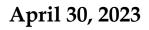
St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street Greenfield Indiana 46140

Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

Fourth Sunday of Easter





Meditation:

Dear friends, as we gather today to meditate on the passage from Acts 2:42-47, we are reminded of the early Christian community that was formed after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This passage tells us how the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. And how they shared everything they had, taking care of each other's needs.

As we reflect on this text, let us understand how it applies to our lives today. Let us remember that these early Christians were not perfect beings, but they were people just like us, who faced challenges and struggles.

They were people who had experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and they responded to it by living in community with one another. They devoted themselves to learning from the apostles, who taught them about Jesus and his teachings. They sought to live out these teachings in their daily lives, and they supported one another as they did so.

Likewise, we too are called to live in community with one another, to support each other in our faith journeys, and to learn from one another. We can do this by attending church regularly, participating in small groups or Bible studies, and reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Christ when we need help or support.

We can also follow the example of the early Christians by sharing our resources with others. We can give to those in need, whether it be through financial support or acts of service. We can make meals for those who are sick or in need, we can visit those who are lonely or hurting, and we can pray for one another.

As we meditate on this passage, let us remember that the early Christian community was not perfect, but they were committed to living out their faith in tangible ways. Let us follow their example by living in community with one another, supporting each other in our faith journeys, and sharing our resources with those in need.

May God bless us as we seek to live out our faith in this way. Amen.

Today's Altar Flowers are given for the Glory of God



1741 S. State Street Greenfield, IN 46140 Phone: 317-462-7340 Email: office@stjamesnalc.org

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

The mission statement of our congregation is: To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

> Rev. Dr. Richard Blue, Jr. Pastor Rev. Benjamin Black Sr. Vicar Dan Petry, Music Director Angela Rodgers, Asst Music Director

TO ALL GUESTS...

 THANKS for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. And please come again!!

• PARTICIPATE

- The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.
- The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the <u>St. James website (www.stjamesnalc.org)</u> and <u>Facebook page</u>.
- **COMMUNE** All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.

• NEED ASSISTANCE?

- **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.

Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

Welcome to our service of worship!

We are happy to have you worship with us, whether you are looking for a church home, are a new Christian, or are just curious about Christianity. We want your time with us to be as warm and friendly as possible, so we've made a list of words and phrases you might hear during our service. We hope that this list of terms will help you feel more comfortable with our service and get to know its different parts.

We know that some of these words may be new or unfamiliar to you, but please know that our goal is to create a place where everyone can connect with God in a meaningful way. Getting the idea that faith is a personal journey that looks different for everyone.

So, whether you're here out of curiosity, looking for answers to life's questions, or exploring your own faith, we want you to feel welcome, accepted, and encouraged. We believe that everyone can receive God's love and grace, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

Please don't be afraid to talk to any of our friendly ushers, greeters, or members during the service if you have any questions or need more information. We're here to help you!

We're glad you're here, and we hope this glossary will help you feel more at home as we worship together as a group of Christians in the Lutheran Tradition. May God's love and presence be with you during and after this service.

Glossary of Terms Used in Worship

Invocation: We start our worship service by calling out to God and asking Him to be with us, just like we would do with a close friend. (Psalm 95:1-2)

Confession and Absolution: In this solemn moment, we recognize that we are human and admit that we have flaws, make mistakes, and sin. With broken hearts, we openly tell God about our mistakes, flaws, and sins, knowing that we need His forgiveness. As Lutherans, we believe in the power of God's grace, which is freely given to everyone who wants it.

As God's representative, the pastor then says the comforting words of absolution, which tell us that God loves and forgives us no matter what. We are reminded that we can start over with a clean slate and that God's love and mercy are never-ending. (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:8-12)

This sacred moment of the Office of the Keys is a reminder of God's grace and the gift of reconciliation given to the Church through pastors. It lets us approach God with honesty and humility and receive His forgiveness as we continue our worship service with new hearts and minds.

