



**CHRIST'S UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
13765 Old Turnpike Rd
Millmont, Pa. 17845

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY COMMUNION**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

In church, be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God. Before the service speak to the Lord. During the service, let the Lord speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PSALM: Psalm 51: 1-17**

A reading from Psalm.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

*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.

*PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day
long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from 1 Peter.

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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SERMON

*CREED

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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world,
and all in need.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give
your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach
us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all
the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially . . . here local
environmental concerns may be named*). Empower the work of biologists,
conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

COMMUNION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Winifred Aikey	(members/requested by)
Kim Blyler	a member of the congregation
Roger Dunkle	a member of the congregation
Mike Flickinger	a member of the congregation
Doug & Pearl Gemberling	members of the congregation
Wendy Norton	a member of the congregation
Diane Reamer	a member of the congregation
Ron & Darlene Ulrich & Family	members of the congregation
Tom Watters	a member of the congregation
Maria Anderson	(Doug & Pearl Gemberling)
John Bowersox	(Roger Dunkle)
John Dunkle	(Roger & Margie Dunkle)
Josh Frank	(Lee Spangler)
Jeff & Jenn Gates	(Dave & Linda Swartz)
Gary & Barb Gemberling	(Greg & Teresa Shuck)
Toni Hostalley	(Joe Zimmerman)
Dave Janaes	(Dave & Linda Swartz)
Paul Kratzer Jr	(Linda Smith)
Janet Meyer	(Torey Showalter)
Harry Moyer	(Becky Dunkle)
Kim Roberts	(Torey Showalter)
Richard Rowe	(Rick Endy)
Gerry Shively	(Maurice & Barbara Clouser)
Miranda & Caleb Stroik	(Becky Dunkle)
Rita Tinnes	(Dave & Linda Swartz)
Glen VanDyke	(Pastor John)
Pastor Bill Weiser & Family	

The Shut-Ins: Jim & Florence Boop, Carolyn Bowersox, Barbara Grimooris, Helen Pirone, Meda Struble, Ronald Ulrich, Connie Wagner.

The Troops: Brandi Gemberling.

*In an effort to keep our prayer list current, we are going to clear the current list on a quarterly basis. **A new list will begin in January, April, July and October.***

If you want to continue an existing prayer request or have a new prayer concern, please contact Margie.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 16 – 7:00 p.m. – Council

Next Newsletter (**April**) Articles Due **March 10**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WELCOME! As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God.

IF YOU ARE VISITING with us today, we welcome you and invite you to return often; we appreciate your presence with us. Please be sure to sign the guest book in the hallway, and include your full address. If you are without a church home, we invite you to prayerfully consider making this fellowship your own. If you would like a personal visit or a phone call from the pastor, please fill out one of the cards available in the pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. Please come again!

WE INVITE ALL that are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament to come to the Lord's Table. Visitors, if you would like to have your home church notified of your communion with us, please fill out a communion card (located in the rack on the back of the pews) and place it in the offering plate.

We use bread and wine as the primary elements at the distribution. However there are prefilled cups of grape juice for those who desire it. If you have any concerns about this practice, speak to Pastor John.

COMMUNIONS for all confirmed members must be recorded in the parish register annually. If you do not commune on a regular basis, we ask that you fill out a communion record card (one per year is all we need) so we know you have partaken of the sacrament. The cards are located in the racks on the back of the pews. Cards can be put in the offering plate or handed to an usher.

TODAY WE THANK: Pastor John Yost; Matt Wagner, organist; Barbara & Maurice Clouser, altar guild.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO: Andrew Clouser, Max Miller (23); Scott Sampsell (24); Clayton Gemberling, Mahayla Gemberling (26); Rose Wenrich (27).

LENT BEGAN FEBRUARY 17, which means it's time to make our Easter eggs again. This year we are planning to make eggs for five (5) Mondays beginning the first Monday in Lent. We will be making them on **February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22** provided we have enough help.

Providing there is enough help, eggs will be mixed and shaped starting at **9:00 a.m. each Monday morning** and coating and packaging will begin each **Monday evening at 6:00 p.m.** This is a great fundraiser for the Church and much help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. to make this project successful.

In order for this fundraiser to be successful, much help is needed to mix and shape at 9:00 a.m. each Monday and again at 6:00 p.m. to dip and package them. Please let Pearl know that you can help, and when, so that we know if we have enough help to make eggs each week. The more help we have, the quicker we will get done.

Everything will be done with the current CDC guidelines being enforced; masks, social distancing, sanitation, etc.

Mark your calendars NOW and please plan to come out and help make these popular treats.

Easter Eggs are going to be made by **Pre Order Only.** All orders MUST be in by 6:00 p.m. the Friday before the pickup week (Monday, Tuesday or Sunday). Online ordering is available at the CULC website at www.4bellschurch.com or contact Pearl Gemberling at 570-716-4336 or email her at eggs@4bellschurch.com to order, or for more information.

