

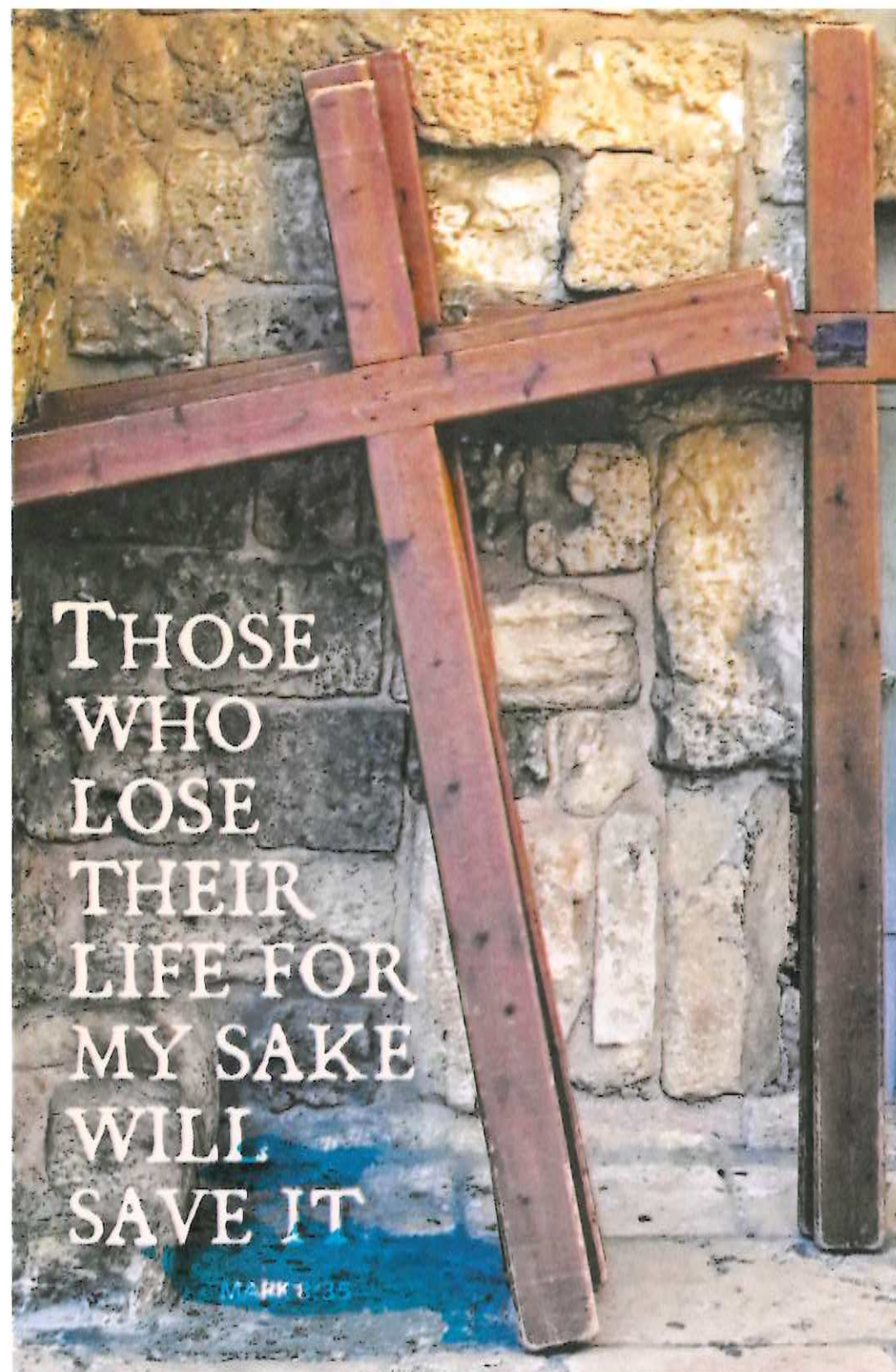
Hope against Hope

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped “against hope” (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he “must” suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject “the things of God.” Why must it be so?

