

# United In Christ Lutheran Church



Third Sunday in Lent

*March 23, 2025*

*The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter*

# ***Welcome to our church!***

*We hope the service is meaningful, and uplifting,  
and that you will experience God's presence here.  
May God bless you during worship today.*

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## **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS**

*Please see a greeter.*

## **ELEVATOR**

*Please see a greeter.*

## **REST ROOMS**

*Downstairs across from the church office.*

## **DIAPER CHANGING TABLE**

*In fellowship hall family restroom.*

*Visit us at [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)*

### **UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**The Rev. Justin G. Lingenfelter: UIC Pastor**

**The Rev. Katy Moran: CELC Pastor**

**Terri Cromwell: Parish Administrator and OAKS Senior Center Director**

Office: 570-568-2254

Email: [office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

**Marilyn Gresh: Music Director**

### ***United In Christ's Mission Statement:***

*Led by the Spirit, we follow Christ's call to honor  
God and neighbor through worship, learning, service,  
prayer, stewardship and invitation.*

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

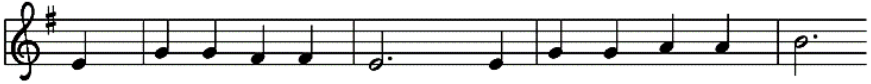
till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

# APOSTOLIC 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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

# 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-3

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

## **PSALM 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**<sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**<sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**<sup>6</sup>when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

<sup>7</sup>for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

## 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.

## GOSPEL READING

## LUKE 13:1-9

This is the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 624

#### *Jesus, Still Lead On*

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith-less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er-take us, let not faith and hope for-sake us;  
come al-lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

## APOSTLE'S 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*Prayers continue with each petition ending:*

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please share the peace at whatever level of physical contact with which you are comfortable.*

***Please fill out an Attendance Card,  
and place the card in an offering plate.***

## OFFERING

You are invited to place your offering in one of the plates as they are passed or to make use of our online offering plate through [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly) by scanning the QR code to the right. You may also place your offering at [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net/giving) by clicking on the green “Give Now” button.



## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Refrain*

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true. *End*

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. *Refrain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

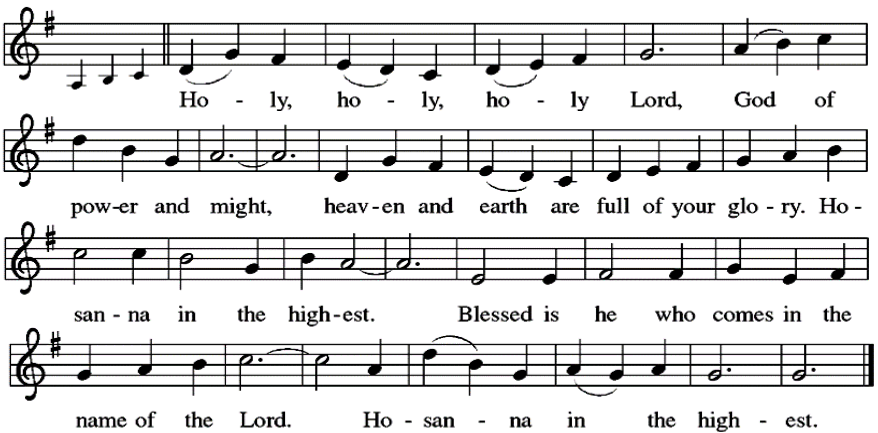
Lift up your hearts.

**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.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying,

might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as one body of Christ, 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 Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us saying:

**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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**Thanks be to God.**



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

*Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, and all people are invited to his table. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***


*Music will accompany the distribution of communion.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Host,

**you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



*O Living Bread from Heaven*

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*After worship please join us in the fellowship hall  
for Social Hour with coffee and refreshments.*

## **What's Happening at UIC**

- Sun, Mar. 23      **THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Worship,, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am
- Mon, Mar. 24      **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
Cub Scouts, 6:30pm  
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Mar. 25      Psalms Study, 6:30pm
- Wed, Mar. 26      Lenten Dinner @ CELC, 6:00pm  
Holden Prayer Service, 7:00pm
- Fri, Mar. 28      Office Closed
- Sat, Mar. 22      Fellowship Hall Reserved
- Sun, Mar. 30      **Fourth SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Worship,, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am

# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Bob Troxell, Sonja Noll, Deb Watts, Eugene Bain, Jacob Brown, Courtney Elder, Sue Keifer, Cheryl Stiber, John Oliver, Paul Hilkert, Leroy Baker, Mary Baker, Annette Baker, Rachel Lynn, Carol Troxell, Rosemary Fernsler, Ryan Hunter, Patrick Mosley, Mark Rabuck, Shirley Russell, Bob Keifer.

## Are you or a loved one in need of prayer?

Submit your prayer request by calling 570-568-2254 or emailing it to [office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net).

Scripture instructs us to lift one another up in prayer. The prayer chain takes two forms: telephone or email. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please let Terri Cromwell know. Make sure you tell her if you would like a phone call or an email.



Happy Birthday

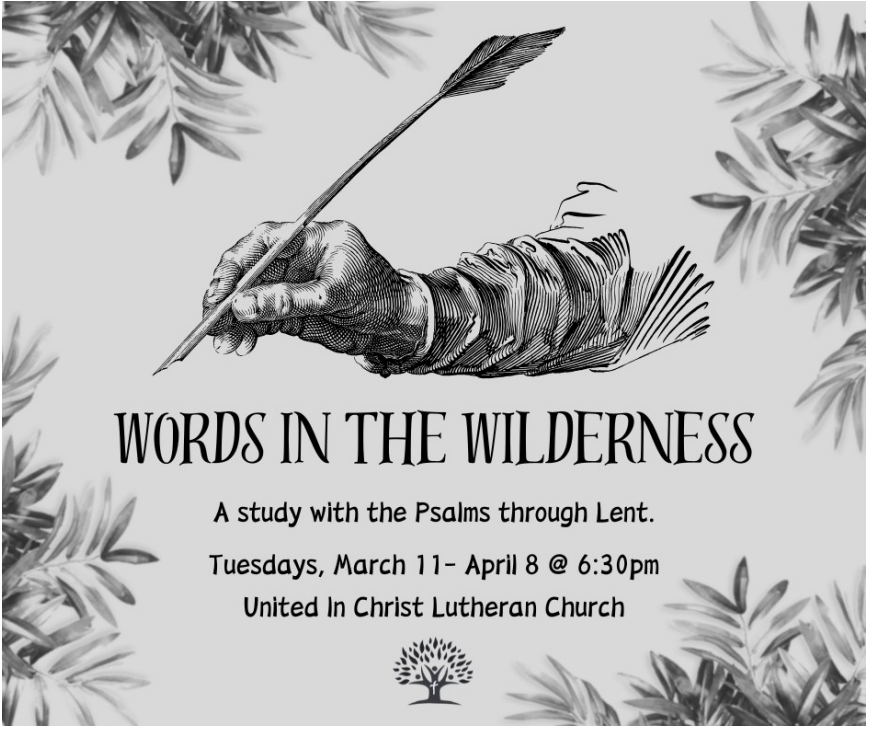
*Alyasdair Stark 3/26*

*Brad Catherman 3/26*

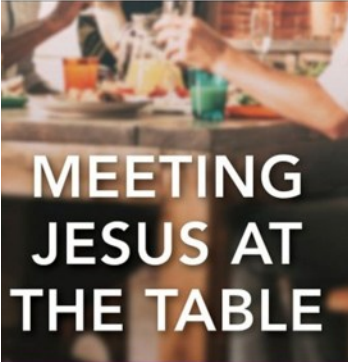
*Chad Cromwell 3/29*



*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office with these dates.*



Join us **Tuesday nights at 6:30pm** this Lent as we dive explore the Psalms of Scripture. Together we will hear God's peoples' words of hope and expectation, of grief and disappointment – everything that God's people have felt in the wilderness! Come as you are, no further materials necessary for this study! This year's study begins on Tuesday, March 11 and will conclude on Tuesday, April 8! Come and see!



# MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE

A LENTEN STUDY

Cynthia M. Campbell  
and Christine Coy Fohr

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEVIN BURNS

**WHEN:** Wednesdays evenings  
March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** Lenten Suppers @ 6:00 pm  
Holden Evening Prayer Services at 7:00 pm.

**WHERE:** Christ's Lutheran Church\*  
(100 S. 3rd ST., Lewisburg)

\*On Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lenten Supper & Holden  
Evening Prayer service will be held at United  
in Christ Church (1875 Churches Rd, Lewisburg)

*All are welcome!*

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 24TH

Any articles, events, photos, or thank you notes you'd like to have in the April Newsletter need to be in to the office by Monday, March 24th.

Worship Volunteers, please give the office any dates in April which you will not be available.



Please email Terri in the office at  
[office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net) or  
call her at 570-568-2254

**MILTON**  
Lutheran Church

**CAMP MOUNT**  
**LUTHER**

United In Christ  
Lutheran Church

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Lancaster, PA

# SUMMER DAY CAMP

**NEW!**  
JULY 14-18 • 9AM-3PM  
1125 MAHONING STREET, MILTON, PA  
FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING GRADES K-5

**REGISTER TODAY!**

[WWW.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES](http://WWW.MYVBS.ORG/MILTONLUTHERANCHURCHES)

## HAVE YOU SEEN?

**LOST  
AND  
FOUND**



Did you leave something at church? Check out the LOST AND FOUND bin on the shelf by the restroom in the fellowship hall.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	March 23	March 30
Worship Leader	Pastor Justin	Pastor Katy
Social Hour	S - Z	A - D
Bread/Wine	S. Keifer	J. Mertz
Altar Guild	S. Keifer M. Catherman	K. Guffey M. Catherman
Digital Host	K. Guffey	M. Shearer
Front Door Greeter	D. Gottlieb G. Glathar	M. Ketchem R. Whitesel
Side Door Greeter	S. Brown	K. Noll
Lector	B. Catherman	R. Baker
Ushers	T. Swartz B. Swartz A. Stark K. Olds	L. Olds D. Baker K. Baker S. Brown
Communion Asst.	M. Shearer S. Weiser	R. Kling D. Davies
Guest Relations	M. Mertz	K. Noll
Offering Counter	K. Guffey M. Rabuck	L. Rabuck C. Shreck

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, please try to trade with someone on the schedule and then notify the office of the change. If you are unable to trade with someone, please call Terri Cromwell at the church, 570-568-2254, and she will find a replacement for you.

# Easter Flowers Order Form

Flowers are a beautiful gift to our Lord and a wonderful expression of our love for God and all he has given us!

Dedicate flowers by submitting an order form, along with payment, **no later than Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The following will be printed in the Easter Bulletin. Please write legibly.

NAME: *(from)* \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**You may take your plants home after worship on Easter Sunday.  
Any plants left at the church will be given away.**



## **Lutheran Church**

**1875 Churches Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-568-2254**

**WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**  
Sundays at 10am

**THE REV. JUSTIN G. LINGENFELTER**

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Open Mon. - Thur. 8:00am - 2:00pm  
Email: [office@unitedinchristlutheran.net](mailto:office@unitedinchristlutheran.net)

### **VISIT US AT**

Website: [www.unitedinchristlutheran.net](http://www.unitedinchristlutheran.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UICLC)