MARK SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021, on your calendars. This will be the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther was summoned at the Diet of Worms to renounce his views that started the Protestant Reformation. However, Luther would not recant on what he believed based on Scriptures and defied the wills of the current Pope and Holy Roman Emperor. Details

will be forthcoming on how our congregation will recognize this historic event in the life of the Church and our Lutheran heritage.

COUNCIL is looking for an additional member willing to attend this year's synod conference, which will be held virtually on **Saturday, June 19**. Barry Spangler was appointed to be one of our allotted two voting attendees.

BARRY SPANGLER will be Christ's United's camperson for Camp Mt. Luther. If you or someone you know is interested in going to camp this year, please contact him at 570-966-0406 or bspanglerx68@gmail.com.

JEN KEISTER AND BARRY SPANGLER are our congregation's newest members on Parish Council who will be starting their two-year terms. Lee Spangler is still on Parish Council and his term expires the end of this year.

THE 2021 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is on the bulletin board outside of the office. The cost of the weekly flowers, which is payable to the church, is \$40.00 through the end of March. On April 1, the cost of the flowers is being increased to \$50.00.

ROLLING HILLS MANOR is in need of lap robes for their residents. If you could knit or crochet a lap robe with any yarn you want to use – weights 3 or 4 – and in any colors. You can stripe different yarns, use any pattern you like, or just use your imagination. Or, Linda Swartz has 2 patterns that are her favorites for the lap robes she can give you.

But the size must be:

36" square or
30" X 40" rectangle

Anything you knit or crochet for them will be greatly appreciated. You can drop them off at the church and they will be delivered to Rolling Hills Manor. Or you can drop them off at Rolling Hill Manor and let the person that answers the door know the package/bag is for Ann Star the activities director.

Please call Linda Swartz (570) 966-4353 if you have any questions or wish to see the patterns she has.

EASTER FLOWERS

One of the customs of this season at Christ's United is to celebrate the risen Christ with a bevy of flowers adorning the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, fill out the form below and return it to Janice Wagner or Margie.



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

**Order Deadline: February 28
Return with Payment to Margie Dunkle or Janice Wagner**

_____ 6" Daffodil @ \$9.00	_____
_____ 3 bloom Hyacinth @ \$8.50	_____
_____ 1 bloom Hyacinth @ \$4.00	_____
_____ 5-7 bloom Lily @ \$10.00	_____
_____ 4½ inch Pansy @ \$2.00	_____
_____ 6 bloom Tulip @ \$8.50	_____
TOTAL	_____

GIVEN BY _____

in memory of _____

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

in honor of _____

to the Glory of God _____

CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
13765 Old Turnpike Road, Millmont, Pa. 17845
570-922-1860

Church e-mail: culc@dejazzd.com
Pastor John's e-mail: pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com
Website: www.4bellschurch.com

The Rev. John D. Yost	Pastor
The Members of the Congregation	The Ministers
Matthew Wagner	Organist
Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman	Pianists
David Swartz & Barry Spangler	Digital Music Arrangers
Loretta Martin	Custodian
Margie Dunkle	Secretary/Asst. Tr.
Dianne Shuck	Treasurer
Janet Hackenberg	Assistant Treasurer
Cliff Valentine	Financial Recording Secretary
Jennifer Keister, Barry Spangler, Lee Spangler	Parish Council Representatives
Bev Catherman, Maurice & Barbara Clouser, Barry Spangler, Janice Wagner	Parish Social Committee

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

President – Lee Spangler
Vice President – Jennifer Keister
Recording Secretary – Barry Spangler

MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS

Facilities & Administration *(deals with property, personnel and stewardship)*

Kim Blyler, Sue Blyler, Lee Spangler

Inreach *(focus on ministry within the congregation)*

Jennifer Keister, David Murray, Barry Spangler

Outreach *(related to ministry beyond the congregation)*

Joe Dressler, Doug Gemberling, Pearl Gemberling

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Friday – Closed

OUR CALENDAR

February

21-Today

8:30 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

22-Monday

9:00 a.m. Mixing Easter Eggs
6:00 p.m. Dipping Easter Eggs

24-Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Hope's Haven

28-Sunday

8:30 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

March

1-Monday

9:00 a.m. Mixing Easter Eggs
6:00 p.m. Dipping Easter Eggs

3-Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Hope's Haven

7-Sunday

8:30 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

8-Monday

9:00 a.m. Mixing Easter Eggs
6:00 p.m. Dipping Easter Eggs

9-Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Hope's Haven

14-Sunday

8:30 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

15-Monday

9:00 a.m. Mixing Easter Eggs
6:00 p.m. Dipping Easter Eggs