

# United In Christ Lutheran Church



the good news is..

so good, it catches  
us by surprise

## First Sunday in Lent

*February 22, 2026*

*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

You have heard, “All is fair in love and war,” and “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.” God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” God says, “Turn the other cheek.” God’s mercy catches us by surprise. So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again.

*Silence is kept for self-reflection.*

Loving God,

**somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And suddenly we wonder:**

**Can we be like that mustard seed?**

**Can we be faithful and unruly?**

**Can we be playful and curious?**

**Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: *of course*. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

God’s grace is wild and unruly.

God’s mercy is abundant and surprising.

God’s love is expansive and unending.

So, if you ask, “Holy One, am I forgiven?” the answer is and always will be: *of course*. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

ELW 843

### *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

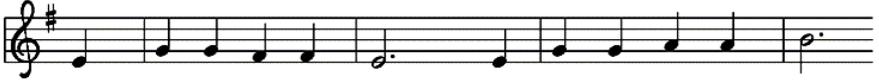
The musical score consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

## 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.

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. By your word today, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news 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.**

## FIRST READING

## MATTHEW 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” The Word of the Lord.

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. <sup>35</sup>This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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

## JOHN 2:1-11

This is the Holy Gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My

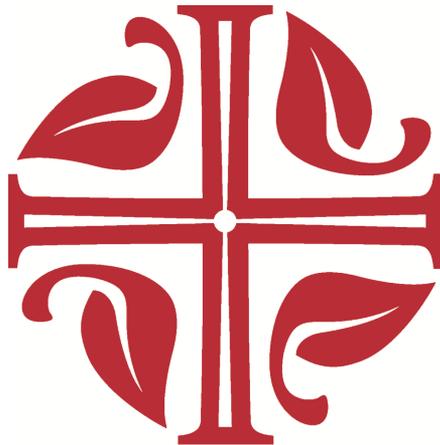
hour has not yet come.”<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”<sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.<sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it.<sup>9</sup> When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom<sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”<sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

## **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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*Prayers continue with each petition ending:*

Hear us, O God,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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

Together, let us pray.

**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 the good news of his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**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.**

## 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 Good News has been set at the table. Come! Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**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, 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



I 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

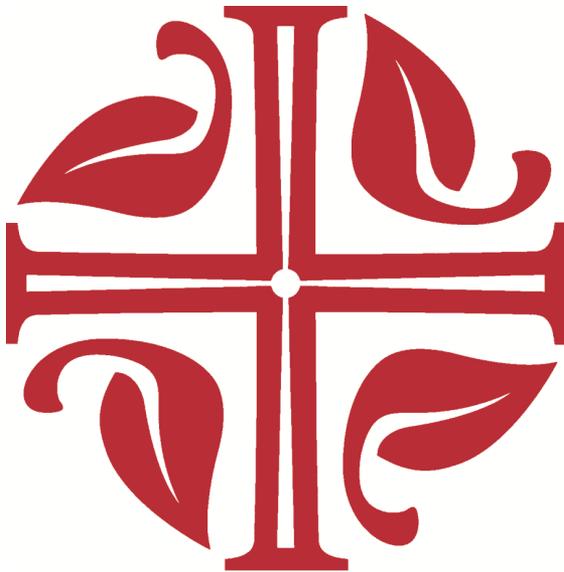
Together, let us pray.

**God of 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 you good news for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. May almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



*In The Cross of Christ I Glory*

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r-ing o'er the  
 2 When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes de-ceive, and  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and love up-  
 4 Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure, by the cross are

wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
 fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -  
 on my way, from the cross the ra - diance  
 sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 stream-ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Tell the world something good!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



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



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# What's Happening at UIC

- Sun, Feb. 22      **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Worship, 10:00am  
Congregational Meeting, 11:15am  
Social Hour, after meeting
- Mon, Feb. 23      Cub Scouts, 6:30pm  
Boy Scouts, 6:45pm
- Tue, Feb. 24      Lenten Study, 6:30pm
- Wed, Feb. 25      Soup Dinner @ CELC, 6:00pm  
Holden Evening Prayer Service, 7:00pm
- Thu, Feb. 26      Lenten Brunch Group, 11:00am  
                                 @ Silver Moon Restaurant
- Fri, Feb. 27      Office Closed
- Sun, Mar. 1        **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
Worship, 10:00am  
Social Hour, 11:15am  
Faith Lab @ CELC, 4:30pm

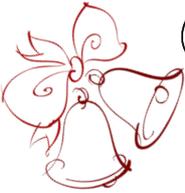
# UNITED IN CHRIST'S PRAYER LIST

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Ron Baker, family and friends of Brenda Bowser, family and friends of Harold Danowsky Sr., Rose Stitzel, Jayne, Patrick Moseley, Bob Troxell, Eugene Bain, Annette Baker, Mark Rabuck, 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  
*Anniversary*

*Jack and Cheryl Stiber 2/26/65*



Happy Birthday

*John Heckman 2/25*



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



**March 1**

Queen Size Sheets/Pillow Cases

**March 15**

Queen Size Mattress Covers

**March 8**

Bed Pillows

**March 22**

Queen Size Blankets

*Bring new or gently used items to worship each Sunday!  
All donations will go to support the mission of DIG Furniture Bank in Milton!*



**the good news is...**  
**a queen-sized bed**

# UIC LENTEN OFFERING

Lenten offerings will go to UIC's Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The fund is managed by Pastor Justin and is used for aid requests from members of the church and the community.

