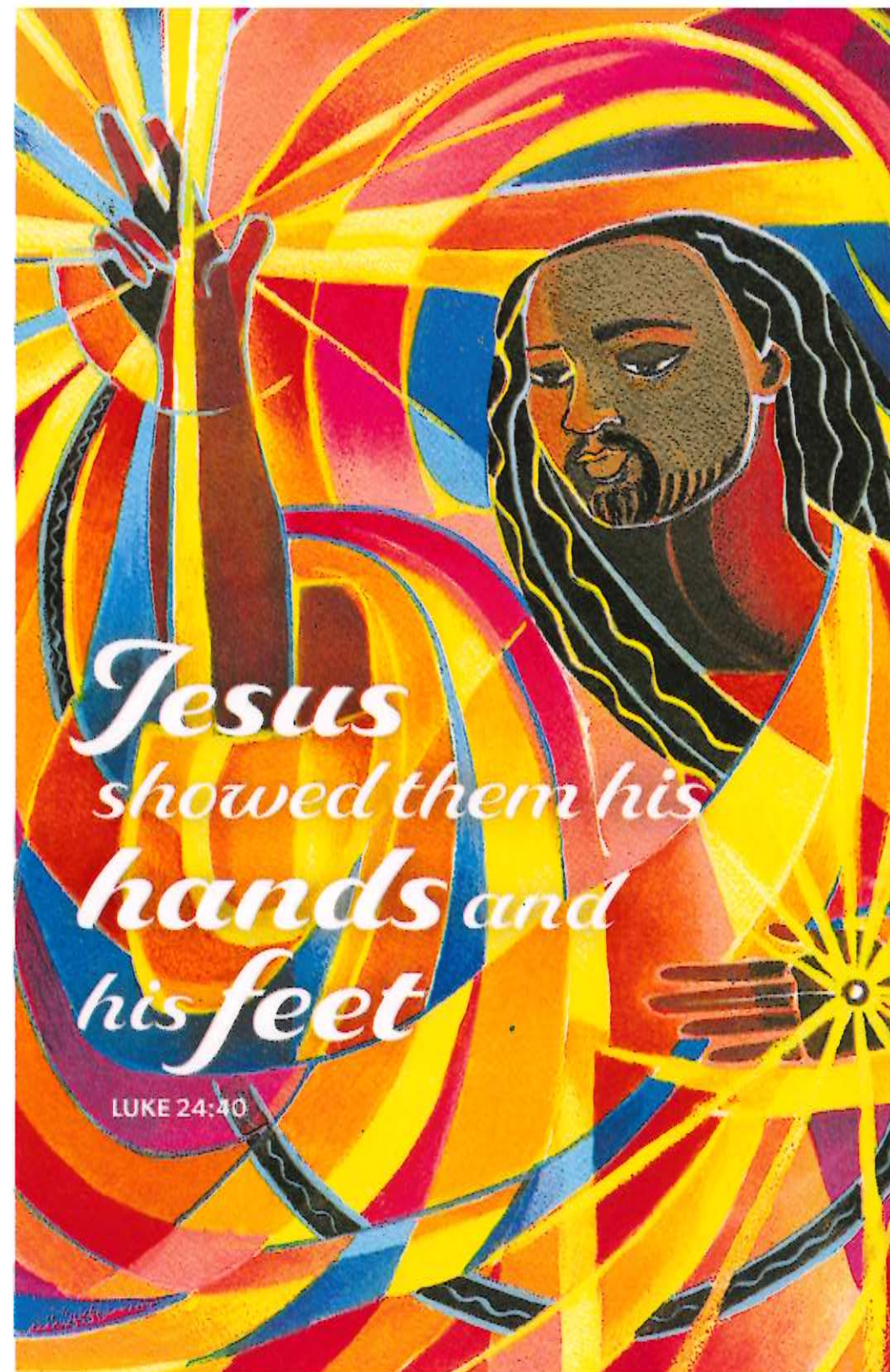


From Fear to Faith

Fight, flight, or freeze: that's how our bodies tend to react when we perceive danger. Our heart rate increases, our breathing speeds up, and even our vision changes to take in our surroundings quickly so we can protect ourselves. When Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of his resurrection, they seemed to be in the middle of a fight, flight, or freeze response. Their Lord had been crucified. They didn't know what to do next. When Jesus suddenly stood among them, they froze in shock and fear. Jesus overcame the disciples' fright by showing his hands and feet and by eating a piece of fish. As they looked at the scars and watched him eat, the truth of his resurrection dawned on them. The disciples' inclination to fight, flee, or freeze melted away.

