



THE MESSENGER

ASCENSION Lutheran Church

JUNE 2025

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sunday Worship - 11:00 AM **new time!*
- Sunday School - 10:00 AM *(adult & child)*
- Drum Class - Tuesdays 5-8 PM Apr-July
- NA Meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
- AA Meeting - Saturdays at 10:00 AM
- Mondays at 7:00 PM
- Soccer Shots - Saturday mornings &
Wednesday evenings *(Spring-Fall)*



2025 COUNCIL

- President – *Jerry Wessel*
- Vice President – *Sharon Giza*
- Treasurer – *Bob Stathers*
- Secretary – *Jason Eager*

2025 COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Christian Education
Jason Eager
- Communications & Publications
Sharon Giza
- Finance & Stewardship
open
- Mutual Ministry
Bob Stathers
- Personnel
Kelly Bryan
- Property
Bob Thompson
- Fellowship, Social Ministry
& Evangelism
Jeff Williams
- Worship & Music
Jerry Wessel
- Youth
Debbie Whitfield
- Call Committee
Sharon Giza

Next Council Meeting

Tuesday June 10 at 7:00 PM

Are we there yet?

from Pastor Kobert's Desk



Every summer my family and I have taken a week and gone to Lutherlyn. It is a much shorter drive there now than it used to be, but still long enough to hear the dreaded question come from the back seat. **“Are we there yet?”**

Many parents have heard this phrase before while driving. Sometimes it’s spoken in a way that is out of

boredom, and sometimes in a way that says, “I want out of the car.” Either way, the question itself almost always seems to make a long car ride even longer. So, what is a parent to do? Maybe we pause the drive and take a stroll to stretch the legs or grab a bite to eat. Maybe we try to make the best of the situation and encourage some imagination or play a game together to pass the time. After all, the quicker you get to your destination, the quicker that vacation can start, and the less time spent getting there means more time to relax. *Except . . .*

Except the moment you get into the car to leave, you are already ON vacation. You are already on vacation, you’re just not there yet. There’s a tension while on that car ride that gnaws at us; an eagerness that yearns for the adventures ahead. Yet at the same time there is the reality of navigating traffic, choosing engaging music, timing meal and rest stop breaks. Already, but not yet is an experience like no other.

We experience that within our lives as followers of Christ every single day, though we might not recognize it as such. In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he seems to contradict himself. In talking about life in the Spirit he writes, “You have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” (*Romans 8:15-16*) Yet later on in the same chapter he says, “We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption.” (*Romans 8:23*)

In a similar way he seems to contradict himself in a letter to the Ephesians when talking about being redeemed. In the introduction he writes, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of

Continued on page 2

MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY

1715 Middletown Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Robert J. Dudek, Supervisor
mtcalvarycem@alcpqh.com



Mount Calvary Cemetery Board Members
*Judy Henry • Bob Hughes • Bette Ann Kallay
George C. Kasich • Joyce Leister
Pastor Ryan Kobert • Sharon Giza*

From Pastor Kobert's Desk (continued from pg 1)

our trespasses," (Ephesians 1:7) but then later in the letter he claims, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)

So, are we adopted or still waiting? Are we redeemed or still waiting for redemption?

As a Lutheran the answer is a resounding "yes." We can say that we are, "both and..." We are both adopted *and* waiting adoption, redeemed *and* in need of redemption. But how can this be? Well, it's similar to being on vacation and still driving to get there. By Christ we have been adopted into God's family, and in Jesus' death and resurrection we are redeemed, yet we are still on life's journey and not made perfect.

So, what does this mean for us and our lives?

What it means is that the spiritual blessings of God are ours already, but the full realization of those blessings is not yet apparent. We are still on the journey, assured that what we hope for is ours, convicted that what remains unseen is there. (Hebrews 11:1) What we do along that journey though is important. We can sit in the back seat asking that "are we there yet?" question, or we can seek to make the most of this life journey.

