The BUZZ

Volume 31 Issue #8

AUGUST 2025



Lower Saucon United Church of Christ Reverend Rebekah Thomas 1375 Third Avenue Hellertown, PA 18055 610-838-8821

Sunday Worship 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Lower Saucon UCC, a progressive congregation rich in history, exists to:

- Promote spiritual growth in all people of all ages
- Nurture a loving and caring Christian community
- Worship our Living God through faithful service

Lower Saucon UCC: a place to believe, belong and worship together.

2025 CONSISTORY

Alan Byerley (Pres.)
Kate Griffiths
Judy Koch
Tim Mattes
Tony Nauroth
Tom Sofka (VP)
Lindsey Sanders (Sec.)
Tina Seifert
Paul Wilhelm
CHURCH TREASURER
Kirk Gorkos

Church Office Hours
Church Office
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Website
Church Email
Pastor's Email
Online Giving
Visit us on Facebook
Email for BUZZ Articles

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am to 12 noon (610) 838-8821

(610) 838-2659

www.lowersauconucc.org churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org pastorbecky1121@gmail.com lowersauconucc.org/donate/ facebook.com Lower Saucon UCC info@lowersauconucc.org

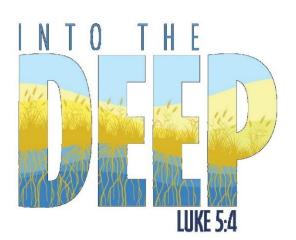
Lay Leader Schedule		Usher of the Month Tony Nauroth			
Ushers/Greeters		Scripture Reader	Children's Sermon	Sunday School	
Aug 3 Carlene Barrell	Cheryl Christman	Nikki Meyer	Nancy Gorkos	Nancy Gorkos	
Aug 10 Tina Seifert	Diana Severn	Tony Nauroth	Diana Severn	Diana Severn	
Aug 17 Betty Byerley	Kris Breidenbach	Lindsey Sander	rs Tony Nauroth	Tina Seifert	
Aug 24 Jo Ann Sofka	Tom Sofka	Diana Severn	Josh Sanders	Judy Koch	
Aug 31 Kate Griffiths	Judy Kovacs	Paul Wilhelm	Alan Byerley	Lindsey Sanders	

FROM PASTOR BECKY ...

General Synod was, as always, an amazing experience. The amount of energy that is in the air as hundreds of people of faith come together for worship, dialogue, and decision making is remarkable. The worship was uplifting, spiritinspired, and it challenged us to deepen our faith. Many of the conversations were emotional as we listened and prayed with each other. I was reminded multiple times of why that UCC motto is so important. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."

I speak a lot about how divided we feel right now and encourage us to come together. Over the last few years, whenever I get overwhelmed by the tension caused by this division, someone or something reminds me of how very important it is that we have conversations and listen with our hearts. Jesus took the time to listen to people, to get to know people. He opened his heart to everyone. We must begin to go deeper with our faith and with our relationships. We must begin to listen with our hearts and hear each other. While we may have differences, we are all essential parts of the body of Christ and those differences are something that should be celebrated.

In light and love, Pastor Becky





Return to the Deep Sources by Talitha Arnold

Open my eyes, so that I may behold the wondrous things out of your law. I live as an alien in the land, do not hide your commandments from me. – Psalm 119:18-19 (NRSV)

"Return to the deep sources," wrote poet May Sarton. "Nothing less will nourish the torn spirit, the bewildered heart, the angry mind" ("Santos: New Mexico" in Collected Poems: 1930-1973, from W. W. Norton).

Bewildered and torn, feeling like a stranger in their own land, the psalmist asked God to help them return to their deep sources. "Open my eyes," they asked, "to behold your wondrous law. Reveal your commandments that gave life to our ancestors in the wilderness."

Sometimes dismissed by Christian scholars as a praise song to the law or a pedantic teaching tool (each stanza begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet), Psalm 119 can be profoundly comforting and empowering in our time. Like the psalmist (and perhaps like you), I feel increasingly like a stranger in this land—a place where people are kidnapped by masked and armed men, where medical care for children and the elderly is inaccessible, where public lands are up for grabs. And when such inhumanity is authorized by people who wear gold crosses and celebrated by people who read gilded Bibles, I am lost in bewilderment and anger.