In 2025, the fund distributed \$1,338 in aid. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund currently has a balance of \$536.79.

# Easter Flowers

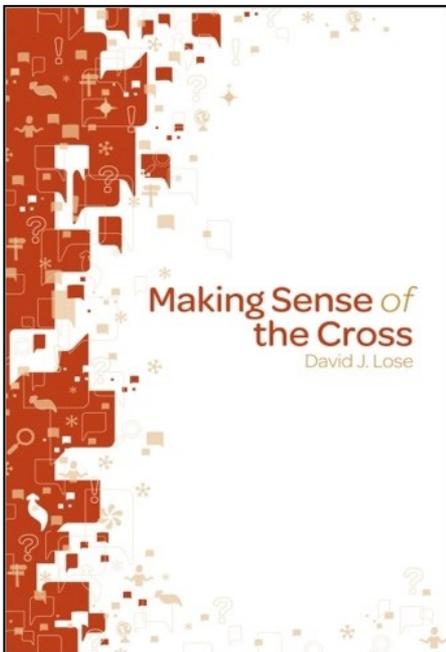
Flowers are a beautiful gift to our Lord and a wonderful expression of our love for God and all he has given us!



- \$3.50 Pansies, 4" pot
- \$11.25 Tulips, 6" pot
- \$11.25 Mini Daffodils, 6" pot
- \$14.50 Daffodils, 8" pot
- \$14.50 Lilies, 6" pot

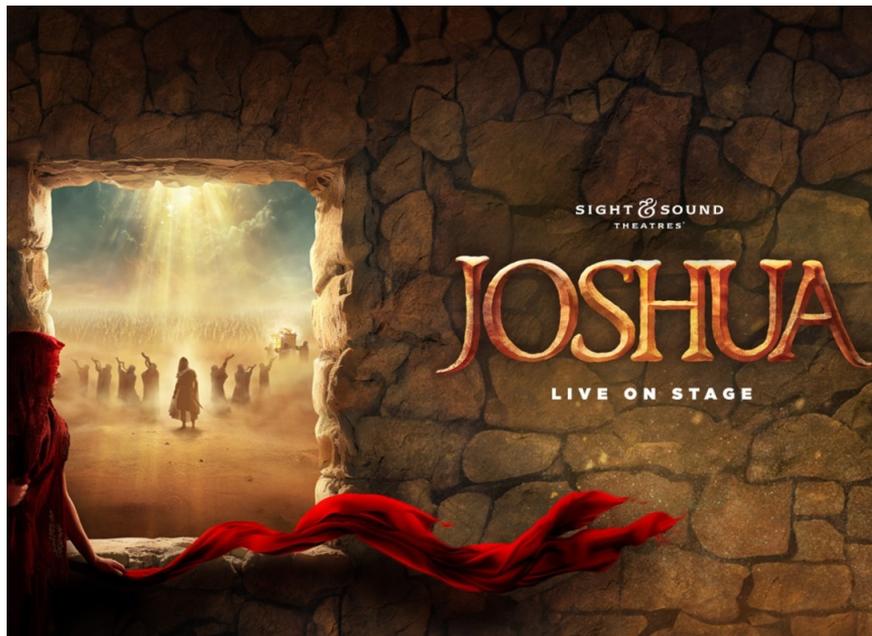
**Order Deadline: March 15th**

*Order forms are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.*



## LENTEN STUDY

Join us for the start of a new Lenten study series: *Making Sense of the Cross!* Beginning on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**, we will gather weekly with neighbors from CELC and MLC here at UIC for a video series that explores how the cross has been understood over time and how we might understand it as Christians today!



# JOSHUA BUS TRIP

## Signup Deadline: March 2nd

Joshua Bus Trip will be on Wednesday, April 15th. Ticket price is \$150 per person. This includes cost of the bus, the show, and lunch after.

We will be stopping at Shady Maple on the way home for a late lunch. We hope you choose to join us!

We will be meeting at Milton Lutheran Church, 1125 Mahoning St. in Milton, at 7:15am.

Sign-ups are due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can signup at UIC on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or you can contact Terri in the office to signup.

Payment is due by March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please make check out to Milton Lutheran Church, mem line "Sight and Sound" and mail to :  
Milton Lutheran Church: 1125 Mahoning St., Milton PA 17847

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	February 22	March 1	March 8
Worship Leader	Justin	Justin	Justin
Social Hour	E - K	L - R	S - Z
Bread/Wine	S. Weiser	R. Baker	M. Catherman
Altar Guild	K. Guffey	B. Guffey	S. Keifer
Digital Host	M. Shearer	T. Cromwell	K. Guffey
Front Door Greeter	ML Keifer R. Kling	K. Baker ML Keifer	L. Rabuck M. Rabuck
Side Door Greeter	B. Keifer	K. Noll	B. Keifer
Lector	B. Swartz	V. Tyrell	H. Allegar
Ushers	B. Swartz T. Swartz B. Troxell K. Arndt	K. Criswell R. Kling J. Mertz M. Shearer	D. Baker K. Baker T. Cromwell B. Guffey
Communion Asst.	D. Murphy C. Robuck	R. Sprenkle S. Weiser	M. Shearer B. Swartz
Guest Relations	Ken Baker	B. Troxell	G. Weiser
Offering Counter	R. Baker J. Rutt	M. Shearer R. Baker	K. Guffey P. Hauck

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.



## **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)