Where do you see God's creation in need of your presence? How can you use your life journey to be the hands and feet and mouths for what God is seeking to accomplish in the world around you? How will you spend this journey of already, *but not yet*? ■

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE JUNE - JULY 2025

Date	Supply	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistant	Lector	Usher	Acolyte	Sunday (or special)	color	Council Update
June 1	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	"ASCENSION SUNDAY"	WHITE	Bob Stathers
June 8	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Jerry Wessel	Charlotte DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST	RED	Kelly Bryan
June 15	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jerry Wessel	Bob Dudek	Jason Eager	Volunteer	Volunteer	HOLY TRINITY <i>Father's Day</i>	WHITE	Sharon Giza
June 22	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jennifer Burkholder	Avis Ritter	Thad Ritter	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 2	GREEN	Bob Thompson
June 29	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Daniel Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 3 <i>SS. Peter & Paul</i>	GREEN	Jason Eager
July 6	Carol Emch	Jerry Wessel	Bob Dudek	Jason Eager	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 4	GREEN	Bob Thompson
July 13	Carol Emch	Jennifer Burkholder	Avis Ritter	Thad Ritter	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 5	GREEN	Sharon Giza
July 20	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Mary Thompson	Bob Thompson	Charlotte DeCola	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 6	GREEN	Kelly Bryan
July 27	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jeff Williams	Amy Kruse	Gib Palmgren	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 7	GREEN	Bob Stathers
Aug 3	Pr. Ryan Kobert	Jerry Wessel	Bob Dudek	Sharon Giza	Volunteer	Volunteer	PENTECOST 8	GREEN	Jeff Williams



Council President's CORNER

A message from Council President Jerry Wessel

Spring is winding down and Summer is on its way! And in the Spring of 2025, that old saying "April showers bring May flowers" actually could have been "April storms bring roof repairs!" Of course that doesn't rhyme, but Ascension Church did sustain considerable damage on Tuesday April 29 thanks to tornado-force winds and rain which blew through our neighborhood that day. It took a few weeks, but after some quick fixes and patching, we finally received new shingles and a more permanent repair on Monday June 2.

Let's hope and pray for sunny days ahead, especially for our Saturday June 7 Yard Sale!

Sincerely,

Jerry Wessel

Ascension Council President



The storm on Tuesday April 29, 2025 left a trail of damage throughout the Pittsburgh area. Ascension's roof lost two large patches of shingles (left), which were tarped to curtail water damage (below) til repairs could be made.



The roof repair really looks great!



photos:
Darlene Fejka &
Jeff Williams



ALC Council Meeting Highlights

Council meeting was held Tues. May 13, 2025

Call to order: 6:56pm

Attendance: Jerry, Kelly, Bob S, Bob T, Debbie, Sharon, Jason, Pastor Kobert, Jeff

AED Check: Completed

Review / Approve Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion to accept as presented by Jeff; Second by Debbie; Passed unanimously

Pastor Report & Office Admin Report presented
Vice President Sharon Giza: Cemetery income for April reported; 8 funerals

Old Business: Meeting with Pr. Asplin Wed. May 14

Special Projects: •New locks/cameras? - Recommendations will be made next meeting

•Motion: Debbie moved to purchase and install new stove in kitchen out of operating funds; Kelly seconded; Motion passed unanimously

New Business:

•Roof repair status; Burns & Scalo lowest bidder.

•Accept Katie Mercadante as a member

•Need Finance & Stewardship liaison upon resignation of current member

Christian Education: Jason - •Adult Sunday School as well as kids class has wrapped up for the year

•Approve 3 Confirmation students: Mason Bryan, Charlotte DeCola, Philip Paladino

•Motion: Jerry moved to approve the 3 confirmation students as well as the 3 First Communion students; Jeff seconded; Motion passed unanimously

•Approve 3 First Communion students: Grayson DeCola, Nora Thompson, Cooper McMahon

Communications & Publications: Sharon – Yard Sale ads all over social media

Fellowship, Social Ministry & Evangelism: Jeff -

Continuing to do visitations; would like to have a second person step up to help with the electronic sign maintenance

Important dates:

