

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 15, 2026**



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

## **Pastor's Contact Information**

*Rev. Timothy L. Craven*

Home: (717) 738-3838

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

## **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:**

Dave Haldeman, Pat McQuate, Tim Harting, Stacey Emberger, Mike Leed, Ruth Hollinger, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Jay Weaver, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jay Stoltzfus, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, 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 Lou Crum, Marion Gideon, Darlene Dattras, George Wolf, Bonnie Weinhold, Gale Fassnacht, Candace Stoudt, Bob Harker, Merrill Fisher, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, David Taimuty, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Ron Neidigh, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Kerns, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller, Cynthia Peters and Priscilla (last name only).

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

Cheryl Nixon, Bea Hassler, Mary Moore, Orvilla Oberholtzer, 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  
Ahava is playing this morning

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: "Bind Us Together"

**CHORUS**

♩ = 108    D            D+            Bm7/D            D7            Em7            A7    G/B    A/C#

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord; Bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be

7    D    Em/D    D    G/A    D            D+            Bm7/D            D7

bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, Lord;

**VERSE**

13    Em7            A7    G/B    A/C#    D    Em/D    D            *Fine* D2    D            Em7            A7    D

Bind us to - geth - er with love.            1. There is on - ly one God,  
2. Made for the glo - ry of God,  
3. You are the fam - 'ly of God,

20    Bm7            Em9            A7    G/B    A/C#    D            G/A            D2    D

there is on - ly one King.            There is  
pur - chased by His pre - cious Son.            Born with the  
you are the pro - mise di - vine.            You are God's

26    Em7            A7    D            Bm7            Em9            A7    G/B    A/C#    D            G/A            *D.C. al Fine*

on - ly one bod - y;            That is why we can sing: \_\_\_\_\_  
right to be clean,            for Je - sus the vic - t'ry has won. \_\_\_\_\_  
cho - sen de - sire.            You are the glo - rious new wine. \_\_\_\_\_

## †GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

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

**\*GATHERING HYMN: #614** *“There is A Balm in Gilead”*

### **\*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.

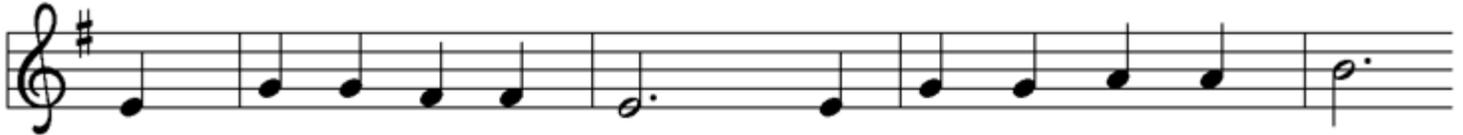
**C: Amen**

## 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

**LENTEN HYMN: #334** Sing Verse 1 then Lent 4 *“Tree of Life”*

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Lay Reader (Lisa Reed): A reading from Ephesians the 5th chapter.

*L: Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 23



*You anoint my head with oil.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

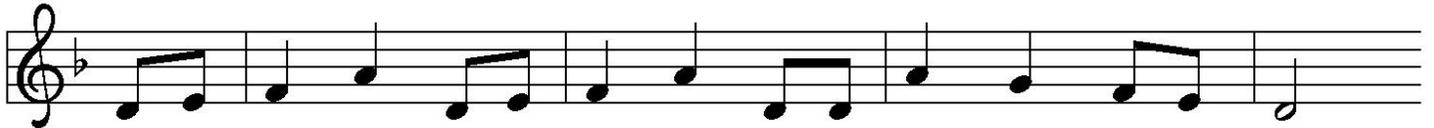
<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

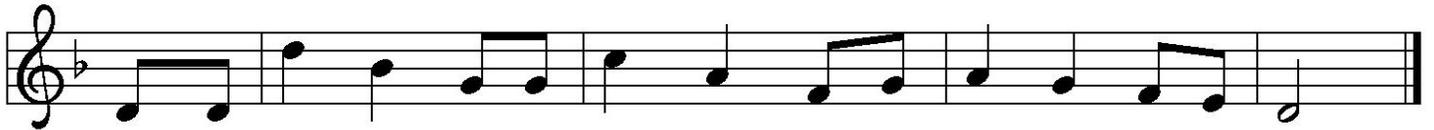
<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**  
**and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

## CHILDRENS SERMON

### \*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**JOHN 9:1-41**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter.

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

P: *Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began

to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but

we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE:** *“War Is Blind”*

-Pastor Craven

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“Lamb Of God”*

-Twila Paris

## **\*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:** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

**P:** God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (*here local congregations may be named*) and across the globe (*here international companion churches and synods may be named*) in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C: Amen**

### **\*THE PEACE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **\*OFFERTORY HYMN #323 “God Loved the World”**

God loved the world so that he gave his only  
Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
Him believe should ever lasting life receive.

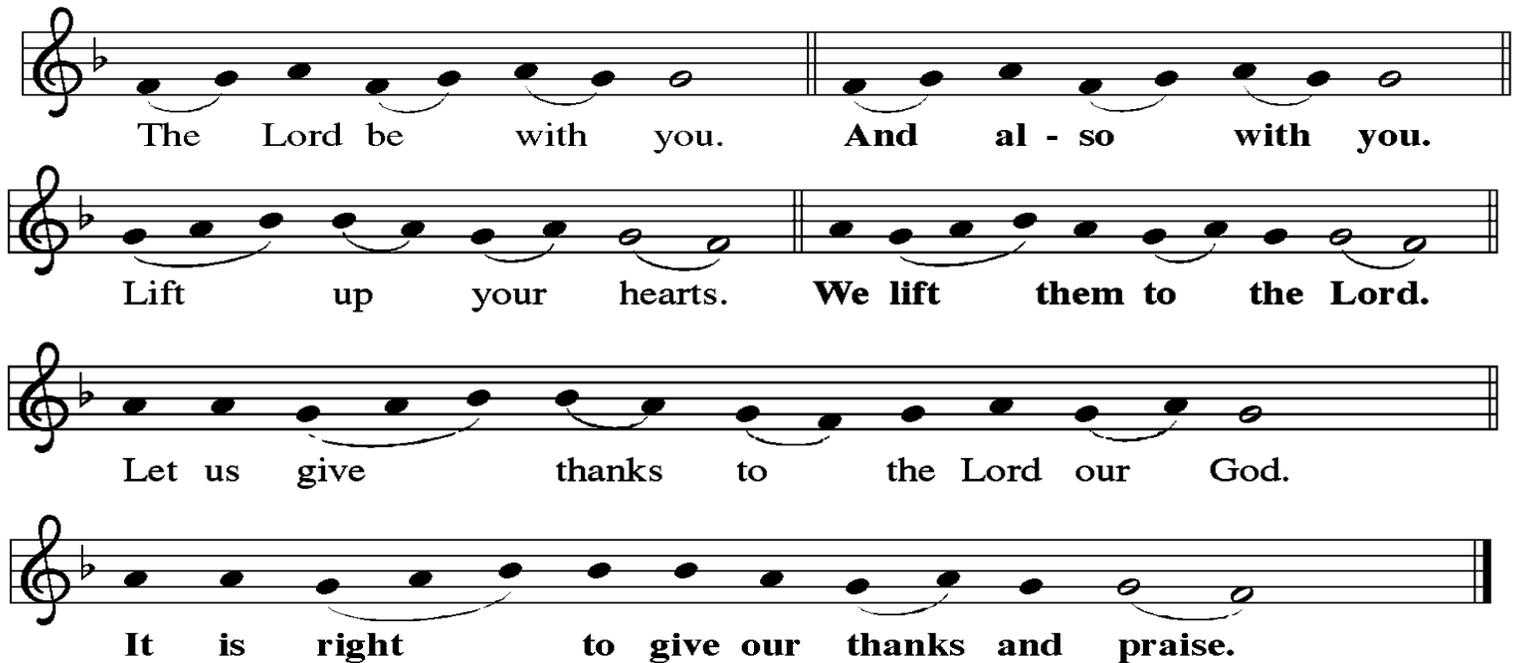
## OFFERING PRAYER

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'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

**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



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.

**All Baptized Christians are welcome for Communion.**

**(If you would like baptized, see Pastor Tim.)**

**We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. To receive the sacrament wine, take an empty cup from the tray. 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 #595:** *“Jesus Loves Me”*

**Hymn #733:** *“Great is Thy Faithfulness”*

**Hymn #754:** *“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”*

**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 #638: “Blessed Assurance”**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are  
dedicated to the Glory of God by

Nancy Hain  
in Memory of Donald Hain.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Lisa Reed

Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmist: Pastor Tim

Videographer: Troy Adair

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Linda Weaver, Vic Richard and Alternate Jean Lausch

<b>Weekly Receipts Report as of 03/12/26</b>	
<b>Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)</b>	<b>63/1</b>
<b>Online Attendance</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>General Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,747.00</b>