Because of God’s great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God’s world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He “must” do this because the world’s brokenness is that deep. We don’t need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God’s grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death’s power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world’s injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God’s mercy with a world longing for hope.





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 gracious Father, whose love and forgiveness could only be expressed by your Son crucified on our behalf: Move us by your love to accept Jesus as our crucified and risen Lord; that we may walk in newness of life, reborn through faith in his saving grace. In his name we pray. Amen

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **No. 104 (LBW),**

In the Cross of Christ, I Glory

Greetings: Page 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Pages 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. 370 (NCH), *Be Still, My Soul***

*The Nicene Creed: Page 64

Choir Anthem

*The Prayer: Page 65, line 22

*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71 (sing)

*The Benediction: Page 75, line 43

*Departing Hymn: **No. 245 (LBW),**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

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, Roy Hoglund

Ushers/Audio, Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Today, the church invites us to remember Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, who died in 1921. She was born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess. (i.e., the Lutheran equivalent of a nun.) In 1882, at the age of thirty-two, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to Norwegian seafarers in New York City. Her influence was wide-ranging. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis. She returned home to Norway in 1895.

The flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Mary Bennetch Kaylor by the Engle Family.



Today's Readings

Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

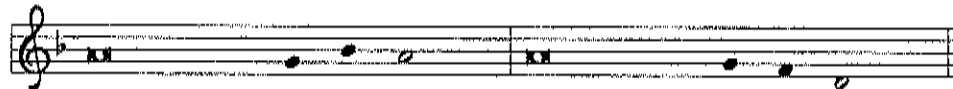
When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁴No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵I will make

you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm

Psalm 22:23-31; tone 9



You who fear the LORD, give praise!
All you of Jacob's ¹line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD,
all you off-¹spring of Israel.

²⁴For the LORD does not despise
nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face
hid-¹den from them;

but when they cry out,
¹the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise
in the ¹great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the sight of those
who ¹fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat ¹and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD
give praise!
May your hearts ¹live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn ¹to the LORD;
all the families of nations
shall bow ¹before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs ¹to the LORD,
who rules o-¹ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow ¹down in worship;
all who go down to the dust,
though they be dead,
shall kneel be-¹fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants
shall ¹serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim
to genera-¹tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance
to a people ¹yet unborn,
saying to them,
"The ¹LORD has acted!"

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many

nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny

themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

TODAY'S READINGS February 25, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

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In the Cross of Christ I Glory

104

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, From the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Tune: Ithamer Conkey, 1815-1867

RATHBUN
87 87

370

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

Katharina von Schlegel
Tr. by Jane L. Borthwick

Jean Sibelius
Hymn from Finlandia

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; _____ Bear pa-tient-ly the
2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take _____ To guide the fu-ture
3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on _____ When we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide; _____
as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth-ing shake; _____
ev - er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone, _____

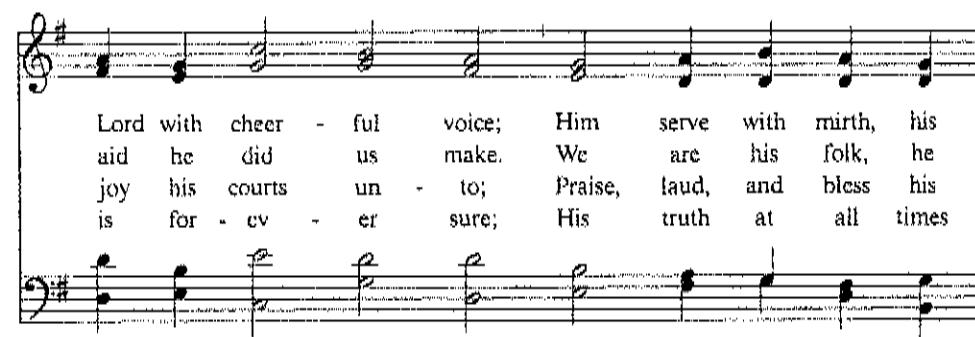
In ev-ry change He faith-ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: thy
All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heaven-ly Friend — Thro' thorny ways leads to a joy - ful end.
waves and winds still know — His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
change and tears are past, — All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last. A-men.

245 All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy



Lord with cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; His truth at all times



praise forth tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.

- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
 From us and from the angel host
 Be praise and glory evermore.



"The Church on the Hill"

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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 25, 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..."

Please see the insert for information on Lenten services. The next service (February 28) will be held at United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Blvd. Newmanstown with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking. Light snacks/refreshments will be served after the service.



GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY is March 10th. The Girl Scouts will meet at Millcreek to sell Girl Scout Cookies following the worship service.

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet next Sunday March 3rd after the worship service.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY is here and may be picked up in the Narthex. Thank you to Nancy Deiter and the pictorial committee for all their work in putting it together.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 18, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,096.00, Plate-61.00, Bulletins-10.00, Easter Flowers-8.00, Coffee-13.25. **Total-\$1,188.25.** Attendance-58, Sunday School-17

ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERING total \$344.00. Goes to Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist families in need.

EASTER EGG HUNT PRIZES: Millcreek's annual egg hunt will be held on March 30. We are requesting prizes to be donated by the congregation for ages 0-12. Prizes may be put in the Sunday School wing- last room on the right. Contact Nikki Johnson with questions - 717-639-1300.

THE MARCH PARISH ECHO is available for those of you who prefer hard copies. It may be picked up from the table or the wall rack in the narthex.

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

The upgraded vases and flowers for Sunday February 18th were in loving memory of Ray Grumbine. Ray passed into Heaven February 14, 2024. Prayers and sympathy from Millcreek are extended to his family.

The sympathy of the Millcreek congregation is extended to the family of Andrea Sites Evans who passed away February 13, 2024. Services were held February 20 at Roseboro Stradling Funeral Home, Denver with burial at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Ephrata.



SWEET SECOND SUNDAY will take place on March 3rd this month. Baked goods will be available for you to purchase in the multipurpose room after the worship service. All proceeds are donated to the church. Many thanks to Charmayne for satisfying our sweet tooth.

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.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Lynn Leibig, COMM. 2 CM-10, Selinsgrove Center, 1000 Rte. 522 Selinsgrove, PA 17870



Easter Card Collection

The Sunday School classes are making a craft and organizing gift bags for our members who are unable to attend church. The list of folks is on the table in the narthex. They are asking members for Easter cards to add to the craft and palm branch. We are requesting volunteers to deliver the card and gift bags. A delivery sign-up will be located next to the gift bags in front of the display case. Cards can be dropped in the gift bags now **through Palm Sunday.**

Thank you, Nikki Johnson SS Superintendent



Easter

EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

AT 11 AM

**PRIZES FOR ALL
AGES 0-12**

*Millcreek Lutheran Church
221 N. Sheridan RD,
Newmanstown, PA 17073*

EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!



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.

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

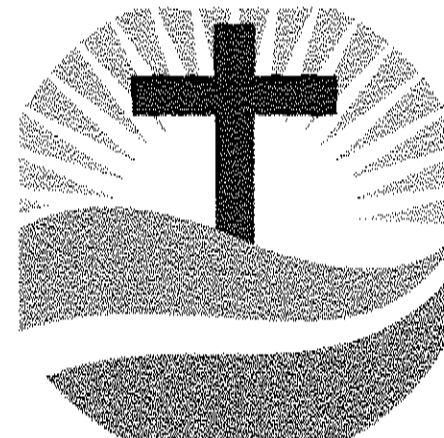
**LEBANON COUNTY
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

**LENTEN
BREAKFAST**

PANCAKES, BACON, EGGS, PASTRIES & MORE!
\$30 TICKET

8 AM
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM
MARCH 16, 2024
SOUTH LEBANON COMMUNITY CHURCH
13 EVERGREEN ROAD, LEBANON, PA

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
\$3000 PREMIER EVENT SPONSOR
\$1000 BREAKFAST SPONSOR
\$500 UPLIFT TABLE SPONSOR



Obtain tickets by ordering online: www.LCCM.us or send payment to LCCM 250 S. 7th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042.
Please write "Lenten Breakfast tickets" in the memo line. Please indicate if you are with a church or group for seating purposes.
A free-will offering will be taken to help LCCM continue its mission.
DEADLINE TO ORDER: March 9, 2024