Sunday June 1: First Communion

Sunday June 1: Confirmation

Saturday June 7: Yard Sale

Pastor Kobert on vacation Sunday June 30 thru July 13

Motion to adjourn: Jeff; Second by Sharon. Passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm

JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Date | Member/Friend

- 1 Sharon Giza
Rick Zoltun
- 2 Brooke Thomson
- 3 Vincent Zeiler
- 12 Blake Tomchak
- 13 Clark Rose
- 17 Mike Neilson
- 19 JoAnne Erwin
- 20 Bill Whitfield
- 21 Emily Reckner
- 22 Cora Hughes
- 23 Jean Marion
- 27 Pastor Larsen
- 28 Ryan Williams



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

Date | Members/Friends

- 3 Bob & Mary Thompson
- 9 Tom & Dee Lightner
- 11 Matthew & Megan Mezzio
- 22 Greg & Venus Thompson
- 30 Dale & Marion Cerar



MATCH THE TV DADS WITH THEIR SHOWS

Andy Taylor (8)	Steve Douglas (7)
Danny Tanner (18)	Ben Cartwright (2)
Lucas McCain (21)	Ward Cleaver (5)
Rob Petrie (17)	Ricky Ricardo (16)
Henry Mitchell (12)	Tim Taylor (10)
Jed Clampett (19)	Jim Anderson (6)
Archie Bunker (20)	Charles Ingalls (4)
Willie Tanner (22)	Philip Banks (15)
Frank Reagan (1)	George Cooper (11)
Carl Winslow (3)	Mike Brady (14)
Tom Bradford (13)	Howard Cunningham (9)

Lunch Bunch



A monthly gathering of members and friends of Ascension Church

Join the Lunch Bunch JUNE 19th

In May, Ascension's Lunch Bunch visited "Sunny Jim's" - it was not sunny when we arrived; however, sun glasses were still useful since George Kasich wore his very "sunny" outfit. By the time we left, we did have sun and we had enjoyed the company and the food. If you weren't with us, you missed a good time and a chance to work on a tan.

On June 19th the lunch bunch will travel through Penn's Woods ("sylvania" meaning "abounding in trees; wooded") Hence, "Pennsylvania." That lesson aside, we will go to a favorite of ours, the Log Cabin Inn, located at 430 Perry Highway, Harmony Pa. It's north of Harmony on Highway 19, and not too wooded, so it is easy to find. As usual, please let Jerry Wessel (412) 787-1213 or Nancy Schreiber (412) 859-3969 know if you plan to attend by Tuesday June 17th so we can all get in the Inn. The food is always good and we always have a good time in the Log Cabin, so think hard about attending - all are welcome! ~ Jerry Wessel



Happy Father's Day!



Sunday June 15, 2025

Have a NICE Day!

A reflection by Nancy Jacobs

When someone says “have a good day” to a friend or acquaintance, is it just something to say to end a conversation and get on to whatever we need to do? What if that person is in the middle of a “mental disaster” unhappy, in a bad mood, facing a problem at home or at work . . . can we expect *them* to have a good day?

Well, in 2nd Timothy, Paul tells Timothy to tough it out if something is unwelcome or inconvenient - too bad you're not in a good mood - that person greeting you doesn't know that and is trying to be friendly.

I know that I have had that “bad mood” feeling and sure didn't feel like having a good day but my Christian beliefs tell me to concentrate on waking up to be grateful be alive, grateful to enjoy another sunrise and grateful to be surrounded by loving family and good friends and grateful for the abundance of love our Lord has for us.

Have a NICE day!!