Once Jesus had brought the disciples back to a calm resting state, he opened their minds to understand how he had accomplished God's plan to save the world. Jesus told the disciples that now that he was risen, it was their turn to tell his story in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Joy started to flicker in the disciples' hearts as Jesus freed them from fear. He gave them a purpose: to be his witnesses. They were to free others by sharing the good news that Jesus had died and risen again to forgive their sins and give the gift of eternal life to all who believe.

In our world today, many voices spread fear. It's easy to focus on those voices, feel overwhelmed, and freeze. But Jesus came to free us *from* fear and to free us *for* faith. Receiving the bread and wine of his supper reminds us that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for our salvation. We don't have to be afraid of anything. Holy communion strengthens us to be his witnesses and to do his work in the world so others can be set free by the good news of Jesus' love.



Millcreek Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 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're here!

Prayer: "Eternal God our heavenly Father, who reveals your risen Son to those who are willing to see with the eyes of faith: Touch our hearts with a vision of Christ; that we may have the joy of a firsthand experience with our risen Lord, through whom we pray." Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness, Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **No. 363 LBW (green),**

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!

*Greetings: Page 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6

*Hymn of Praise: ***The Feast of Victory***, Page 60

*Prayer of the Day: (on the lesson insert, read in unison)

Children's Sermon

The First Reading (on lesson insert)

The Psalmody: (on lesson insert - read responsively)

The Second Reading (on lesson insert)

*The Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14

*The Gospel (on lesson insert)

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **No. 135 LBW (green),**

The Strife is o'er, The Battle Done

*The Nicene Creed: Page 64, Line 20

Choir Anthem

*The Prayer: Page 76

*The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (spoken)

*The Benediction

*Departing Hymn: **No. 582 NCH (red),**

A Parting Hymn We Sing

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

*Please stand

* * * *

Serving you this morning:

Pastor, The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader, Susan Long

Organist, Pianist Debra Tice

Lay Reader, Mary Ream

Ushers/Audio, Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

* * * *

The altar flowers are presented to the honor and glory of God, and in celebration of the birthdays of Conner and Cole Pennington, from Grammy

Happy Birthday Conner and Cole!!!

*Peace
be with
you*



Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection 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

Acts 3:12-19

[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God

raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Psalm

Psalm 4; tone 8



Answer me when I call, O God,
defender ¹ of my cause;
you set me free
when I was in distress;
have mercy on me
and ¹ hear my prayer.

²"You mortals, how long
will you dishon- ¹ or my glory;
how long will you love illusions
and seek ¹ after lies?"

³Know that the LORD
does wonders ¹ for the faithful;

the LORD will hear me
¹ when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and ¹ do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence
up- ¹ on your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed ¹ sacrifices,
and put your trust ¹ in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying,
"Who will show us ¹ any good?"
Let the light of your face
shine upon ¹ us, O LORD.

continued

Psalm, continued

⁷You have put gladness ¹ in my heart,
more than when grain
and ¹ wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie ¹ down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD,
make me ¹ rest secure.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled

fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

TODAY'S READINGS April 14, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

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10 of 15
Track 1 and 2

363

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. In death his love shall nev - er die.
 here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

- 5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

135

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

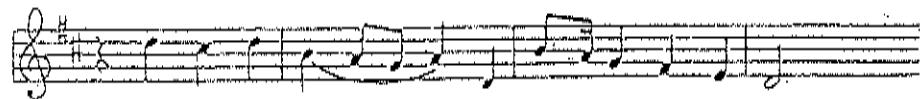
1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; Now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, He ris - es glo - rious
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!

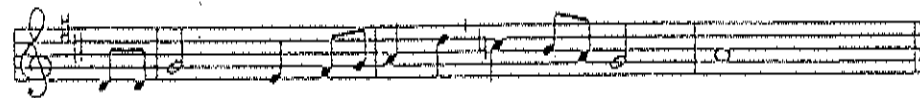
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,
 From death's sting free your servants too,
 That we may live and sing to you.
 Alleluia!