Kyrie: We ask God for mercy and help from the bottom of our hearts, knowing that we all need help and grace in our lives and that God is always ready to listen and help. (Luke 18:13)

Hymn of the Day/Praise: We lift our voices in song to thank and admire God for His goodness and faithfulness, just like we would thank someone who has been nice to us. (Psalm 100:1-2)

Word of God and Message: We listen carefully to readings from the Bible, which is a collection of sacred text/books that give us guidance, wisdom, and hope for our lives. The pastor then gives a practical message that helps us see how these teachings can be useful and meaningful in our everyday lives, just like getting good advice from a caring friend. (2 Timothy 3:16–17 and Romans 10:17)

Creed: Together, we say or sing a statement of our faith that affirms our belief in a God who loves us, Jesus Christ who forgives us and saves us, and the Holy Spirit who guides and empowers us in a way that speaks to our hearts and values. (John 3:16, Matt. 28:19)

Offertory: During this time, we give money to help God do his work through the church. We do this because we are part of a community that cares about each other and wants to make a positive difference in the world for the Good News, just like when we give to a cause or organization that fits with our values. (2 Cor. 9:7)

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy." We sing a hymn or chant that praises God's holiness, recognizing His greatness and majesty as we get ready for Communion, in a way that makes us feel awe and wonder, like when we are taken in by the beauty of nature or a work of art. (Isaiah 6:3, Rev. 4:8)

Words of Jesus: Words of Our Lord: We hear the sacred words of Jesus from the Last Supper, where He initiated the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. He asked us to remember His selfless sacrifice and receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. As Lutherans, we believe that in this act, Jesus is really present in the bread and wine, and that by having faith, we can share in His grace that gives us life. During this part of our worship service, we can think about how much our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, loves us and how His sacrifice still changes our lives. (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, Luke 22:19–20)

Agnus Dei: We sing a hymn or chant that shows Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. As we take Communion, we acknowledge His sacrifice and grace in a way that reminds us of His kindness and compassion. (John 1:29 and Revelation 5:12)

We share the bread and wine, which represent the body and blood of Jesus. This is a physical way for us to receive His forgiveness and grace, and for our spirits to be fed, just like when we eat a meal. We approach this act with respect and gratitude because we know how important Jesus' sacrifice was and how close we are to Him. (1 Corinthians 10:16 and John 6:54)

Nunc Dimittis: We hear or sing the words of Simeon from the Gospel of Luke. Simeon thanked God for letting him see the salvation that Jesus brought. We acknowledge that we have also received God's salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and that we can leave in peace, knowing that God is taking care of us. (Luke 2:29-32)

Benediction: We get a final blessing from the pastor, who prays for God's grace, peace, and presence to be with us as we go back to our daily lives. It's like getting a warm goodbye and best wishes from a caring friend. (Numbers 6:24-26)

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Almighty God, To whom all hearts are open, All desires known, And from whom no secrets are hid: Cleans 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.

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

Congregation: 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 An 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.

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Pastor: 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 Jesus 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. **ALL: Amen**

Please stand

I Know That My Redeemer Lives! 0 Ο I deem lives! What 1 know that my Re _ _ er com - fort 2 He phant lives tri - um from the grave; he lives e He ply; lives to 3 lives to grant me rich sup he 4 He lives to si lence all my fears; he lives to _ this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who lives ex ter - nal ly save; he alt ed, to guide me with his eye; he lives to com fort wipe а way my tears; he lives to calm my $\mathbf{\alpha}$ er - liv he lives, my ing head! once was dead; ev throned a bove; he lives to rule his church in love. when he lives hear faint; to my soul's com - plaint. me bled heart; he lives all bless - ings trou to im - part.

- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!

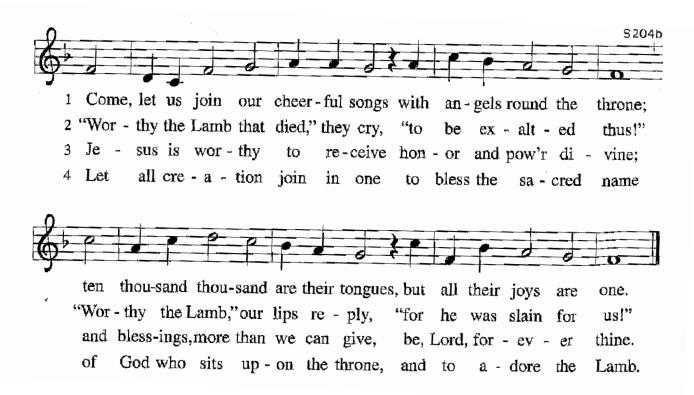
Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt. Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

GREETING

Vicar: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.



