

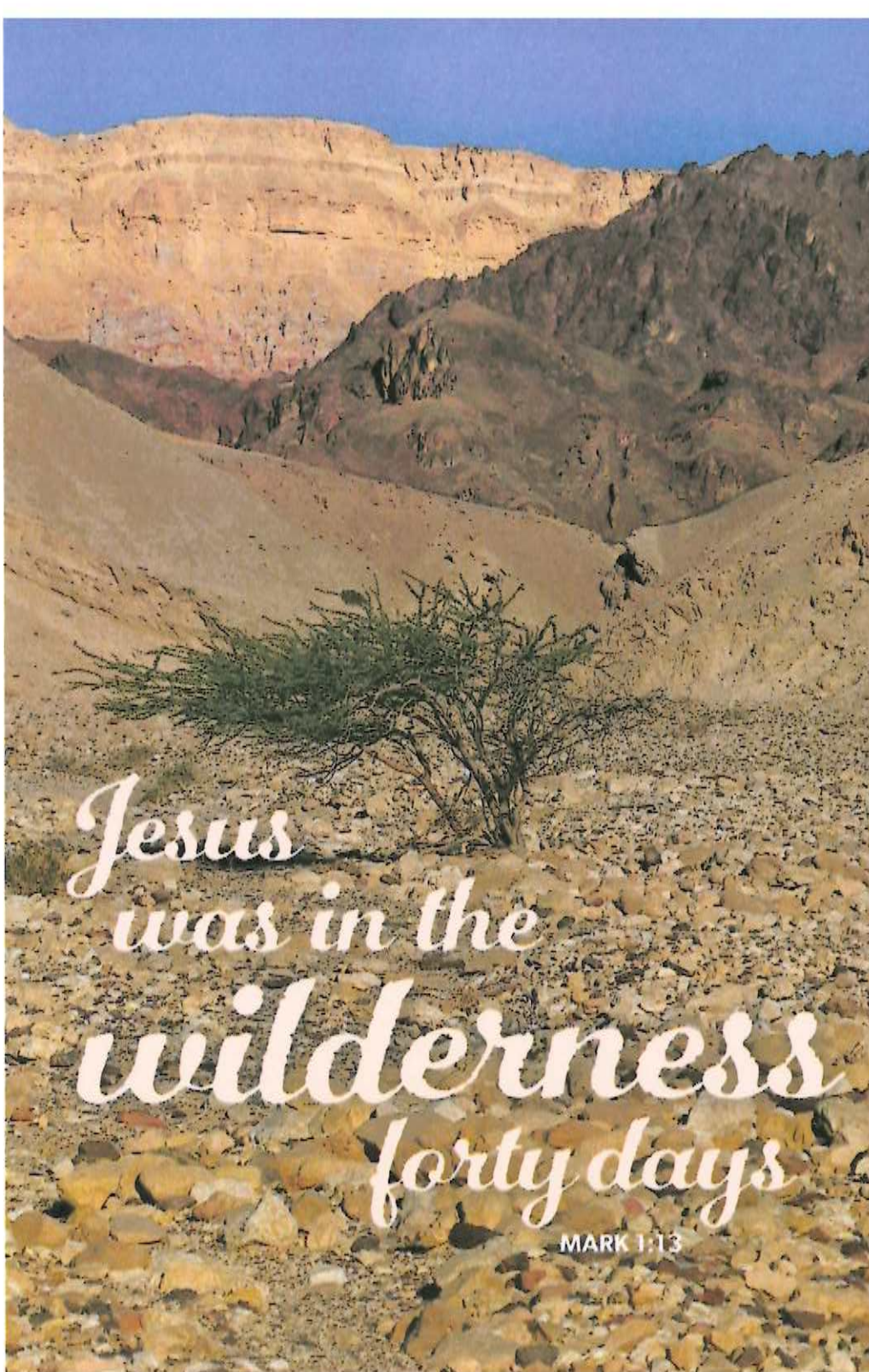
How Beloved You Are!

Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection begins with his baptism. As the church journeys with Jesus through Lent and toward Easter, we each remember our own baptism, and our life in Christ is renewed.

At the Jordan River, God stops at nothing to declare Jesus beloved. Not even the sky can cloud the message; God tears open the heavens and proclaims it loud and clear. Now each time we dip our hands into the font or trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, we remember this promise anew: "You are a beloved child of God." Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Immediately after baptism, Jesus must contend with Satan and wild beasts in the wilderness. Then, before Jesus' ministry begins, John is arrested. The Gospel of Mark doesn't give the fact more than a passing mention at this point in the story, but John's arrest and subsequent death make for a trauma that comes at a crucial moment in Jesus' life. How was Jesus able to begin his ministry after all he had been through? And how are we, who have experienced temptation, torment, or trauma, to journey on?

