

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2026

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

An Order for Holy Communion; *Bread of Life Setting (With One Voice)*

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the aid of your people,
turning us from sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that, attentive to your Word,
we may confess our sins,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the
presence of God and one another.

Kneel/Stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

In your compassion

forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit

so that we may live and serve you

in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your holy name;

through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins

through Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit

keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

***HYMN The God of Abraham Praise (sts. 1-4) No Reference Available**

The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

*THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

*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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

² My help comes | from the LORD,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

THE SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

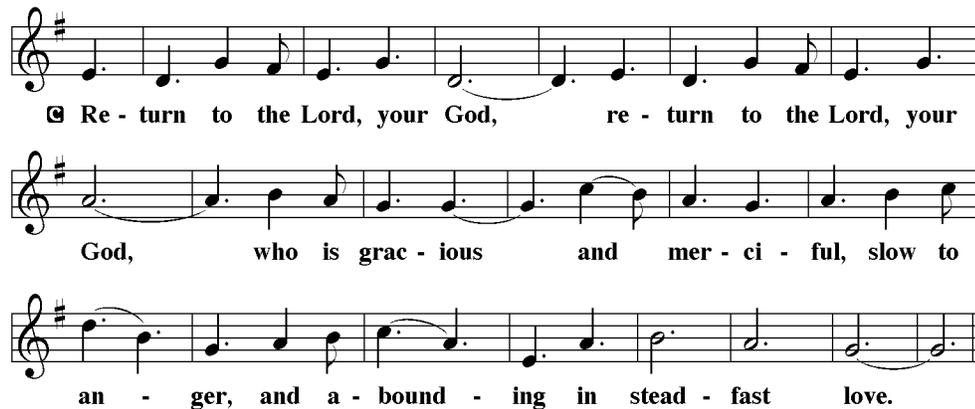
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*THE GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who

believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

No Reference Available

Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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***THE NICENE CREED**

With all people of God, we confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

**He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition: Hear us, O God/Your Mercy is Great

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

People may greet one another with these or similar words or gestures.

OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world
 you gave your only Son,
 that all those who believe in him
 should not perish but have eternal life.
 We give you thanks for the salvation
 you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit
 into our hearts,
 and on these gifts,
 that we may receive our Lord
 with a living faith
 as he comes to us in this his holy supper.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed
 our Lord Jesus took bread,
 and gave thanks; broke it

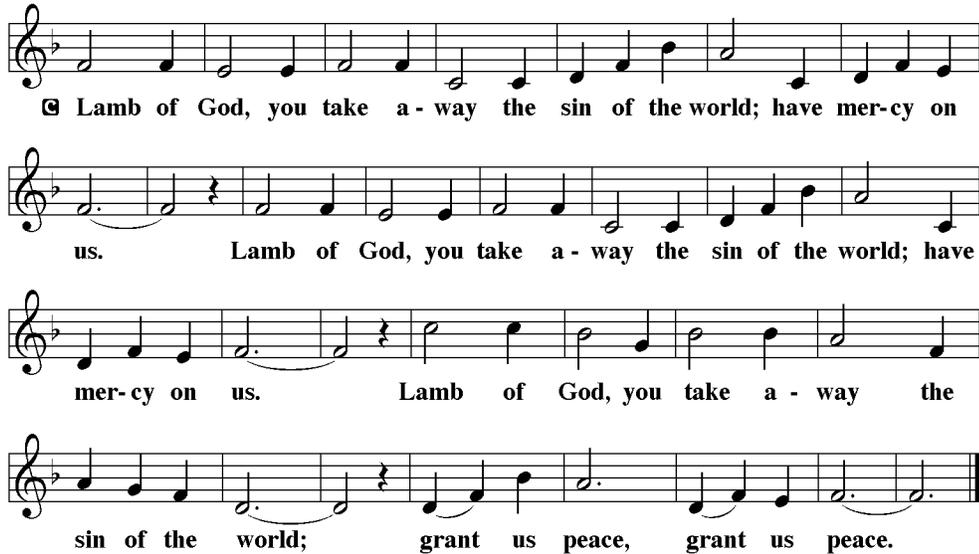
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink
saying: This is my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:

**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.**

*LAMB OF GOD



☞ 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, grant us peace.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Ushers will guide you to come to the chancel rail by tables. Kneel/stand according to your preference. Receive the bread followed by the wine from a pouring chalice. After you commune, please return to your pews by the side aisles. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his holy supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only bread.

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon with favor †
and give you peace.
Amen.

***HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross LBW, "Green," 452**

1 When I sur - vey the won-drous cross where the young
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

6 Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

11 count but loss, and pour con-tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de-mands my soul, my life, my all.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the Good News!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, Ann & Charles Kuntz, and Dave Williams.

COMMEMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Sunday, March 1, 2026

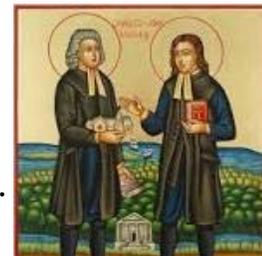
An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a pastor. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.



John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Monday, March 2, 2026

These brothers led a revival within the Church of England that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.



Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, Sunday March 1

**The Second Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30
Sunday School, 9:15 am**

Monday, March 2

Office Hours, 9am- 1 pm

Tuesday, March 3

**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Evangelism and Fellowship, 5:30 pm**

Wednesday, March 4

**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Lenten Bible Study, 12:10 pm**

Thursday, March 5

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Friday, March 6

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Saturday, March 7

Church Office Closed

Sunday, March 8

**Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am**

OUR STEWARDSHIP for February 22, 2026

Regular Offering	\$2,438.00
Plate Offerings	25.00
Lent	357.00
Food Pantry	5.00
Parish Life	88.00
Roof Replacement Fund	200.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Easter Flowers	49.50
Grand Total	\$3,197.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Dr. Ted Larson and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Shipman, by Jane
Larson; and
In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family by Memorial Fund.

WORSHIP LEADERS for March 1, 2026

Lector	8:00 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Ralph Zeigler
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	The Maggs/Dick R.
Hospitality	8:00 am	Shirley Kinney
	10:30 am	The Fortin's & Ruth Ann Bigelow
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (MARCH)		Wanda Fortin, Ruth Ann Bigelow

ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Alexandra Seyler	3/4
Gary & Donna Clark	3/6

BIRTHDAYS

Alexandra Seyler	3/4
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KEEP IN MIND:

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



Winter is just about over and the stores will be putting the winter clothing on sale. This is a good time to look for those 0-24 month sweaters/coats/sweatshirts. Also winter pajamas (remember, no feet) - 2 piece pajamas are OK. Some stores are

still having "white sales" where you can get bath towels and hand towels cheap - remember, no bath blankets (too big). Have fun shopping. Deb Buckman



WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



Still Needed At.....

Our congregation generously donated food, snacks and hygiene items to various nonprofits in our community during our Reverse Advent project and Souper Bowl Sunday. But the need for these items continues. As you are able, please consider donating to these nonprofits.

Shepherd of the Streets: Bars of Soap, Deodorant, Razors, Tissues, Baby Oil, Powder, Body Wash Baby Wipes and Laundry Pods.

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, salad dressings and napkins.

United Churches Food Pantry: Most needed are boxes of Macaroni, Canned Pasta, Boxed Potatoes, Spaghetti Sauce, Hot Chocolate and Chicken Noodle Soup.

Sandwich Crews at St. Mark's: We provide sandwiches weekly to New Covenant's Blessing Boxes. Monetary donations to offset the cost of rolls, meat and cheese are always appreciated. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at Lycoming College

St. Mark's and New Covenant UCC have helped to sponsor this community outreach in the past. Again, this year, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in donating plastic eggs, individually wrapped

candy, fruit snacks, mini-Rice Krispie treats and any other goodies for this kid friendly activity. Donations are due by Sunday, March 15 and may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Card Ministry

Thank you, Cindy Todd for sending cards in February. This month, Donna Clark will be sending cheery messages to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see often enough.

Desserts for Redeemer's Community Meal

For Redeemer's dinner on March 12, 2026, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is collecting boxes of TastyKakes. We are half way to our goal of 20 boxes. Please consider donating a box of any kind to help with this curb side meal. All donations are needed by Sunday, March 8th.

World Day of Prayer

Church Women United of Lycoming County

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2026

Place: Clarkstown United Methodist Church
3117 Clarkstown Road, Muncy, PA

Time: 0:00 a.m.

Theme: "I Will Give You Rest. Come." Matthew 11:28-30

CWU will be collecting Walker, Catheter Bags and Lap Robes which are distributed to nursing homes in Lycoming County. If anyone wishes to make any of these items (They are needed year-round.), see Becky Pryor for the patterns and material.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays in Lent, beginning February 25 and concluding March 25, we will gather in Fellowship Hall from 12:10 – 12:50 pm, to study how the themes associated with Isaiah echo the mission and ministry of Jesus. Our schedule appears below:

March 4: Isaiah's call to “biblical holiness” (it's not what you think).

March 11: How best to be prepared for God's Reign?

March 18: What might God's Reign look like?

March 25: The Suffering Servant; a model for discipleship

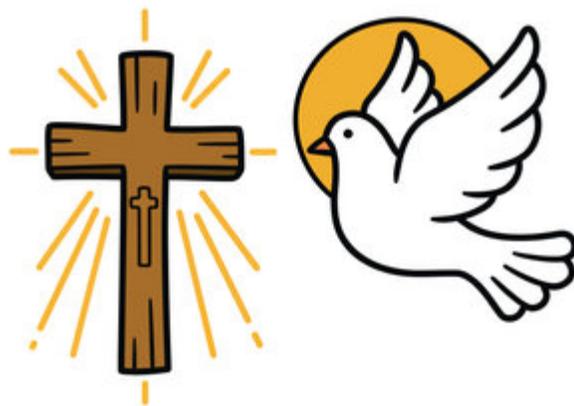
All are welcome! Bring a friend; bring a bag lunch to munch; bring yourself!

Thank you! Wow! Thank you so very much for remembering my birthday with two Hospitalities, Buffalo Bills' gifts, snacks, a "very special T-shirt", and of course sticky buns from Mr. Sticky's! I am enjoying all while appreciating your thoughtfulness and generosity.

+Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Vasey

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT





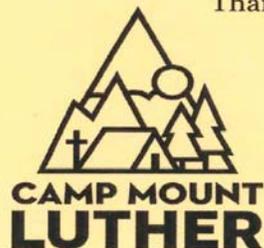
MARCH 11-12, 2026

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

is once again participating in Raise the Region and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through raisetheregion.org will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars, and awards!

Please go to raisetheregion.org March 12 at 6pm through March 13 at 11:59pm to make your contribution.

Thank you for your generosity!



campmountluther.org
355 Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg PA 17844
cml@campmountluther.org
(570) 922-1587