Like the psalmist, I need to open my eyes to God's wondrous law and remember the words that gave life in the desert. As a Christian, I also need to remember the Word that became flesh and showed us how to love this world as God so loves.

Like Sarton, I need to return to the deep sources, for as the poet reminds us, "nothing less will teach the stiff hands a new way to serve, to carve into our lives the forms of tenderness." Nothing less "will speak for love."

Prayer

Deep Source of all Love, Strength, Wisdom, help us return to you. Amen.



LSUCC CONSISTORY MINUTES (Pending Approval) July 9, 2025

In attendance: Kirk Gorkos, Tina Seifert, Tom Sofka, Tim Mattes, Tony Nauroth, Lindsey Sanders, and Alan Byerley. Missing: Judy Koch, Paul Wilhelm, Kate Griffiths, Cheryl Christman, and Pastor Becky Thomas.

Alan called the meeting to order. Kirk showed a clip of a sermon based on Daniel chapter 11. Alan led us in prayer.

Secretary's report: Lindsey presented the Secretary's report. Tony made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tom seconded. All voted to accept.

Treasurer's report: Kirk presented a 6-month review of the 2025 budget to date. Tom made a motion to accept. Tim seconded. All voted to accept.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky was on vacation, so no Pastor's Report was presented.

Notes:

- Vacation 8/28-9/4; Marian Shearer will be preaching 8/31.
- DMin semester ends 6/27. Next semester begins 9/15.

President's Communication:

We received the following note regarding the purchase of the Clavinova:

Dear Consistory,

Words cannot really express my appreciation for your being willing to sell me the Clavinova. I have enjoyed this instrument every time I played it at LSUCC. I'm excited to have a working piano in my home again and will think fondly of the choir members and congregation every time I play it!

> With great thanks, Tina Giesler

Committee reports:

- Property
 - o Final price all-in for the railings (including materials, installation, finishing, staining, and sealing) is \$6,000.
- Supper –
- Service -
 - Bingo July 16th at 6pm
- Worship -
 - September 14th Rally Day and outdoor service picnic in the afternoon. No AM worship.

- October 5th World Communion Sunday
- October 26th Harvest Home
- Christian Ed
 - o Mini golf August 15th at Putt U o Rally Day September 14th

Concerns from the Past:

- One computer has been fully migrated. The second is still being processed.
- Kirk talked to American Funds and they are working up a proposal of how they would invest the money currently in the Merrill Lynch fund.
- Alan has not heard anything back from PNEC regarding the request for office space.
- The WISE committee now has a liaison assigned to our church. They will be guiding us through the process of becoming a WISE certified church.

Concerns for the Future:

• Donny Severn donated shingles for the shed. Once the weather cools down a little, the Property Committee will make those repairs.

There is no Consistory meeting in August. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30pm. Meeting was adjourned, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Lindsey

Consistory meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are open to every member of our congregation. For comments, concerns or further details, please see any member of Consistory.

Scammers are targetting pastors by using online sermon recordings to create requests for financial support. Be aware that Pastor Becky will **NEVER** text or email



financial requests. Protect yourself, never send money or gift cards to anyone, even

family members, unless you have spoken to them directly and are sure they are who they claim to be.



*HELPING OUR MEMBERS IN E *

FUND

Contributions to our "Helping Our Members
Emergency" fund are coming in. You can give to this fund anytime simply by writing "HOME" on your church envelope. The amount you give will be credited to your church offering statement. Lower Saucon will also add to the HOME fund by giving 10% of all fundraising profits.



June Income

\$5,936.00 Current Expenses
405.00 Benevolences
720.00 Facilities Use
25.00 Memorials
4000.00 Clavinova Sale
1880.00 Fundraising
\$12,966.00 Total



The WISE team met and began the discussion of the book we are reading, "What Happened to You: Conversations in Trauma, Resilience, and Healing" by Bruce D. Perry and Oprah Winfrey. We are going through the book slowly and will continue to review it over the next few months. We will be meeting with our liaison from the UCC Mental Health Network. If you are curious about this process you can go to https://www.mhn-ucc.org/who-we-are/ to get more information or chat with someone from our WISE team.

