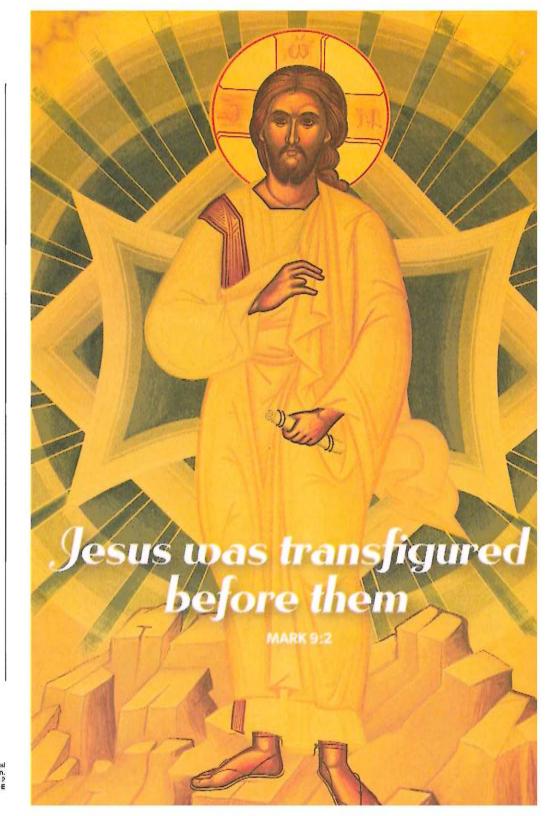
Just Listen

There are transfiguration moments in everyday life that can absolutely stop us in our tracks with the glory of Christ's presence: The smell of a new baby. Flowering trees blooming in the spring. The embrace of a friend when we need them most. Voices raised in cries for justice. The bravery of difficult conversations. The sacred minutes just before death. It may not be Jesus in dazzling clothes or a visit from the ancestors on a mountaintop, but by God's grace, we perceive the love of Christ shining brightly in these ordinary, yet holy, moments.

When they happen to us, what are we to do? It can be difficult, when in the presence of the divine, to know quite what to say. Peter, grasping at straws, offered to make three dwellings. You can't blame him—we all make weird choices when we are terrified! But a voice came from heaven: "Listen." It is not necessary to do or say anything. This moment is simply a gift. Our job is only to listen to Jesus.

Have you ever spent time just listening? Maybe outdoors, on a hike or in a park—listening to the sounds of creation. Or during a quiet moment in worship—the sound of cars driving by outside, or your neighbor breathing, or your own heart beating. Perhaps you have listened compassionately to a loved one who didn't need advice but just needed to be heard.

As people accustomed to *doing*, we can find it challenging to just listen. We may have learned that it is important for us to have something to say, something to offer, something to provide. But the good news of grace is that Christ's love has come to us even before we could do anything. That's why we baptize even helpless infants. That's why, when we come to communion, we do so with hands outstretched and empty, ready to receive: "This is the body of Christ." All we can do is listen . . . and say, "Amen."





Propriety w Blanca Ilanes

Transfiguration of Our Lord February 11, 2024

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountainton into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

化基化物 医氯甲烷 化电路

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take yourself live, I will not leave you." So the Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

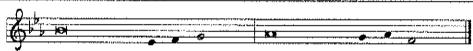
Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered. "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here: for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you

two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." 10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." 11As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. 12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6; tone 10



The mighty one, God the LORD. has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun

to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect [†] in its beauty, God shines i forth in glory. Our God will come and will 1 not keep silence;

continued

Psalm, continued

with a consuming flame before, and round about a 1 raging storm. 4God calls the heavens and the earth 1 from above to witness the judgment of the people.

5"Gather before me my loyal followers. those who have made a covenant with me and sealed ! it with sacrifice." ⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God | who is judge.

Dun barren Erebekik d

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The second

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ⁸and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. *And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 6He did not

know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁶Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

TODAY'S READINGS February 11, 2024

Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psaim 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 006928) is published quarterly by Augaburg Fortmee, 411 West-Ington Avenue North. Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Participals position and in St. Paul, MN and additional malling offices. Positivaters, Send address changes to foodays Readings, Augaburg Fortness Publishers, P.O. Box 1556, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; prize in Canada auditorial to exchange rates. Alternative and order to exchange rates. the reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary to 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Rible with Apocrypha & 1999 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and pagin from Evengelical Lutheran Worship 57 2005, admin. Augsburg Formain. Pasirn tone incompaniment is in Psatter for Worship, Year & (Augaburg Formain, 2008). Please visit our website at augaburgiortrass.org. Lectionary year 8.



