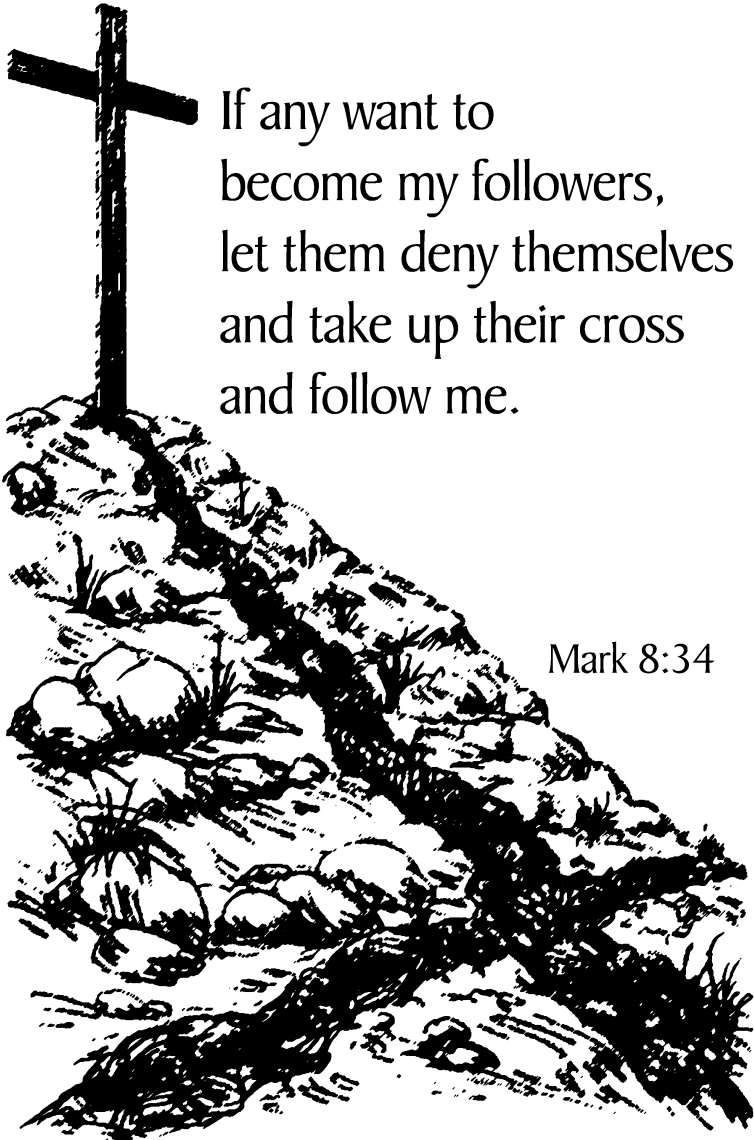


Sunday, February 25, 2024



If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.

Mark 8:34

***Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, Pennsylvania***



Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, PA

Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns.

Communion - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let Pastor Wayne know when he gives you the bread.

Children are always welcome! Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshipping) at the end of today's service.

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668
Office: 412-795-1212
Church Office email: office@christsmurrysville.org
Website: www.christsmurrysville.org
App: [Christ's Lutheran \(ELCA\)](#)

Second Sunday in Lent

(Please take a moment to silence your electronic devices)

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Leoni"

Richard Proulx

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(pause for a short time of silent reflection)*

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurt grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

ELW #831

GREETING

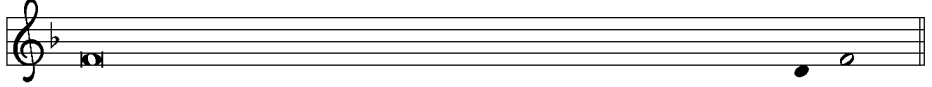
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THE KYRIE



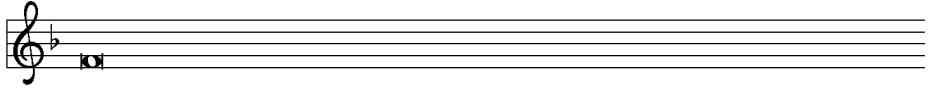
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