The journey is not easy for Jesus, and neither will it be for us. But it's amazing what is possible when you know just how beloved you are. How long must the voice of God have echoed in Jesus' mind after that baptism day! Perhaps the angels whispered in his ear as they waited on him: "You are beloved. With you God is well pleased." Every Sunday, we return to the waters because we can never have too many reminders. When times get tough, we can trust in the promises of God made to us in baptism. This is a flood that saves us. These waters bring new life out of death. God's love will stop at nothing. Today, remember just how beloved you are!



Millcreek Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

Welcome, friends in Christ! We appreciate your presence here today. If you are a visitor, we hope you will consider joining us – knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you are here.

Prayer: Most Holy Father, whose Son Jesus Christ conquered the power of sin for all who put their trust in him: Draw us into your presence, where we may feel your love flood our lives; that Christ's victory over sin and death may give us the victory of renewed living. In his name we pray. Amen

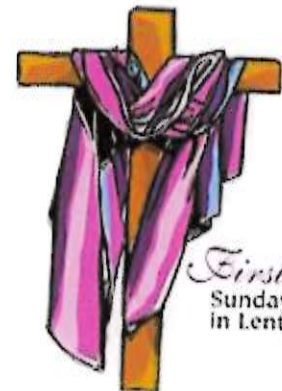
The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
Announcements
Prelude of Preparation
*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
*Opening Hymn: **No. 155 NCH (red), *Take Time to be Holy***
*Greetings: Page 57, line 5
*The Kyrie: Page 57 & 58, line 6
*Prayer of the Day: On the lesson insert (read in unison)
Children's Sermon
The First Reading
The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)
The Second Reading
*Return to the Lord: Page 63

- *The Gospel
*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
The Sermon
Hymn of the Day: **No. 229 LBW (green),
*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***
*Nicene Creed: Page 64
Choir Anthem: ***No Turning Back***
*The Prayer: Page 65, line 22
*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71 (sing)
*The Benediction: Page 75, line 43
*Departing Hymn: **No. 259 LBW (green),
*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing***
Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated.
Postlude
*Please stand

Serving You This Morning:

Pastor,	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
Lay Leader,	Susan Long
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Julie Strickler
Ushers/Audio,	Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson





Today's Readings

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow

in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10; tone 10



To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies
triumph ¹over me.

³Let none who look to you
be ¹put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame
¹who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted
all ¹the day long.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁶Remember, O LORD,
your compas- ¹sion and love,
for they are from ¹everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth
and ¹my transgressions;
remember me
according to your steadfast love
and for the sake
of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- ¹right,
O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners
¹in your way.

⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD,
are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant
and your ¹testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a

few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

TODAY'S READINGS February 18, 2024

Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-18; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1068-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.75 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1991 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org Lectionary year B.

14 of 14
Tracks 1 and 1

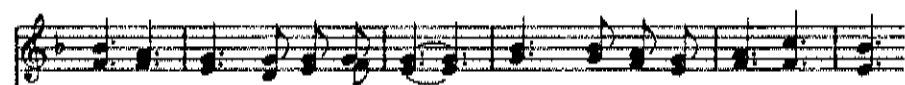
155 Take Time to Be Holy

William D. Longstaff

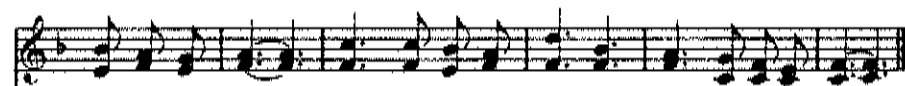
George C. Stebbins



1. Take time to be ho - ly; Speak oft with thy Lord; A - bide in Him
2. Take time to be ho - ly; The world rush-es on; Spend much time in
3. Take time to be ho - ly; Let Him be thy Guide; And run not be-



al-ways, And feed on His Word. Make friends with God's children; Help
se-cret With Je - sus a - lone. By look - ing to Je - sus, Like
fore Him, What - ev - er be - tide. In joy or in sor - row, Still



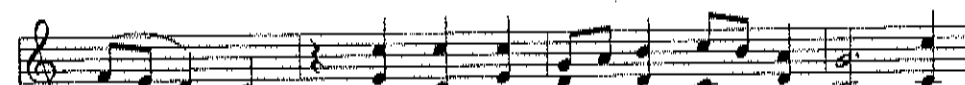
those who are weak, For - get - ting in noth - ing His bless - ing to seek.
Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy con - duct His likeness shall see.
follow thy Lord And, look - ing to Je - sus, Still trust in His Word.

