

*Jesus was led by the Spirit  
in the wilderness* LUKE 4:1



## Journeying through the Wilderness

The wilderness has captured the imaginations of artists, adventurers, and spiritual seekers for thousands of years. It can be a place of profound self-discovery, exploration, beauty, and solitude. It is a place of few distractions: no commerce, no schedule, no business as usual. The wilderness can be a freeing place that opens us up to experience life in new and profound ways.

However, the wilderness is also disorienting and lonely. The landscape can be brutal and unforgiving. Wilderness wanderers can easily find themselves lost, exhausted, and dirty. The unbearable heat of the day, the uncomfortable cold of the nights, and the lack of food, water, or shade can bring people to their breaking point. The wilderness has been a place of exile and punishment, and a place where people's strength, determination, and faith are put to the test.

The complexities of the wilderness set the stage for today's gospel story, in which we get a glimpse of who Jesus is and who he is called to be. In the wilderness, we see the depth of Jesus' faith. Jesus is not swayed by the allure of power, control, authority, or physical comfort. He does not buy into the tempter's lies. Even in the disorientation and isolation of the wilderness, Jesus trusts in the Spirit, who has led him to this place and who gives him the strength to live into his call throughout his journey.

We are at the beginning of our own journey, a Lenten season of metaphorical wilderness wandering. The good news is that we do not go alone. The Spirit goes before us, behind us, beside us, and within us. Along this journey, the many voices of the tempter may try to lure us in with power, control, authority, or comfort. And yet, our trust and our identities lie with the One who already defeated the tempter. We already have all we need. In Christ, we are already loved, forgiven, and made whole, no matter where our journeys take us.

Cover: Flowering purple bush in Kaure National Park and Reserve, Yuba, Caraka. Copyright © DeAgostini/Gettyimages. Used by permission.

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Millcreek Lutheran Church  
First Sunday in Lent  
March 9, 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: O God our Father, who gave a miraculous deliverance to the Israelites in bondage: Deliver us from our bondage to sin, that we may enjoy the miracles of new life with Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

**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>	Debra Buffington
<b>Ushers/Audio,</b>	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

**The Service**

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

\*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

\*Opening Hymn: **No. 145 NCH (red)**, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Greetings: Pages 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. 229 LBW (green), *A Mighty  
Fortress is Our God*  
\*The Nicene Creed, Page 64  
Senior Choir Anthem  
\*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22  
\*The Lord's Prayer, Page 76 (sung)  
\*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43  
\*Departing Hymn: No. 343 LBW (green), *Guide Me Ever,  
Great Redeemer*  
Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated  
Postlude

**\*Please stand**

*The flowers are given to the honor and glory of God and in  
loving memory of our mother, Mary Lou Reed Bergman.  
Love, Greer & Greta*





# Today's Readings

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

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O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and

there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

## Psalm

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; tone 6

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You who dwell in the shelter  
of <sup>1</sup> the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow  
of <sup>1</sup> the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup>you will say to the LORD,  
"My refuge <sup>1</sup> and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I <sup>1</sup> put my trust."

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the <sup>1</sup> LORD  
your refuge,  
and the Most High your <sup>1</sup> habitation,  
<sup>10</sup>no evil <sup>1</sup> will befall you,  
nor shall affliction  
come <sup>1</sup> near your dwelling.

Psalm, continued

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels  
charge <sup>1</sup> over you,  
to guard you in <sup>1</sup> all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>Upon their hands  
they will <sup>1</sup> bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot  
a- <sup>1</sup> gainst a stone.

<sup>13</sup>You will tread  
upon the lion <sup>1</sup> cub and viper;  
you will trample down  
the lion <sup>1</sup> and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>I will deliver those who <sup>1</sup> cling to me;  
I will uphold them,  
because they <sup>1</sup> know my name.

<sup>15</sup>They will call me,  
and I will <sup>1</sup> answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
I will rescue and <sup>1</sup> honor them.

<sup>16</sup>With long life will I <sup>1</sup> satisfy them,  
and show them <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

## Second Reading

## Romans 10:8b-13

"The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart"  
(that is, the word of faith that we pro-  
claim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with  
your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe  
in your heart that God raised him from  
the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one  
believes with the heart and so is justi-

fied, and one confesses with the mouth  
and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No  
one who believes in him will be put to  
shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction be-  
tween Jew and Greek; the same Lord is  
Lord of all and is generous to all who  
call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "Everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

## Gospel

## Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned  
from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit  
in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he  
was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing  
at all during those days, and when they  
were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil  
said to him, "If you are the Son of God,  
command this stone to become a loaf of  
bread." <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is writ-  
ten, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and  
showed him in an instant all the king-  
doms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said  
to him, "To you I will give their glory  
and all this authority; for it has been  
given over to me, and I give it to anyone  
I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it  
will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him,  
"It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to  
Jerusalem, and placed him on the pin-  
nacle of the temple, saying to him, "If  
you are the Son of God, throw yourself  
down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

'He will command his angels  
concerning you,  
to protect you,'

<sup>11</sup>and

'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot  
against a stone.'"

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do  
not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test,  
he departed from him until an oppor-  
tune time.

TODAY'S READINGS March 9, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

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“The Church on the Hill”

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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 9, 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 may also watch the service later on You Tube.



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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.

**BLOOD DRIVE** will be Thursday, March 20, 2025. Please see the enclosed green & white inserts for information.

**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.

**Please pick up a list of foods from our display and consider these words from Isaiah 58:10-** “Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness...”

Donations may be placed in boxes located in the multipurpose room.

Blessings,  
Evangelism committee

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** Saturday, April 19 at 11:00 AM.

A sign-up sheet for gift cards and egg fillers/candy is on the table in the Narthex. We are also looking for prize donations for ages 0-12. Please place the prizes and egg fillers/candy on the table in the Sunday school room at the end of the hall just past the library. Thank you all so much for helping to make this egg hunt successful every year!

**SUMMER CAMP:** Open House for Summer Camps at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa are Sunday, March 16 and Sunday, April 6 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Information is posted in the Narthex.

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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: March 2, 2025,** Current Offerings- \$1,790, Plate-\$140, Flowers-\$30, **Total-\$1,960** Attendance- 59 Sunday School- 18.

**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)

**FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025** are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

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### Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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**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:** Barbara Potteiger, Henner Apts. 24 East High St. Apt. #105, Womelsdorf, PA 19567

**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)

## RELAY FOR LIFE



### DAFFODIL DAYS

Daffodil sale is over but I may be able to get more on the pickup day. Since I had to pay for what I ordered, all checks are payable to Deb Tice.

**APPLE DUMPLING SALE, from Sycamore Spring.** As this business is being sold, it could be one of the last. See order form on the narthex table. Orders due April 7 and will arrive April 17.

**LUMINARIA ORDERS CAN BE TAKEN ANYTIME** - check with either Deb for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

As always, thanks to all for supporting Relay for Life as the American Cancer Society strives to find a cure.

**See Debbie Buffington or Debbie Tice for more Relay details.**

A vertical advertisement for the ELCO Community Cookbook. It features a collage of food images on the left side, including a red pitcher, a plate of flatbread, a bowl of salad, and various fruits. The text is on the right side of the collage.

**ELCO  
COMMUNITY  
COOKBOOK**

*We want your recipes!*

**The ELCO Education Foundation is asking for your help in creating a one-of-a-kind community cookbook as a fundraiser project to benefit the students of ELCO.**

Whether it's your grandmother's pot pie, a quick weeknight dinner, or a show-stopping dessert, your recipe can bring flavor and heart to this special collection. By contributing, you'll help showcase the tastes and traditions that make our community so unique.

**Don't miss this chance to share your story through food and support our ELCO students!**

Use this QR code to submit your type-written recipe.



Use this QR code to submit photos of a handwritten recipe.



**See Susan Long for more  
ELCO "cookbook" information.**

# The Temptation of Christ

When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. Luke 4:13 (NIV)

Based on Luke 4:1-13



U F O R T Y A W O R S H I P N  
 I G S L W X D T E M P T E D L  
 L O U W E N R B F M T W O S A  
 Y Z O V A E D I E I F Y Y N P  
 J S I M S A U L R E N A N W E  
 P L M E E D A I Y A D A Q Y P  
 A O D R E S P T D M T L Y Y F  
 C N B I U S I R O S E I K F N  
 D D G R L R O Z S A M I I Y Z  
 S W E E O J O N E Q P H N G V  
 K J V H L D E V I L L U G J Q  
 S U T H A S M G N D E N D H M  
 S U U R O M W O R L D G O U W  
 A X T H S L Q Z O J P R M O P  
 W O S G S R Y N P W A Y S K M

DESERT	ANGELS	WORSHIP	HUNGRY	KINGDOMS
TEMPTED	DEVIL	JORDAN	AUTHORITY	BREAD
SPIRIT	JERUSALEM	COMMAND	FORTY	STONE
LIVE	DAYS	WORLD	TEMPLE	HOLY

# BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> • 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

## Millcreek Lutheran Church

221 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown 17073

*In the Multipurpose Room*

Everyone will receive:

- Certificate for a \$10 gift card at any Good's Store
- 3oz. Bag of Beef Stick Bites from Stoltzfus Meats
- 10% off coupon for Stoltzfus Meats or Amos' Place



3 ways to schedule your donation appointment:

- go to [717GiveBlood.org](http://717GiveBlood.org) & click on **DONATE NOW**
- call 1-800-771-0059
- scan the QR Code



A form of ID is  
REQUIRED to donate

- We kindly suggest you schedule an appointment to donate blood. Appointments help us improve your donation experience.
- Walk-ins are welcome; however, donors with appointments will be taken first and this may result in a significant wait time.



### THE SHARING CUPBOARD WISH LIST

Donations may be placed in boxes located in the multipurpose room.

- Cereal
- Boxed Crackers
- Cookies
- Tuna
- Spam
- Canned chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Spaghetti sauce
- Pasta meals
- Beefaroni
- Beef stew
- Chunky soups
- Granola bars
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned fruit
- Lance sandwich crackers



## 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.



## 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