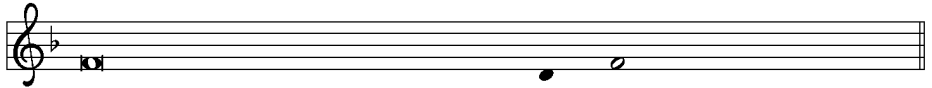
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



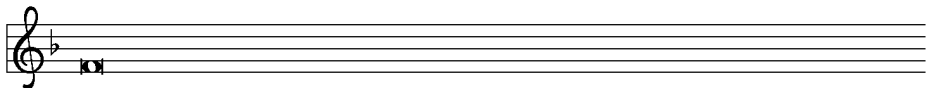
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



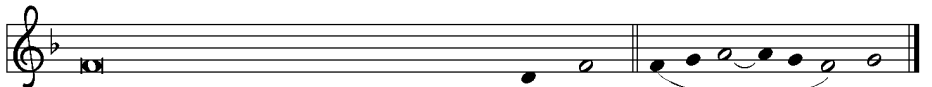
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im-age, bless-ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun-da-tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: public domain

DER AM KREUZ

87 87 77 88

Lk 8:14; Ro 8:29; 1 Co 1:23,24; Heb 6:19

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: PSALM 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those

who fear him. The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring--not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 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. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

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

GOSPEL: MARK 8:31-38

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Built on a Rock"

ELW #652

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting that God hears our prayers, and that God promises to wipe away every tear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

P: Hear us, O God., (*after each petition*)

C: Your mercy is great.

TODAY, WE ARE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS:

Kim Barnes, Bonnie, Laura Cable, Debbie Faust, Marlene Gerdes, Peggy Henry, Oren Keibler, Grace Lucas, John Magnus, Charlie Meade, Taylor Niemetz, Linda O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Rizzo, Howard Rockette, Andrea Schwartz Nutter, Bob Stover, Sandy Tambellini, Jack Tjaden, Sean Vandy, Theona Waxbom, and Rev. HB West

Praying for Our Mission Partners & Friends:

Rev. Wayne & Laurel Gillespie

Eric Gipson & Amy Lederer

Nancy Glunt and Family

Elizabeth Goughnour and Family



P: Loving God, receive these prayers and those that remain unspoken, and in return grant us your peace, all for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING to Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond

*This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do is an offering to God. We have changed our method of receiving electronic gifts to ensure that more of your very generous tithes and gifts support the ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church. You can download and use our new app **[Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)]** to send your offering, place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service, or send your offering to the church by mailing it to: **Christ's Lutheran Church, 5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668***

OFFERTORY

If Thou But Suffer God

Paul O. Manz

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

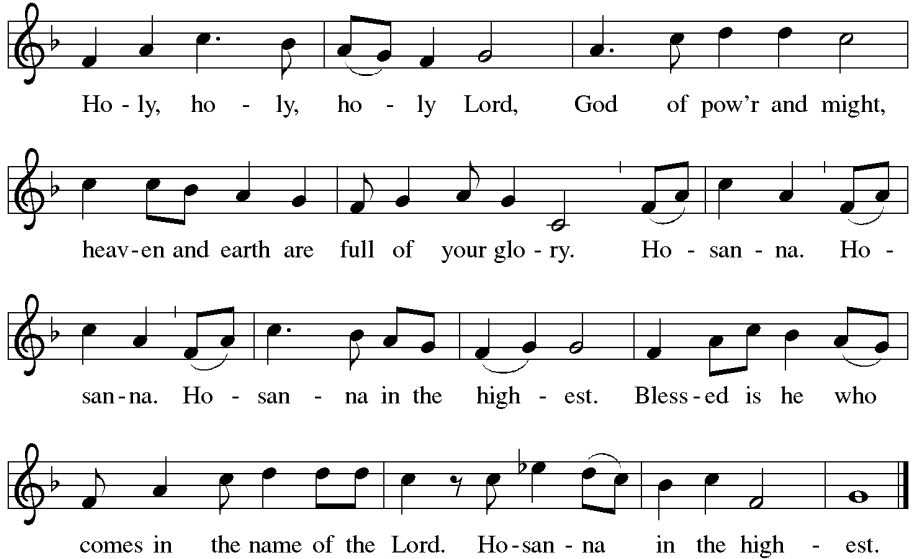
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . (*concluding*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER (*all*)

