



The 9th Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 17

July 26, 2026

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. We will celebrate Holy Communion today – all are welcome, and directions are included after the invitation to the Table. If you have trouble coming forward, or need gluten free bread and wine, there are element cups near the door for you to use. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

Changes and additions to the prayer list are published every Sunday in the announcements. Please share your prayer concern with Pastor, or Cindy Carper, if you would like it included on the prayer list. Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God,

Blessed be God forever, Amen.

Called by the Holy Spirit and seeking God's abundant grace,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
our sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #842, O WORSHIP THE KING



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

GREETING

The grace of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence. The Prayer of the Day is offered as we join in our hearts.*

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

THE FIRST LESSON is from first Kings, the 3rd chapter. (1 Kings 3:5-12)

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Silence* +

PSALM 119 is read responsively by verse.

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching. Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from Romans, the 8th chapter. (Romans 8:26-39)

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring

any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence, then, please stand, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52)
Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

+ Alleluia repeats +

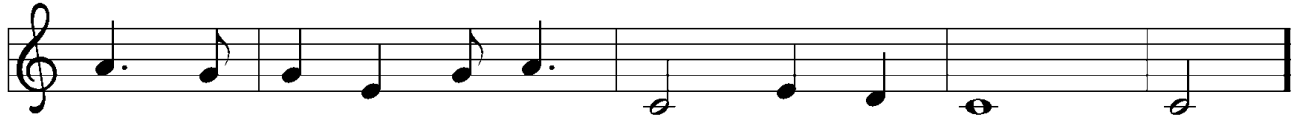
Please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #770, GIVE ME JESUS (NEXT PAGE)



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

Together we confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

And He will come again 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.**

Empowered by the Spirit and trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us pray for a world in need.

*A brief silence. We offer our prayers for the church, our community, neighbors and nation. Each petition concludes: '...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**'. A time to offer our own petitions aloud or in silence follows the invitation '...for what else shall we pray?' Prayers may change in light of local or national events and prayer requests.*

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, restore waterways and preserve the streams, rivers and lakes that nourish us, body and soul. Send advocates to teach and guide sustainable practices. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially those we name in our hearts, aloud or in silence.... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

Feel free to step out of your pew! Following the peace, please be seated.

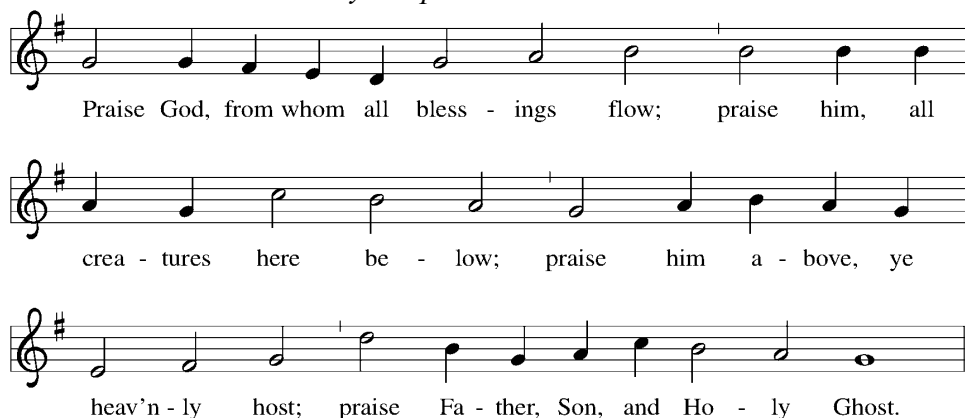
OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies.

In-House the offering is collected. If you are worshipping remotely, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Please stand in body or spirit.*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creating God:

**The fields and forest, sea and sky are the work of your hands
and we are blessed by their bounty.**

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God...

Pastor offers the Eucharistic prayer; we join in our hearts. The prayer concludes:

...as Jesus taught us:

