



# Grace Notes

*Gathering & Growing Together Through Faith*

*Serving our Lord since 1785*

**October 2025**

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

**PAGE 3:** Church  
Information

**PAGE 4-5:** Ponderings of  
The  
Pastor by  
Pastor Gene Tucker

**PAGE 6:** Church News

**PAGE 7:**  
Lay Assistants for the month

**PAGE 8:**  
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**PAGE 9-13:** Bits & Pieces












**Psalm 104:19-20 (NIV):**

"The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the animals of the forest prowl."

# October

Office Hours:  
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9-12

## 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	October Outreach Project- Donations for ASPCA 		1	2	3	4
5  Blessing of the Animals 9AM Service Coffee Hour After Service Pentecost 17	6	7	8 Office Closed	9	10 Freeplay Friday Pre K 10-12 AM School 2-4PM 	11 Movie Lunch Time TBA 
12 Pentecost 18 Service at 9AM & Stump the Pastor Coffee Hour After Service	13	14 Eisenhower Class at 10AM 	15	16 Pumpkins & Pizza 6PM 	17	18
19 Pastor Appreciation Social after Service  Pentecost 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday Service at 9AM Coffee Hour After Service	27	28	29 Diamond Art Class 6PM 	30	31 Freeplay Friday Pre K 10-12 AM School 2-4PM 	

# Flohr's Church Information

**Flohr's Evangelical Lutheran Church PO Box 32 McKnightstown, PA 17343**

**Parish Telephone: 717-334-3992**

**Parish email: floherschurch@gmail.com.com**

**Website: [www.flohrlutheran.org](http://www.flohrlutheran.org)**

## **The Church Staff:**

**Pastor Gene Tucker- Interim Pastor**

**Carrie McDannell - Administrative and Outreach Coordinator**

**Marie Quesinberry-Choir Director**

**Stella Jarvis, Sexton**

## **The Congregation Council:**

**Wayne Haifley -President**

**John Banaszek-Vice President**

**Bob Dwyer- Secretary**

**Bill Bucher, Jay Rohrbach, Todd Boden & Kelly Haifley**

**Bob Dwyer, Property Committee**

**Marie Quesinberry- Worship Committee**

**Janice Miller- Treasurer**

**Bruce Strausbaugh- Financial Secretary**

**Vacant Chairs: Learning Committee, Fellowship Committee, Support Committee, Service & Witness**



# Ponderings of The Pastor

## By Pastor Gene Tucker

A recurring column, dealing with various and sundry topics

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE (BUT MAYBE DIDN'T THINK TO ASK)

### Introduction

Ever think about how much Holy Scripture (the Bible) we read each Sunday in our worship? Three readings, plus a Psalm, each Sunday. It's been said that churches that maintain a liturgical tradition (like Lutherans) read more of the Bible on a Sunday than many churches which have "Bible" in their names. I think that's true.

The fact that we read and hear a passage from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and also a Gospel reading (the usual pattern, although it changes on occasion) would indicate that we place a high value on Holy Scripture, its message, its applicability to our lives, and its authority. That, too, I think, is true.

So, let's explore some aspects about the Bible in this month's column,

Just a word before we begin: This is a "thumbnail", on the surface, look at the Bible. There's much more that could be said about the subject, and many deeper approaches that could be taken.

### Holy Scripture - A Divine Thread and a Human Thread

Christian believers take varying approaches to the Bible.

Some, for example, believe that it was dictated directly to its human authors (and some, I guess, also believe that it was dictated in Elizabethan English!). Others see it as a collection of the religious experience of ancient peoples. These two approaches describe two poles of understanding about the Bible.

A more balanced approach, I think, is to see that God is the driving force behind the writing of the texts of the Bible. Human authors wrote down what God was doing in their lives and in the lives of God's people, using the means of expression and terms that were common to the time.

So, this approach might be described as one in which the Bible is composed of two threads: A divine one and a human one. The two threads are wound around each other (like DNA), but the divine thread predominates and is the more important. God is the mover behind the Bible.

### A Variety of Different Types of Literature

The Bible isn't made up of just one sort of writing. It contains quite a variety.

For example, there's history (as in Joshua, or the Books of the Kings). There's poetry (as in the Psalms). There's wisdom (as in the Book of Proverbs). In the New Testament, the Gospel accounts are a record of Jesus' ministry, teaching, healing, suffering, death and resurrection. The letters in the New Testament are meant to address some unique set of challenges that the early Church faced. Finally, there's apocryphal writing (like the Book of Revelation), which offers hope to God's people in troubling times.



# Ponderings of The Pastor

## Continued

### Tracing the Beginnings of Things to the Versions We Have Today

Some parts of the Bible began as oral tradition, stories that were passed down from generation to generation, perhaps a long time before they were written down. That is, most likely, the case with the Book of Genesis. It is also true of the Gospel accounts. Since we've mentioned the Gospels, the question naturally arises: Why did it take awhile for the Gospel texts to be written down? After all, many biblical scholars today believe that Mark's account was the first one written, perhaps about the year 65 AD. Other Gospel texts may have followed Mark's, perhaps as much as by twenty years or more (we don't know for sure). One theory attempts to explain this by reminding us that the very early Christians believed that the Lord was going to return very soon. As time went along, and as these early Christians came to change their understanding about the timing of the Lord's Second Coming, and as the original group of Jesus' disciples who'd been sent out as His Apostles began to die, the Holy Spirit prompted the authors of the Gospels to decide to preserve the accounts of Jesus' time among us for future generations to come to know. I think this theory makes good sense.

Other parts come to us as texts that were preserved pretty much at the time they were written. St. Paul's letters, most likely, fall into this category. When Paul wrote to a church, it's likely that somebody saved the text of what he wrote.

Can we trust the accuracy of the biblical texts? I think we can. One example of the trustworthiness of the sacred texts would be the accuracy of the text of the prophet Isaiah. The oldest text we have of Isaiah comes to us from the Qumran community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. The version of Isaiah that comes to us from this source (about 2,000 years ago) is remarkably the same as the version of Isaiah we have. I think this is the Holy Spirit at work.

### Understanding and Interpreting the Bible

Some Christians interpret the biblical texts literally. To do so is to ignore (or miss) the reality that some texts are different. Take the Psalms, as an example. The Psalms are poetry, which makes use of images that are meant to describe a deeper reality. To take the texts of the Psalms only at face (literal) value is to invite the possibility that that deeper meaning escapes our understanding. The same is true of a rhetorical device known as "hyperbole", which is exaggerated speech, which is meant to surprise and (perhaps) shock us to see things differently. (Jesus often made use of "hyperbole". An example would be His saying, "If your eye offends, you pluck it out...")

On the other hand, to dismiss the sacred texts of the Bible as nothing more than the record of an ancient people's religious experience (which, those who take this approach sometimes do) is to place our current human experience above the wisdom of the Bible.

A more mature approach, it seems to me, is to remember that Holy Scripture remains authoritative. It contains the record of what God wants us to know about Himself, and about His interactions with human beings down through time. Some parts of the Bible are more applicable than others, depending on what's going on in society or among God's people at any specific time (an example would be when God's people forget God's goodness and begin to think only about God's righteous and holy nature...the Reformation period and Martin Luther's own struggle to come to grips with his own sinful nature are a good example: Luther's struggle has led the Lutheran way of being Christian to offer the Church and the world a balanced view of God's nature as being holy, and yet, merciful. What a great gift!)



## COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM



## Prayer List

Those in need of healing and wholeness;  
Paisley Topper  
Lynn Woerner  
Liz L  
Chris  
All who suffer from PTSD ( Both Military and  
Civilians)  
Steve W

Pray for those families mourning the  
loss of a loved one:

Remember our shut-ins in your prayers:  
Eloise Topper,  
Ruth Jeanne Bream, Geraldine Wetzel,  
Miriam Musselman, and Patsy Wagaman

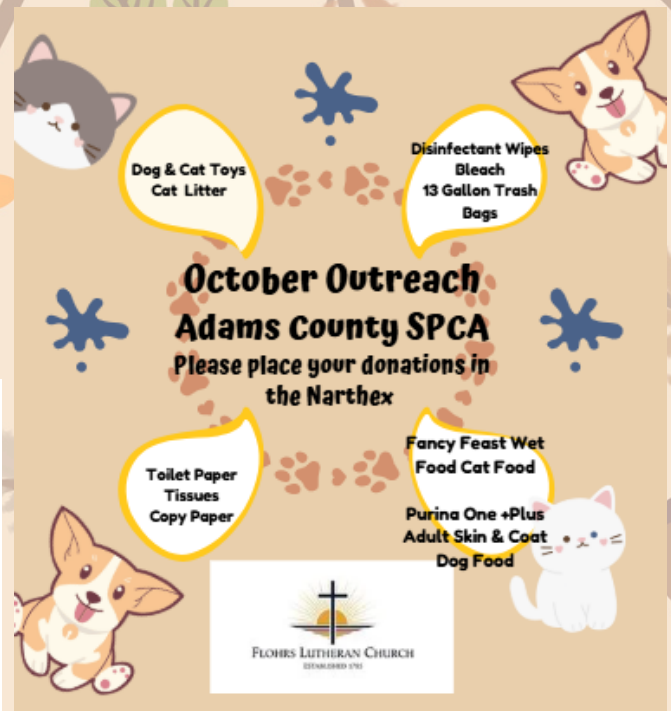
### Financial News

MTD & YTD Income/Expenses as of August 2025

	Aug-25	YTD 2025
Income	\$32,496.28	\$156,832.22
Expenses	\$10,198.75	\$130,279.12
Excess (Shortfall)	\$22,297.53	\$26,553.10


Mission Funds Accounts: \* Designated Funds

	Beginning Balance	Contributions	Withdrawals	Ending Balance
Memorial	\$5,070.80			\$5,070.80
Interest	\$689.60			\$689.60
Parsonage Rent	\$10,006.06	\$1,800.00		\$11,806.06
Improvement*	\$1,951.95	\$2,337.67		\$4,289.62
Chairlift Repairs*	\$1,873.96			\$1,873.96
Youth*	\$1,253.97			\$1,253.97
Helping Hands*	\$232.67			\$232.67
Music*	\$1,860.13			\$1,860.13
Prayer/Memorial Garden*	\$2,399.72			\$2,399.72
A/C Replacement - Church*	\$2,342.09			\$2,342.09
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$430.00	796.75		\$1,226.75
Totals	\$28,110.95	\$4,934.42		\$33,045.37



**October Outreach  
Adams County SPCA**  
Please place your donations in  
the Narthex

- Dog & Cat Toys  
Cat Litter
- Disinfectant Wipes  
Bleach  
13 Gallon Trash  
Bags
- Toilet Paper  
Tissues  
Copy Paper
- Fancy Feast Wet  
Food Cat Food
- Purina One +Plus  
Adult Skin & Coat  
Dog Food

  
FLOHRS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ESTABLISHED 1791





# October 2025 Lay Assistants



## Worship Assistant:

- 5 Bill Bucher
- 12 \*\* need volunteer\*\*
- 19 Tim Rehfield
- 26 Emma Rohrbach

## Lectors:

- 5 Janice Miller
- 12 Kelly Haifley
- 19 Cheryl Black
- 26 Dawn Six

## Deacon:

- 5 Kelly Haifley
- 12 Bob Dwyer
- 19 Jay Rohrbach
- 26 Wayne Haifley

## Ushers:

\*Janice Miller & Todd Boden

\*denotes Head Usher

## Altar Guild:

\* Need Volunteer

## Financial Stewards:

Dave Nett and Kelly Haifley

## Flower Sponsors:

- 5 Darlene Cutshall
- 12 Angie Keefer
- 19 Ruth Jeanne Bream
- 26 Marie Bollinger

## Bulletin Sponsors:

- 5 Darlene Cutshall
- 12 Angie Keefer
- 19 Ruth Jeanne Bream
- 26 Marie Bollinger

## Sanctuary Lamp Candle:

Janice Miller



Thank you for adding to the  
meaningful spirit of our weekly worship of God.





## October Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy  
Birthday

1<sup>st</sup> Jay Rohrbach

2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Kane

4<sup>th</sup> Kiley Milesky

5<sup>th</sup> Amanda Woerner

7<sup>th</sup> Cy Youngblood

9<sup>th</sup> Gina Dwyer

10<sup>th</sup> Kaitlynn Ketterman

18<sup>th</sup> Clair Kump

18<sup>th</sup> Tom Bream

22<sup>nd</sup> James Kane

22<sup>nd</sup> Marie Bollinger

23<sup>rd</sup> Erich Wentz

24<sup>th</sup> John Sonnett

24<sup>th</sup> Tom Kerr

31<sup>st</sup> Janice Miller

Happy  
Anniversary

4<sup>th</sup> Eric and Carrie McDannell

16<sup>th</sup> Jackie and John Sonnett

17<sup>th</sup> Pastor Gene and Deb Tucker

24<sup>th</sup> Marie and Kevin Bollinger

We ask for your assistance: Please notify the church office of any incorrect or missing lists of birthdays and anniversaries. Thank you for helping to keep our lists current

THANK  
YOU

To all of those who helped set up the learning center. The Homeschool Co-Op is going great ! Please let community members know about our spaces available!

Special Thanks to those that helped with decorating and putting up bulletin boards; Mike Wetzel, Lois Steinhour, Rebecca and Tim Rehfield, The Dwyers, Sabryna, & The McDannells.



## Bits & Pieces



**Free Play Friday**  
**at Flohrs Church**

October 10th & 31st      Preschoolers 10AM-Noon      School Aged Kids: 2PM-4PM

Kids can explore our play areas, enjoy a hands-on STEM table, and get creative in the arts corner. Families are also welcome to browse our church library and borrow books to enjoy at home. Parents must stay with their child. Please use this time to connect, and enjoy coffee, juice, and snacks.

All are welcome—come play, learn, and make new friends!



**PUMPKINS & PIZZA**

COME AND ENJOY A  
PIZZA DINNER &  
PUMPKIN ACTIVITIES

October 16th  
6 p.m.

At Flohrs Church  
ALL AGES WELCOME

**RSVP BY OCT 12TH**  
[FLOHRSCHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FLOHRSCHURCH@GMAIL.COM)



# Diamond Art Class At Flohrs Church



COME ENJOY A RELAXING AND CREATIVE EVENING!  
ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED — JUST BRING  
YOURSELF AND A FRIEND.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29TH, 6–7 PM

COST: \$3 PER PERSON

SUPPLIES: ALL INCLUDED



DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW AND  
FUN!

WE NEED  
YOUR HELP

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SERVE LUNCH

Exciting news—part of a new movie will be filmed right here at Flohrs Church Cemetery!  
We've been asked to provide lunch for the film crew, and we need your help.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH**  
10:30 AM- 1:30 PM  
At Flohrs Church

We are looking for volunteers to serve lunch and help keep things stocked and filled.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of something unique happening in our community and show hospitality to those visiting our church.

★ If you're willing to help, please sign up on sheet in Narthos

o o o o

A poster for 'Coffee Hour' with a warm, orange-toned background. It features a central illustration of a white coffee cup with a heart-shaped latte art, sitting on a saucer with a spoon. To the left is a coffee branch with berries and leaves, and to the right is a dark brown coffee bean. The text 'Coffee' is in a large, dark brown font, and 'HOUR' is in a white banner. Below the cup, the text 'LOOKING FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!' is in bold, followed by a paragraph of text.

**Coffee**  
**HOUR**

**LOOKING FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!**

WE'D LOVE A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR AFTER WORSHIP. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE COFFEE (SUPPLIES PROVIDED) AND BRING ALONG A LIGHT SNACK TO SHARE. IT'S A SIMPLE WAY TO SERVE AND HELP EVERYONE ENJOY FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER! PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY ON THE SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX.

A poster for the 'Blessing of the Animals' service. It features a blue background with white clouds at the bottom and several white paw prints scattered throughout. Three cartoon cats are perched on a yellow rectangular sign with a black border. The text on the sign is in various colors: blue for 'Blessing of the Animals', black for 'Outdoor Service', orange for 'October 5th at 9AM', and pink for '\*\*weather permitting\*\*'.