**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.**

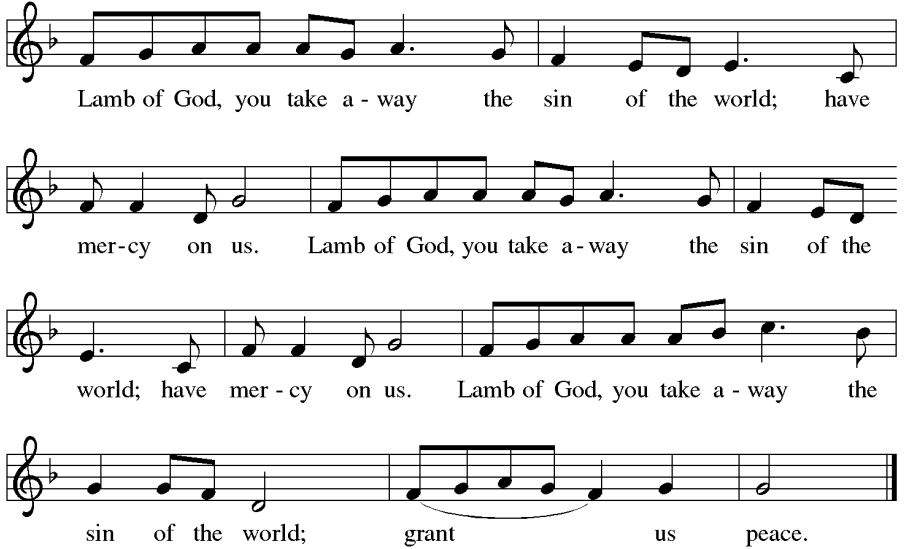
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever
and ever.**

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

AGNUS DEI



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.

HOLY COMMUNION

(When Communion is finished, please stand)

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. May God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

"AARON'S BLESSING"

Pastor Wayne Gillespie

May the Lord bless and keep you forever.

May the Lord always be by your side.

**May the Lord make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you ev'ry day.**

May the Lord give you peace on your journey.

May God's love and peace fill your heart.

May the Lord bless and keep you forever.

May the Lord always be by your side.

SENDING HYMN

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW #813

THE DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "The God of Abraham Praise"

Michael Burkhardt

Pastor

Rev. Wayne G. Gillespie

Email: revwaynegillespie@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Steven J. Myers

Organist

Kevin Clemens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We appreciate the continued commitment of our readers, worship assistants, reconcilers, tech team, ushers and many others who make our worship services possible. **SIGN UP GENIUS IS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR APP by clicking on Weekend Worship Teams! Thank you for helping to make our worship services possible!**

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR JOB OPENING

We are currently seeking qualified applicants who are interested in serving as our Parish Administrator. General Office Management and Administrative duties, requiring proficiency in Microsoft Office with emphasis on Word and Excel. Part time, 20 hours per week: 4 days (M, T, Th and F). This job description is posted on our church website and Facebook page. If you are interested in applying, or know someone that would be interested in this position, please send resumes to office@christsmurrysville.org Please be aware that we do not have someone in the office during regular office hours. Please email or call the Church Office to ensure that someone is in the office prior to coming to the church.



The Council has decided that it's time to restart the practice of passing plates during the offering on Sunday mornings. Several of our Council members will serve as the ushers this weekend. **There will be a brief training session for those who would like to learn more about this important way to serve after our worship service on March 3rd.** You can quickly and easily let our Council know that you will attend the training session by using our new app - Christ's Lutheran (ELCA) - to register for the event.



GIVING INFORMATION:

The church will no longer be using Tithely or PushPay for electronic giving as of March 1, 2024. Please use the SubSplash app for all electronic giving.

Because of many generous contributions to mortgage debt reduction, our loan will be paid off this month. Thank you to all who donated. You have helped our church pay off this loan two years ahead of schedule! Donations to debt reduction will be deposited to the General fund after our loan has been paid in full.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

By directing Thrivent Choice Dollars through the Thrivent Choice program, eligible Thrivent members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. **Christ's Lutheran is an eligible recipient.** 2023 Allocations, which can be made online or by phone, are required to be made by March 31, 2024, or the allocations will expire unused.