**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**

AGNUS DEI: O LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

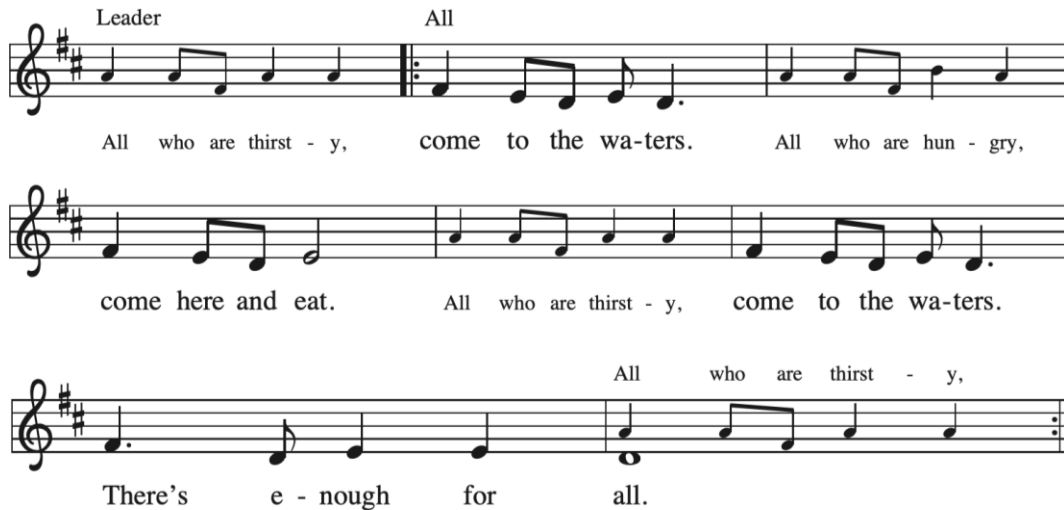
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God - come to the Table,
for all is now ready. **We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!**

Please be seated.

We believe Jesus Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: "The Body of Christ given for you" and "The Blood of Christ shed for you". The recipient may respond "Amen".

Those online are communed, then the musicians. The congregation follows by the organ side, then the pulpit side. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Host from Pastor. Then move towards the side aisle to receive the Wine by intinction, dipping the Host into the cup, and returning to the pew by the side aisle. Take your time – be in prayer, sing, pray as you come to the Table. The hymn during communion is ACS 981, All Who are Thirsty.



Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979
 Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel
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When all have communed, the Table is cleared. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *a brief silence*

**We give you thanks, almighty God,
 that you have refreshed us
 through the healing power of this gift of life.**

**In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
 in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated for Mission & Ministry Announcements.

SENDING

Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

THE BENEDICTION

The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

OUR SENDING SONG is hymn ELW #679, FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION (ON NEXT PAGE)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

215. 766. 8730 office 267. 362. 8129 parsonage

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary

the people of Christ Church, ministers
Mrs. Kimberly Campbell, Council President

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion. ELW is Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE JULY WEB SITE is sponsored by the Campbell Family in loving memory of our wonderful sister/aunt Deanna Pownall.

THE JULY BULLETINS are sponsored by Amy Zearfoss and Debbie Davis in loving memory of our beautiful mother Gail Zearfoss.

WE WELCOME Debra Bacak as our organist this morning and thank her for her musical leadership.

GREETER: Jim Henry

LECTOR:

FELLOWSHIP: Delana Woodward

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Darryl M (H,St,R) and the family and friends of Jackie Menagh as they mourn her death. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

EMS COLLECTION: During the month of July a basket is available on the table by the sanctuary doors for anyone wishing to help support our local EMS services.

TODAY is our 5th Sunday offering. In order to help prevent a budget deficit from occurring, members are encouraged to give an extra offering, if you are able.

SERVICE PROJECT to support Tabor Children's Services and the many programs they have to help children and families in Bucks County (deadline is August 2nd): **School Backpacks** - Thrivent, Staples Rewards and initial congregational donations have helped to purchase 12 school backpacks and supplies to be assembled on August 2nd. In addition, we're collecting **Cleaning Supplies** for those moving to independent living (see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board & collection box under the coat rack) as well as \$25 **Giant Gift Cards** to help those facing food insecurity (monetary donations can be placed in the basket by the doors or see Cindy or Kim S to purchase gift cards). We also continue to collect **Baby Diapers** (sizes 4, 5 & 6 preferred) for families in need. Thanks in advance for your support!

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,600 in 2025 and \$2,000 to date in 2026.

SIMPLY GIVING is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

The Week of July 26th at a Glance

Sun. 07/26 The 9th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Tues. 07/28 Happy Birthday, DJ Lysinger!
Wed. 07/29 11:00AM Ensemble Rehearsal
Thur. 07/30 7:00AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
Fri. 07/31 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Hanna Ziegler!
Sun. 08/02 The 10th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Assembly of Backpacks & Cleaning Supplies for Tabor Services
Happy Birthday, Rick Hadland!
Happy Birthday, Heidi Hedin!