

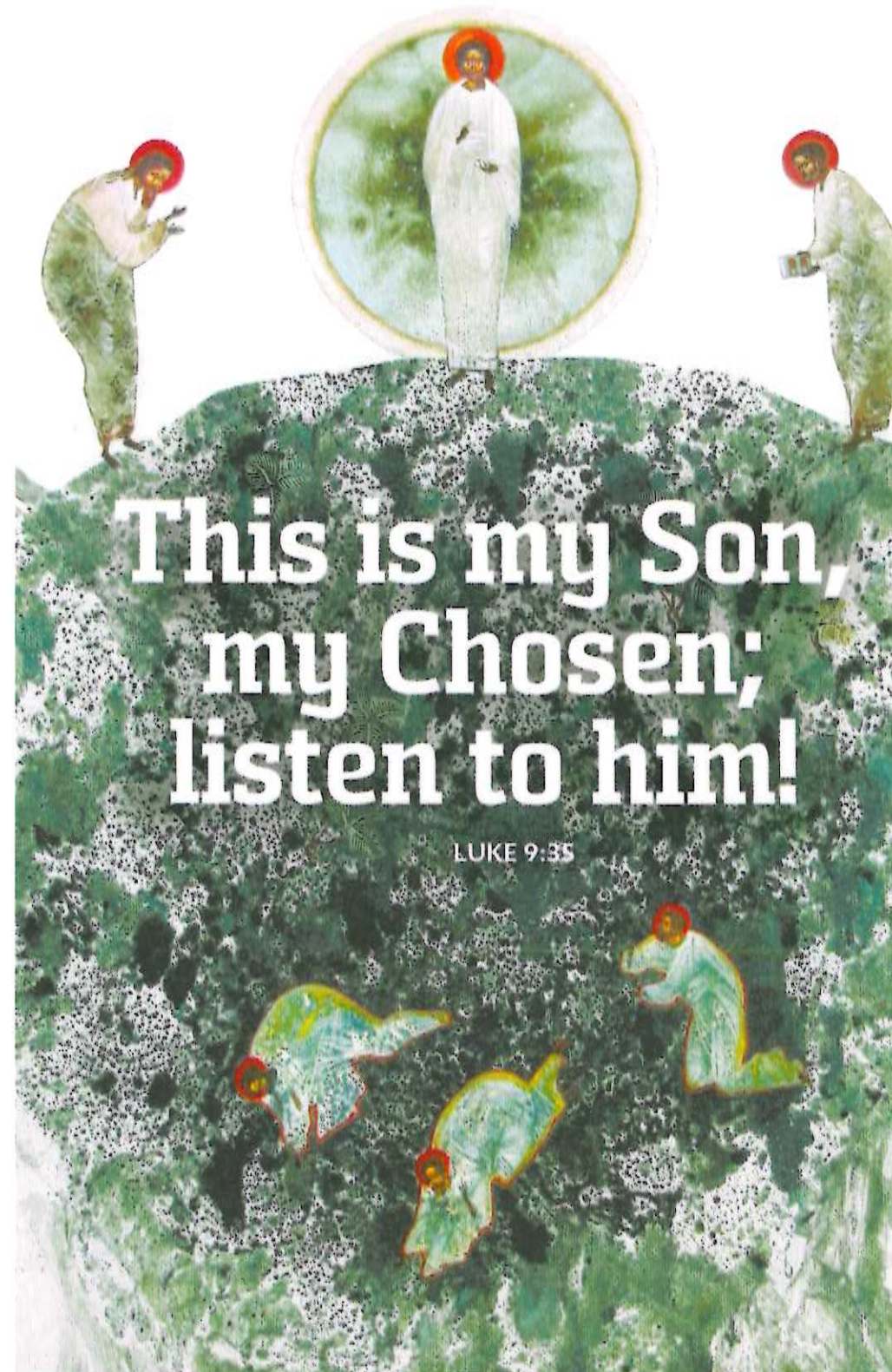
## Chaos and Mystery

Ghost-like prophets from generations past, a face suddenly transformed, dazzling clothes, frightening fog, and a mysterious voice: today's gospel text might sound like the beginning of a strange science fiction novel. Indeed, this passage has mystified theologians, biblical scholars, preachers, and followers of Jesus for centuries. What do we make of such an unusual tale?

Perhaps the chaos and mystery are part of the point: after all, who can fully describe an encounter with the Divine? How can we even begin to understand the glory of God? If this text leaves us speechless, we are in good company with God-seekers across the ages. Some experiences simply defy tidy explanations, and the transfiguration is one of them.

