

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 22, 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

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:**

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 Health 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

Preludes: “*At the Foot of the Cross*” - Derek Bond  
“*Behold the Lamb*”  
- Keith & Kristin Getty and Stuart Townend

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

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

**\*GATHERING HYMN: “*By Grace We Have Been Saved*”**  
Insert page

**\*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.

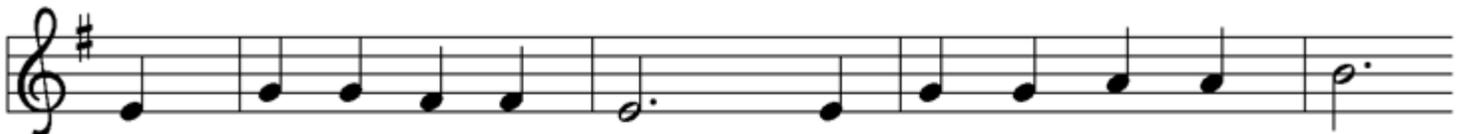
**C: Amen**

## **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.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 5 *“Tree of Life”*

### † GOD’S WORD †

#### FIRST READING

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

Lay Reader (Diane Adair): A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**L: *Christ Crucified Is God’s Power and Wisdom***

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

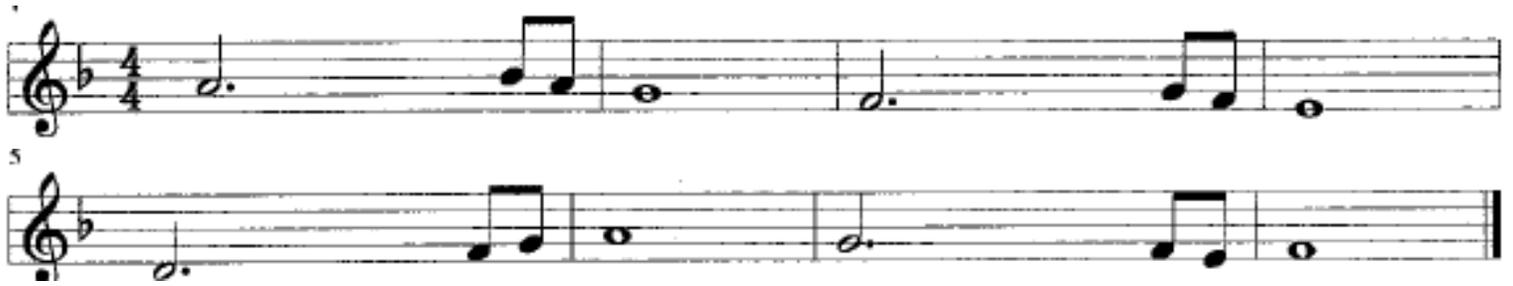
<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALMODY

## PSALM 130



*I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

<sup>1</sup> Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, | hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

<sup>3</sup> **If you were to keep watch | over sins,**

**O Lord, | who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

**in order that you | may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> **O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast love;**

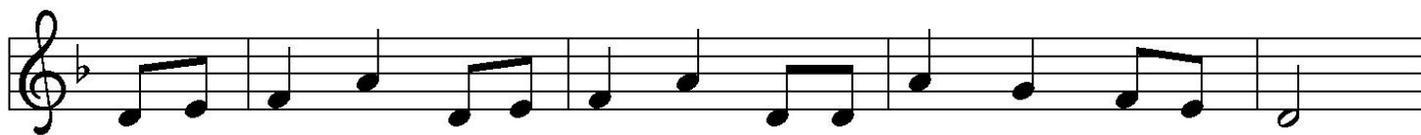
**with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.**

<sup>8</sup> **For the Lord shall | redeem Israel**

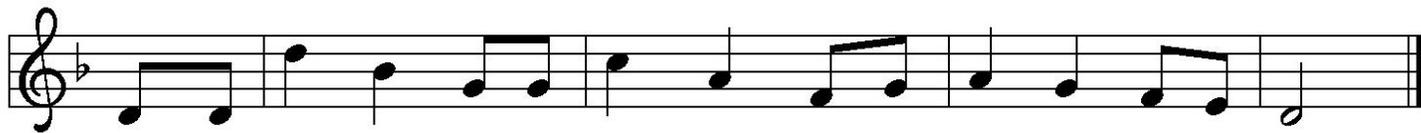
**from | all their sins.**

## 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 2:13-22**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 2nd chapter.