Our church family wants to share in your joys and



sorrows. Hospitals and care facilities do not notify churches or share information, so please contact the church office with information about family members who are

hospitalized, in care, or would welcome prayer for any reason. We'd also like to share your joys so be sure to let us know those as well.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1	Remus Sanders	happy
August 2	Kaleb Hill	Dinga S
August 4	Lisa Sattizahn	
August 6	Steve Donchez Jr	
August 10	Jennifer Bernhard	
August 12	Rick Repash	A
August 15	Paige Bernhard	THE PARTY OF THE P
_	Wilbur Johnson	
August 17	Amber Wolst	
August 18	Sydney Meyer	THE WILL
August 21	Nathan Gorkos	
August 23	Hailey Rodrigues	
August 26	Beverly Koch	WILL WILL
<u> </u>	Caleb Roth	
	Natalie (Sofka) Smith	Will Will
August 31	Tyler Seifert	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARYS

August 6	Rod & Carol Reichard	Happy
August 28	Greg & April Baylock	Happy Anniversary
August 30	Kim & Kate Griffiths	

If you, or your family members, were omitted from the celebration lists please accept our apologies and contact the church office to see that the information is updated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB

Come escape with us as we explore books that will nourish your Spirit! We will meet at

BOOK% CLUB LSUCC on the last Thursday of the month 7pm. Join us for one book or all the books! August 28: *How We Learn to Be*

Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and

Faith by Mariann Edgar Budde

CONFIRMATION



If your child is entering 7th or 8th grade, or is older and hasn't completed confirmation and they are interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact Pastor Becky at pastorbecky1121@gmail.com or (610) 297-2295 or the church office.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Grocery Gift Cards



Sign up for September Gift Cards by August 17 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, August 31. The Church earns 5% of the amount we sell. If there are

any questions please see or call Gerrie Koch. You can sign up for cards in the side hall, Fellowship Hall or by phoning Gerrie or the church office.

Paint Like Bob Ross Event August 17, 2 PM

Sign up today for this or any other up-coming class online at https://www.letspaintapicture.art/. There are a limited number of seats available in each class. Share the information with your friends and neighbors. It's really a lot of fun and you may discover a talent you never knew you had. The cost is \$60 and all supplies are included except a roll of paper towels.





This club meets at Elaine Kantor's home, usually monthly. They are reading, *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. For date and time information please see Martha Sterling or Elaine Kantor.

EVANGELISM & MISSION NEWS

ALLIANCE STAMP MINISTRY

Please continue to be on the lookout for the envelopes you receive with stamps.

Just trim your used envelope postage so there is 1/3 inch of paper surrounding the stamp, and then drop them in one of the collection containers located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. If you want to know more about this ministry visit:

https://youtu.be/jb8Ew38PypQ?si=fhYeM_YiOpeLkqNF



Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised \$35.00 in June for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. In August the money collected will support Holy Joe's Café, an organization that supplies coffee to military chaplains so they can offer an inviting and welcoming space to the personnel they serve.

Fellowship Hour

Aug 3: Rod & Carol Reichard
Sept 7: No Fellowship Hour
Sept 14: Outdoor Service & Picnic

Oct 5:

Thank you to Diana Severn for sponsoring fellowship hour in July. You can sign up to sponsor a Sunday on the side hall bulletin board. We are currently seeking someone to oversee this ministry. It entails keeping track of supplies and assisting the people who sponsor each month. If you want more information, or are willing to answer this call, please see any member of Consistory.

LSUCC QUILTERS

Our Quilters meet each Tuesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. New members are always welcome. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn. They have already pinned in the quilt pictured here that will be raffled in December. Tickets are attached at the end of this Buzz. They are available in larger quantities by contacting Elaine Kantor or the Church office.





Our Quilters enjoyed a delicious sample of cinnamon muffins made by the students in the second week of lauramysweets summer cooking classes.