THE WORD

229 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God




1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They
fear it; For God him - self fights by our side With



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way,

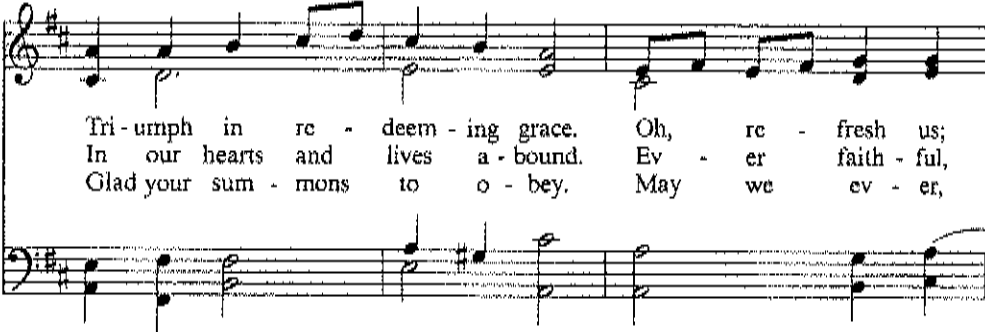
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing 259



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For your Gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, Let no fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh, re - fresh us;
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er Reign with you in end - less day.



"The Church on the Hill"

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Pastor Scott Paradise
Home: (717) 628-1241
Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday February 18, 2024

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT: The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

THE SHARING CUPBOARD asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year. The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. Please pick up a list of foods at that display that the pantry is saying they need. This project will begin March 1 and end March 31. Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."



CHILI/SOUPER SUNDAY: The total of soup collected was 175 cans and 2 boxes of saltine crackers. This will be distributed to the ELCO Raider Food Pantry and Caring Closet. Thanks to all who made our Souper Bowl luncheon successful. Special thanks to the soup makers - Stephanie Gahres, Nikki Johnson, Jen Rosengrant, Carol Merkel, Julie Strickler and Deb Tice. Another thankyou to all who helped in the kitchen - we appreciate every one of you! So happy to have this experience back at Millcreek.

Please see the pink insert for information on Lenten services. The next service (February 21) will be held at Church of Christian Outreach, 101 W. Main St. Newmanstown with Pastor Mario Madden speaking. Thank you to all who brought light snacks/refreshments to the Ash Wednesday service here at Millcreek.

Holy Trinity, Lebanon is organizing a local mission trip for the week of June 23-29. Participants will work on various projects at Camp Kirchenwald, which is right here in Lebanon County. They would love to see members from Millcreek to participate as a way to show our community working together to support our local Lutheran camp. All ages and skill levels are welcome. You can pick any or all of the days to participate according to your schedule. (There will be a \$10 per-person cost for each day to cover food and drink.) If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott know and he will connect you with the folks from Holy Trinity.

FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST: There are a host of activities coming up at Spang Crest, starting with the annual membership drive in February, our resident birthday celebration in April, chicken BBQ in May & September and 2 free music concerts this summer. There are volunteer opportunities-contact Karen Kreiser at Spang Crest if interested.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE!!! Susan Long, our new lay leader informed me her email address is incorrect. Her updated address is SusanMLong22@gmail.com

CONGREGATION COUNCIL officers and members are now Susan Long - Lay Leader, David Engle - Vice President, Dara Wolfe - Executive Secretary, Debra Hogeland, Darryl Bentz, Conner Pennington and Jennifer Rosengrant. Continuing as Church Treasurer - Stephanie Seldomridge and Recording Secretary - Debra Buffington. Thank you to Scott Johnson, Gene Flory and Mary Ream for serving their term(s), ending February 1, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 11, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,822.00, Plate-95.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-10.00, Recycling-30.00, Coffee-12.00. **Total-\$1,999.00.** Attendance-79, Sunday School-18

2023-2024 YEARBOOK/DIRECTORY is completed and may be picked up from the table in the narthex or from the wall rack outside the office. Thank you to all who submitted reports, and to those who contacted me with updates of pertinent information. The directory is worked on throughout the year, so you may let me know anytime if you have changes. Linda Sheetz

