

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

**Main Office:** 717-248-8780 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:00AM-4:00 PM Fri. 8-Noon

stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

**Office Hours:** Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon \*please call ahead.

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**Director of Music/Organist:** Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

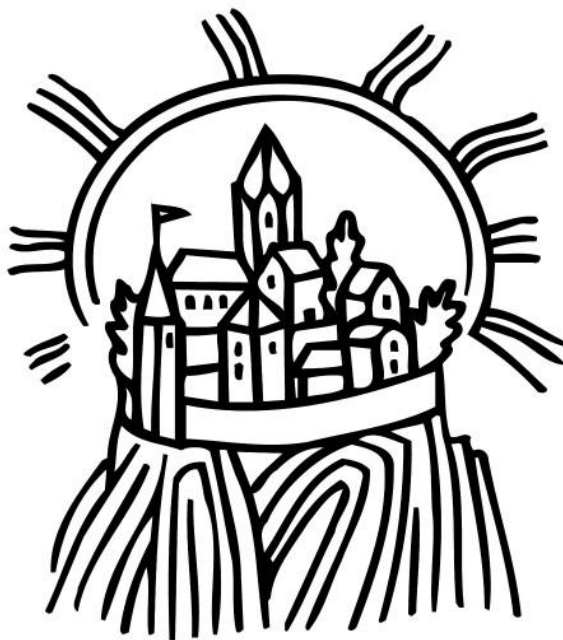
<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

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**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany /Setting 3***

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## INTRODUCTION

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

**WELCOME** to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person. We are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers and care for those in Need.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is served by a 2-line procession down the center aisle. We will celebrate with bread, wine, or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

**GIVE TO ST. JOHN'S** Offering plates are located at each entrance. If you prefer to give electronically, visit our website, and click on the **E-Giving Tab**. Use your existing login information. For new users, search for St John's Lutheran Church Lewistown. Information on **E-Giving** is available on the SJLC resource table. Thank you for your continued support.

**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR**, we would like to get to know you. Please fill out a visitor's card from the pew rack and place it on the offering plate at the entrances. May Christ's spirit be with each and every one of us in our congregational life and faith journey.

**LARGE PRINT SERVICE BOOKLETS** are available, please see a door greeter.

## **YOUTH SUNDAY!**

### **SERVING TODAY**

*Pastor* – Rev. Allen Hulslander

*Acolytes* – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

*Altar Guild Volunteers* – Shannen Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

*Cantor* – Mina Phillips

*Communion Assistants* – Dave Ray, Ginny Ray, Sue Shawver

*Crucifer* – Dave Ray

*Lay Reader* – Nevin Farley, Kiersten Treaster, Mina Phillips

*Ushers* – Anderson Bitner, Geneva Kelly, Nevin Farley

*Media & Production* – Grant and Carrie Stufft, Nancy Ressler, and Mary Barr, And Annette Rager

**PRELUDE** "The Light of the World" Is Jesus" Phillips P. Bliss, Arr. Richard Miles, 1996 Lorenz Pub. Co.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

*Please stand as you are able. Congregational responses are in **Bold**.*

*Red Hymnal (ELW) will be used for parts of the service.*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God  
now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

## **Processional Hymn**

**ELW #715 "Christ Be Our Light"**

## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**Kyrie**

**ELW page #138 Setting 3**

**Glory to God**

**ELW page #139 Setting 3**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Special Music**

“Go Make a Difference”

Steve Angrisano, Tom Tomaszek, Rick Modlin, 1998 OCP Pub.

**Praise and Worship Youth Choir**

**CHILDRENS MESSAGE** *All children are invited forward.*

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;

they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

### **Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine  
away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

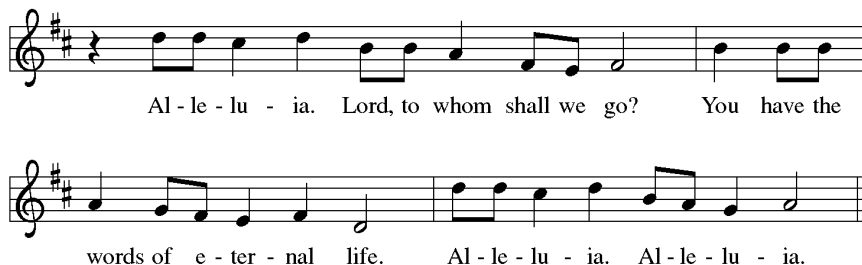
<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.

Reader ends with: **“The Word of the Lord.”**

Congregation responds: **“Thanks be to God.”**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup>, Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*



## SERMON

Pastor Allen

### Apostles' Creed

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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

The petitions end with: "*Merciful God*"

And the Congregational response is:

**"receive our prayer"**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery,  
Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail  
Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie  
Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Toby  
Sweigart, Freda Hook, Lou  
Sonnenberg, and the Call  
Committee.