#Phoebe Partnership

Thank you to everyone who donates or helps make items. Phoebe staff and residents appreciate our efforts. Donations of large print puzzle, word-search and fill-in books, adult coloring books, small boxes of crayons or colored pencils are always welcomed by the residents.









Look for a collection basket in the side hall. If you'd like to do some simple sewing to help create prayer items or if you knit, crochet or have extra yarn any colors, prayer blankets size 3' x 3', are being made for our ministry at Phoebe Richland.

Yarn and/or blankets can be dropped off at church or someone can pick them up.

Questions? Call or text Cheryl at 610-657-1787

COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

Please continue to support both of our area Food Banks. Monetary donations can be made through your church offering or directly to: New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, ATTN: Food Bank, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015, or the Emergency Food Bank at Word of Life, ATTN: Food Bank, 3221 Bingen Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The new "These Days" & "Upper Room" are in. If you want one dropped off to you, call or email the church. If you are more technosavvy and would like a free



Stillspeaking daily devotional message delivered to your email inbox visit http://www.ucc.org/feed-yourspirit/daily-devotional/





JOINT YOUTH MINISTRY



A meeting of a joint group of youth in 7th to 12th grade will be held monthly at First UCC. For further details contact Pastor Becky.

LOWER SAUCON CHURCH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Although this cemetery is now an independent nonprofit, it was once owned by our congregation. Many of the ancestors of our congregation are buried there, perhaps some of yours. The Board would like to remind you that grave sites are still available at reasonable rates. For more information check the posting on our bulletin board or for assistance please contact, Kathy J Kline at 610-419-0264 or Justina McCardle at 610-838-6784.



The Penn Northeast Conference

Connection

..God is still speaking.

CONTEST TO NAME OUR ASSOCIATION

Penn Northeast Conference will become an Association of the Keystone Conference on January 1, 2026. We need a name for the new Association (cannot include our current name or the name "North Penn" which is an Association in PSEC). Please send your suggestions to Cecilia Baxter at ceciliafbaxter@gmail.com by September 1, 2025. There will be a prize for the winning name!

300th Anniversary Celebration of the First Communion of the German Reformed Church in America

October 12th @ 1:30 pm Falkner Swamp UCC 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville w/ Guest Preacher The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

October 15th @ 6:30 pm each PA UCC Conference will hold a communion service within its boundaries

Contact the church office or check out the flyer on the bulletin board for registration iinformation.

Letter from Our Conference Minister Dated July 3, 2025

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20, NRSVUE) Dear Friends,

This week we celebrate Independence Day for the 250th time. The proclamations made in the Declaration of Independence were made, and as you know, the American Revolution was the result. How will you celebrate? Will you have a barbeque? A picnic? Watch fireworks? Cuddle with your pet who is terrified at the noise of fireworks.

What will the church services on Sunday July 6 be like? Will we focus on patriotic hymns and readings, or will we look at the scriptures for our liturgy and focus on God? There will likely be a mix of both in many places. That's not altogether a bad thing. The challenge is to remember that we worship God and not our nation, its parties and practices, its economic structures, and its relationships with the rest of the world. We, as followers of Jesus, need to remember that governments and empires are not where our hearts rest. Rather our hearts rest in the knowledge of God's creation and presence, the accompaniment and leadership of Jesus, and the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit. To worship anything other than our triune God is idolatry.

I can recall as a child the excitement of going on a picnic and staying until the fireworks finished. I remember that excitement clearly. I don't recall as a child that I got as excited at worship on Sunday morning, or prayers and scriptures we said and read, or hymns we sang. Funny. We become accustomed to excitement as a means to find joy – at least that's what we can do. What if we got just as excited about worshipping God and being equipped to go into the world and sharing God's light and love?

There has been a trend recently to only be excited about Christianity when it has been linked to patriotism, and the presumption that we are a Christian nation. Our nation was formed with freedom – freedom of speech, thought, and religion. We were never and are not a Christian nation. To link the two (nationalism and Christianity) leads to the denial of Native American spirituality, Jewish practice, Muslim faithfulness, the multi-religious and non-religious peoples and discounts the independence we fought so hard to protect.

