

HYMN REFLECTIONS (Stan Durham, “Christian Heritage” magazine, 1977):

Luther gave hymns to people in their own language. He left their composition free, so long as the message was Gospel-centered. These hymns were for the encouragement of his flock, for things often looked grim for the struggling band ... To comfort them, Luther wrote thirty-seven hymns. It is understandable that one does not find too many references to the heavenly kingdom in the hymns of Luther. He was far too busy fighting the “world with devils filled.”

Even before Luther, the first Protestant hymnbook was published in 1501. The Hussites, driven from Bohemia in 1548, carried their hymn-book with them into Moravia and Saxony. In their new home, their hymns were soon translated into German, and in 1566 the first German hymnal was compiled.

But worst trials were to come. The 17th century brought the Thirty Years’ War, with famine, death, and disease everywhere. Yet in this dark hour, the golden age of German hymnody dawned. For example, the Thanksgiving hymn, “Now Thank We All Our God,” was written by Martin Rinkart, a brave pastor who buried half his village, including his wife. Other hymnwriters labored in the 1600-1700’s century, writing this collection: 156; 217; 247; 330; 415; 421; 609; 669; 689; 53; 170; 685 & 520.

Thus the Reformation released a flood of song, as believers sang of the quest for a holy life, and of the justifying grace that gave them hope for this life and for the world to come.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2, 2025

TODAY	Ushers	Greeters
11/02	Kevin and Kurt	Kevin and Mei McMahon
11/09	Craig and Kevin	David and Grace Bussman

- **9:30 am: Sunday school classes** for all ages.
- **10:30 am: Morning Worship**
- **We welcome Abigail Bair** who will join our church by profession of faith in the morning service. Praise God!
- **4:30 pm: PM Worship-** Scripture– Matthew 7:7-11, Romans 8:26-29
Sermon—The Lord’s Prayer (Pt 3): “Abba Father”
- **6:00 pm:** NE Kingdom Bible study on Genesis
- **We thank God for his generous provision:**
Oct average \$4808 Year average \$5555 Projected \$5200

THIS WEEK

- **Wed, Nov 5th, 7:00 pm: Zoom Bible Study on I Corinthians.**
Check with Olivia for Zoom link.
- **Thu, Nov 6th, 9:30 –1:30 am:** Ladies Bible Study
- **Thu, Nov 6th, 1:30—3:00 pm:** Barre Bible Study
- **Thu, Nov 6th, 6:00—7:30 pm:** Trail Life
- **Fri, Nov 7th-8th — COPC Men’s Conference** in Washington, VT.
Look for an email with packing list and times of arrival.

UPCOMING

- **November 16th & 23rd: Thank Offering** will be taken up
- **Nov 22nd, 9 am-12 pm: Greens Party @** COPC fellowship hall; save the date.
- **April 11-12, 2025:** Presbytery Ladies' Retreat at Swanzey, NH.

Choir Practice

Choir practice will be held at 12:30 pm on 11/23, 11/30 and 12/7 to sing on 12/14. See Dawna Selle if you are interested in joining.