Kyrie

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assisting Minister: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ We Hear God's Word +

FIRST READING Acts 2: 42-47 (page 937 in pew Bible)

The Fellowship of the Believers

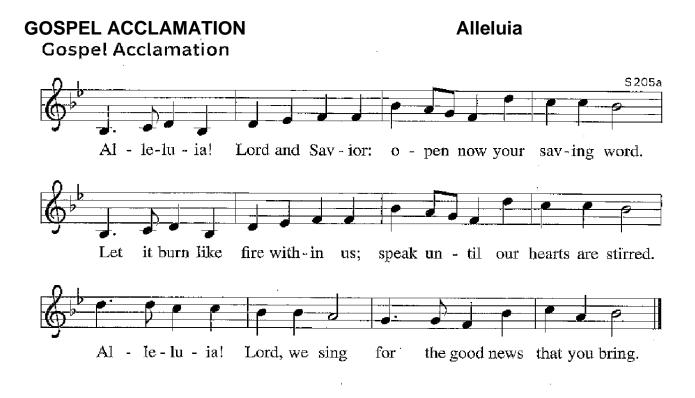
⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in

common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel



THE HOLY GOSPEL John 10:1-10 (page 922 in Pew Bible)

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

10 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶ Jesus

used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Rev. Amanda Blue

Please Stand



Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue

Please Stand

+ We Respond to God's Word +

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

Vicar: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assisting Minister: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Response of the Congregation: Hear Our Prayers

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Remain Standing

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship, and we now offer our offerings and tithes.



If you prefer digital giving, please scan this QR code to be directed to our online giving platform.

OFFERTORY MUSIC-

Instrumental

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

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.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Dear God, we bring these offerings before you today with hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving. We recognize that all we have comes from you and we give back to you a portion of what you have given us. We ask that you would bless these offerings and use them to further your kingdom on earth. May they be used to bring hope, healing, and love to those who are in need. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Amen.

Remain Standing

+ We Celebrate the Lord's Supper +

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins

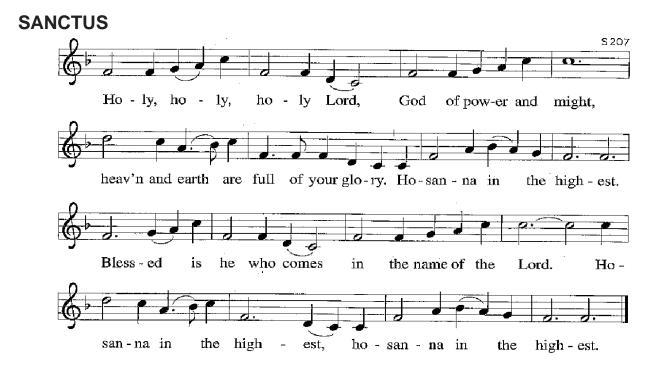
Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you. Pastor: Lift up your hearts. Congregation: We lift them to the Lord. Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our shepherd, and guide. You lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. In you, we lack nothing, for you are with us always.

And so, with all the angels and saints, we proclaim Your glory, as with one voice we sing:



WORDS OF JESUS

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:

"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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

People: 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. Amen.

INVITATION

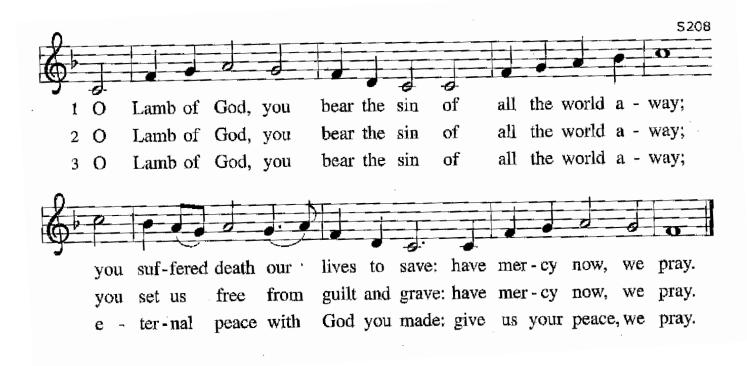
Vicar: We invite you to come forward to receive the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is a time of great joy and celebration, as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