By all means, celebrate your faith! Find joy in your worship. And do not limit God and how God is revealed to the multitude of peoples in our midst. We all have a right to faith and to the independence we celebrate. Anchor yourself in our ongoing relationship with God and the knowledge that ALL are created in the image of God

~~Blessings, Bonnie

Search-A-Word Puzzle

Based on John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

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A	D	D	Р	U	J	R	Ε	Ε	R	U	A	M	M	
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John 13:34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

A special thank you to Betty Byerley & Tony Nauroth for acting as proof readers.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION FOR THE BUZZ BY THE 15^{TH} OF THE MONTH TO

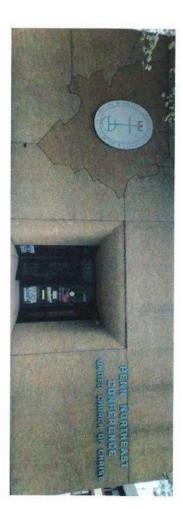
info@lowersauconucc.org

I WILL REPLY SO YOU KNOW I RECEIVED IT.

OUR CALENDAR PAGE

Please see

https://lowersauconucc.org/our-calendar/



YOU ARE INVITED!



PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE OFFICE

431 DELAWARE AVE

-To celebrate years of serving together with member churches, staff, and volunteers

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH 9:00 AM - I2 NOON

- churches or individuals who want these keepsakes. - To empty the building of books, banners, memorabilia, etc., and distribute back to
- not needed for the Association Office or the Keystone facilities will be available. -Generally, furnishings will remain in place, although request forms for furnishings

stories, and help to empty the building to prepare it for sale - There will be no formal program. Just a gathering to exchange memories, share

FOOD! LIGHT SNACKS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SERVED!

*BRING BOXES AND BAGS TO CARRY AWAY YOUR TREASURES

Save the Date!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Music food & Celebration of Europeises Bonnie's Ministry!

SUNDAY 16

NOVEMBER

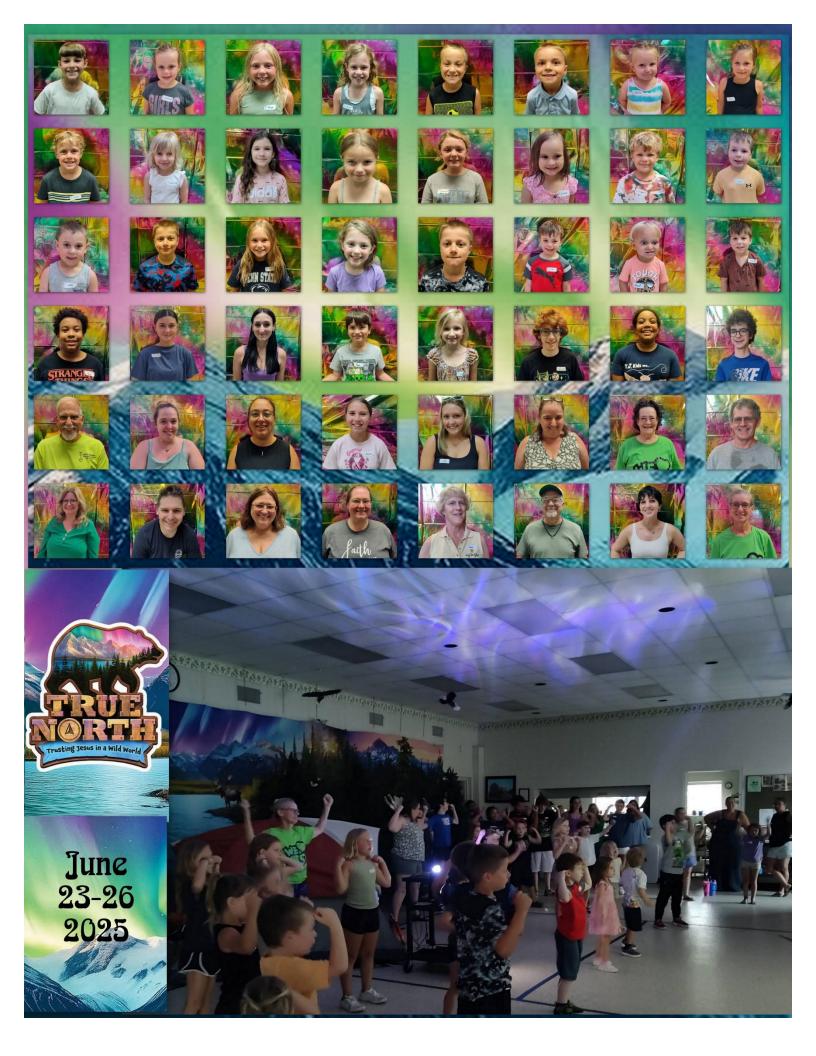
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