COLLEGE STUDENT TREAT: While our college students are doing their thing, let's do ours & I don't mean Ring Dings... We'll take a monetary collection on February 18th & 25th. Buying them a "SUBWAY CARD"-THAT WILL BE OUR GIFT. Our goal is \$150.00; we invite you to help-give a dollar or two to buy a tuna melt??? Thanks, The Evangelism Committee



CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Consider joining us in our music ministry. Contact Debbie Tice with questions.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

To my special church family and dear friends - thank you all so very much for all the wonderful and kind cards, thoughts and prayers and calls during this challenging time right now. It does mean so much and certainly helps get through some of the more difficult days knowing I've got your love and support. Margie

Congratulations to Ryan, Brandy and Liam Gahres on the birth of Wesley Ryan Gahres, born February 15 at 11:30 AM at the Hershey MC. He weighs 8lb. 10 oz. and is 22" long. All are doing well! Another grandchild for "GG" Steph Gahres!

Congratulations to Morgan Hoffman who was among the band students chosen to participate in the LLMEA County Band Festival. Morgan is first on the left in the back row.



WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen. **When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.**

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS: Earl (Shad) Kreitz, 205 Memorial Drive, PO Box 233, Richland, PA 17087

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Branson Hoglund, and his parents Andrea and David Hoglund

“ACHOO THANKS”

Julie Strickler and Dara Wolfe pictured delivering tissues collected by MLC congregation. Jackson Elementary School and Fort Zellers Elementary School were both thankful for thinking of all the little noses there.





Sponsored by the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium

All services begin at 7:00 PM

Lenten Theme: "Return..."

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Millcreek Lutheran, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "A Call to Return to the Lord" – Joel 2:12-14

Wednesday, February 21

Church of Christian Outreach, 101 W. Main Street, Newmanstown, with Pastor Mario Madden speaking. Topic: "Return to Prayer" – Romans 8:26-28

Wednesday, February 28

United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking. Topic: "Return from Betrayal" – Acts 2:22-24

Wednesday, March 6

St. Paul's UCC, 13 Church Road, Newmanstown, with Pastor Matt Grant speaking. Topic: "Return from Denial" – Mark 14:66-71

Wednesday, March 13

Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland, with Pastor Bill Wink speaking. Topic: "Return to the Kingdom of God" – John 18:36-38a

Wednesday, March 20

Grace UCC, 22 Church Street, Richland with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "Return to the Church" – John 14:6-7

Wednesday, March 27

Elias UCC, 9 N. Sheridan Road, Newmanstown with Pastor Scott Paradise speaking. Topic: "Return to the Table" – John 15:1-4

Good Friday, March 29

Richland Church of the Brethren, 215 S. Race St., Richland, with Pastor Jim Artz speaking. Topic: "Return and See Life" – John 10:10-11

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow each service.

Weather related cancellations to be determined by the home church and will be announced on the Ministerium Facebook page.

Offering taken will go to the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist local families in need. Please make checks payable to Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium.

EASTER FLOWERS



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721. This is my cell number, you may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign-up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

The choices of potted flowers are as follows: tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies - colored) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$9.00.

I will be available after church most Sundays or you can call me. I will place the order mid-February. If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past).

Thank you,
Carol Sova



Friends of Spang Crest

2024 Annual Membership Drive

The Annual Membership Drive is your chance to join or renew your membership to the Friends of Spang Crest. This year's membership drive will run through March 31, 2024.

The Friends of Spang Crest is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, LutherCare's Senior Living Community in Lebanon, PA. In 2022-2023, the Friends of Spang Crest donated **over \$26,000** to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

- | |
|--|
| <p>Benevolent Care • Resident Christmas Presents
• Outdoor Patio Furniture
• Activity Program Equipment
• Outdoor Band Concerts • Fish Tank Maintenance</p> |
|--|

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, will allow the Friends of Spang Crest to continue its work in 2024. Membership Levels for 2024 are:

Member:	\$2.00	Sustaining:	\$10.00
Contributing:	\$5.00	Patron:	\$25.00

You may submit your membership contribution directly to your congregation's Key Person: Margie Kriss, 103 Hardwood Street, Box 205, Schaefferstown, PA 17088. Please add "Friends of Spang Crest Membership" on the memo line of your check.

Thank You for Supporting the Friends of Spang Crest
Together We Make A Difference!