

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

stjohnslewestown@gmail.com

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

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

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

<http://www.stjohnslewestown.com>

www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026, First Sunday in Lent /Setting 10



INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

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.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor – Rev. Allen Hulslander

Acolytes – Cora Rankin, Cooper Rankin

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

Communion Assistants – Dave Ray, Sue Shawver, Ginny Ray

Lay Reader – Tom Beaver

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

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

PRELUDE “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” Spiritual, Arr. Douglas E. Wagner 2004 Belwin-Mills Pub. Corp.

Jerry Stone - Flute

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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn**ELW #319 “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”****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 (spoken)

P: Hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word: it saves us from despair.

C. Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: Wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

C. Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: Make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

C. Have mercy on us, Lord.

RESPONSE HYMN**ELW page #328 “Restore in Us, O God”****PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“Be Thou My Vision”

Arr. Carol Foss, 1992 Lillienas Pub. Co.

Jerry Stone - Flute

CHILDRENS MESSAGE *All children are invited forward.*

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader ends with: "**The Word of the Lord.**"

Congregation responds: "**Thanks be to God.**"

Psalm: Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Please stand as you are able.

We are turn-ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer-ci-ful and kind -
slow to an-ger, rich in bless-ing, and with love to us in-clined.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th, Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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: "*Hear Us, O God*"

And the Congregational response is:

"your mercy is great"

SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.

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

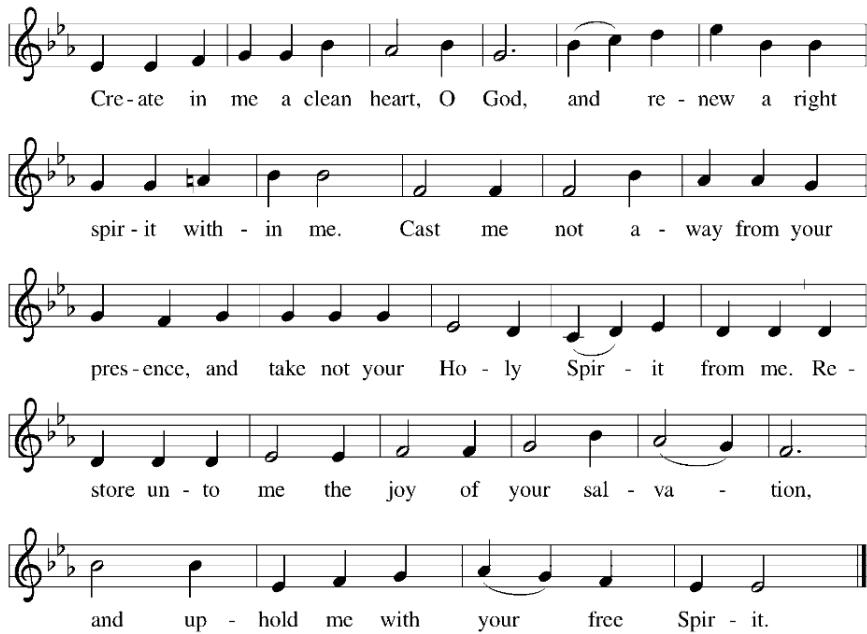
"And also with you."

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.

MEAL Please continue to stand.

Create in Me a Clean Heart



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 un-to me the joy of your sal-va-tion,
and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

The presiding minister continues:

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.

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. #208 Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a-way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e-ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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

Jerry Stone – Flute

“The Cross of Christ” includes “The Old Rugged Cross”, “Near the Cross” George Bennard, William H. Doane, Arr. Carol Foss, 2009 Lillenas Pub. Co.

“Jesus Paid It All”/“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” John T. Grape, Hans Leo Hassler, Arr. Brant Adams, 2011 Lorenz Pub. Co.

