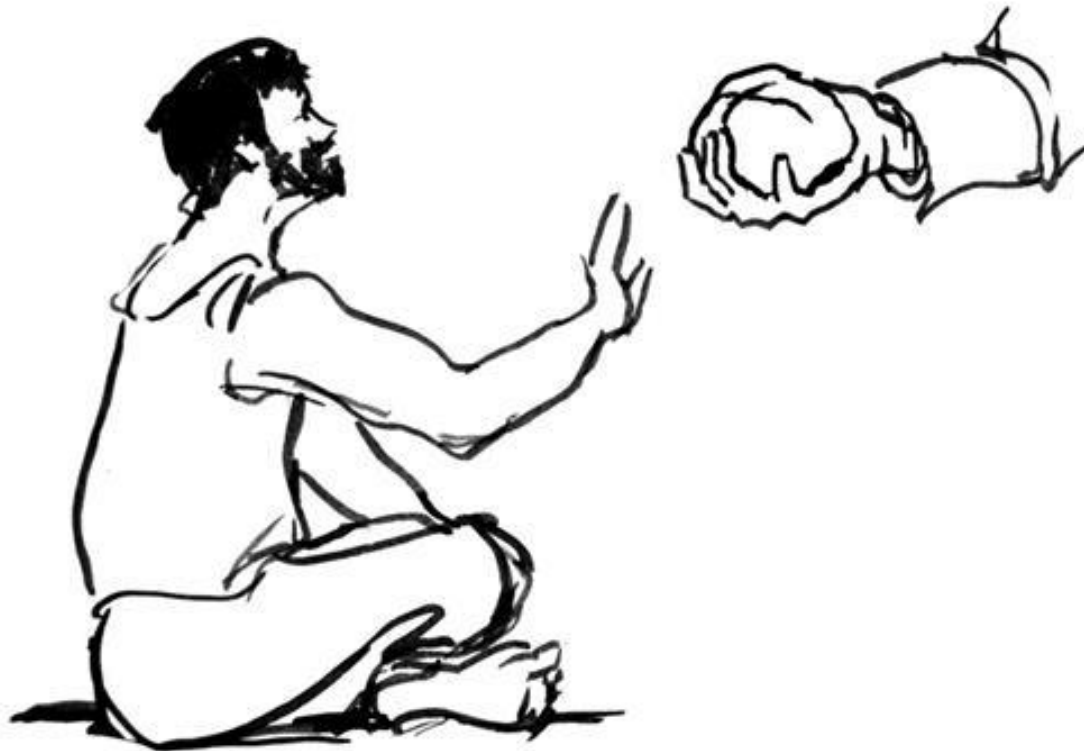


**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 9, 2025**



**MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
80 GOCKLEY ROAD  
STEVENS, PA 17578  
717-336-8800

## **MELLINGERS STAFF**

### **Pastor's Contact Information**

*Rev. Timothy L. Craven*

Home: (717) 738-3838

Mobile: (717) 468-9049

E-Mail: [revtlc@ptd.net](mailto:revtlc@ptd.net)

### **Director of Music**

*Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575*

E-Mail: [vickiekissinger@gmail.com](mailto:vickiekissinger@gmail.com)

### **Director of Christian Education**

*Diane Adair (717) 715-3124*

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

### **Please pray for the following people:**

Amy Weik, Roger Gehman, Jonah Hogan, Jay Weaver, Dave Wilhide, Clair Miller (with family in NJ), Pat McQuate, Tim Harting, Tess Freeman, Jeff Moyer, Dave Haldeman, Mike Leed, Elaine Haldeman, Shirley Sweigart, Skip Hutchinson, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Jay Stoltzfus (with family in Florida), Beverly Sweigart, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Sam Soto, Roy Latshaw, Amanda Benton, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Vivian Gehr, Barb Moyer and Judy Meckley.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Dorothy Hutchinson, Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer, Joan Wentzel and Bob Weaver

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine

Lancaster General Hospital: Doug Cody

Maple Farms: Janet Hirneisen

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Pope Francis, Fred Leathery, Mark Wojcicki, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, ara Trowbridge, Randy Vollmer, Polly Stendl, Mary Morton, Dick Reed (Home Hospice), Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Good, Jason Harting, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler, Paul Sweigart, Kelly Root, Dick Mountford, Alyssa Schmeck, Karen Leonhard, Sue Kreitz, Dennis Betz, Dale Firestone, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Corrina Bender, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, and Cynthia Peters.

### **Pray also for the grieving families of:**

Ella Felker, Tony Frey, Brittany Merklinger, Chris Miller, Richard Keller,

Susie Wentzel, Matt Thorn, Nicholas Bolotine, John Hutchinson, Reverend Judy McKee, Ethel Leed, Grace Wentz, Don Craven, Faye Pannebecker,

Maggie Bollinger, Harriet Stoltzfus, Mick Smyer, Lavern Gehman, Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson, Sam Heiser, Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain and Clara Ingram.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

\*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Ahava is playing this morning

Prelude: *“The Wonderful Cross”*  
*“Build My Life”*

-Matt Redman  
-Pat Barrett

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

**Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: #325** *“I Want Jesus To Walk With Me”*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## THE KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen**

**LENTEN HYMN: #334** Sing Verse 1 then Lent 1 “*Tree of Life*”

### † GOD’S WORD †

#### FIRST READING

#### DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

Lay Reader (Linda Netzley): A reading from Deuteronomy the 26th chapter.

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God’s gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALMODY

## PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16



*God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)*

<sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup> you will say to the Lord, “My refuge | and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R

<sup>9</sup> **Because you have made the | Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your | habitation,**

<sup>10</sup> **no evil | will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

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

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

- 13 You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.**
- 14 I will deliver those who | cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**
- 15 They will call me, and I will | answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.**
- 16 With long life will I | satisfy them,  
and show them | my salvation. R**

## CHILDRENS SERMON

### \*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Return to the Lord Your God”*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**LUKE 4:1-13**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*P: After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”*

<sup>1</sup> 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 written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms 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 pinnacle 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 opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

**MESSAGE:** *“The Devil’s Double Dog Dare”*

-Pastor Craven

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“How Great Is Your Love”*

-Phil Wickham

### **\*THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. \* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**



## † Prayers of Intercession †

\*P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

P: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (*especially*). Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen**

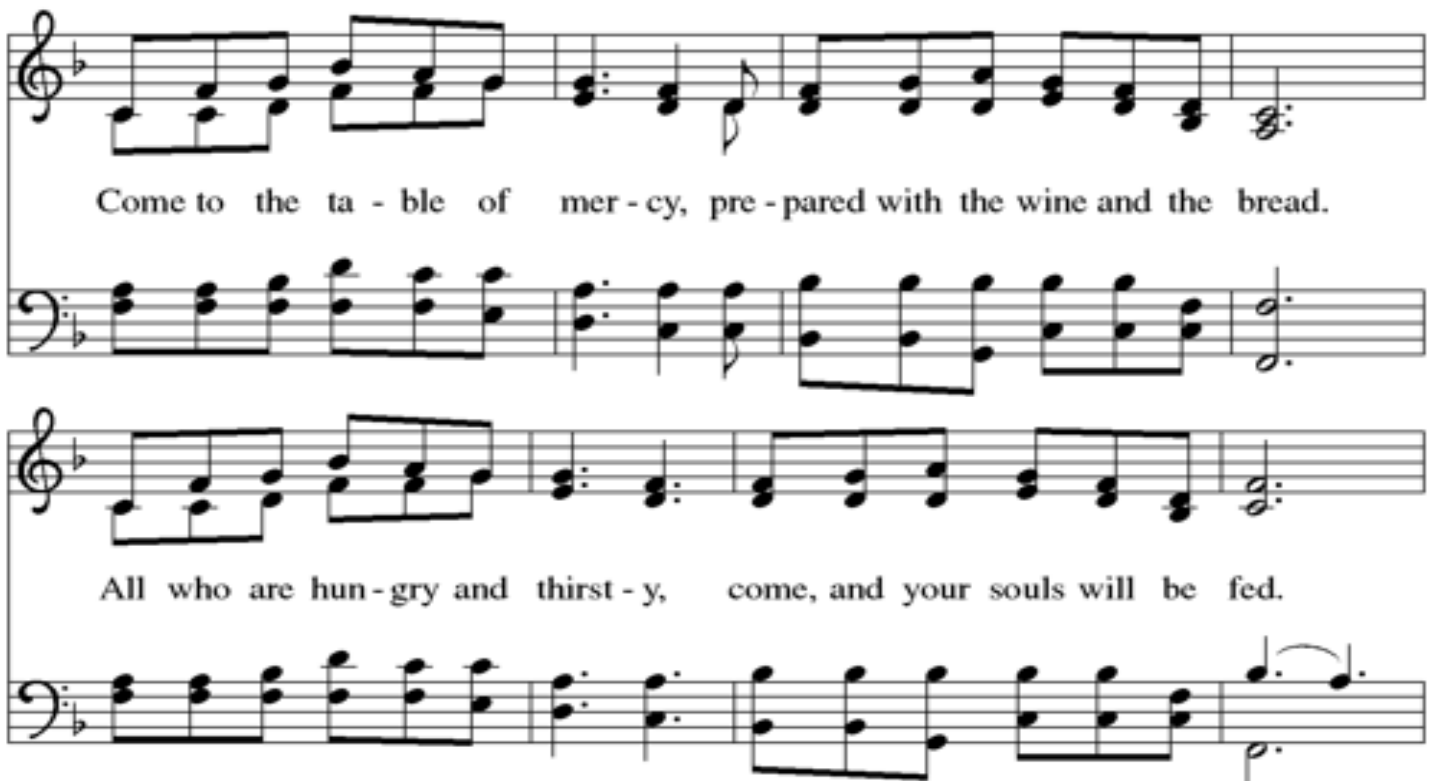
### \*THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### \*OFFERTORY HYMN #481:

*“Come To The Table”*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....  
 We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**THE SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

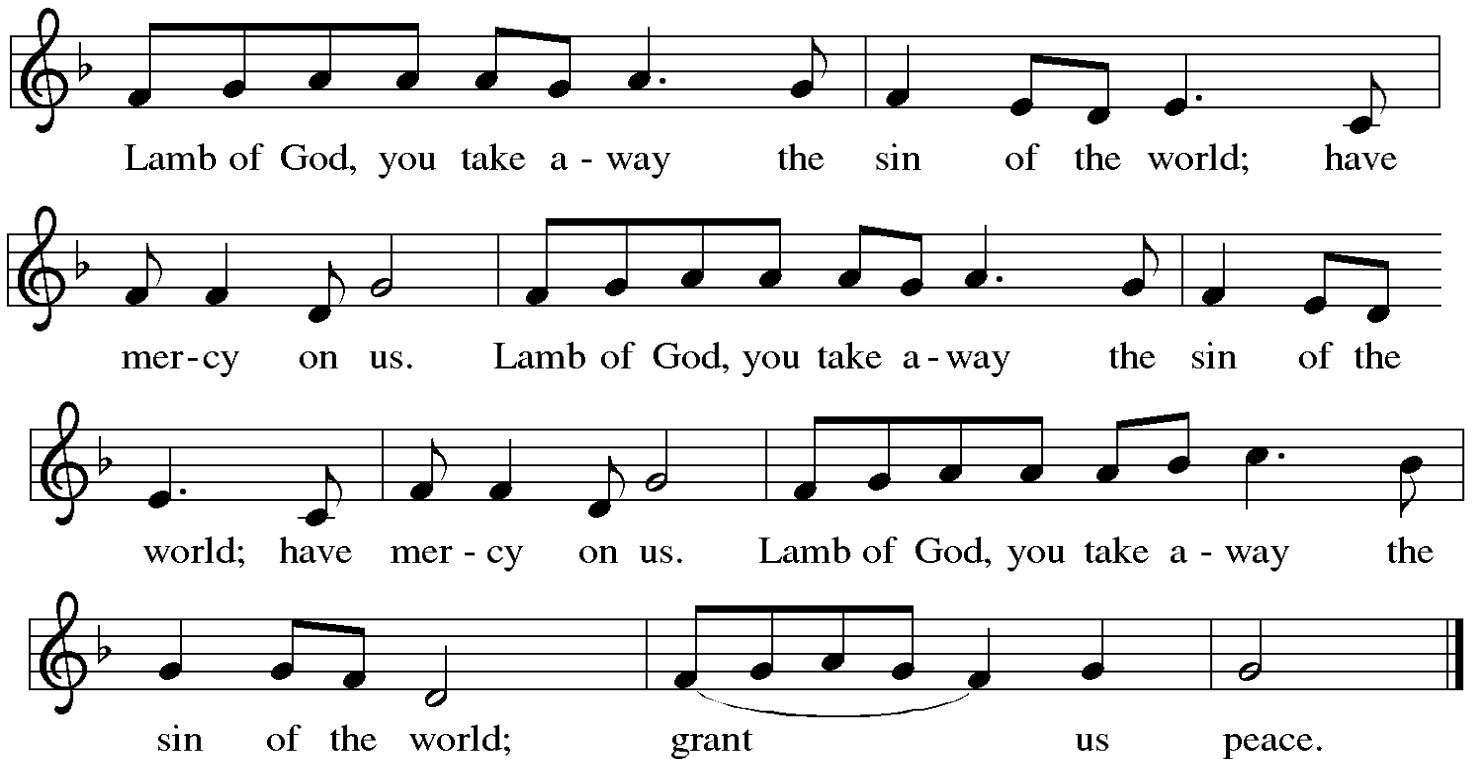
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them. Pick Up an Empty Cup. A Grape Juice Option and Gluten Free Communion Wafers Provided. If You Cannot Come To the Chancel, Communion Will Be Taken To You. Please Notify An Usher. Those in the Parking Lot Partake of Communion at this time.**

During Communion

**Hymn #818:** *“O, Master Let Me Walk With You”*

**Hymn #856:** *“How Great Thou Art”*

**Hymn #656:** *“Blest Be the Tie”*

**Hymn #616:** *“Jesus Remember Me”*

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**\*Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *“Blessed Be God”*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,  
The spirit of mercy.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

**BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)**

**\*SENDING HYMN #519:** *“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”*

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Linda Netzley

Communion Assistant: Jean Lausch

Psalmist: Erin Biles

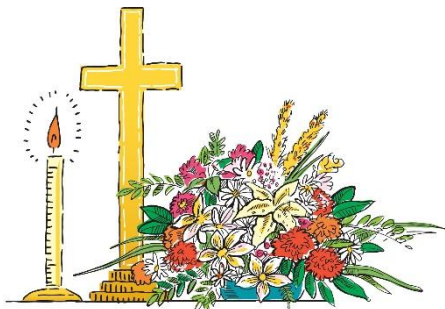
Videographer: John Biles

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Shawn Jeffers, Troy Adair and *Alt* – Randy Brubaker

<b>Weekly Receipts Report as of 03/06/25</b>	
<b>Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Online Attendance</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>General Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,558.00</b>

**Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.**



**Altar Flowers**

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God by Nancy Hain in Memory of Donald Hain.

Address Update:

Clair Miller has moved to: 16 Mount Vernon Road  
Manalatan, NJ 07726



Ahava will be playing again  
on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Choir Practice Dates:**

Thursday March 20 and 27 at 6:00 pm

## **Bell Choir Practice**

Thursday March 20 and 27 7:00 pm

## **Easter Flowers**

It is time to order flowers for our Easter Service on Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>. This year, we are offering the following:

Daffodils – 6 ½ inch pot with 4-6 mini blooms for \$8.00

Tulips – 6 inch pot with 5 to 6 blooms for \$8.00

White Lilies – 6 inch pot with 3-4 blooms for \$10.00

Once your order form has been completed review the form for the correct number of flowers, total cost and notation of Memorial or Honoring. Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided, then either place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give directly to Pat Haller at church.

Please make checks payable to Mellinger's Lutheran Church.

Proceeds benefit Mellingers Needy Fund.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday April 6.

Please pick up flowers after the service on Sunday April 20.





Time to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars.  
Contact Rodger Sweigart, 717-341-6146,  
by March 16, 2025 if you need help.

## GREAT 8 APPEAL OFFERING

March 9 to May 25



Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church  
80 Gockley Road  
Stevens, PA 17578

### GREAT 8 APPEAL OFFERING

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builders of Hope             | <input type="checkbox"/> ELCA Hunger Appeal      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ephrata Area Social Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Camping Appeal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELCA Mission Support         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminarian Fund         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter's Porch                | <input type="checkbox"/> Mellingers Needy Fund   |

If you are unable to pick-up the Great 8 Appeal envelopes. Please call and we will mail them to you. Or just designate Great 8 Appeal and your name or envelope number on an envelope with your choice to support.

**74th semi-annual  
ST. PAUL'S  
ADAMSTOWN  
FREE**



**COMMUNITY OUTGROWN EXCHANGE**

Clothing for all ages – plus some other items see below

**DATES TO DONATE & COME SHOP  
WEEK OF March 24-29**

Come and get items but we also will be taking donations of clean items on all the days except as listed below. You do not need to drop off to come get items. Donation & shopping days are as follows.

**– ONLY ACCEPTING: Clothing (including shoes & coats), linens, toys, games, puzzles, books, purses NO household items, VHS, DVD's, Car Seats, Electronics**

**DONATION ONLY DAYS**

Monday, March 24 — 9 am—1 pm (donation only)

Tuesday —CLOSED

Wed., March 26 & Thurs. March 27— 9 am to 1 pm (donation only)

**DONATION AND SHOPPING DAY**

Thursday, March 27 – 5 – 8 pm (donation and shopping)

**SHOPPING DAYS ONLY**

Friday, March 28 – 8 am – 1 pm (NO DONATIONS)

Saturday, March 29 – 8 am – 11 am (NO DONATIONS)

No Public bathroom usage  
Left over items will be  
donated to various charities  
We can limit the number of  
children's items you take  
No charitable donation forms

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
80 E. Main Street  
Adamstown, PA 19501  
For more info:  
717-484-4885**