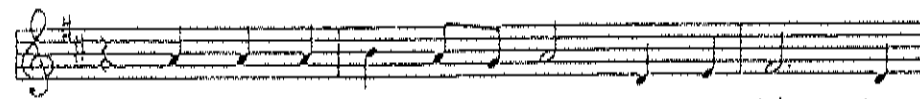
The Feast of Victory



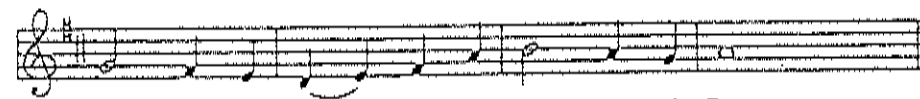
1 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



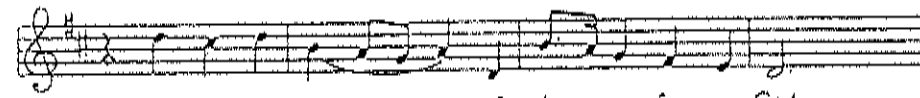
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



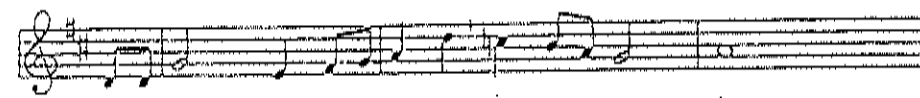
2 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



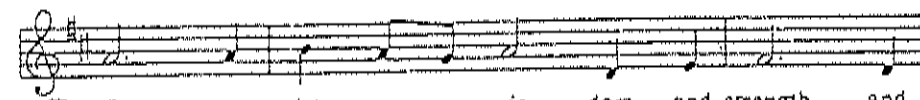
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



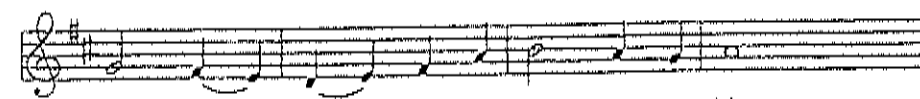
3 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



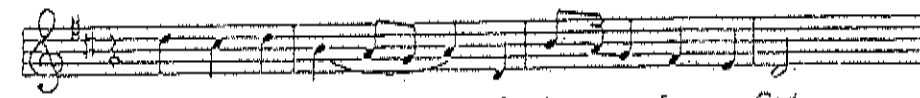
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



4 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



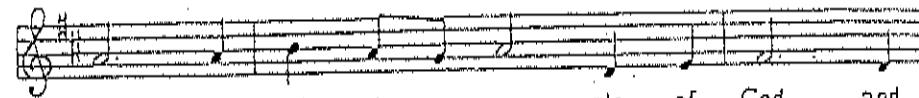
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



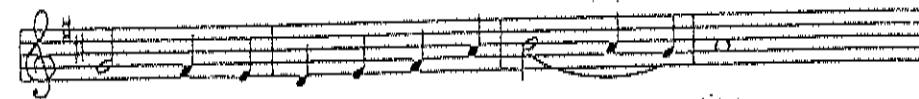
5 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



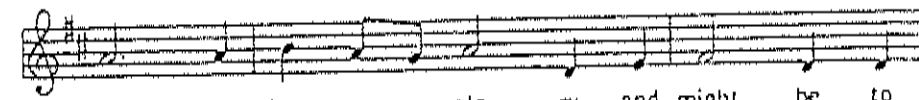
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



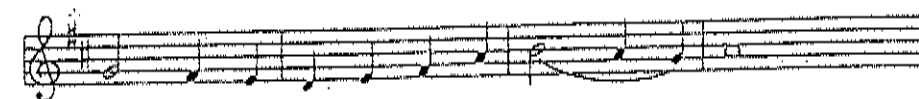
6 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



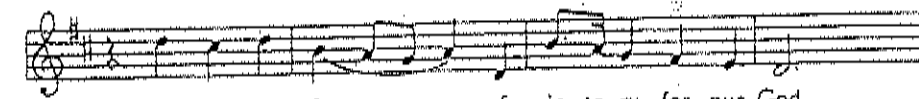
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



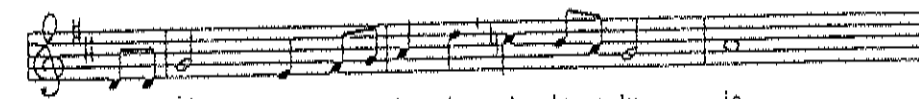
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



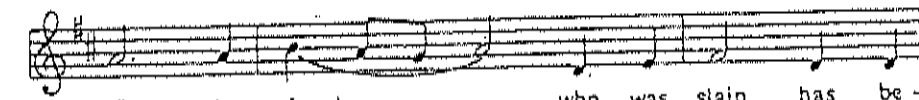
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



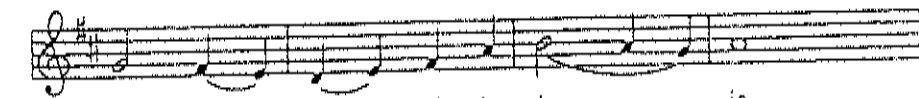
7 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