1601 Laubach Ave, Northampton, PA 18067 Northampton Community Center

YOUR PRESENCE WILL ADD TO THE FUN OF **BONNIE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!**

we thope you will join us!





Lower Saucon UCC 1375 Third Ave Hellertown, PA 18055 610-838-8821

www.lowersauconuccc.org churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org

Worship at 9:00 am Sunday School at 9:15 am

\$1 each or \$5 for 6

1st Prize Hand Quilted Queen Size Classic Star Quilt 2nd Prize Handmade Afghan 3rd Prize \$100 Giant Gift Card 4th Prize Instant Pot Duo 5th Prize \$50 Fresh Grocer Gift Card 6th Prize \$50 Copperhead Grille Gift Card 7th Prize \$50 Braveheart Gift Card 8th Prize \$50 Fresh Grocer Gift Card 9th Prize \$25 CVS Gift Card 10th Prize Bissell Sweep Up 11th Prize TWC Corded Car Vacuum 12th Prize Porcelaine Nativity Set 13th Prize Gift Wrapping Set 14th Prize Handmade Hat & Mittens

Drawing: December 7, 2025

Sept 20 Shoofly Pie Nov 25 Pumpkin & Pecan Pie View our website for future fundraisers and church events.

Thank You! Good Luck!

Lower Saucon UCC 1375 Third Ave Hellertown, PA 18055 610-838-8821

Quilt Raffle Drawing December 7, 2025

Name		
Phone		
Seller		

Lower Saucon UCC 1375 Third Ave Hellertown, PA 18055 610-838-8821

www.lowersauconuccc.org churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org

Worship at 9:00 am Sunday School at 9:15 am

\$1 each or \$5 for 6

1 st Prize	Hand Quilted Queen Size Classic Star Quilt
2 nd Prize	Handmade Afghan
2 FIIZE	
3 rd Prize	\$100 Giant Gift Card
4 th Prize	Instant Pot Duo
	550 Fresh Grocer Gift Card
6 th Prize	\$50 Copperhead Grille
	Gift Card
	\$50 Braveheart Gift Card
8 th Prize \$	550 Fresh Grocer Gift Card
9 th Prize	\$25 CVS Gift Card
10 th Prize	Bissell Sweep Up
11 th Prize	TWC Corded Car Vacuum
12 th Prize	Porcelaine Nativity Set
13 th Prize	Gift Wrapping Set
14 th Prize	Handmade Hat & Mittens

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Phone	
Seller	

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1 st Prize	Hand Quilted Queen
nd -	Size Classic Star Quilt
2 nd Prize	Handmade Afghan
3 rd Prize	\$100 Giant Gift Card
4 th Prize	Instant Pot Duo
5 th Prize	\$50 Fresh Grocer Gift Card
6 th Prize	\$50 Copperhead Grille
	Gift Card
7 th Prize	\$50 Braveheart Gift Card
8 th Prize	\$50 Fresh Grocer Gift Card
9 th Prize	\$25 CVS Gift Card
10 th Prize	
11th Prize	
12 th Prize	
13 th Prize	
14th Prize	Handmade Hat & Mittens

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Quilt Raffle Drawing December 7, 2025

Name	 	_
Phone	 	_
Collor		