

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026**



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

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

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Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

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Director of Christian Education

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PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Martha Petery, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Doug Leed, Shannon Brown, Ruth Hollinger, Shirley Sweigart, Mike Leed, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Jay Weaver, Dave Haldeman, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jay Stoltzfus, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Roy Latshaw and Marty Leed & Family.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer
Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate

Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon: Bonnie Weinhold

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Personal Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Candace Stoudt, Bob Harker, Merrill Fisher, Gaile Gehman, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Barb Charles, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Mary Thorn, Cheryl Nixon, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Carol Schaeffer, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, David Taimuty, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler (Hospice), Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller, Cynthia Peters and Priscilla (last name only).

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Lowell Haws, Mary Jane Goshert, Ed Sieber, Nancy Leh, Darrell Buchter, Jack Poole, Sharlene Miller, Joyce Pannebecker, Barb Mertz, Beverly Sweigart, Maggie Kiralfy, Dale Firestone, Yvonne Walters, Larry Rabold, Zach Caflin, Bob Weaver, Pastor Conrad Youse, Karen Krater, Vesta Reber, Jean Shober, Joyce Boyer, Joan Wentzel, Jeff Moyer, Anna Weinhold, and Kenton Shaffer.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: “Sweet Morning Star”

-James Southbridge

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #553 “Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”**

*CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS OF SİNS

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.

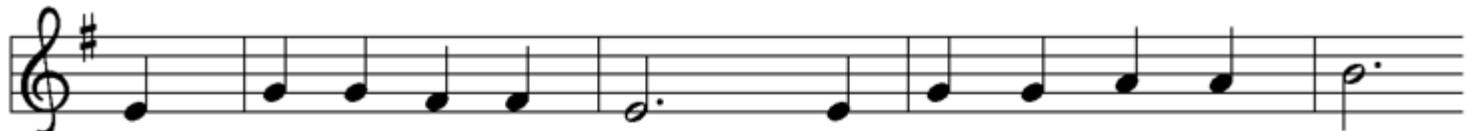
C: Amen

***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**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 58:1-12

Lay Reader (Linda Weaver): A reading from Isaiah the 58th chapter. *Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

¹Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
 and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong,
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water
 whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 112:1-10



Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the Lord
 and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
 the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed.

**3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.**

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. R**

**5 It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.**

**6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

**7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.**

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

**9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.**

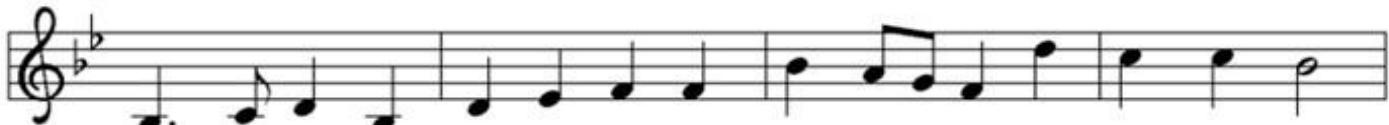
**10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish. R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: *In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: “A City On A Hill”

-Pastor Tim Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Jesus the Light of the World”

-Charles Wesley

***THE APOSTLES CREED: 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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

P: Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (*areas of conflict may be named*). We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

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

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN: "Christ Be Our Light"**

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, 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'n 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

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. 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 #807: “*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”

Hymn #481: “*Come to the Table*” x2

Hymn #491: “*Come Let Us Eat*”

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.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our 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: “God’s Work Our Hands”**

from “Worship & Praise”
Lyrics on the next page

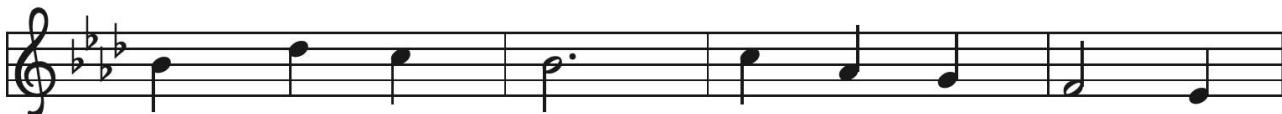
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - - pel.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE: "Let Your Light So Shine"**

-Tom Birchwood

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Linda Weaver

Communion Assistant: Tess Freeman

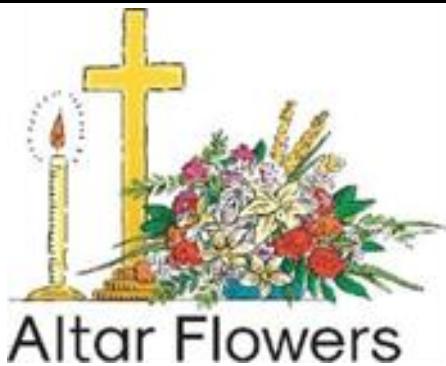
Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Kristi Leonhard, Hayden Leonhard & alternate Shawn Jeffers

Weekly Receipts Report as of 02/05/2025	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	88
Online Attendance	179
General Receipts	\$6,657.00



On Sunday January 18th The Altar Flowers and Bulletins were dedicated to the Glory of God by Chris & Tess Freeman in Honor of their Grandson Bennett's 8th Birthday.

On Sunday January 25th The Altar Flowers and Bulletins were dedicated to the Glory of God by Andy & Kristi Leonhard in Honor of Caleb's 14th Birthday and Hayden's 20th Birthday.

UPCOMING AT MELLINGERS:

Ahava will be playing on February 15th

Scout's Spaghetti Supper on Saturday March 7th

See more information on the last page



CHOIR PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY MORNING
AT 8:15AM OVER THE WINTER MONTHS.
FEBRUARY 22



We are collecting contributions for Peter's Porch in Denver. The boxes for the food and other household staples are in the Narthex until Sunday March 1st.

A list of items will be on the Narthex Table, if there are specific questions about or for Peter's Porch please contact Terry Burkholder at 717-962-0839.

For the Goat Fund; please fill out your donation then put it in a “Goat” envelope. If you use another envelope make sure you write “Goat Fund” on your donation.



Lenten Cluster Services are starting in 2 weeks.

2026 Cluster Lenten Services – “Making Change”

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
Ash Wednesday Feb 18, 7pm	Center / St. Paul's / Swamp / Mellingers Faith United Muddy Creek Noon & 7pm	
Wednesday Feb 25, 7pm	Faith United, Denver	Pastor Sandy Gideon

Swamp Lutheran is also hosting a dinner 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm before the Ash Wednesday Service.

The full list is on the insert page in the February Newsletter. There are also sheets on the Narthex Table.

Mellingers Great 8 Appeal

Great 8 packets are being put together and will be distributed to everyone in the next few weeks. March's Newsletter will have more information.

Weather Statement:



In case of bad weather on a Sunday, after 7:30 AM check the church phone answering machine 717-336-8800 or Mellingers Facebook page if we have Service.

Boy Scout Troop 115 Spaghetti dinner

**SATURDAY
MARCH 7 2026
3:00—7:00 PM**

**ADULTS (12 & UP): \$15
CHILDREN 5–11: \$8
CHILDREN UNDER 5: FREE**

**MELLINGERS LUTHERAN
CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD,
STEVENS (SCHOENECK)**



Enjoy all-you-can-eat delicious spaghetti and meatballs, salad, a roll, beverages and a FREE Dessert

Everyone is welcome! We strive to make this event enjoyable and accessible to all.

Take-Out is available

Tickets at the door.

**More information: call 717-468-5333
or email Sheldon: smb115@ptd.net**

Benefits Boy Scout Troop 115