As you come forward to receive the sacrament, we ask that you come with open hearts, ready to receive the grace and love of our Lord. May this holy meal strengthen and nourish you for the journey ahead, and may you be renewed in your faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD (sung)



THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN Sing 2 times

Change My Heart O God ELW 801



THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Pastor: Heavenly Father, may we be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as the early Church did, in devotion to your Word, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. May we be a community of believers who are of one heart and soul, sharing all things in common, and quick to show hospitality to those in need. Help us to be a light in the darkness and a source of hope and healing for those who are hurting. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as you endure suffering for doing what is right. Remember that you have been called to this, because Christ himself suffered for you, leaving you an example to follow.

May you follow in his footsteps, who did not retaliate when he was insulted or threatened, but entrusted himself to God who judges justly. May you be like him, bearing the wounds of the cross for the sake of others, and bringing healing and reconciliation to a broken world.

May you be like sheep who have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls, who bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

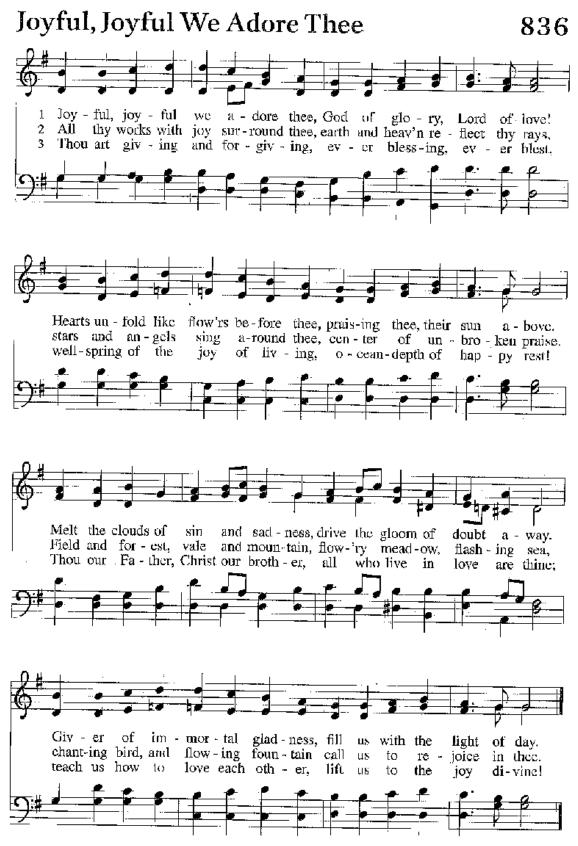
May you go forth in the peace of Christ, knowing that he is with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

Congregation: Amen!

+ We Depart in Peace +

Joyful, Joyful we Adore Thee ELW 836

PRAISE, THANKSGIVING



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

HYMN TOLOY 8787 D

Dismissal:

Pastor and Vicar: Go in peace and Share the Good News! Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Worship Volunteer Schedule		
	Sunday 4/30/2023	Sunday 5/7/23
Assisting Minister	Rev. Ben Black	Tracy Guffey
Lector	Marieta Boone	Maggie Bode
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens- Wooten	Jim Jackson Deb Jackson
Greeters	June Gries Ron Westerfeld	Jeanette Berkshire Alan Berkshire
Altar Guild	Diana Clements- Scott	Diana Clements- Scott
Communion Assistant	Debby Brooks	Karen Bell
Acolyte	Tatum Crye	Luke Stearns
Sound Technician	Ronald Kissell	Ronald Kissell
Slide Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Neal Guffey
Live Stream Technician		
Bread Baker	Debby Brooks	Karen Bell
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Marietta Boone (5/1/23)	Unassigned 5/8/23
Slide Creators	Bill & Sherry Coomes	Terry Clark
Children's Sermon	Amanda Blue	Tracy Guffey
Counters (Monday)	Ron Westerfeld Marsha Westerfeld	Maggie Bode Phil Miller