EASTER FLOWERS



We are taking orders for lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hydrangeas for use during our Easter Services. **We will be placing our order on March 4th.** If you would like to purchase flowers, please pick up an envelope in the entryway and return it to the church office. You can also place your order by emailing the church office at: office@christsmurrysville.org.



JOIN US FOR FUN and Fellowship as we pack and assemble Food Boxes for Seniors at the Westmoreland County

Food Bank in Delmont on **Saturday, March 23rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.** Christ's Lutheran signed up for **16 volunteers** to be on our team. Please contact Kris Meade at kmeade@medbrokersllc.com or call 412-580-7872 for more information. Thank you for helping those in need!



EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

9 AM – 10 AM

**Meet in Downstairs Social Hall at 9 AM
Crafts and Activities**

Bring a basket or bag, bring a friend, and come join in the fun! Ages 1-15. All those who bring a friend will be entered in a drawing for a special prize!

Donations of individually wrapped fun-size and small candies would be appreciated! A basket for donations is located in the church entryway as well as a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Our Lenten Journey 2024

Palm Sunday Weekend – March 24

Easter Egg Hunt – 9:00 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship (In-Person) – 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship – (In-Person and Livestream Worship) –
10:00 a.m.**

Maundy Thursday – March 28

In-Person and Livestream Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – March 29

In-Person and Livestream Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Weekend – March 30 and 31

Saturday Evening Worship (In-Person) – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday Easter Fellowship – 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday Morning Worship – (In-Person and Livestream Worship) –
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday Easter Fellowship – 11:00 a.m.



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL DURING LENT.

Heifer International is an 80-year-old non-profit organization that's helped 42.9 million households. Heifer currently works in 19 countries and helps 2.67 million households in the United States alone. Heifer has trained 7.6 million people since 2012. 64% of these people are women.

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way while caring for the Earth. It goes into a community with a 5 year plan. People are taught to be self-reliant and to make a living income. Heifer supports and invests in local, small-scale farmers and in their communities. Heifer mentors entrepreneurs and helps them to build a business and to gain access to markets. Farmers can use the money that they earn by selling their produces to buy items that they need like medicines and to build the schools that educate their children. Families are required to pass along at least one offspring of each of their animals and to train the next generation by sharing acquired knowledge.

Heifer help families that are facing hunger and poverty by sharing the love of Jesus. Heifer International believes that, on Easter, God calls us to give thanks for the gift salvation through His Son and to share the love of Jesus by serving others.

Christ's Lutheran Church has supported Heifer International for many years. We donated \$830 last year and we have donated \$39,645 since we embraced Heifer International as a partner in ministry in 1992. Heifer International was able to DOUBLE our gifts last year because of other generous businesses and individuals, and we are glad to say some of Heifers other donors have indicated that they will MATCH our generous gifts again this year.

If you want to make a tax-deductible donation to Heifer, you can easily send your gift by using our app **Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)** or by sending a check, payable to Christ's Lutheran Church, that includes Heifer on the memo line. You can find more information by visiting <http://www.heifer.org> or by stopping visiting bulletin board in our Entryway.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

Eric Waxbom

CHRIST'S LITTLE PANTRY



THANK YOU to all who have helped to keep the Little Pantry filled. The **second weekend** of each month is now designated as Christ's Little Pantry Weekend, although you can bring food to put into the Little Pantry with you on any weekend. You can be a part of this life-changing ministry by bringing one or two items with you when you come to worship on that weekend and by placing your generous gift in the collection box in the Entryway, or directly into the Little Pantry, which is located in our lower parking lot. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Let's work together to keep our Little Pantry full!!! **Current pantry needs: Peanut butter, Jelly, Box Dinners, Pancake mix (made using water), Syrup, Snack Bars, Juice, Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Canned Pasta, Crackers. No canned vegetables are needed at this time.**

CALENDAR

February 25, 2024 – March 2, 2024

Sunday 2/25

9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School
10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship
7:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

Monday 2/26

5:30pm Kindermusik
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday 2/27

9:30 am Kindermusik
9:00 am Sewing Group
6:00 pm Girl Scouts

Wednesday 2/28

9:30 am Kindermusik
5:30 pm Kindermusik
6:00 pm Girl Scouts

Thursday 2/29

9:30 am Kindermusik

Friday 3/1

Saturday 3/2

6:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship