

A Fiercely Tender Love

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.



Jesus took her
by the hand
and lifted
her up

MARK 1:31

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 2024

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Merciful Father, whose Son brings healing to our wounded souls by his death on the cross: Touch our broken lives with the miracle of forgiveness, that we may be restored to a life of joy and thanksgiving. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **No. 400 LBW (green),**

God, Whose Almighty Word

*Greetings: Pages 57, line 5

*Hymn of Praise, *Glory to God*, Page 58 & 59, line 7

*Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)

Children's Sermon

The First Reading

The Psalmody: (On the lesson insert, read responsively)

The Second Reading

*The Gospel

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **No. 349 NCH (red),**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Installation of Congregation Council Members-on insert

*The Apostles' Creed, Page 65

Choir Anthem: *The Power of Your Love*

*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22

*The Greeting of Peace: Page 66, line 23

*The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31

*The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (spoken)

Holy Communion (Table)

*Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40

*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43

*Departing Hymn: **No. 543 LBW (green),**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

***Please Stand**

Serving you this morning:

Pastor, The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader, Scott Johnson

Organist, Pianist, Debra Tice

Lay Reader, Cheryl Batdorf

Ushers/Audio, Scott Johnson and Frank Hoffman

The altar flowers and bulletins are given to the honor and glory of God and in memory of Stan Templin, Sr. by his family.





Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God?"

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

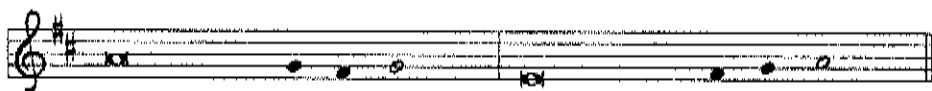
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; tone 6



Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises ¹ to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor ¹ God with praise!

²The LORD re-¹ builds Jerusalem, and gathers the ex-¹ iles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the ¹ brokenhearted and binds ¹ up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number ¹ of the stars and calls them all ¹ by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and might-¹ y in power;

continued

Psalm, continued

there is no limit ¹ to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts ¹ up the lowly, but casts the wicked ¹ to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD ¹ with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp ¹ to our God,

⁸who covers the heav-¹ ens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up-¹ on the mountains.

⁹God provides food ¹ for the cattle and for the young ravens ¹ when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might ¹ of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed ¹ of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who ¹ fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I

became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out

many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

TODAY'S READINGS February 4, 2024

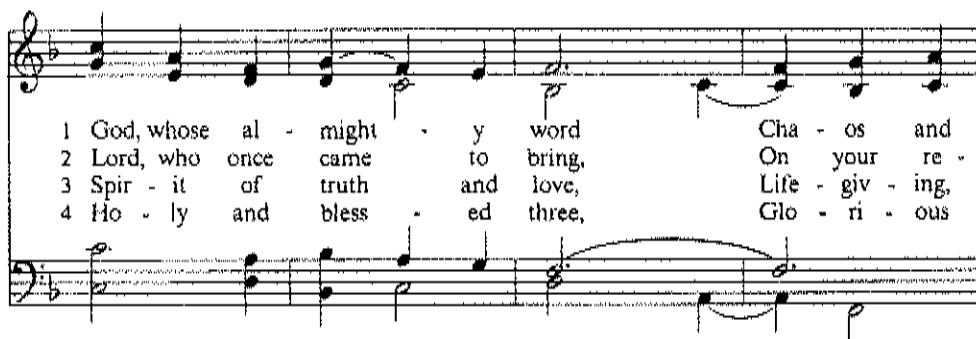
Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1080-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1563, Minneapolis, MN 55400-0730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiple of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1988 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006, 2011. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org.
11 of 14
Tracks 1 and 2

God, Whose Almighty Word

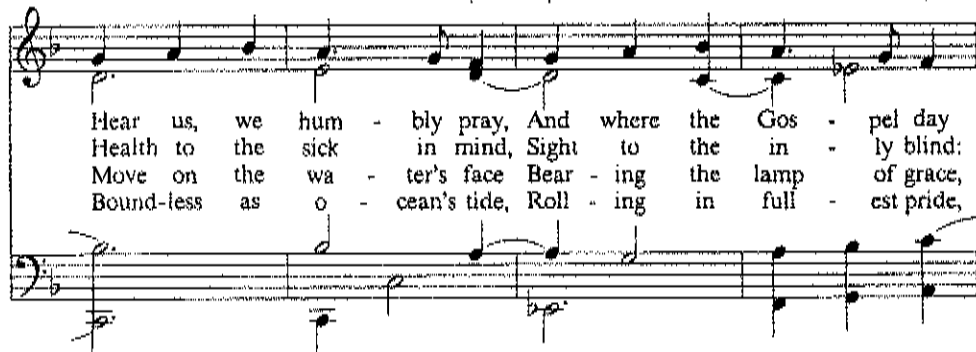
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1 God, whose al - mighty - y word Cha - os and
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On your re -
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight;
deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight,
ho - ly dove, Speed forth your flight;
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might!



Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day
Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind;
Move on the wa - ter's face Bear - ing the lamp of grace,
Bound - less as o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,

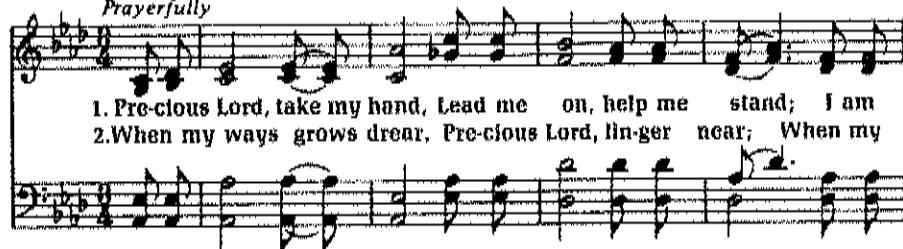


Sheds not its glo - rious ray,
Oh, now to hu - man - kind Let there be light!
And in earth's dark - est place
Through the earth, far and wide,

Take My Hand, Precious Lord 349

T.A.D.

Thomas A. Dorsey

Prayerfully


1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am
2. When my ways grows drear, Pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near; When my



tired, I am weak, I am worn; Thru the storm, thru the night, Lead me
life is al - most gone; Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my



on to the light; Take my hand, Pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
hand lest I fall; Take my hand, Pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to his
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men Sound from his



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 might - y can do If with his love he be - friend you.
 peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Installation of Congregation Council Members

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Those to be installed come forward as the presiding minister reads their names.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as council members of Millcreek Lutheran Church in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen! Thanks be to God!

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.





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Cell: (540) 335-1693
pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday February 4, 2024

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 10:15 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

CHILI/SOUPER SUNDAY will be held on Sunday February 11. Cans of soup will be collected and donated to **ELCO Raider Food Pantry and Caring Closet**.

WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS to make soup or chili. Please sign up if you would like to make soup or chili on the sheet on the table in the narthex. Others can bring sandwiches, sides or desserts. The luncheon and fellowship will be in the multi-purpose room after the worship service.

FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST: There are a host of activities coming up at Spang Crest, starting with the annual membership drive in February, our resident birthday celebration in April, chicken BBQ in May & September and 2 free music concerts this summer. There are volunteer opportunities-contact Karen Kreiser at Spang Crest if interested.

RICHLAND FIRE CO. AUXILIARY will have (Purse) BINGO on February 11, 2024 at the firehouse. Doors will open at 12:00, with BINGO starting at 2:00 PM. Food will be available for you to purchase. For more information contact the Richland Auxiliary 717-866-2675 or Mary Ream 610-509-2468

DAFFODIL DAYS: The annual Daffodil sale sponsored by the American Cancer Society is taking place. Orders will be accepted through February 13 with pick up/delivery on March 21. Cost as follows: Bunch of daffodils \$12; Mini-potted daffodils \$15; Bunch of tulips (assorted colors) \$15; Gift of Hope \$25 (donated to cancer center/hospital/nursing home facility). Contact Debbie Tice or sign up on sheet in narthex of the church.

Please see the insert for information on **Lenten services** and for ordering **Easter Flowers**.

Ash Wednesday is here at Millcreek with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. There will be light refreshments in the multi-purpose room after the service.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

CONGREGATION COUNCIL will meet today after the worship service.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be shared today.

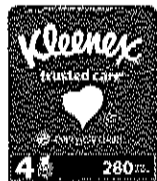
TREASURER'S REPORT: January 28, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,710.00, Plate-52.00, Initial, 28.00, World Hunger-50.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-10.00, Coffee-10.00, **Total-\$1,890.00.**

Attendance-64, Sunday School-15

January Electronic Offering: Current-990.00, Restore and Renew-100.00

SWEET SUNDAY will happen today. Baked goods will be available for purchase in the multi-purpose room after the worship service. All proceeds from the sales are donated to the church. Thank you to Charmayne!

THE FEBRUARY PARISH ECHO hard copies may be picked up from the wall rack outside of the office.



The Evangelism Project for January - collection of tissues totaled - 74 boxes. Thank you to those who contributed. They will be distributed to our local elementary schools for students to use.

The next meeting of the **Evangelism Committee** is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 2PM** at the church. **Note change in schedule** due to 2nd Wednesday being Ash Wednesday.

COLLEGE STUDENT TREAT: While our college students are doing their thing, let's do ours & I don't mean Ring Dings... We'll take a monetary collection on February 18th & 25th. Buying them a "SUBWAY CARD"-THAT WILL BE OUR GIFT. Our goal is \$150.00; we invite you to help-give a dollar or two to buy a tuna melt??? Thanks, The Evangelism Committee



THE FEBRUARY CHURCH BREAKFAST will be on **Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 8 AM.** at Country Fare in Myerstown. Just ask the host/hostess for the MLC group and they will direct you to our table. We'd love to have you join us. Nancy Deiter

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Consider joining us in our music ministry. Contact Debbie Tice with questions.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

Congratulations to Arianna Warnick for receiving the Golden Raider Award at the ELCO Intermediate School for the month of December. Arianna is in 4th grade and the daughter of Melanie Warnick.

Congratulations to Maddie Johnson for receiving the Golden Raider Award at the ELCO Intermediate School for the month of February. Maddie is in 4th grade and the daughter of Scott and Nikki Johnson.

A **Golden Raider** represents the qualities of being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. This student goes above and beyond being a good citizen in the classroom, helpful and thoughtful of others.

WEATHER ALERT: In case of bad weather, please listen to WLBR 1270AM for a notice of cancellation of church services. Pastor Scott will send out an email to those on the email address list. You can also tune to Channel 27 WHIM (Comcast Channel 12) for notices of church service cancellation, which scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen. **When church is cancelled due to the weather, there is no one at the church for a service on the Phone Patch.**

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS: Elaine Hemperly, 118 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, PA 17073

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Norm Sharp, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers



Sponsored by the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium

All services begin at 7:00 PM

Lenten Theme: "Return..."

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Millcreek Lutheran, 221 N. Sheridan Rd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "A Call to Return to the Lord" – Joel 2:12-14

Wednesday, February 21

Church of Christian Outreach, 101 W. Main Street, Newmanstown, with Pastor Mario Madden speaking. Topic: "Return to Prayer" – Romans 8:26-28

Wednesday, February 28

United Christian Church, 2 Memorial Blvd., Newmanstown, with Pastor Bruce Farrell speaking. Topic: "Return from Betrayal" – Acts 2:22-24

Wednesday, March 6

St. Paul's UCC, 13 Church Road, Newmanstown, with Pastor Matt Grant speaking. Topic: "Return from Denial" – Mark 14:66-71

Wednesday, March 13

Tulpehocken Trinity, 961 Tulpehocken Road, Richland, with Pastor Bill Wink speaking. Topic: "Return to the Kingdom of God" – John 18:36-38a

Wednesday, March 20

Grace UCC, 22 Church Street, Richland with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. Topic: "Return to the Church" – John 14:6-7

Wednesday, March 27

Elias UCC, 9 N. Sheridan Road, Newmanstown with Pastor Scott Paradise speaking. Topic: "Return to the Table" – John 15:1-4

Good Friday, March 29

Richland Church of the Brethren, 215 S. Race St., Richland, with Pastor Jim Artz speaking. Topic: "Return and See Life" – John 10:10-11

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow each service.

Weather related cancellations to be determined by the home church and will be announced on the Ministerium Facebook page.

Offering taken will go to the Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium Emergency Fund to assist local families in need. Please make checks payable to Newmanstown/Richland Ministerium.

EASTER FLOWERS



Anyone interested in purchasing Easter Flowers this year, please contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721. This is my cell number, you may text me or call. I will confirm all orders if you don't sign-up directly at church. If you don't hear back from me to confirm, please call me.

The flowers will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

The choices of potted flowers are as follows: tulips (request color), daffodils (regular), hyacinths (one color or pink, blue, white trio), Easter lilies (white), L.A. Hybrid lilies - colored) or mums. The cost is \$8.00 each except for the lilies which are \$9.00.

I will be available after church most Sundays or you can call me. I will place the order mid-February. If you want to specify color, please have your order in as soon as possible for the best selection. (Those I will be ordering as soon as possible as there were some supply issues in the past).

Thank you,
Carol Sova

SOUPER SUNDAY IS BACK!!



Plan to join us on Sunday February 11 as we collect soup and/or cash to donate to the ELCO Raider Pantry.

Following the service, you can enjoy a variety of soups & chili made by various church members. You may also take some to go if that works best for you.

To add to the soup, please bring sandwiches, sides or desserts.

And wear your favorite team shirt if you want!

Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.

DAFFODIL ORDER FORM

NAME _____

Bunch of daffodils \$12 x _____

Bunch of tulips \$15 x _____

Mini-daffodils \$ 15 x _____

Gift of Hope \$25 x _____

Gift of Hope is delivered to local nursing home or health care center

If you would like them in honor or memory of someone, please indicate on this form.

Order Deadline Sunday February 11

Flowers will be in church March 24

Checks payable to ACS

