 pm.



**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

**John 14:27**



**“THEREFORE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS  
WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.”**

**ROMANS 15:7**

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

*As of the last regularly scheduled voters meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

### **Transfers In**

**Kieth Huber** transferred from Our Savior Lutheran, Houston, TX  
**Bill Minar** transferred from Grace Lutheran, Brenham, TX



### **Peaceful Release**

**Kristin Powers, Mark Kettler, Isacc Andrejczak, Gary Baldwin, Allan Hinze, Alaina Kohring, Kimberly Holle, Taylor Whittaker, Amber Castillo, Gideon Hendrix, Grady Hendrix, Joshua Hendrix, Lauren Hendrix, Forrest Kohring, Brad Hinze, Ryan B. Schroeder, Donovan Greer, Lindsay Rosenbaum, Maegan Rosenbaum, Danica Rosenbaum, Shelia Vaz, Julie Kissel, Ryan Bentke, La Nae Holle, David Dallmeyer, Troy Klussmann, Becky Klussmann, Karleigh Flisowski**

## **WELCOME TO THE WORLD!**



Congratulations and God's blessings on Christian, Megan, Madison, and Hadley, as they welcome Walker Vance Fridye into their family, born July 9th. May God bring him safely and quickly to the waters of Holy Baptism.

## **PROMOTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH**

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, we will celebrate Promotion Sunday to wrap up our 2024-2025 Sunday School year. Awards will be presented to Sunday School students as they promote to the next grade level. A fried chicken meal will be served after the church service. RSVP by returning the insert in the bulletin to the basket located in the church narthex by Sunday, August 17, 2025. There will be water activities for Sunday School age children following the meal sponsored by the Board of Education.

# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rosemary Thornton	2 Emily Searle 7:30 – 8:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast, Bible Study, & Meeting
3 Nolan Schroeder 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Youth League Mtg	4 Paul Richter, Ian Schroeder	5 Lyla Kettler, Ruth Schroeder 7:00 – 7:30 PM LWML Social 7:30 – 8:30 PM LWML Meeting	6 6 – 7:30 PM New Member Class	7	8 Coby Boggan	9 Aliyah Ahasan, Rowdy Borgstedt
10 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	11	12 Conner Gresham, Kinsley Haferkamp	13 8:30 – 9:30 AM Sonshine 6 – 7:30 PM New Member Class	14	15	16
17 Kelly Flisowski 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	18	19 Emilie Dieterich, Castiel Marshall	20 Cheri Janner 6 – 7:30 PM New Member Class	21 Billie Weidemann	22 Thelma Moore	23 Leona Dieterich, Benjamin Hermann, JR Kettler, Lily Kettler
24 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship	25 Leslie Crabb	26 Landon Duckett, Amy Klusmann	27 Jeff Schwartz 6 – 7:30 PM New Member Class	28 Cindy Schomburg	29	30
31 Tessa Medve, Roy Schwartz 9 – 10 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 – 11:15 AM Worship w/ Communion						

*If you would like information posted in the monthly newsletter, please email the office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you.*



# August 2025

## Birthdays

## Baptismal Birthdays

## Wedding Anniversaries

1 Rosemary Thornton

2 Emily Searle

3 Nolan Schroeder

4 Paul Richter  
Ian Schroeder

5 Lyla Kettler  
Ruth Schroeder

8 Coby Boggan

9 Aliyah Ahasan  
Rowdy Borgstedt

12 Connor Gresham  
Kinsley Haferkamp

17 Kelly Flisowski

19 Emilie Dieterich  
Castiel Marshall

20 Cheri Janner

21 Billie Weidemann

22 Thelma Moore

23 Leona Dieterich  
Benjamin Hermann  
JR Kettler  
Lily Kettler

25 Leslie Crabb

26 Landon Duckett  
Amy Klussmann

27 Jeffery Schwartz

28 Cindy Schomburg

31 Tessa Medve  
Roy Schwartz

1 Michael Dieterich  
Brian Kimmel

2 Joshua Ahasan

3 David Boenker

8 Chaylea Choyce  
Thelma Moore

12 Hunter Choyce

14 Lillian Hayden

16 Christopher Holle

19 Kaden Flisowski  
Kayla Maya

20 Ruth Kettler

21 Jessica Kettler  
Tricia Molitor

28 Jason Ashorn  
Grace Kankel  
Rosemary Thornton

29 Hannah Nowicki

Melvin & Shirley Ashorn  
Aug 16, 1970

Paul & Beverly Richter  
Aug 6, 1977

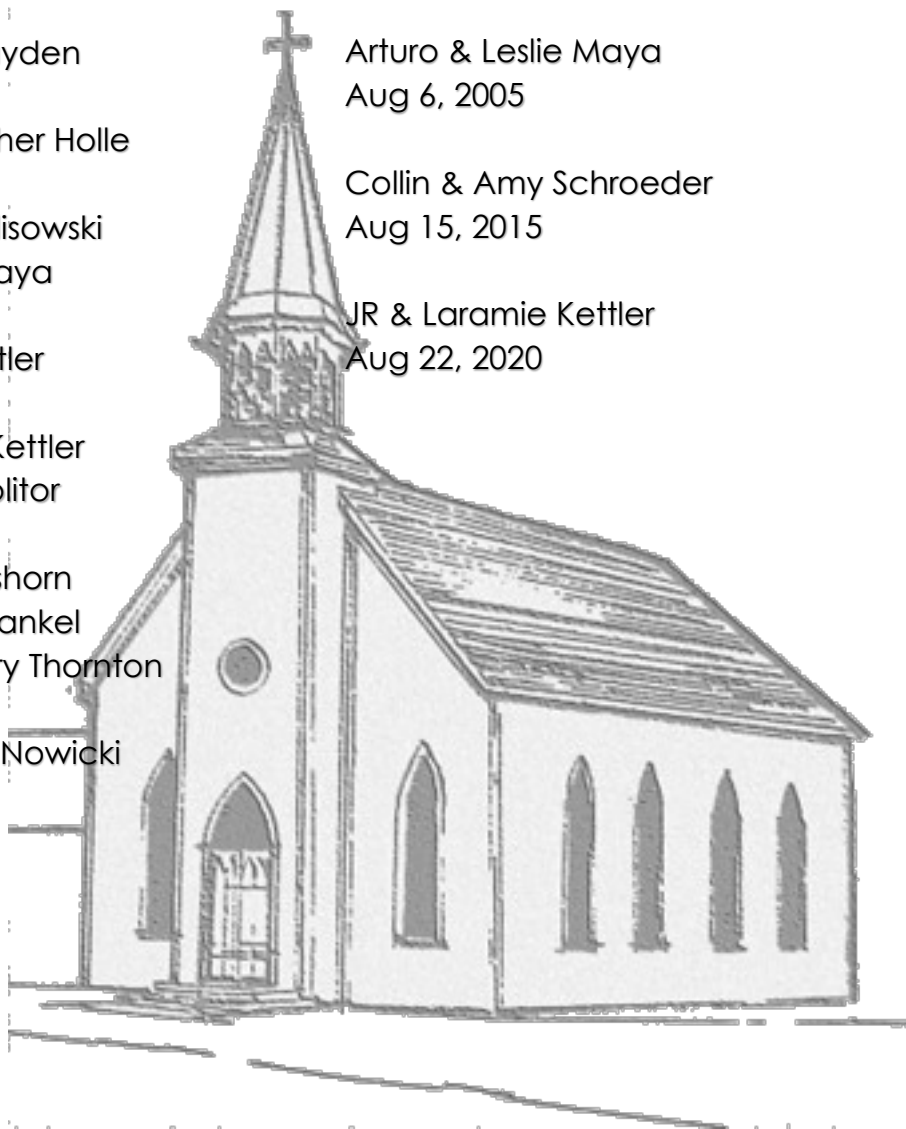
Jeffery & Sharon Schwartz  
Aug 27, 1994

Ethan & Lacy Boggan  
Aug 23, 2003

Arturo & Leslie Maya  
Aug 6, 2005

Collin & Amy Schroeder  
Aug 15, 2015

JR & Laramie Kettler  
Aug 22, 2020



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH-  
WILLIAM PENN

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OFFICE HOURS: M-TH; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