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

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #325 "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Silent Meditation

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Oh, Love How Deep" (#322 in our hymnal)

Jerry Stone - Flute

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. **NOTICE: Audio/Video recording** When you enter a St. John's Evangelical Lutheran worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Please see notes at entrances for further details. Live-Streaming will continue as needed- if you are behind camera, you will not be on camera.*

DEDICATIONS

THIS WEEK'S BASKET is presented by Jenna Dudukovich in celebration of God's goodness.

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN is presented by Cindy and Steve Burk in honor of their grandson Dylan Leroy Patosky as he celebrates his 10th birthday on February 22nd. Son of Julie (Burk) and Shawn Patosky.

THIS WEEK'S ETERNAL CANDLE BURNS in memory and honor of all the Barnabas Brothers who have been called home to heaven by Our Lord and Savior

THE COMMUNION WINE this morning is in honor of Gary and Sue Oden and in memory of Jean and Curt Bitner given by Amy, Dennis, and Anderon Bitner

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

SJLC COUNCIL members who are recently coming off council, please be sure and turn in your key to the office or to Hillary Worley as soon as possible.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Committee is looking for someone to represent SJLC Bible School meetings bringing information back so we can stay involved. Meetings have begun so we are looking to pass on a new representative as soon as possible. Interested parties, please see Hillary Worley.

SJLC continues to search for a part-time Financial Secretary. If interested, or if you know anyone who may be interested, please see Ed Stewart, Hillary Worley, or Nikki Hidlay.

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. Try for all that you do. Pastor Allen.

THE RED CROSS blood drive will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, February 25th** 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, medically 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.

MEET & EAT ladies' luncheon is on **Tuesday, March 3rd** at the **OIP in Burnham**. Ladies are to meet at the restaurant at 12-Noon.

AUCTION! The Lumina Center will be holding a benefit auction, their biggest fundraiser of the year, on **Saturday, March 7th** at 8:30am. The Lumina Center is a non-profit providing children of Mifflin County with free supervised activities in a nurturing environment. Presently they serve approximately 400 at risk children. Information flyers have been placed in the sanctuary and on the resource table.

THERE WILL BE no Ham Sandwich sales for the month of March due to the Lumina Center auction. Sandwich sell will continue in April.

THE BARANABAS BROTHERS hoagie sale is on **Friday, March 13th** at SJLC. Hoagies are \$5.00 and orders are due **Sunday, March 8th**. There is a sign-up sheet on the church window. Any questions please contact Steve Burk.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER 2026 flyer with summer programs, registration and scholarship information have been placed at the entrances of the sanctuary and on the resource table. Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome, fun-filled programs for summer adventures.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER Campaign is seeking donations. Your gifts help the response to hunger and poverty in more than 60 counties 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.

LENTEN OFFERING Rainbow Summer

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

SJLC COUNCIL MEETING on **Tuesday, February 24th** at 6:30pm.

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

HAM SANDWICH SALE (Please see announcement above for March) is on the second Friday of every month at SJLC. Orders are due the Monday before. Please see Janet Deamer with any questions.

Worship

SCHEDULE

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

March 22 [Fifth Sunday in Lent] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

March 29 [Palm Sunday] 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Sunday School

Meetings (Please see above for details)

Tue. February 24th Council meeting at 6:30pm.

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

Sun. Praise and Worship Choir at 8:00am

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 22 – Tom Beaver

Reminders for March

Acolytes – Nevin Farley, Jackson Druckenmiller

Altar Guild Volunteers – Judy Spencer, Josie Baughman, Melissa Rosenberry

Communion Assistants – Dave Phillips – crucifer, Jenna Dudukovich, Tom Beaver

Ushers – Jim Rosenberry- head, Carrie Thierwechter, Andrew Theirwechter

Money Counters – Cheryl Bressler, Genevieve McCardle

Lay Lectors

March 1 – Dave Phillips

March 8 – Youth

March 15 – Kim Crone

March 22 – Adele Craig

March 29 – Justice Mills

Next Sunday Readings: *Genesis 12:1-4a, 3:1-7, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17*