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

P: *Jesus Clears the Temple Courts*

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE:** “*A Pandemic of Politics: A Year of Lent*” -Pastor Craven

**SPECIAL MUSIC:**

“*Thank You Jesus*”

-Charity Gayle, Ryan Kennedy, Steven Musson,  
David Gentiles & Bryan McCleery

**\*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: We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (*local places in nature may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (*especially*). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and ) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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.

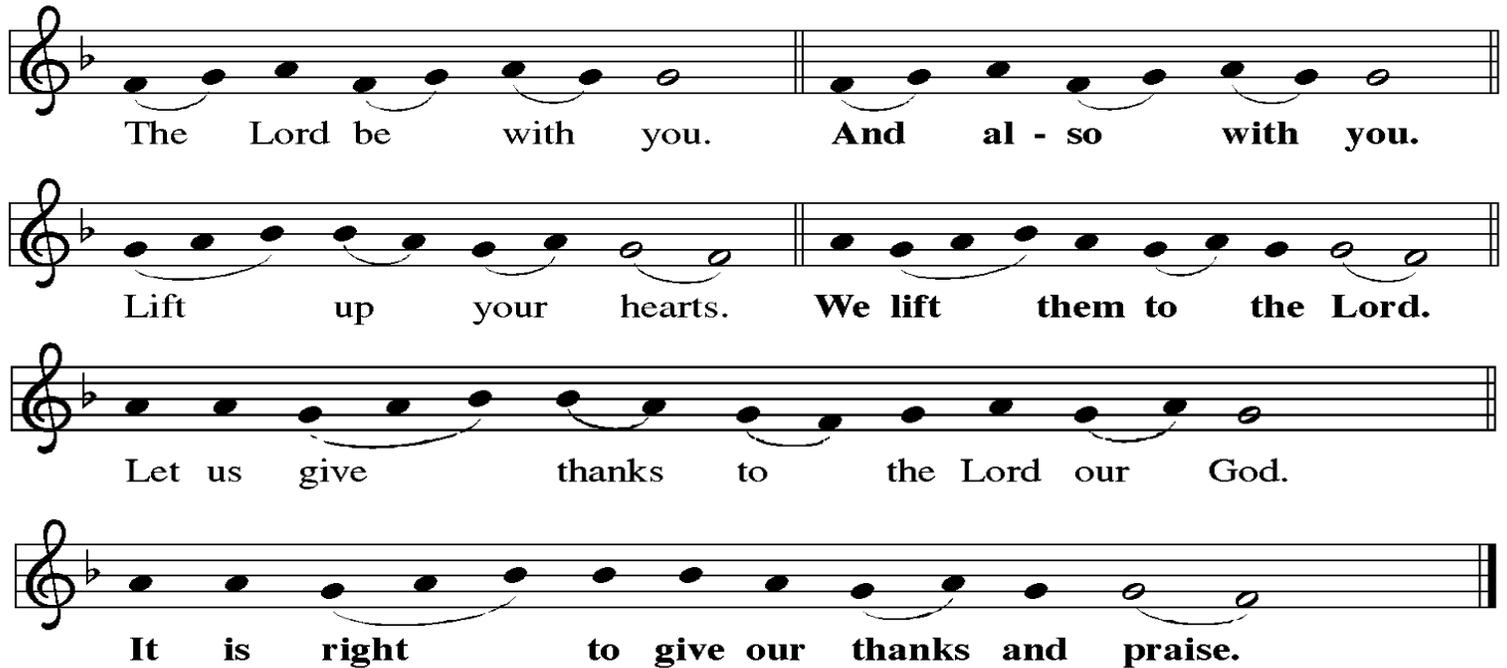
## OFFERING PRAYER

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 #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 Cantic: 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: "Amazing Grace"**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are  
dedicated to the Glory of God by  
Andy & Kristi Leonhard  
In Honor of Piper's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

## Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Diane Adair

Communion Assistant: Pat Haller

Psalmist: Erin Biles

Videographer: Hayden Leonhard

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Troy Adair, Mike Haller and alternate Nancy Eberly

<b>Weekly Receipts Report as of 03/19/26</b>	
<b>Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Online Attendance</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>General Receipts</b>	<b>\$12,095.00</b>

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



### **Easter Flowers for Our Easter Service**

It is time to order flowers for our Easter Service on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>. This year, we are offering the following:

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

Tulips – 6 inch pot with 5 to 6 blooms of 1 color for \$8.00

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



On the order form please list to whom you would like your flowers made in memory or in honor of. Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided and place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give to Pat Haller at church. Please make checks payable to Mellingers Lutheran Church. Proceeds benefit Mellingers Needy Fund.



Last day to order flowers is Sunday March 29.  
Please pick up flowers after the service on Sunday April 5.

# 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)