5 Let all of humankind In this their concord find: May Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space, Sing, all who see his face, Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er, Today and evermore, Shall Jesus Christ be praised!



We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light



The Lord is the strength of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid? Though foes may be near to destroy; the Lord may be our light.

REFRAIN (Congregation joins)

CHOIR

2. We are singing,

Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light. We are singing,

Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

One thing have we asked of the Lord, yes, this is the thing we seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord.

to live with God forever.

REFRAIN (Congregation joins)

When burdens are heavy to bear, our shelter is God alone. Our feet are lifted high, yes, high upon a rock.

REFRAIN (Congregation joins)

CHOIR

4. We are singing,

Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light. We are singing, Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

We walk in the strength of the Lord.

We walk in the strength of the Lord, God's love is ever sure.
We shout that the world may hear,

we sing a joyful song.

REFRAIN (Congregation joins)

© 1994 by Agape, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.

A Group of hear Pushing Company

All Rights Reserved.

All Rights Reserved.

Permission is granted by the publisher to copy this page for congregational use.

Why Don't We Use Alleluias during Lent?



Based on the Hebrew word, "hallelu yah," meaning "Praise the Lord," "alleluia" has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church and was prominent in early Christian liturgies. ("Hallelujah" is the Hebrew spelling. "Alleluia" is

the Greek spelling, since Greek technically doesn't have a letter "H.") Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent in the Western church, singing or saying the word "alleluia" has historically been suspended during Lent's forty days. This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that the joyful nature of "alleluia" is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice.

The omission of "alleluia" during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The custom of actually bidding it farewell, however, developed in the Middle Ages. The hymn "Alleluia, Song of Gladness" contains a translation of an 11th century Latin text that compares an alleluia-less Lent to the exile of the Israelites in Babylon. The text then anticipates the joy of Easter when glad alleluias will return in all their heavenly splendor.

Along with a sung farewell to alleluia, some congregations have embraced the practice of symbolically "burying" the alleluia. A banner or other visual presentation of the "alleluia" is crafted and then "buried" in order to be "resurrected" at Easter.

Alleluia, Song of Gladness



Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880



"The Church on the Hill"

Church Office (610) 589-2570 secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

221 North Sheridan Road PO Box 399 Newmanstown, PA 17073 www.millcreeklutheran.com

Pastor Scott Paradise Home: (717) 628-1241

Cell: (540) 335-1693

pastorscottparadise@gmail.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday February 11, 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 is 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. Others can bring sandwiches, sides or desserts. The luncheon and fellowship will be in the multi-purpose room after the worship service.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE is at Millcreek with Pastor Jay Heberling speaking. There will be light refreshments in the multi-purpose room after the service. Please consider bringing light snacks to share with those in attendance.

Holy Trinity, Lebanon is organizing a local mission trip for the week of June 23-29. Participants will work on various projects at Camp Kirchenwald, which is right here in Lebanon County. They would love to see members from Millcreek to participate as a way

to show our community working together to support our local Lutheran camp. All ages and skill levels are welcome. You can pick any or all of the days to participate according to your schedule. (There will be a \$10 per-person cost for each day to cover food and drink.) If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott know and he will connect you with the folks from Holy Trinity.

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.

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. (See yellow insert.)

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

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

CONGREGATION COUNCIL officers and members are now Susan Long - Lay Leader, David Engle - Vice President, Dara Wolfe - Executive Secretary, Debra Hogeland, Darryl Bentz, Conner Pennington and Jennifer Rosengrant. Continuing as Church Treasurer - Stephanie Seldomridge and Recording Secretary - Debra Buffington. Thank you to Scott Johnson, Gene Flory and Mary Ream for serving their term(s), ending February 1, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 4, 2024-Current Offerings-\$1,560.00, Plate-144.00, Initial, 11.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-10.00, Total-\$1,755.00. Attendance-49, Sunday School-13

2023-2024 YEARBOOK/DIRECTORY is completed and may be picked up from the table in the narthex or from the wall rack outside the office. Thank you to all who submitted reports, and to those who contacted me with updates of pertinent information. The directory is worked on throughout the year, so you may let me know anytime if you have changes. Linda Sheetz

THE MARCH PARISH ECHO: Deadline for items you want in the church newsletter for March, 2024 is Thursday, February 15. Newsletter items sent via email should be addressed to either <u>Newsletter@millcreeklutheran.com</u> or millcreek.echo@gmail.com. Items may also be submitted to the Hoglunds by placing a written note in the newsletter mailbox in the church office or by phone: Roy 717-228-8175, Dotti 717-228-8177.

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



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

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 WHTM (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: Violet Hepler, Stone Ridge Poplar Run, 450 E. Lincoln Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067

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 at 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

