

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please use the blue prayer request cards in the pews for your prayer requests. Place them in the offering plate so Pastor can include them in the Pastoral Prayer.

LAY READER for today is Linda Schaller.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY this week are Jean Warner, MaryAnne Gilbert, Sonya Cole, Ben Delaney, Lucas Swanson, Connie Powell and Rene Fuanta.

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY this week are Pete and Crista Varrica.

THE FLOWERS this week are given by the Emery family in honor of MaryAnne's birthday!

GREETER for today is Sandy Rydell.

Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure Ellie Buff
Sandra Rydell Judy Schreck Jim Hall
Phil Lawrence Debbie Prince Lisa Swanson

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel
Jen Carmella
Linda Schaller
Sami Carmella
Keith Karkut

Pastor
Secretary
Music Director
Nursery Attendant
Technology/Sexton

THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today ~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 ~ Fellowship Hour, following worship
Wednesday ~ Walk & Talk at Kettle Creek Environmental Center, 1:00

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 570-421-5821
(*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)

August 13, 2023
Service for the Lord's Day
All Services are Live-Streamed

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken”

ARR. MARTHA MIER

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 65)

L: Praise is due to You, O God in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed,
O You who answers prayer!

P: You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide the people with grain, for so You have prepared it.

L: You water its furrows abundantly, setting its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

P: You crown the year with Your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with riches.

L: God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

*HYMN NO. 31

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord! Our souls long for the refreshment we receive in Your house, where You withhold no good thing from those who put their trust in You. Refresh our world-weary minds. Renew our sagging spirits with encouragement. Lift up our hearts that we may sing with joy in Your presence and carry the music of the living God to all the earth. Amen

CHILDREN’S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious holy God, we come before you as a diverse people. Some of us are aware that our lives are harsh places for Your gifts to grow. Others come with hearts hardened to receive the seeds of new possibilities. Still others wonder what You might possibly do through us.

Touch our lives, Lord we pray. Shake us knot awareness of Your profound love, and Your desire to use our gifts for the furtherance of Your kingdom. Break through our hesitancy and insecurity, and grant us courage to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our Savior, who bids us to follow.

□ **Moment for Silent Reflection** □

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

(Pg. 581 in red hymnal)

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, amen. Amen.**

*THE PEACE

**L: The peace of Christ be with you!
P: And also with you!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

ARR. TOM FETTKE

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 65: 9-13 (Pg. 527)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (Pg. 13)

L: Word of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Sower, Seed and Soil”

Rev. Thomas Bartha

HYMN NO. 340

“This Is My Song”

SENDING

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN NO. 338

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Shower of Blessing”

ARR. JENNIFER COOK