\*To have someone added to the  
Prayer Guide-with their  
permission-please contact the  
church office.

### SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

Simply say the words. "*Peace be with You.*"

**"And also with you."**

**MEAL** *Please continue to stand.*

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

### *Offering Song*



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

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 for 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.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death  
and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, which 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

### Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 3



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.

## COMMUNION

All who are baptized are invited to come forward. Children, if not already communing, may be brought forward for a blessing from the Pastor. Please hold both hands out to receive the bread, then choose a cup from the Acolyte. Please dispose of your communion cup in the nearby waste basket.

### Communion Music

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” Helen H. Lemmel, Arr. Martha Mier, 2010 Alfred Music  
“Open the Eyes of My Heart” Paul Baloché, Arr. Bill Wolaver, 2005 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music  
“O How He Loves You and Me” Kurt Kaiser, 2000 Word Music, Inc.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Sending***

## **BLESSING**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #677 “This Little Light of Mine”**

## **Silent Meditation**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE “Go Make Disciples” (#540 in our hymnal)**

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## **DEDICATIONS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented by Jenny McCardle in memory of Martha and W.M. Gregg.

**THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN** is presented by Patty and Jon Farley in memory of Patty's father William Logan.

**THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS** in memory of her aunts and uncles by Darlene Reish-Shawver.

**THE COMMUNION WINE** this morning is given by Jeanne Hendricks in memory of her father Rev. Ralph Meyer

## **ST. JOHN'S NEWS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** There will be regular Sunday school this morning at 10:15am.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** There will be a brief Christian Ed meeting Sunday, **February 15<sup>th</sup>** after worship.

**INSTALLATION** of church council members will be next Sunday, **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY** A parishioner is willing to give \$1000 dollars to the organ fund if the congregation matches the amount. It is simple for every dollar the congregation gives the parishioner will match it until the total reaches \$1000. If the challenge is accomplished, we would gain \$2000 for the organ fund. Ty for all that you do. Pastor Allen.

**NO CHOIR** practice on Ash Wednesday **February 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**THE RED CROSS** blood drive will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** from Noon to 5:00pm. Flyers with information on the blood drive and how to maximize your blood donation have been placed on the SJLC resource table. **"Sleeves Up, Hearts Open, All In"** The numbers are in and we are facing the **worst flu** season in **20 years**. Blood supply is **down 35%**. Hospitals, medical facilities and most importantly **"the people"** are in desperate need of blood. The severest shortage of blood is type **O, A negative and B negative** blood and platelets.

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER** Campaign is seeking donations. Your gifts help the response to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. If interested in donating to the campaign, you can simply mark it on your offering envelope. Don't have an offering envelope? Simply put your donation in a blank envelope labeled World Hunger Campaign.

**FIRST QUARTER** Special Offerings will go towards the Central Pa. Meat Canning Project.

**ORGAN FUND** There is now an option through Vanco (on-line giving) for donations to go towards the organ fund.

**COMMUNION ROBES** If your communion robe is in need of cleaning (i.e. wine) please place it in the laundry basket in the robe room.

**LUMINA CENTER** The new **2026** Restaurant Discount Cards are now available. The cost is \$10.00, and discounts apply to 16 local restaurants in the community. Please see Steve Burk, Mary Barr or the SJLC Office to purchase.

**SJLC OFFICE** lunch hour Tuesday and Thursday is between 11:30am -12:30pm.

**LOST & FOUND** there is a lost and found box in the lobby on the shelf above the coat rack. Please check for any items that you may be missing.

**WEATHER ALERT** If the Mifflin County School District is delayed, closed, or closing due to snow and ice, the SJLC Office and all activities in the church facility will be postponed or cancelled.

### **COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS**

**MOTHER HUBBARDS CUPBOARD** items for **February** are tissues, toilet paper, paper towels & tea bags.

**FEBRUARY HAM SANDWICH SALE** orders are due on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and pick-up is on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Worship SCHEDULE

February 15 [Transfiguration of Our Lord] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School.

February 18 [Ash Wednesday] 7:00pm.

February 22 [First Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

March 1 [Second Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

March 8 [Third Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

March 15 [Fourth Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

### **Meetings (Please see above for details)**

Wed. Handbell 6:00pm and Chancel Choir at 7:00pm.

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

Sun. 03/8, 04/12, 05/10 Godly Play Sunday School

### **Reminders for February**

**Acolytes** – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

**Altar Guild Volunteers** – Shaneen Gramley, Brenda Reeder, Joyce Tanner

**Communion Assistants** – Dave Ray- crucifer, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

**Ushers** – Tom Beaver – head, Norma Fisher, Hillary Worley

**Money Counters** – Scott Welham, Debbie Kling

**Lay Lectors**

February 8 – Youth

February 15 – Jenna Dudukovich

February 22 – Tom Beaver

**Next Sunday Readings:** *Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12*