

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required both inside and outside.

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave or on the lawn:

You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

For the outside service: Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask, proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.

For inside services: Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).

Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.

Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.

For all to receive the sacrament:

- Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.
- Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.
- Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.
- We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).

Food Pantry—October

Items needed: Canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

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Pastor Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net Youth Director Kelly Moore-Spencer kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net Victor Fields vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net Organist, Choir Director dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net Bookkeeper Dale Zeiger st.paulsyork@comcast.net Secretary Patee Pizzirusso Sexton Ted Weikert st.paulsyork@comcast.net Preschool Director Deb Becker director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the "Donate" now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

Thank you to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.

Upcoming weeks at St. Paul's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
18 St. Luke—Healing 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Outdoor 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor—	19 9:00 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Mpuguso 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM Scouts	20 9:00 AM Preschool 9:45 AM Pantry 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - Christ Hall	9:30 AM Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	9:00 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday Guest Preacher Judy McKee 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Outdoor 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Indoor	26 9:00 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Scouts	27 9:00 AM Preschool 9:45 AM Pantry 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting - 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - Christ Hall	28 9:30 AM Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	29 9:00 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	30	31

In our prayers we remember...

Anna Mae Cook, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey.

St. Luke—Healing of the Nations

October 18, 2020 8:00 & 10:30 AM During the time of COVID -19

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Heinrich Buttstedt

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Sung by the Cantor

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke the physician to reveal in his Gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your Church the same love and power to heal, to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING Ezekiel 47:1-12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. ²Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

³Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle- deep. ⁴Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. ⁵Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. ⁷As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. ⁹Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. ¹⁰People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. ¹¹But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. ¹²On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

At the conclusion of the reading The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

PSALM Psalm 1 spoken responsively by half verse

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,*

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

² Their delight is in the law of the LORD,*

and they meditate on his law | day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,

bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;*

everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴ It is not so | with the wicked;*

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,*

nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,* **but the way of the wick-** | **ed is doomed.**

SECOND READING Revelation 22:1-5

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever

At the conclusion of the reading The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Stand

VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:29-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away *At the conclusion of the Gospel*.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

LITANY OF HEALING

Let us name before God our supplications.

The People audibly name those persons, situations, and communities for whom they are interceding.

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise and thank you, O Lord.

Grant to the nations of the world healing; for their governments, for the lives of leaders, for the desire of peace, for the just treatment of all citizens, aliens, and sojourners.

Hear us, O, Lord.

Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

Hear us, O Lord.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;

Hear us, O Lord.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

Hear us, O Lord.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

Hear us, O Lord.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

Hear us, O Lord.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

Hear us, O Lord.

A period of silence follows.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, abounding in steadfast love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

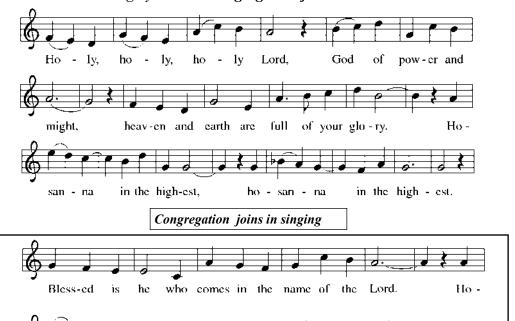
DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE The preface appropriate to the day is said.



THANKSGIVING

san - na

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

ho - san - na

in the high - est.

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

in the high-est,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE 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 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.

FRACTION A brief silence is kept

AGNUS DEI sung by the Cantor

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

COMMUNION SOLO

Sure on this Shining Night Sarah Throckmorton, soprano Samuel Barber

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River (WOV 690) Stanzas 1 & 4



- 1 Shall we gath er at the riv er, where bright an gel feet have trod,
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv cr, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God? soon our hap-py hearts will quiv - er with the mel-o - dy of peace.

Continued on next page...



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE God Brought Me to This Time and Place Johann Gottfried Walther

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Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket or leave it in the pew.

Please consider...

Positions of leadership help us fulfill our ministry. The Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Tony Culp and Harold Sargeant, have been diligently seeking candidates for:

Congregation Council

Benevolence

Mutual Ministry

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Please give prayerful consideration to serving at this critical time in the life of our congregation during COVID-19. Most meetings are being held digitally. If you are willing to serve please notify Tony or Harold. Thank you.

Mission in Africa needs our support. October is our month to show support and give financially to help our sister congregation in Tanzania. Remember that we are asking for small donations of \$10-\$20. You may donate through the website at stpaulsyork.org. Click on "Mpuguso Congregation". Please know that through our regular budget we are supporting education for 2 Evangelists and for scholarships for children of pastors and church workers in the Konde Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Thank you for your support.

Let's Connect! How do we keep in touch with each other when there are two church services plus an on-line option? We used to chat...a lot! Are you feeling disconnected? What is going on in your life? What are your joys and celebrations; your worries and concerns? St. Paul's has a private Facebook page that you can use to share with your church family. You just need to request access via Facebook (St. Paul's York PA Group). OR, if you don't use, or like, or have Facebook, you can submit to the church office for the monthly newsletter. Here is something to start us off: How are you going to "do" holidays this year?



This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Norma Spencer in memory of Don and Alan Spencer, parents Laura & Chet Ely, in-laws Helen & Lloyd Spencer and in loving memory of Ivy Jo Jacobs by her family, Carl, Peggy, Leah, Aaron & Pearl Jacobs

Open sponsor dates for 2020: 11/1, 11/15, 12/13, 12/20
Please sign up in the Springettsbury Hallway and complete a Flower Sentiment form or contact the church office.

Tuesday Evening Ministry—All Ages!

Create, the Tuesday evening youth and family ministry night will be held as video sessions this term. Watch for the next sessions!

October 20 & 27

All Saints & Sinners – All ages Victor will teach the children a percussive piece with their pots and pans.

All Saints & Sinners - All ages Miss Kelly will teach you how to create a blind contour self-portrait, this will provide a creative release as you discover new things about how you appear.

November 10 & 17.

Crowns for the King – All ages Follow along with Miss Kelly in Making glorious crowns that you can place around the cross for Christ the King Sunday, November 15 A Royal Beat – All ages Join Victor in making music that is fit for King Jesus!

December 1

Family Gingerbread Nativity – Everything needed to construct a gingerbread nativity scene will be provided. All you have to do is preregister and pick up your supplies at church on November 15, 22, or 29. You will get an email from Victor and Kelly that you can follow to have an enjoyable time with your family making a sweet delicious scene based on God's sweet love for us.

St. Luke, For the Healing of the Nations, Pastor's Sermon October 18, 2020

Ezekiel 47:1-12 Psalm 1 Revelation 22:1-7 St. Luke 21:29-33

The drive to the Middle School takes us through some sections of suburbia where the deer population is prevalent. So, from the first days of school in August, we begin the morning drive to school with the DDC (daily deer count). We have had a few rainy days where we didn't see a one. And the most we have spotted is 11. Most days we average 3 to 5. I ponder what effect the deer have on the neighborhoods, the people's gardens, their shrubs and bushes. The DDC, daily deer count, makes me think of a popular comedian when I was in middle school. He had a great line. "Where Bambi goes nothing grows!"

That line struck me when I realized that with the readings from Ezekiel and Revelation you could say "Where the river flows everything grows!"

We count a lot of things, not just deer.

The people residing in the nation are all to be counted during the Census.

I still count out money when I pay for things at the market.

The swipe card is fast and convenient but I easily loose count of what I spend.

We count days until a significant event (68 days till Christmas).

With the CDC we have learned to count 14 days for COVID quarantine.

We used to count the years of life with birthday candles jammed into cake frosting, but now days, not so much.

The biblical narratives this morning are all counting, thresholds, depth of water, and trees to many to count. Where the water goes, where the water flows, everything grows; living creatures that swarm, fish in abundance, fresh fruit every month, salt to preserve food for use in the days ahead, and tree leaves that heal. The vision of both Ezekiel and John describe the abundance of God's generosity as too great to count. Where the water flows everything grows.

Ezekiel's vision is of the Temple, not the one of bricks and stones that was destroyed by the aggressive force of the Assyrian army, but of a new temple from which the water of life flows, and trees grow and bear fruit, and the water is so plentiful that the trees surprisingly live continuously, bearing fruit continuously, with leaves for healing; continuous healing. God is not contained in the Holy of Holies as before, in Ezekiel's vision God's abundant life giving waters flow forth giving life abundantly to all; giving healing to all.

John's vision in Revelation is of a New Jerusalem, not the one of bricks and stones with streets, and alleyways leading to a central temple, but of a new city. Central to his vision is Christ the Lamb on the throne, upon the altar, and from him flows the water of life, bright as crystal, forming a river and by the banks are trees bearing fruit, surprisingly a different kind of fruit each month with leaves that do not wither. The leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations. Through Christ in fleshing the

world, healing is possible. The abundance of God's creation flowing from Christ Jesus is providing what is needed for healing (Forgiveness).

Ezekiel and John both share their vision. Ezekiel's to a people who were defeated and needed hope for a future. John's to the early church when they were persecuted, defeated, and needing hope to press on in such uncertain times.

The writer of Proverbs puts it like this "Where there is no vision, the people perish." And the vision of Ezekiel and John provided future, hope, life.

We are living in uncertain times. Things that we once thought unthinkable are reported in the daily news. We are in need of healing; healing in our lives, in our families, in our congregation, in our neighborhoods, in cities across the land, within governments and in the nations that encompass the globe. The biblical witness calls upon the prophets and disciples to proclaim God's message of healing in the midst of such uncertainty. We come together this morning to acknowledge the need. So much is withering. So much is dying. So much needs the flowing water of God's grace and mercy in order to restore wholeness, to bring life, and to reestablish hope in the land.

Each of us travels along through sections of our community where uncertainty is prevalent. Oh we may not count the growing uncertainties of daily life as Allen and I do the deer on the way to school each morning. There are days when things seem to be improving. And then there are days when the count racks up so quickly that it seems implausible. I know that I am not alone in my pondering of what effect the uncertainty of the present time is having in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and on the lives of children, teenagers, adults. And what effect is it having on the global community on the nations of the world?

I wish a comedian would pop in and divert my attention. "Where Bambi goes nothing grows!" But that is not the way of God. God comes among us in Jesus. Enters into life and knows and experiences the uncertainty that we are experiencing. He preached about it, told stories about it, and suffered and died making a new way. God's way is "Where the river flows everything grows!" Where there is forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation. The crystal water flows from the Lamb, Jesus, the one who was slain has begun his reign.

The children shaped and fashioned, colored and painted leaves of healing for our tree erected on the glass wall. The tree is in the shape of a cross. This is not any cross but is reminiscent of the one upon which our Lord was crucified precisely for the healing of the nations, for the healing of your life and mine. It is a vivid reminder for us that through Christ Jesus the Lamb, the water of baptism, like a crystal river, flows over us, around us, under us, washing us clean and setting us apart to bear fruit, perpetual, continuous, through all seasons, when we feel up to it and when we don't, so that the world witnesses a vision of something other than the uncertainty and pain of today. Through the fruit that is born out of baptism's grace; wholeness, life and hope are being made known. The fruit that we bear is sustained by those leaves; leaves that do not wither. Amen.

Christmas Poinsettias

As you may recall, we were unable to hold Easter services with the beautiful flowers that some of you had ordered. In their place, we will be ordering Poinsettias for use during the Christmas services. Your Poinsettia order is already taken care of if you ordered Easter flowers. You may use the form if you would like to order Poinsettias or if you would like to add to your original order. A list will be in the November newsletter if you forgot what you ordered for Easter *Please note: The deadline for ordering is November 8th. Thank you.*

Cost is \$12.00 per plant. They will be RED in color. List plant(s) as shown below (please print clearly)	_ in Honor of:	_ in Loving Memory of:	
ORDER YOUR COUNSETTINS	Number of plants	Number of plants	

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Dedicated to the Glory of God

Number of plants

Your Name:

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The completed order form with payment attached may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office

Orders due by Sunday, November 8th