This story offers us glimpses of some of the most profound mysteries of our faith. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, the one sent and affirmed by God. Jesus is the glory of God revealed among us. In him, we find our past, present, and future all wrapped up into one. Even the most devout disciples might find themselves confounded by these revelations. Perhaps we are given these truths only in glimpses to spark our curiosity and wonder, and to let the gift of faith reveal their meaning.

This story also assures us that although Jesus shines with God's glory on the mountaintop, he is sent back into the day-to-day world to carry on the work of life-saving mercy, healing, and justice. Like Peter, James, and John, we might encounter God on the mountaintops of life and be tempted to set up camp there. But God is the one who leaves the mountain for the often-unglamorous work of serving others. We trust that here, too, God is with us—not just on the mountaintops but in the valleys and everywhere in between, transforming us for the work of discipleship here and now in the ordinariness of life.



Millcreek Lutheran Church  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
March 2, 2025

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: Heavenly Father, who has fulfilled your promises through the life and death of your Son: Give us receptive hearts to his atoning death; that we may be cleansed of our unrighteousness, and enjoy our new relationship with you, promised to all who receive your love in Christ; through whom we pray. Amen

### The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

\*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

\*Opening Hymn: No. 518 LBW (green), *Beautiful Savior*

Greetings: Page 57, line 5

\*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6

\*Hymn of Praise: *Glory to God* Pages 58 & 59

\*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

\*The Gospel

\*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16 (spoken)

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: No. 272 LBW (green), *Abide with Me*

\*The Nicene Creed, Page 64

\*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22

\*The Greeting of Peace: Page 66, line 23

Senior Choir Anthem: *Shine, Jesus Shine*

\*The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31

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

Holy Communion (Table)

\*Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40

\*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43

\*The Prayer: Page 76

\*The Lord's Prayer

\*The Benediction

\*Departing Hymn: On Pink Insert, *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated.

Postlude

**\*Please stand**

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.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church.

The Wesleys were leaders of a revival in the Church of England. Their spiritual discipline (or method) of frequent communion, fasting, and advocacy for the poor earned them the name "Methodists." The Wesleys were missionaries in the American colony of Georgia for a time, but returned to England discouraged. Following a conversion experience while reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, John was perhaps the greatest force in eighteenth-century revival. The brothers' desire was that the Methodist Societies would be a movement for renewal in the Church of England, but after their deaths the societies developed a separate status.



# Today's Readings

## Transfiguration of Our Lord March 2, 2025

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### First Reading

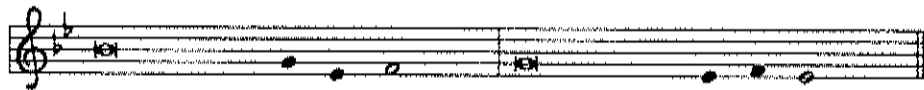
Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment

all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; <sup>34</sup>but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup>the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

### Psalm 99

Psalm 99; tone 7



The LORD is king;  
let the <sup>1</sup> people tremble.  
The LORD is enthroned  
upon the cherubim;  
let <sup>1</sup> the earth shake.  
<sup>2</sup>The LORD, <sup>1</sup> great in Zion,  
is high a- <sup>1</sup>bove all peoples.  
<sup>3</sup>Let them confess God's name,  
which is <sup>1</sup> great and awesome;  
God is the <sup>1</sup> Holy One.  
<sup>4</sup>O mighty king,  
lover of justice,  
you have es- <sup>1</sup>tablished equity;  
you have executed justice  
and righteous- <sup>1</sup>ness in Jacob.  
<sup>5</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD  
and fall down be- <sup>1</sup>fore God's footstool;  
God is the <sup>1</sup> Holy One.

<sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
and Samuel among those  
who call upon your <sup>1</sup> name, O LORD,  
they called upon you,  
and you <sup>1</sup> answered them,  
<sup>7</sup>you spoke to them  
out of the pil- <sup>1</sup>lar of cloud;  
they kept your testimonies  
and the decree <sup>1</sup> that you gave them.  
<sup>8</sup>O LORD our God,  
you answered <sup>1</sup> them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them  
for their <sup>1</sup> evil deeds.  
<sup>9</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD  
and worship upon God's <sup>1</sup> holy hill;  
for the LORD our God  
is the <sup>1</sup> Holy One.

### Second Reading

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, <sup>13</sup>not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; <sup>16</sup>but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And all of us, with unveiled

faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

<sup>41</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

### Gospel

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen

to him!" <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

[<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43a</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

TODAY'S READINGS March 2, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 81:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.

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## Beautiful Savior

518

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd  
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?

Help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!

- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847  
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

## Why Don't We Use Alleluias during Lent?

### Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly  
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - ites still are we,  
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow  
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent., tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880



Based on the Hebrew word, “*hallelu yah*,” meaning “Praise the Lord,” “alleluia” has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church and was prominent in early Christian liturgies. (“Hallelujah” is the Hebrew spelling. “Alleluia” is

the Greek spelling, since Greek technically doesn’t have a letter “H.”) Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent in the Western church, singing or saying the word “alleluia” has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days. This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that the joyful nature of “alleluia” is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice.

The omission of “alleluia” during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The custom of actually bidding it farewell, however, developed in the Middle Ages. The hymn “Alleluia, Song of Gladness” contains a translation of an 11th century Latin text that compares an alleluia-less Lent to the exile of the Israelites in Babylon. The text then anticipates the joy of Easter when glad alleluias will return in all their heavenly splendor.

Along with a sung farewell to alleluia, some congregations have embraced the practice of symbolically “burying” the alleluia. A banner or other visual presentation of the “alleluia” is crafted and then “buried” in order to be “resurrected” at Easter.



"The Church on the Hill"

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Pastor Scott Paradise  
Home: (717) 628-1241  
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### Our Mission

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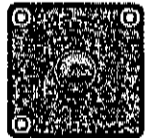
Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and ourselves.

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Sunday March 2, 2025

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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 can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 AM**. Just dial **717-628-0125**.



#### Serving You This Morning:

<b>Pastor,</b>	The Rev. Scott J. Paradise
<b>Lay Leader,</b>	Jennifer Rosengrant
<b>Organist/Pianist,</b>	Debbie Tice
<b>Lay Reader,</b>	Dara Wolfe
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Frank Hoffman & Scott Johnson

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in celebration of the birthday of Laura Long, from Mom, Dad, Matthew, Nana & Paw Paw. Happy Birthday Laura!!! Happy Birthday Laura!!!*



*Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour Saturday March 8 before going to bed as we "spring ahead".*

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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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**OUR SPRING FLING EVENT** will be Sunday March 9th at 1 PM. It will include a scavenger hunt, make your own ice cream sundaes and a craft. Look for the sign-up/volunteer sheet in the Narthex.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE** will take place Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>. You can purchase cookies from our local troop in the Narthex before and after the worship service.

**COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** is at Millcreek Lutheran Church, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

Please see the enclosed green insert concerning information for the next Blood Drive.

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### Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**FIRST COMUNION CLASS SCHEDULE** includes the following Sundays, March 16, Sunday, March 23, Sunday, April 6 and Sunday, April 13 at 9:00 AM. during the Sunday School hour.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** will not be held by Pastor Scott on these dates.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: February 23, 2025**, Current Offerings- \$2,745.00, Plate-228.00, World Hunger-100.00, Flowers-70.00, Bulletins-20.00, Recycling-11.25, Coffee-8.00, Rental-40.00. **Total-\$3,222.25**  
Attendance-59 Sunday School-NA

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please note- information to be included in the weekly announcements will now be due by noon on Wednesdays to the church secretary. Email is preferred, [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com)

**CHURCH BREAKFAST:** The next church breakfast will be held at Country Fare Restaurant on **Saturday, March 8th at 8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome & no advanced notice is needed. Ask the hostess for the Millcreek Lutheran group & you will be directed to our table. We'd love to have breakfast with you...a nice way to start the day! Nancy Deiter



**FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025** are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers- \$30.00, Bulletins- 10.00

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**Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves**

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**SWEET SECOND SUNDAY** will be held in the multi-purpose room after worship on March 2, 2025. All proceeds go to the church. Thank you, Charmayne!

**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 tune into Channel 27 WHTM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen or WLBR 1270 radio station. 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:** Violet Hepler, Stone Ridge Poplar Run, 450 E. Lincoln Ave., 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.**

**MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST:** Chub & Peg Auman, Lorraine Eberly, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Sarah Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

**NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT JEN M. EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY. [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or call 610-589-2570**

**NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST:** Mike Nelson, (friend of Kristin Bender), Jane Yocum, (friend of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' Mother)

## 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, April 20, 2025.

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) 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-March. 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

## SWEET SUNDAY DONATIONS

Council has approved that we put a box in kitchen for baking items for our "Sweet Sunday Lady". I will put a box in kitchen for the next 2 Sundays for anyone to add any of the following for her use:

Flour  
Granulated Sugar  
Brown Sugar  
Confectioners (10X) sugar  
Baking Powder  
Baking Soda

If anyone wants to contribute Eggs and/or Butter, please put in refrigerator.

Our hopes are to help with Charmayne's rising costs for her delicious Baked Goods.