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



## EGG HUNT

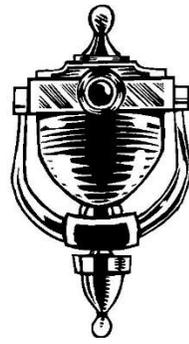
This Year's Mellingers Egg Hunt will be held on  
Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
DURING the Sunday School Hour

We will meet in the Nursery classroom and then proceed  
outside (weather permitting) or down to the Social Hall to  
begin the hunt!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
(There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday)



# VISITS TO OUR SHUT-INS



*Our Social Ministry committee will be visiting Shut-In members on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*If you have any cards to send out please bring them by next Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>.*



*When Life Needs a Little Wind*

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when

we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax



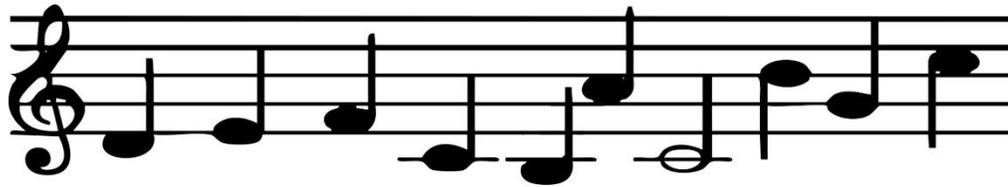
## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

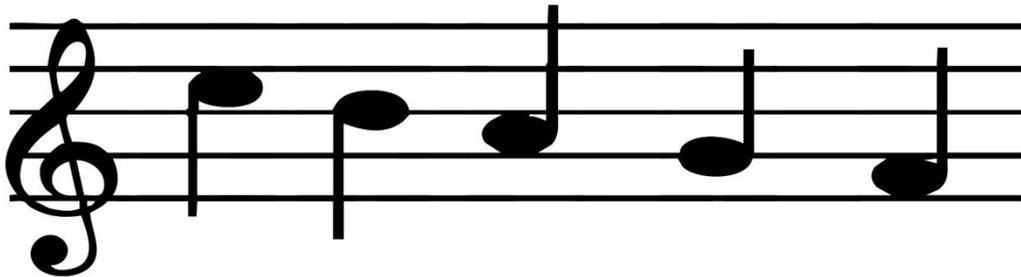
Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

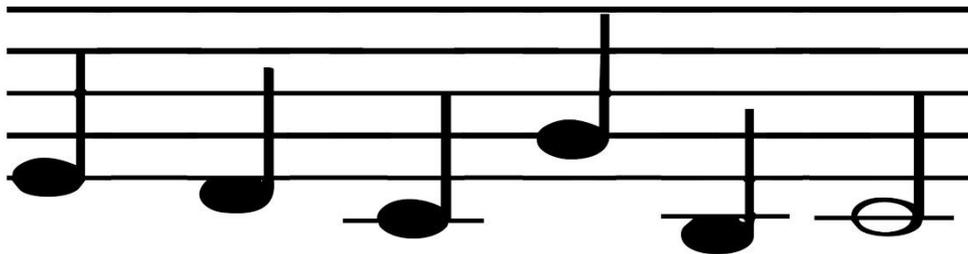
CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ;



\_\_\_\_\_ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

# Puzzle!

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

### CODE:

A = ☺	D = ☼	H = ❄	M = ☆	P = ◆	T = ■	W = ☁
B = ●	E = ✦	I = ✨	N = ↑	R = ●	U = □	Y = 🌀
C = ☀	G = ✨	L = ★	O = ↓	S = ○	V = ☒	Z = 🌀

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☁

Jericho ❄ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ✨ ★ ☼

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ✨ ☀ ☺ ★ ❄ ✦ ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee ✨ □ ○ ■ 🌀 ☁ ✨ ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● ✦ ✦ 🌀 🌀



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

## *2026 Cluster Lenten Services – “Making Change”*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
Wednesday March 18, <b>Noon</b>	Muddy Creek, Denver	Pastor Stacy Chavis
Wednesday March 25, 7pm	Mellingers, Schoeneck	Pastor Tim Craven
Maundy Thursday, April 2	Mellingers / Center / St. Paul's – 7 pm Swamp – 7 pm Faith United – 7 pm	
Good Friday, April 3	Faith United Denver prayer walk 10:30 am Adamstown Cemetery – Noon Center Cemetery – 3 pm Mellingers / Center / St. Paul's – 7 pm Swamp – 7 pm Faith United – 7 pm	
Ascension Day Thursday, May 14, 7 pm	Swamp Lutheran, Reinholds	Pastor Scott Brubaker