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**Outdoor Service**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**  
**\*\*weather permitting\*\***



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**NOT SURE HOW OR WHERE YOU  
COULD HELP? EMAIL CARRIE  
AND SHE'LL HELP YOU GET  
STARTED!**

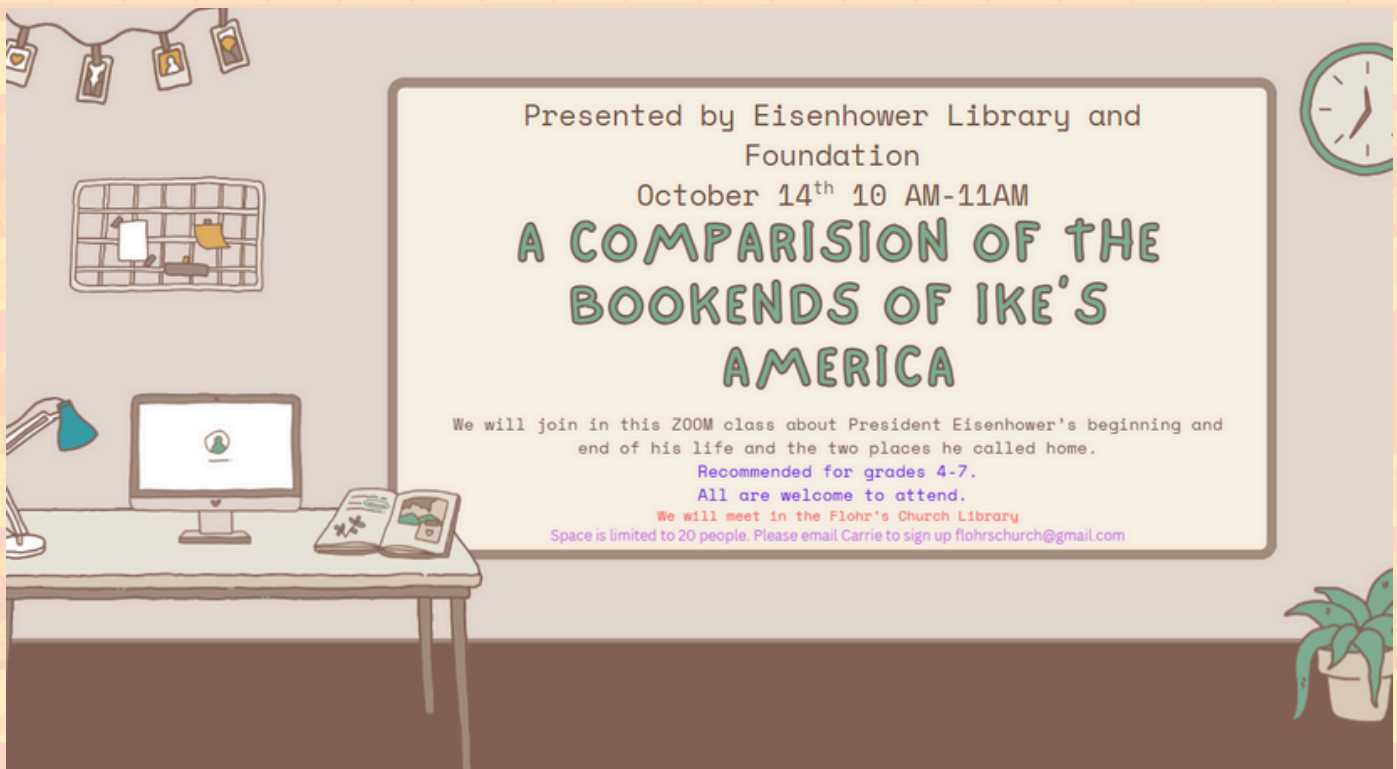
flohrschurch@gmail.com



THE FLOHR'S CEMETERY ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING DONATIONS TO HELP WITH ONGOING UPKEEP, INCLUDING REPAIRING HEADSTONES, LANDSCAPING, AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE. YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PRESERVE THE HISTORY AND BEAUTY OF OUR CEMETERY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

WHEN DONATING, PLEASE WRITE "CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION" ON THE ENVELOPE OR IN THE MEMO OF  
YOUR CHECK.





## HAPPY 240<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FLOHRS CHURCH

A historic 1958 service started the morning and the day ended with a picnic, fellowship and games.

Thanks to everyone who made this day possible from our volunteers to our participants! Special thanks to Helen and Marie !

