

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 11, 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**

*Diane Adair (717) 715-3124*

## ***PRAYER CORNER***

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

Fay Weitzel, Doug Leed, Shannon Brown, Ruth Hollinger, Shirley Sweigart, Mike Leed, Betty Cordes, Amy Weik, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Jay Weaver, Dave Haldeman, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), 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

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Personal Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Mary Stewart, Darrell Buchter, Barb Charles, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Mary Thorn, Cheryl Nixon, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Vickie Kissinger, Elsie May Sensenig, Rachel Landis, Carol Schaeffer, Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, John Rachal, David Taimuty, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Kara Trowbridge, 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 and Cynthia Peters.

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

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 Shoer, Joyce Boyer, Joan Wentzel, Jeff Moyer, Anna Weinhold, and Kenton Shaffer.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

\*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *“The Year Opening”*

-Lani Smith

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

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

**\*GATHERING HYMN: #311** *“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”*

**\*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.

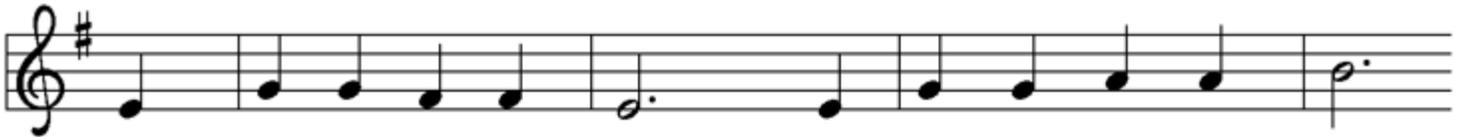
**C:** Amen

### \*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



- 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.

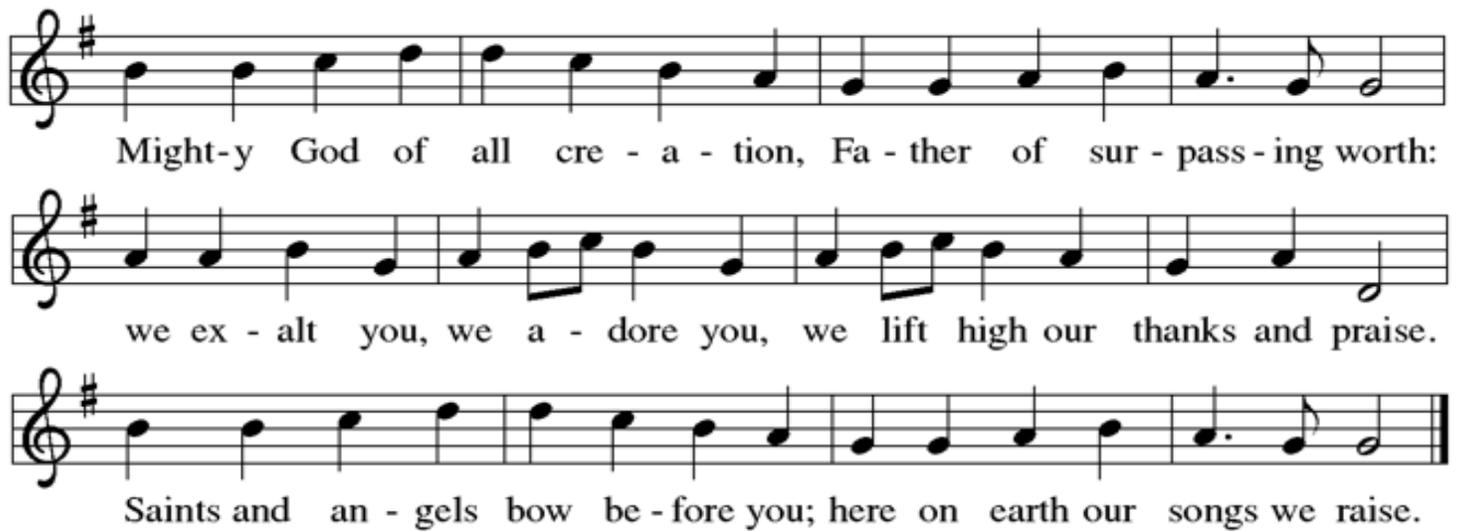


We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### \*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.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

## † GOD’S WORD †

### FIRST READING

**ACTS 10:34-43**

Lay Reader (Diane Adair): A reading from Acts the 10th chapter.

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,

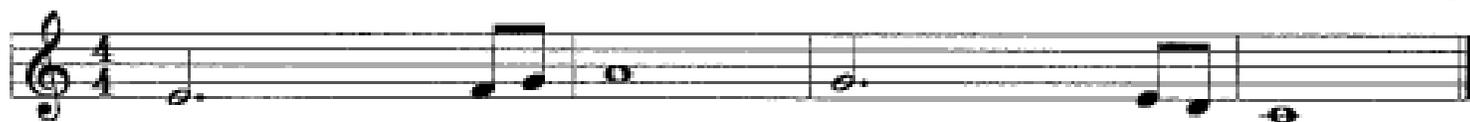
for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALMODY

## PSALM 29



*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips  
the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

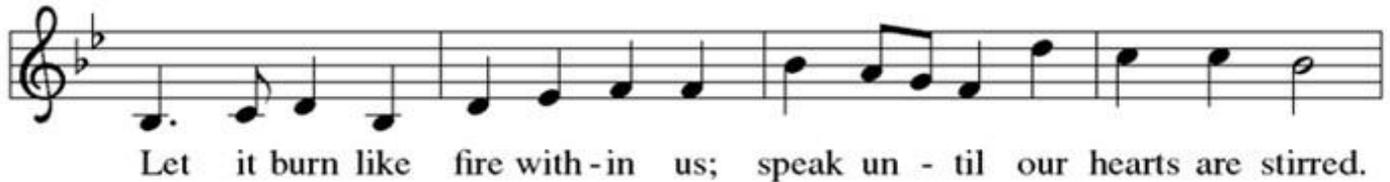
**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

**<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R**

## CHILDRENS SERMON

Linda Hutchinson

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*THE HOLY GOSPEL

**MATTHEW 3:13-17**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

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

**P:** *Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he

consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE:** *“The Baptism of Our Lord”*

-Pastor Tim Craven

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *“This Little Light of Mine”*

-Spiritual  
Arr. Mark Patterson

**\*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: Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.  
Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs (*local water sources may be named*). Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.  
Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

### *Installation of Church Council*

Pastor Tim: St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

The following members of Mellingers Lutheran Church have been elected to serve on the Church Council:

Lowell Yost, Troy Adair, Randy Brubaker, Nancy Eberly, Ben Gunzenhauser, Mike Haller, Jon Hogan serving as Treasurer, Skip Hutchinson serving as Assistant Treasurer, Shawn Jeffers, Hayden Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard, Vic Richard and Linda Weaver.

These disciples have pledged to serve the congregation in these positions of trust and leadership. They are to see that the words and

deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. They are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. They are to be examples of faith, active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers, I ask you as a member or officer of the Church Council: Are you ready to accept and faithfully fulfill the duties of the office to which you have been called?

Council Member or officer (please each person responds in turn): I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Will you the congregation of Mellingers support these leaders and share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all the baptized and pray for them in their service?

**C: We will and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: As pastor of Mellingers Lutheran Church I now declare those named above are elected and appointed to serve as Church Council, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of Mellingers Lutheran Church. Asking that God bless them with the Holy Spirit that they may prove to be faithful servants of Christ and, trusting in God, will be faithful to the duties to which they have been called.

Let us pray: Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit You have knit these Your servants into the one body of Your son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. 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-ourselves, 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.**

† 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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

**\*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 -

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.



### **\*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**

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "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;"

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 #460:** *“Now the Silence” x2*

**Hymn #471:** *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

**Hymn #494:** *“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”*

**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 #423:** *“Shall We Gather at the River?”*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *“Praise to the Lord of Boundless Might”* -Steven Scott

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Diane Adair

Communion Assistant: Tess Freeman

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Hayden Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard and Dave Weidman

UPCOMING AT MELLINGERS:

Ahava will be playing on January 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Scout Sunday will be Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>

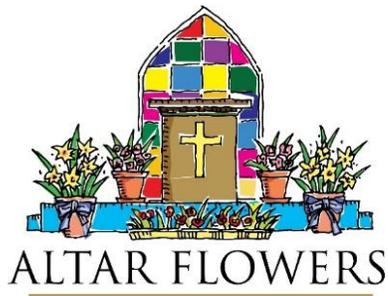
<b>Weekly Receipts Report as of 01/08/26</b>	
<b>Attendance</b> (inside / outside)	<b>64/1</b>
<b>Online Attendances</b>	
<b>General Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,006.00</b>

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



*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.



The 2026 Bulletin / Flower chart is hanging at the entrance doors on the Gockley Road side.

Dedications will be worded as follows:  
The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the Glory of God by \_\_\_\_\_ in Honor/Memory of.

The suggested amount for sponsorship is \$20.00

For the Goat Fund; please fill out your donation then put it in a "Goat" envelope or make sure you write "Goat Fund" on your donation if you are using another envelope.