Ascension Church YARD SALE *and Bake Sale!*

SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2025
8:00 AM to NOON

* VENDORS GALORE! *

* TREASURES EVERYWHERE! *

* Fresh Baked Goods for Sale! *

◆ no admission charge

◆ lots of free parking

Ascension Lutheran Church | 1290 Silver Lane
Robinson Township PA 15136 | 412-859-3711

MATCH THE TV DADS WITH THEIR SHOWS

Here's a list of 22 “TV Dads” from the 40s to present ... a mix of sitcoms & dramas with memorable dads over the past 80+ years! Match the dad (left column) with the number of his TV show (right column). Some are pretty obvious, some might be stumpers. Try your best guesses before peeking at the answers on page 4 or before “Googling” online. *Have fun!*

Andy Taylor _____	1. Blue Bloods
Danny Tanner _____	2. Bonanza
Lucas McCain _____	3. Family Matters
Rob Petrie _____	4. Little House on the Prairie
Henry Mitchell _____	5. Leave it to Beaver
Jed Clampett _____	6. Father Knows Best
Archie Bunker _____	7. My Three Sons
Willie Tanner _____	8. The Andy Griffith Show
Frank Reagan _____	9. Happy Days
Carl Winslow _____	10. Home Improvement
Tom Bradford _____	11. Young Sheldon
Steve Douglas _____	12. Dennis the Menace
Ben Cartwright _____	13. Eight is Enough
Ward Cleaver _____	14. The Brady Bunch
Ricky Ricardo _____	15. Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
Tim Taylor _____	16. I Love Lucy
Jim Anderson _____	17. Dick Van Dyke Show
Charles Ingalls _____	18. Full House
Philip Banks _____	19. The Beverly Hillbillies
George Cooper _____	20. All in the Family
Mike Brady _____	21. The Rifleman
Howard Cunningham _____	22. ALF



Please keep in your prayers:

- JoAnne Erwin, Dee Gratzmiller, Mary Honath, Norma Kohlen, Lottie Lodge, Jean Marion, Betty Simpson, Rose Rahner, Betty Borden – *shut-ins*
- Mary Jane McGinnis – *health concerns*
- Thad Ritter – *health concerns*
- Bill McEwen – *multiple health concerns*
- Michele Alves-Martz, coworker of Emily Reckner – *health*
- Mike Voyten, coworker of Amy Reckner – *cancer returned*
- Linda Younkens, mother of Kathleen Howells – *stage 4 cancer*
- Hogan Moody, friend of Cy & Kathleen Howells – *cancer*
- Rudy Marnich – *recent surgery*
- Melanie Hall – friend of Deb Whitfield – *pancreatic cancer*

Ascension CELEBRATION!

Sunday June 1, 2025

Sunday June 1 was a day to remember! Ascension Church welcomed with joy a new member Katie Mercadante, welcomed three young people - Greyson DeCola, Cooper McMahon and Nora Thompson - to their 1st Communion, and witnessed the Affirmation of Baptism by three Confirmands - Mason Bryan, Charlotte DeCola and Philip Paladino - all in one glorious celebration. Congratulations and blessings to all!

photos by Sharon Giza & Jeff Williams



The Creative Hands quilting crew made quilts (blessed by Pastor Kobert) for all those whom we celebrated on Sunday June 1st: Confirmands, First Communion and new member.

LESSER FESTIVALS & commemorations

June 1 - Justin, d.ca. 165 martyr at Rome

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

June 3 - John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, d. 1963

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

June 3 - The Martyrs of Uganda, d. 1886

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

June 5 - Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, d. 754

missionary to Germany, martyr

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

June 7 - Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, d. 1866

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.

June 9 - Columba, d. 597; Aidan, d. 651; Bede, d. 735

renewers of the church

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter.

June 11 - Barnabas, Apostle

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys.

June 14 - Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, d. 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, d.ca. 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, d.ca. 389; Macrina, theologian, d.ca. 379

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

June 17 - The Emanuel Nine, d. 2015 martyrs

On June 17, 2015, nine people gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist. The Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA resolved in August 2019 to designate June 17 as a day of commemoration & repentance.

June 21 - Onesimos Nesib, d. 1931 translator, evangelist

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured and taken as a slave to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

June 24 - John the Baptist

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

June 25

Philipp Melanchthon, d. 1560 renewer of the church

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar and popular professor, known as "the teacher of Germany."

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

On June 25, 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Roman Emperor Charles. The Augsburg Confession, written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

June 27 - Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 444

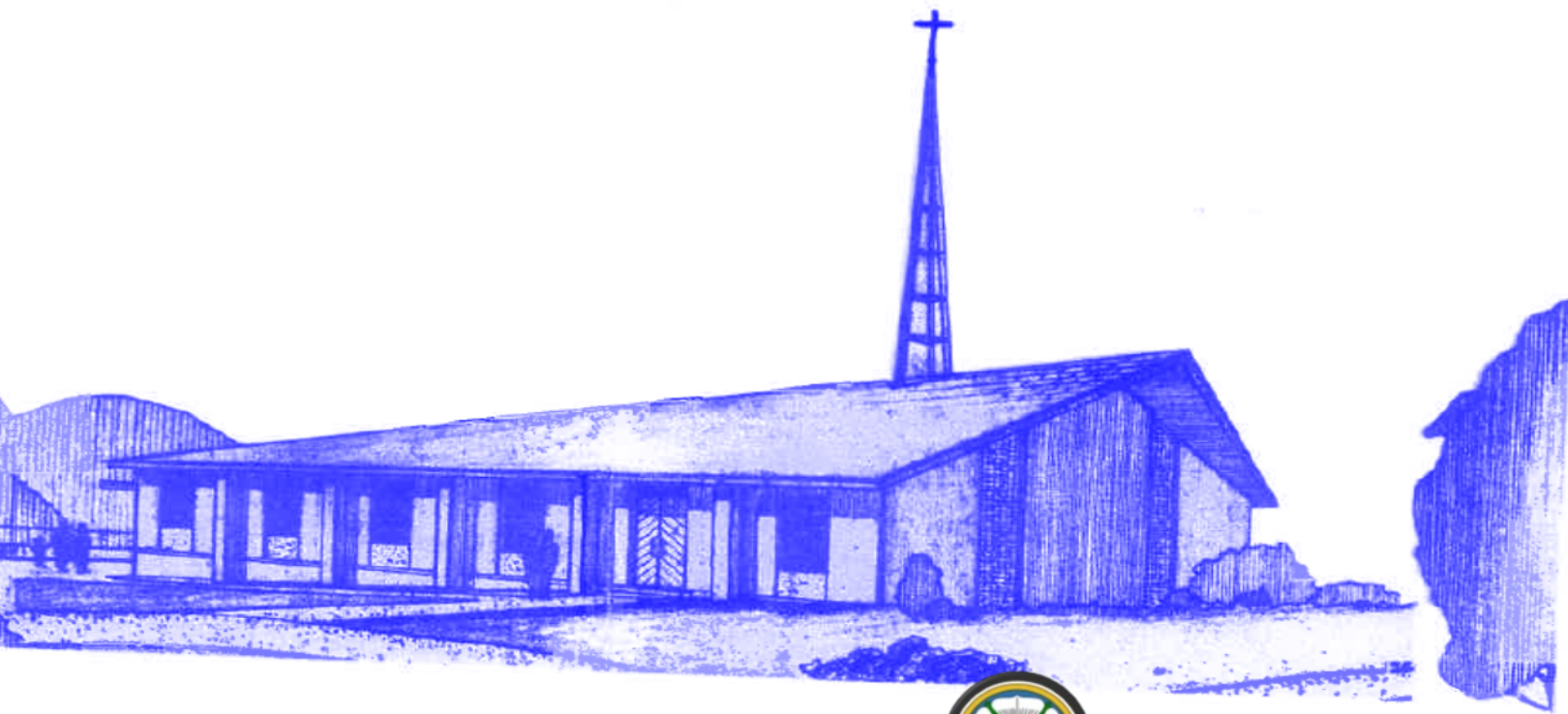
Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

June 28 - Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, d.ca. 202

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

June 29 - Peter and Paul, Apostles

These two apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. One of the Twelve, Peter offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.



***To be Christ's Disciples,
nurture our faith, serve God,
welcome our neighbors,
and joyfully share in His love.***



Contact Us
(412) 859-3711
pastor@alcpgh.com
office@alcpgh.com
music@alcpgh.com
mtcalvarycem@alcpgh.com

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1290 Silver Lane
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
(Robinson Township)
Visit us on the web at
www.alcpgh.com

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