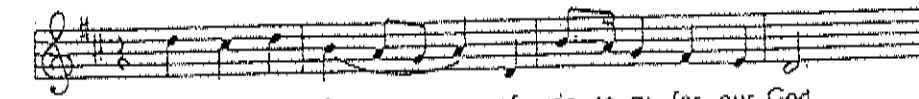
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



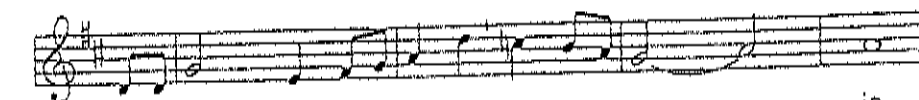
8 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



9 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

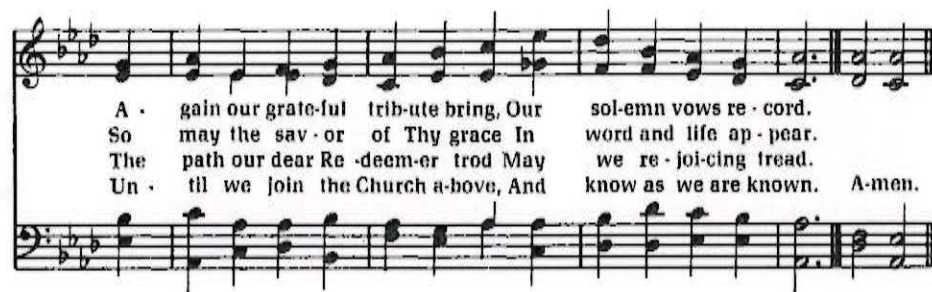
A Parting Hymn We Sing

Rev. Aaron R. Wolfe

Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis

Not too fast

1. A part-ing hymn we sing A-round Thy ta-ble, Lord;
2. Here have we seen Thy face, And felt Thy pres-ence here;
3. The pur-chase of Thy blood, By sin no lon-ger led,
4. In self-for-get-ting love Be our com-mun-ion shown,



A-gain our grate-ful trib-ute bring, Our sol-emn vows re-cord.
So may the sav-or of Thy grace In word and life ap-pear.
The path our dear Re-deem-er trod May we re-joicing tread.
Un-til we join the Church a-bove, And know as we are known. A-men.



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Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday April 14, 2024

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 9:00 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

Upcoming Spang Crest Events: Please mark your calendar for the two chicken barbeques that are sponsored by the Friends of Spang Crest. The date for the spring BBQ is **Friday, May 3rd** and the fall one will take place in September. Members who would like to purchase a BBQ meal for one of our shut-ins for that day is also being planned. This is just another one of the little things we can do for our church shut-ins that they would so much appreciate. Two of the activities that Friends of Spang Crest provide for the residents are the free summer band concerts that are free for all to enjoy. This summer the two concerts are the Perseverance Band and the Lebanon Big Swing Band. Please contact Margie Kriss for more information on the above events.

TULPEHOCKEN TRINITY CHURCH will host *Servant Stage* presenting *I'll Fly Away*, Sunday April 14 at 7:00 PM. It is a pay-what-you will event. The program consists of old time favorites, bluegrass standards, classic hymns and more, this original tribute to Gospel and Bluegrass music is sure to be a treat for the ears and balm for the soul!

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: April 7 and 14 offerings will be reported April 21.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet today Sunday, April 14, following the worship service.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE meets at the church Wednesday, April 10 at 2:00 PM.

The evangelism committee will be celebrating the April resident's birthdays along with "general fun and merriment" when we visit the **Spang Crest** campus on Monday April 29th at 7:00 p.m. A music sing-along and light refreshments with small gifts for the residents who attend is being planned for the evening. Julie Strickler and Deb Tice will be providing the music. Volunteers are definitely needed for this evening! If you'd like to help with the festivities, please contact any member of the committee.

MAY PARISH ECHO: If you have items you would like included in the May newsletter, submit information to David and Aislinn Staaby by April 15th. You may do so by emailing them at mlc.parish.echo@gmail.com or putting items in the newsletter mail slot in the office.

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

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY: Charmayne Balsbaugh will satisfy our sweet tooth today Sunday, April 14 in the multi-purpose room with her baked goods. You may purchase items after the worship service. All proceeds are donated to the church. Many thanks to Charmayne!

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

Hazel Bashore, Stone Ridge Towne Center, 7 West Park St., Myerstown, PA 17067

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, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Julie Strickler, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers