

† Jacob's Ladder †

Volume XLI Issue Three

March 2025

*PURPOSE: To keep the members and friends of Jacob's Church informed of the ministries and happenings at our church and in the surrounding community to be **The Church on a Hill, Shining Forth for Jesus Christ***

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828.243.5388
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Children's Minister: Kayla L. Fusselman ~ 610.844.1567
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† From the Pastor's Study †

A Few Tips on Reading Your Bible

This year at Jacobs we are reading the Bible together. It has been electrifying. I have loved hearing what our members have been discovering and sharing. In light of that, I thought I should come up with a few tips that might help us enjoy reading our Bibles together more...

1. *Know the whole story.* The whole story of the Bible can be summed up in several ways. Here is a quick, easy one. The Almighty God is graciously and mercifully restoring His creation to its rightful order through the rule of the LORD Jesus Christ, Who came to restore humanity after mankind's initial rebellion resulted in the fall. As you read, try to relate what you are reading to one of these four ideas: creation, rebellion/sin, redemption/restoration, and finally new creation. Connecting each small piece to the big story is like puzzling together a *whodunnit* mystery novel.

2. *Read in Paragraphs and Chunks.* Verses from the Bible were never meant to be stitched on a pillow, they are to be read like pieces of a huge, beautiful quilt. Verses make-up paragraphs (paragraphs usually have one main thought), parts of larger passages that make up whole books. Reading just one verse at a time is like eating a salad where someone gives you the lettuce one day, then carrots the next, and then the dressing, etc., etc. You will enjoy the experience if you eat it in larger bites all together. (BTW – we all have favorite verses written somewhere, just don't let them be ALL the story you interact with).

3. *Focus on One Book/Read Several Bible Books Together.* The Navigator plan we are following has us reading several books at once. I have not done that in years, and I am finding it exhilarating, seeing connections I never saw before. Some like to focus on one book at a time. Whatever floats your boat. We all left the dock together in January and will finish together in December. Enjoy reading what seems best to you. To spice things up, you may even try different translations.

4. *Discuss the Bible with Others.* Exciting things are in the Bible, things hard to understand, areas difficult to obey, strange customs and manners, and the like. No one, I repeat, "no one," grasps and obeys everything in the

Bible. Talk with others about what you are reading. Moms and Dads read to your children. The insights and questions of children can be profound!

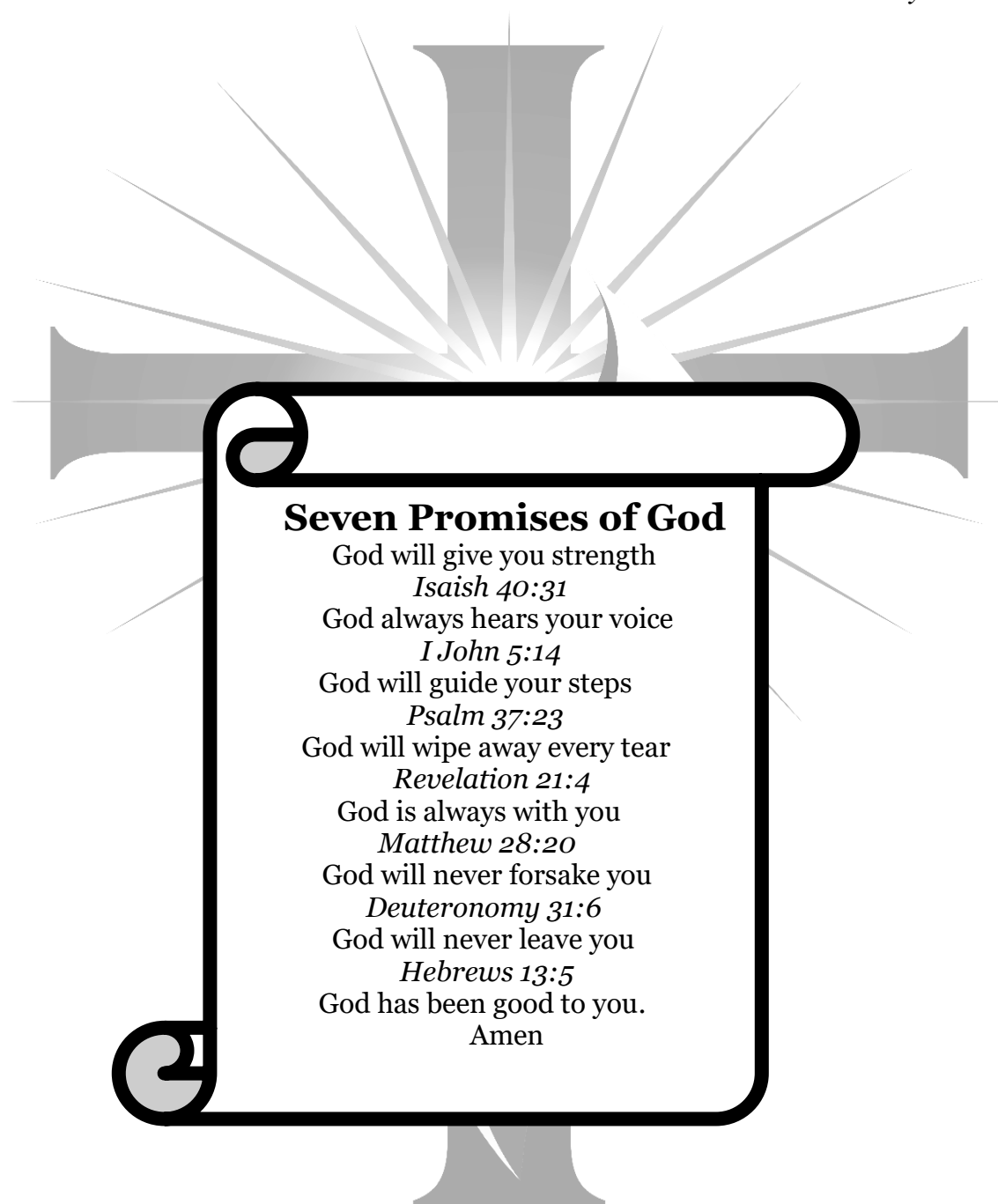
5. *Take Notes and Pray.* Keep a journal near your Bible so you can write down quick notes as you read and record thoughts for prayer. Sometimes writing things down helps fix them in our minds and greatly aids later recall. As you write interesting things down, talk to God about them. Ask... “Lord, why was this verse or idea important today? Are you trying to tell me something?”

6. *Supplement with a Podcast or YouTube Videos.* TheBibleProject.com is very good. There are others that are wonderful too. If you are “old school” and like books, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (2 vols. OT/NT) is well worth the investment.

7. *Worship and Praise.* Ultimately, Bible reading is to help you get closer to God. He loves you and wants you nearby. Read your Bible to help your prayer and praise life. It also helps us get along with one another and form tighter bonds in our families and community. So, let’s try that!

Let’s keep reading our Bibles together and enjoy it along the way. *Soli Deo Gloria*

Pastor Stanley C. Newton



Seven Promises of God

God will give you strength

Isaiah 40:31

God always hears your voice

1 John 5:14

God will guide your steps

Psalms 37:23

God will wipe away every tear

Revelation 21:4

God is always with you

Matthew 28:20

God will never forsake you

Deuteronomy 31:6

God will never leave you

Hebrews 13:5

God has been good to you.

Amen

◆ Jacob's Church Board Meeting Minutes ◆

January 6, 2025

Present: Pastor Stan Newton, Elders: Dave Zoghby, and Ron Belknap.
Deacons: Mike Bailey, Tom Foulk, Solomon Johri, Kaitey Sacks, and Diane Wertman
Visitors: Jill Sabo and Mandy Conti

Preschool Discussion with Jill Sabo and Mandy Conti. Little Lambs Preschool is in a period of transition. The current core teaching staff have announced their retirement as of May 2026. Immediate openings are for a three-year-old teacher and aide and Pre-K teacher and aide. Support will be given for those interested in these positions. If there is no interest, the current PreK class will graduate this spring and the current three-year-old class will advance to Pre-K in the fall. Subsequently there will be no enrollments for the 3-year old's class for September 2025. Interested parties can contact Jill Sabo jsabo615@gmail.com or David Zoghby (610-597-4369) Job positions will be posted on church's website.

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Pastor Stan's devotion focused on his current sermon teaching on the book of Ruth and how difficult Naomi's life had been in Moab. Naomi's focus was inward, and she became bitter thinking the LORD was against her since she had lost her husband and both her sons. This is in stark contrast to Ruth who told Naomi that "wherever you go – I will go. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth was seeking the God of Israel and by doing so put herself in a place where God could use her. By vowing to stay with Naomi until death, she is reflecting the same dedication that Yahweh showed himself to Israel.

Reports: The December Treasurer's report was reviewed and a motion to accept the report was given by Ron B. and 2nd by Kaitey S. The motion carried.

Total income for December = \$10,454.33.

Total expenses for December = \$33,411.24.

Net Profit (Loss) December = (\$22,956.91).

Less Restricted Income December (\$23,154.12).

Add: Restricted Expenses = \$458.00.

Net Unrestricted Profit (Loss) \$655.21.

Total Income for 2024 = \$528,667.31

Total Expenses for 2024 = \$337,606.99

Net Profit (Loss) For 2024 = \$191,060.32

Less Restricted income for 2024 = \$157,271

Add restricted Expenses 2024 = \$18,500.00

Net Unrestricted Profit(Loss)2024 = \$52,289.11

Note: Net Unrestricted Profit (Loss) represents the profit (loss) of the General Fund excluding any Unrealized Gains (Losses)

*Spade & VOM Budget items were re-allocated to Missions the Mission Committee approved.

*Profits from the Oyster Supper = \$5652.37

The December Meeting Minutes were reviewed for accuracy and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Kaitey S. and 2nd by Mike B. The motion carried.

The Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2024, were reviewed. An amendment to correct Election of Deacons was inserted into the document. The correction to the election of deacons was done by a special congregational meeting held December 29, 2024. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Kaitey S. and 2nd by Solomon J. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Children's Minister: The elders are developing a job description for this ministry.

Youth Minister: This position will be vacant the end of January.

Missions Committee: Disbursement of \$3500 from Spade & VOM listed on the treasure's report. Planning to have a Mission's Moment on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Property Committee: No new updates.

Christian Ed Committee: No new updates.

Special Events: Lent program in the planning. Soup and salad on the menu.

Doctrine Committee: No updates.

Music Committee/Worship Team: No update on demo.

Sound & IT Committee: No update.

No New Business

Next Elders Meeting: January 13, 2025

Next Board Meeting: February 3, 2025

Motion to adjourn made by Solomon J and 2nd by Ron B.; motion carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Stan Newton

Recorded and Submitted by Diane Wertman, Church Board Secretary

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, March 3, 2025.

Next Elders Meeting is scheduled for 7:00PM, Monday, March 10, 2025.

At our December 1, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting, we voted to contribute \$6,555.00 per week in order to meet our 2025 budget.
The following tithes and offerings were collected in January 2025:

January 5	\$5,240.90
January 12	\$5,259.90
January 19	\$4,070.90
January 26	\$7,538.90

Budgeted Tithes and Offerings for January	\$26,220.00
Actual Tithes and Offerings for January	\$22,110.60
Deficit for January 2025	\$ 4,109.40



Online Giving!

Jacob's Church offers the option to give securely online.

You can opt to give by ACH or credit card on a one time or recurring basis.

To sign up visit:

<https://jacobschurch.org/give>

FMI Contact Kelly Mease at

treasurer@jacobschurch.org

✝ Jacob's Church Commitments for March ✝

✝ THANK YOU FOR SERVING! ✝

Flowers for March

March 2 43rd anniversary of Tom and Faye Foulk

March 9 In Memory of Clark Billig ~ Faye Billig (Stand)

March 16 Jacob's Church Altar Committee

March 23 Jacob's Church Altar Committee

March 30 Roger and Cindy Kuhns

March Acolyte Aria Hermany

Cost of Flowers for Sunday Service:

(2) Altar Vases \$30.00

(1) Floral Stand \$20.00

Bud Vase \$5.00

Bulletins \$5.00

The 2025 chart is posted in the east vestibule on the Church Bulletin Board. Sign Up Today!

Any questions contact Pam Zoghby
(610.298.3002)

March Scripture Readers

March 2 Bill Dellicker

March 9 Trudie Dellicker

March 16 Richard Oswald

March 23 Joan Oswald

March 30 Cindy Kuhns

Puppet Ministry

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Kayla Fusselman and Joan Oswald

March Greeters

March 2 Jacob's Church Board

March 9 Jacob's Church Confirmation Class

March 16 Jacob's Church Board

March 23 Glenda Bennicoff and Loretta Peters
Tom Foulk and Robet Nester

March 30 Faye Foulk and Leann Shoemaker
Jim Moyer and Gary Krick

Sunday Morning Greeters arrive by 9:45am

Easter Flowers ~ Help us make our sanctuary beautiful for the Easter morning service with colorful flowering plants. Lilies \$10, Daffodils \$8, Hyacinths \$8, Tulips \$8. **Please use the sign-up sheet in the church parlor, fill out the envelope provided in the box along with your payment. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 30th.** Please contact Pam Zoghby (610.298.3002).

◆Membership News◆

✝ Celebrating with...

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*



Congratulations and Best Wishes to The Following
Couples Celebrating March Wedding Anniversaries:

*Martin and Glenda Bennicoff
Kerry and Linda Besch
Jacob and Jessica Correll
Tom and Faye Foulk*

*Douglas and Helen Kistler
Bradley and Joelle Morehouse
Andrew and Karen Shrawder
Matthew and Stephanie Watson*

✝ Mourning the Loss of...

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning
or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away, Revelation 21:4*

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Robert L. Rice, who entered eternal rest on Monday, January 20, 2025 at the age of 82-5-3. Robert is survived by his brother, David C. (Gloria) Rice and family. Services were held on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Please keep the Rice family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Harold A. Silfies, who entered eternal rest on Monday, January 27, 2025 at the age of 94-5-9. Harold is survived by his daughter, Janice "Susie" Hamm, grandchildren, Heather (Kevin) Utt, Tracy (Ed) Sawyer, Melinda (James) Wessner, great-grandchildren, Sydney and Cody Utt; Emily, Andrew and Lucas Sawyer; Marissa, Shelby and Kacie Wessner. Predeceased by great-grandson, Tucker Wessner (2007-2024). All members of our Jacob's Church Family. Please keep the Silfies family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Lillian I. (nee Mantle) Riedy, who entered eternal rest on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at the age of 90-3-7. Lillian was the widow of James M. Riedy (1932-2006). Lillian's interment service was held on Friday, February 7th in Jacobs Union Cemetery, resting alongside her loving husband, James. Please keep the Riedy family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Delores M. (nee Schaller) Christman, who entered eternal rest on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the age of 84-6-17. Delores is survived by her cousin, Faye M. (Tom) Foulk and family. Services were held on Monday, February 10, 2025. Please keep the Christman family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Robert E. Oswald, who entered eternal rest on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at the age of 82-2-18. Robert is survived by his brother, Richard (Joan) Oswald and niece, Beverly (Mitch) Hosler, members of our Jacob's Church Family. Services were held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Please keep the Oswald family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Rose Mary (nee Muth) Moyer, who entered eternal rest on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the age of 80-9-7. Rose was the loving wife of James W. Moyer, and devoted mother to Michael D. (Suzanne) Moyer, and Amy (Sean) Wright and passionate grandmother and great-grandmother to her wonderful eight grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Rose established the puppet ministry at Jacob's that we enjoyed over the years. She also managed the "Card of Encouragement" ministry. Thank you Rose for your service to your beloved family at Jacob's. Rose's service was held on Friday, February 14th at Jacob's Church, officiated by Rev. Stanley C. Newton. Please keep the Moyer family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Shirley Mae (nee Phillips) Greenawalt, who entered eternal rest on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at the age of 94-3-1. Shirley was the widow of the late Wayne James Greenawalt (1922-2014). She is survived by her sons, Kevin W. (Patricia) Greenawalt, Robert J. (Kay) Greenawalt and children, Katelyn and McKenzie, Michael R. Greenawalt, Scott H. (Alaina) Greenawalt. All members of our Jacob's Church Family. Services were held on Saturday, February 15th at Jacob's Church, interment in the Jacobs Union Cemetery officiated by Rev. Stanley C. Newton. Please keep the Greenawalt family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Deepest Heartfelt Condolences

May the Lord Bless and comfort the family of Shirley Ann (nee Frey) Hamm, who entered eternal rest on Sunday, February 9, 2025 age the age of 83-1-8. Shirley was the daughter of the late Victor William (1904-1960) and Madeline Susanna (1909-1971) nee Hermany Frey. Shirley was baptized at Jacob's Union Church on 19 February 1942 officiated by the late Rev. Leroy M. Bond, she was confirmed on 14 October 1956 at Jacob's Union Church officiated by the late Rev. Luther J. Linn, Shirley married Ray Lawrence Hamm on 17 May 1958 at Jacob's Union Church officiated by the late Rev. Clarence R. Rahn. Shirley is survived by her husband, Ray, her nephew, Richard (Susan) Hermany, and his extended family. Please keep the Hamm family in your prayers at this difficult time. Deepest Heartfelt Condolences.

◆ Choir Corner by Melinda Kelly ◆

New Hymn - We will be singing a new hymn (for some of you) entitled “At the Name of Jesus”, which was published in 1861. The text was written by Caroline Noel. Born in London in 1817, she was the daughter of a vicar in the Church of England. She died in London in 1877. Though she began writing hymns at an early age, she stopped when she was 20 years old and didn’t resume hymn writing until 20 years later in 1857. The last 25 years of her life were spent as an invalid.

This hymn is based on Philippians 2:5-11. The text describes the self-emptying of Christ. This hymn, which originally had eight verses, conveys the entire earthly journey of Christ from his incarnation as an infant in Bethlehem, through his ministry and crucifixion, and concludes with his resurrection and ascension.

Invitation - I would like to invite you to sing in the choir, even if it is just for a short time. Please consider singing with the choir during the Lenten and Easter seasons in March and April. During rehearsals, we work on how to sing correctly with vocal, physical and breathing exercises. Please let me know and I will prepare a folder of music for you. We would be happy to welcome you into the choir family!

And He will raise you up on eagle’s wings...and hold you in the palm of His hand!
Psalm 91



Jesus
Is
Lord

◆ March Happenings at Jacob's Church ◆

Holy Communion will be served on **Sunday, March 2, 2025** during the 10:15am worship service. *"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" I Corinthians 10:16*

Kick Off Lent Season Pot Luck Lunch ~ Sunday, March 2nd will be served after worship in the Activity Center. A signup sheet is posted in the church parlor area for attendance, bring your favorite side, the church will supply paper products, drinks and the main entrée. Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship with your Jacob's Church Family.

Ash Wednesday - We begin our Lenten season of preparing our hearts for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior by recognizing our brokenness, and need for turning our hearts to God. **Join us at Jacob's Church on Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00pm.** Communion will be served at the altar.

Mission Moment, Hands in Service ~Sunday, March 9th ~ Please join us! Love offering envelopes will be available in the church bulletin on Sunday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 9th for the Hands in Service ministry.

Hands In Service is a registered Christian nonprofit organization that fosters alliances among charitable organizations for the purpose of centralizing supplies, talent and resources for disadvantaged communities and to form short-term mission teams focused on evangelism, construction, medical aid and education.

Hands In Service (HIS) was co-founded by Mary and Ed Tornetta in March of 2008. Our focus started as a ministry primarily designed to organize short term mission teams that would serve on a local, regional and international level. Our teams focus on medical care, disaster recovery and sharing the gospel with those willing to hear the good news. We consistently serve with the same organizations in order to build long-term relationships in the areas where we serve. In 2010, we expanded the ministry to include high volume, new donation distribution for a variety of new items including clothing and household items that are shared with other organizations locally and around the world. Currently there are three distribution centers located in Warrington, Telford, and Easton PA, with over 100 partnering organizations.

We partner with ministries locally, regionally and internationally to help supply clothing, shoes, household goods, small appliances, toys and other material goods for distribution to their congregations and their specific outreach recipients. These ministries know their communities far better than we ever could, so they know how to best share the gospel with the material gifts.

Here are a few of examples of the impact made through our Network Partners: Those serving with HIS enjoy serving God and helping others while enjoying the company of one another. We understand our salvation comes through Jesus Christ; our works do not earn us a spot in heaven but simply shine a light on God's grace. Our goal is to serve Christ by serving those in need.

Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00am. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead before retiring for the night, otherwise you will arrive at Church School and/or Family Worship an hour too LATE!

Lenten Season Series ~ Wednesday, March 12th through Wednesday, April 16th join us for a Potluck/salad dinner at 6:00pm and at 7:00pm the series titled, “Key Moments in Church History” by Pastor Stan Newton. The church will provide salad/bread and the congregation will provide their best entrees! Signup sheet for Wednesday nights best entrees is posted in the parlor area.

Easter Flowers ~ Help us make our sanctuary beautiful for the Easter morning service with colorful flowering plants. Lilies \$10, Daffodils \$8, Hyacinths \$8, Tulips \$8. **Please use the sign-up sheet in the church parlor, fill out the envelope provided in the box along with your payment. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 30th.** Please contact Pam Zoghby (610.298.3002).

Stephen Ministry ~ Christ caring for people through people. Everyone faces periods of difficulty. During these times, someone who will listen, empathize, pray, and encourage with Christ’s love and care can be a tremendous benefit. If you need a listening ear, FMI please contact, Cindy Kuhns (484.529.2835). Stephen Ministers meetings will be held on Thursday, March 6th and Thursday, March 20th.

Cards Of Encouragement Ministry ~ “Thinking of you” cards to be sent out are in the west vestibule area, please take the time to sign each card before or after worship. FMI, please contact Loretta Peters (610.349.2160), or to offer a name in need.

Sisters Of Esther ~ Come and share in wonderful fellowship with Sisters in Christ every Tuesday morning from 9:30am to 11:30am in Jacob’s Activity Center! FMI, please contact Donna Shay (610.739.1867).

Ladies Night Out! Will meet on Monday, March 17th at 6:30pm in the Activity Center. FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman (610.844.1567).

IMPACT ~ will be held on the first (3/1) Saturday in the Activity Center and on the third (3/15) Saturday at 8:00am at New Tripoli Hotel. IMPACT Men target their home, work, and community. Breakfast will be served! FMI, please contact Pastor Stan (828.242.5388).

Mission Crafters ~ Welcomes Woman of all Ages ~ Friday, March 14th, 9:30am ~ 11:30am in the church basement. FMI, please contact Linda Besch (484.707.0877).

Kids Night Out! ~ will be held on Friday, March 14th in the Activity Center, 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm. Open to youth K-5th grade. No sign up necessary! FMI, please contact Kayla Fusselman at kemptoncountry@gmail.com or (610.844.1567)



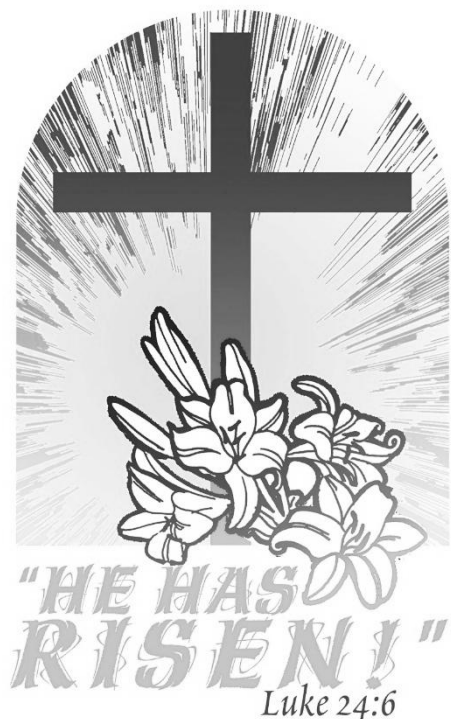
Free event open to youth in
Kindergarten through 5th grade.
Bible lesson, games, crafts, movie and snacks



JESUS IS MY
VALENTINE.



Easter Extravaganza ~ on Saturday, April 12th, 1:00pm ~ 2:00pm (children ages 3-12). Please join us for a remarkable time celebrating our risen, LORD.





Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, during which palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent. Join us on Sunday, April 13th, as we reflect on Jesus' journey into Jerusalem and celebrate by the blessing and distribution of palm branches.

Tenebrae Service (Good Friday) is a Christian holy day observing the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during the Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum. It is also known as Black Friday, Holy Friday, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord. Join us on Good Friday, April 18th at 7:00pm as we reflect on the sacrifices Jesus made for us as we lay our burdens at his cross. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming!



Resurrection Sunday (Easter) marks the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection, the cornerstone of the Christian faith. The empty tomb and Jesus' appearances to his followers confirm his victory over death and his identity as the Son of God. Join us on Resurrection Sunday, April 20th at 9:00am as we celebrate our risen Lord, Jesus. Hallelujah, Jesus is Alive! No Confirmation and Sunday School that Sunday.



**LC Medical Spring Chicken
5K Walk/Run Fundraiser**

*Saturday, April 26th
Hamburg Park River Trail
Franklin St and Park Rd, Hamburg PA*

More information will
be available soon at
www.friendsoflc.org/springchicken

JACOB'S CHURCH FASTNACHTS

\$11.00 One Dozen of Fastnachts

\$6.00 Half-Dozen of Fastnachts

Choose plain or brown sugar cinnamon

Pre-Order your Fastnachts by Monday, February 24, 2025

To order call Leann Shoemaker at 610.739.6896

Faye Foulk at 610.751.5742

or visit the Jacob's Church website

Jacobschurch.org/fastnachts

For your convenience Fastnachts order sheet
is also posted in the parlor area
of the church and Activity Center

PICK UP Friday, February 28, 2025

From 3:00pm – 5:00pm

PICK UP Saturday, March 1, 2025

from 9:00am – 12:00pm

PICK UP Sunday, March 2, 2025

From 9:00am -11:00am

Fastnacht helpers

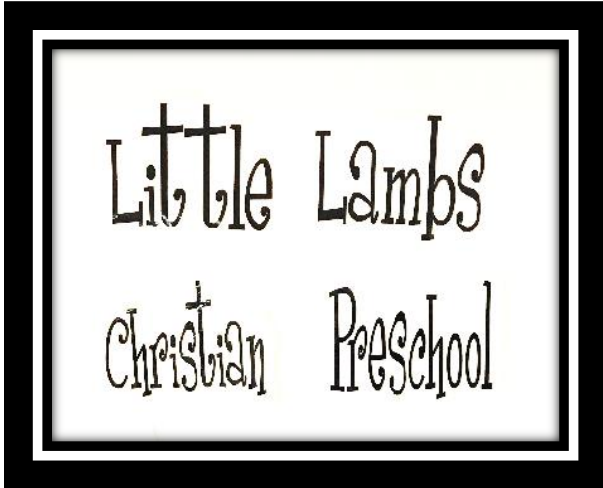
Please sign up on the sheet posted in the church parlor area.

Please indicate which day/days you are able to help,

**Thursday, February 27th, Friday, February 28th
and/or Saturday, March 1st**



◆ Jacob's Church Little Lambs Preschool ◆



February was full of lots of love in preschool this month! We made pudding pies and enjoyed a puppet show as part of our Valentines fun! Lots of silliness coming up in March stay tuned!

We are still welcoming all interested in becoming preschool teachers to reach out to Jill Sabo!

2024-2025

Tuesday, April 15h ~ no school
Wednesday, April 16th ~ no school
Thursday, April 17th ~ no school



Jacob's Church Little Lambs Preschool teachers are retiring after twenty years of service. Jacob's Church would like to continue this ministry. If interested in filling this position as teachers or aides, please contact David Zoghby (610.597.4369).



◆ In the News! ◆



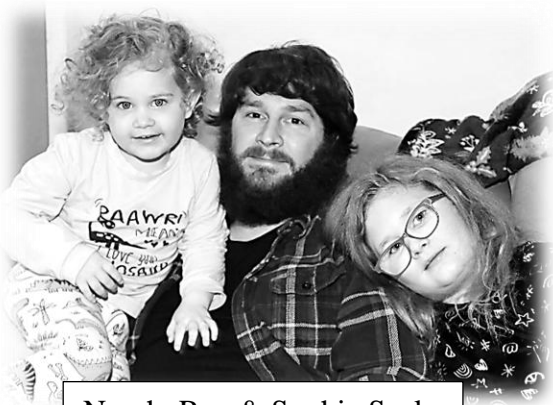
Lucille Miller & Shirley Ruppert



Lucas Sawyer



Nancy Backenstoos



Norah, Ray & Sophia Sacks



Tom Foulk



Harper Kish



2025 Colonial League
Boys Basketball Champions



2025 Colonial League Girls
Basketball Runner-up

◆ We need your HELP! ◆



Weisenberg Lowhill Historical Society needs your help to identify the 1961 confirmation class of the New Tripoli Lutheran Parish (Ebenezer, Jacob's, Lowhill, New Bethel, New Jerusalem (Red), St. Paul's Seiberlingsville, and St. Peter's (Lynnville).

The Lutheran Minister was the late Rev. Richard Henry Schaefer. Held March 26, 1961 at Jacob's Church. The confirmands from Jacob's Church are: Linda Marie Bailey, Barbara Ann Bowman, David Ellison, Dennis Ellison, Calvin Leroy Fetherolf, Clair Kermit Fusselman, Douglas Leroy Kistler, Sharon Ann Koenig; Nancy Jane Kunkel, Eileen Lindenmuth, Sharon Sue Utt.

Ask Faye for a copy, please email secretary@jacobschurch.org or text 610.751.5742, thank you Faye

◆ Missions ◆

BARNABAS BENEFIT FEBRUARY, 2025 UPDATE

This winter has created many opportunities to help many, many poor and desperate folks in India, Nepal, and Myanmar. Many of you have played a big part in this through your concerned prayers, generous giving, and personal support and advice through some trying personal times. We were faced with many unusual situations with the leaders we work through along with the overwhelming needs they are addressing.

Our primary mission is to demonstrate our faith tangibly by assisting those who are desperately in need in horrible situations, some life or death. Under normal circumstances, this primarily involves digging borewells for accessible clean pure water without ladies trudging many km. to a pond or murky river with heavy pots on heads and shoulders. This is proven to build relationships and demonstrate God's love and personal care in a society where the poor have never experienced that. We have four professionally drilled wells in progress in one area that each are partially locally funded and will need four more. In another area where they asked for equipment to do their own wells, we gave it a try with awesome results. Scores of wells have been drilled with little assistance. Recently two were drilled entirely with locally raised funds—a real milestone. We were requested to do the same in another area and did with disciples drilling 7 wells rapidly in one village after another, with 17 more to go.

Many, many have lost what little they had (including lives) in major storms, elephant and radical attacks, and unusually a harsh stormy winter. We have provided medical and other assistance such as emergency food, but the huge need was for shelter and warm blankets especially for refugee orphans and widows in the frigid northern Himalayan Mountain areas. We have provided countless high-quality blankets (with loving words and prayers) in many areas and over 150 big tarps for refugee families exposed to the weather in a place ironically called “Peace Village.” Many are experiencing a loving God for the first time in their lives through these acts you funded and provided by disciples. (see pictures)

Our former Muslim friend “MD” has experienced more setbacks and his two efforts of opening a tea stand in a new area have both been vandalized and completely ruined. He was able to establish at least one house church there in spite of his hardships. Rather than trying a third time, he is moving on to a primarily Muslim area where he feels that this is less likely to happen again. He, like many I work with, faces continuing hardships and reminds me of the Apostle Paul.

His previous, now far off, house churches are flourishing and I am in contact with one of his disciples there. We have furnished materials they requested including what we would call local variations of “drums & tambourines.”

The heavy blankets given to selected widows in the mountains of Nepal are greatly appreciated in the frigid Himalayan areas along with the audio Bible for their mostly illiterate condition.

We have acknowledgement of receipt of funds sent through various couriers to a group of tribal people fleeing north from the Myanmar (Burma) military. Their tribe is considered rebels. They have reestablished in an area with only paths and no roads and hopefully not readily accessible to the military. They have actually started to build a small church there as they can find materials.

We continue to provide materials such as the Book of John in native languages to those interested after watching the Jesus Film in their local language. It was an unforgettable delight to sit (no chairs) in small rooms or huts and experience the results of these small contributions of materials and simple musical instruments.

We have new requests for microloans. Some are similar to previous ones. (see sewing machine picture) but one is from a leader that we visited in a very remote area years ago. It is specific to avoiding further trafficking those preying on the poor villagers. Young people are lured to the cities with big promises and their parents often even sell them to traffickers for desperately needed food money. Some already trafficked mothers return to bring their daughters back to work along with them. This leader has picked out the most vulnerable and hopes to help them start businesses to support themselves. This is a new request so I am still questioning and asking for more details although I met and have known the leader since 2008.

I have been blessed with some awesome unexpected help since Natalie's long but successful cancer journey. As many of you know, Barnabas Benefit and the leaders and their people are a passion for me. It has been very difficult to deal with all our doctor appointments and all the aspects of Barnabas, especially administratively, and Natalie could no longer do it. I was impressed directly to keep Natalie, my bride of over 56 years, and her changing situations and needs as my main focus. God has answered my prayers for help. A precious, relatively new, friend over the past year has volunteered with her team to professionally assume (and painstakingly correct) my administrative attempts at QuickBooks on line, etc. and lift the burden Natalie was previously carrying. Other friends have voluntarily provided expert professional advice at no cost to address a varied slate of issues ranging from legal, banking, medical, strategic, technical, etc. I am especially blessed to have a local friend with heritage/language roots in the areas we are attempting to help.

Others have opened doors for us to tell our story to groups; ranging from a Karate group to caring senior citizens groups and church mission efforts. In addition, some encouraging folks have initiated individual breakfast/lunch chats to learn more about Barnabas. One friend even gave me a few minutes during the birth of his child to affirm a decision that I was unsure of. Most of these folks prefer to be unnamed and, in the background, but I will mention some with their permission and want you to know how much you have been and are needed. Thanks for being on "the team."

Many have been secretly wondering and some of you have outright asked “what happens to Barnabas when you who are in your late seventies can’t do this?” I have been taking steps to transition to that point and steps are in place to ensure that Barnabas could continue without me. My relationships with the leaders, some now approaching 20 years, will continue “forever.” Much of my efforts are going into equipping the leaders to become self-sufficient, but also unifying the group to confer and pray with each other especially as more of them face hard times. Both the US and Indian governments have been closely watching and discouraging the flow of funds between countries for various reasons and it is so wonderful to see growing self-funding and lesser dependence on Western funds. I am working to properly equip each leader with whatever it takes for them and their disciples to be even more effective and self-sufficient. This hopefully will include basic leadership, management, and financial training (still needed to be developed) and preparing for more persecution and difficulties. In addition, I am encouraging them to strategically prepare for opposition by meeting in smaller less conspicuous groups, utilizing women more who can “slip under the radar,” and training a new generation of people to reach their peers, etc. I am working individually to suggest and ensure that each have properly working equipment, bicycles, and software to communicate and share their message for even greater results.

Thank you so much for your friendship, prayers, giving, and encouragement. The results are increasing exponentially through God’s grace and our teamwork together.

Blessings,

John (and Natalie and team)

PS All income tax contribution receipts were emailed or if no email sent by USPS in mid-January. If you didn’t get yours, sorry. We’ll gladly reissue. Contact 610-767-7323

Made my day and wanted to share an attached picture of the fruits of all you've made possible in this area. Thank you.
About 150 baptized this morning in N India



Panama Update

Hello all,

I hope everyone is sharing the love of Jesus every day, and not only on Valentine's Day. If we don't have love in our hearts every day, we are nothing.

Lots and lots of good stuff going on here in Panama these days. I'll try to recap some of the happenings here, and give more details when I get back to the states after Easter.

The God sightings were many lately. When the people of my congregations have a chance to talk to me one on one, it is amazing what some have to say. It has been real enlightening to realize that the people are actually listening in church. One gentleman told me his family, as well as the family of his in-laws, have changed a lot since we built the church in Cerro Brisa five years ago. My relationships with the orphans that I am helping is very important to me, and I am hearing from them that it is important to them also. Melts my heart.

Not much new with Eysbel. She is still doing great and eating up a storm. She will get to the states some day in the near future.

Recently I "just happened " to be in a taxi when the driver was on the phone talking about his 11-year-old daughter that was dying. Sick from birth, but now she has bigger problems. He was trying to figure out what he could put in a pawn shop to be able to pay for expensive medicine for his daughter. God put it on my heart to get the money for the meds so she wouldn't die. He didn't ask me for anything, except prayer. And we did. I asked him to pull over to the side of the road and we prayed. She IS getting better now, but still needs a bone marrow transplant in Columbia. He is very grateful that the meds helped her. He was very emotional.

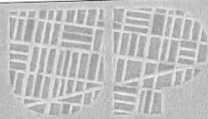
Sr. Mamerto, who was legally blind, can now read his bible without any problems. It was such a joy to see him preaching in my church again.

Here in Panama we are in a dry season. We had little rain yesterday.

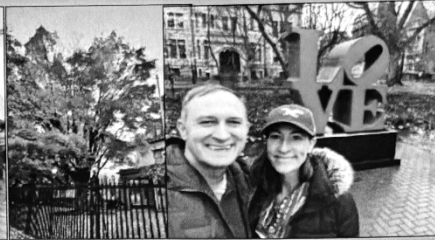
The family with the 8 children, whose father died 2 months ago, has been a challenge to maintain. We are exploring options for help. I do what I can with food, but I do other things to help them through this time of adjustment. My health is great! Thank you Lord.

Again, as we celebrate this day of Love, remember to share that love every day because it is the right thing to do. God bless you all.

Joyfully serving Him, Bob Moyer



UNITE PHILLY



Woodland back in the fall

January 2025

Just talking to neighbors

Back when we were missionaries in China, we avoided professors. People of such stature are expected to be Communist Party members. Given their connections to political and university leadership, they could make trouble for the underground believers on campus if they desired. It was safer to not broach spiritual conversations with them while continuing to trust that the Lord would raise up another situation for them to hear the gospel. For professor Qi from Beijing, the Lord had a unique plan for how his life would intersect with the gospel.

Katie and I will often meet in the late afternoon at the fire pit lawn at the Woodland ministry center. It's a nice time for us to catch up on our days. One late afternoon, we noticed an Asian man a bit older than us walk slowly past the building, taking it all in. We started chatting at the property line, then invited him to join us around the fire pit. Professor Qi teaches outdoor art and design at a prestigious university in China. He is using his time in Philadelphia to study at Penn, appreciate the murals of our city, and most importantly develop a greater understanding of Jesus!

He commented on the empty way most people in China live and wanted to learn more about Christianity. I connected him to the international ministry we launched that hosts discussions on faith

every Friday night at Woodland. He became a regular inquisitive attendee throughout the fall.

Last Sunday professor Qi joined us at our church! It was wonderful to see that he knew volunteers from the Friday night outreaches. I also introduced him to two muralists in our congregation! Wildly enough, he is inquiring about our church hosting an exhibition of Chinese art that would highlight the similarities between Christianity and Taoism. The show aims to "connect the Eastern and Western cultures, and promote the understanding and mutual learning of the diverse cultures in the Resurrection Philadelphia community and USA at large." He also highlighted the beauty of Christianity in broken English as referenced how Jesus will "Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that all your people, of every language, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised."

It is incredible that a person who we would have been forbidden to approach now has a growing inclination towards the beauty of our Lord.

Dave and Katie Brindley dave.brindley@cru.org
5005 Chestnut Street katie.brindley@cru.org
Philadelphia, PA 19139 215-407-7182

To give online to our account: give.cru.org/0521081

Please make checks payable to Cru

UnitePhilly.org

◆ Thank You! ◆

*Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 106:1*

Jacob's Friends,

*Thanks so much for inviting us to share and for
your gracious hospitality and support. We
appreciate each of you and pray God's continued
blessing on all. John Teufel, Barnabas Benefit*

Dear Friends,

*Thank you for your generous donation to the
Children's Christmas Gift Program of the Northern
Lehigh Pastoral Association and Friedens UCC.*

*With your support, this program continues to
provide Christmas gifts for children whose families
are served by the Northern Lehigh Food Bank.
Because of your generosity, 116 children in our
community were able to receive gifts this year.*

*Thank you again and best wishes to you for a
happy and healthy new year.*

*Sincerely, Karlene Laub, Friedens UCC,
The Christmas Gift Committee*



*Dear Jacob's Church,
We are grateful for your
generosity to Lehigh Christian
Academy. Your donation ensures
the continuation of our mission,
"to provide a quality education
that is Christ-centered.*

*Thank you,
Lehigh Christian Academy*

Dear Jacob's Church,

*On behalf of the Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry, I would like to
thank you for your generous donations throughout 2024. Your church
support, special offerings and member donations (\$2,237.39) will
allow us to provide much needed food items for families who live in the
Northwestern Lehigh School District.*

*Your financial support is especially appreciated during these difficult
times. Because of your concern and generosity, we can continue to
serve our local residents. Together, we serve up Hope to those who
desperately need it!*

Thank you for all you do for the Food Pantry, Nancy Zellner, Secretary

JACOB'S CHURCH ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

"THE CHURCH ON A HILL, SHINING FORTH FOR JESUS CHRIST"

February 22, 2025

Happenings in Jacob's Church Activity Center during the month of February.....

Sisters of Esther held their meetings on Tuesday, February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th; starting at 9:30am and ending approximately at 11:30am.

Stephen Ministers held their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 6th and Thursday, February 20th.

Ladies Night Out! was held on Monday, February 17th.

Jacob's Church Board meeting was held on Monday, February 3rd in the church basement.

Private celebrations were held on Saturday, February 8th, February 15th, and February 22nd.

Kutztown Twirlers practiced on Friday, February 7th, 21st, and 28th, 5:00pm ~ 9:00pm in the gym; on Friday, February 14th they practiced in the church. NWL Twirlers practiced on Monday, February 3rd, 10th, and 24th, 4:30pm ~ 9:00pm. NYAA Basketball season continues, the group used the facility each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday approximate times 6:00pm ~ 9:00pm. NYAA Volleyball held their practice sessions on Sunday, February 2nd, and 23rd, 6:00pm ~ 7:30pm. NYAA Soccer held a shoot around on Tuesday, February 18th.

Abiding Arrow Home School held their sessions on Wednesday, February 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm. The group also had a time of prayer on Wednesday, February 12th, and 26th, 11:00am ~ 12:30pm. The Harvest Homeschool women held prayer meetings on Wednesday, February 5th, 19th and 26th, 4:00pm ~ 5:30pm. NWL-FCA held meetings on Wednesday, February 5th, 19th and 26th.

IMPACT continues to meet the first and third Saturday of each month at the New Tripoli Hotel.

Fastnacht making held on Thursday, February, 27th, Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st, thank you everyone. You are the best!

A luncheon was held on Friday, February 14th after the Celebration of Life of Rose Mary (nee Muth) Moyer (1944-2025). Thank you to all. Jacob's Church you ROCK!

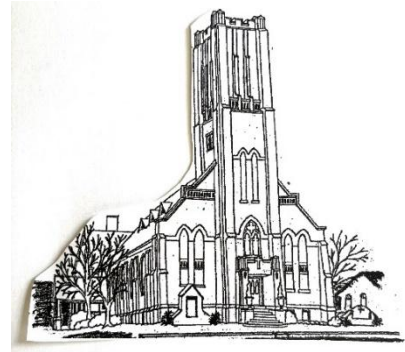
God Bless You, Faye M. Smith Foulk

March

2025

Scheduled Church Activities

*I will bless the Lord at all times; his
praise shall continually be in my mouth
Psalm 34:1*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 SS 10:15am Worship	31					1
2 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship Holy Communion	3 Church Board Meeting 7pm	4 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	5 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	7	8
9 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship Mission Moment	10 Elders Meeting 7pm	11 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	12 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am FCA 6-7pm	13 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	14 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	15
16 9:00 SS 9:00 Catechism Class 10:15am Worship	17	18 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	19 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am FCA 6-7pm	20 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	21 Mission Crafters 9:30am	22
23 9:00 SS 10:15am Worship	24	25 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am	26 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am FCA 6-7pm	27 Little Lambs Preschool 9:00am-11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm	28	29

March

2025

Scheduled Activity Center Activities

**Great is the Lord and most worthy of
praise; his greatness no one can fathom.
Psalm 145:3**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 SS 9:00am VB 6-7:30pm	31 Twirlers 4:30-9pm					1 IMPACT in AC Fastnacht Private Celebration 1pm
2 SS 9:00am Potluck VB 6-7:30pm	3 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	4 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am NYAA Lacrosse 6-7pm Softball 7-9pm	5 B. S./Abiding Co-op 11:00am-1:30pm 6pm Soup/Salad 7pm Lenten Service	6 Stephen Ministers 9:30-12:00pm NYAA Lacrosse 5:30-7pm NYAA SB 7-9pm	7 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	8 Private Celebration
9 SS 9:00am VB 6-7:30pm	10 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	11 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am NYAA Lacrosse 6-7pm Softball 7-9pm	12 Abiding Co-op 1:00-4:00pm 6pm Soup/Salad 7pm Lenten Service	13 NYAA Lacrosse 5:30-7pm	14 Youth Group 6-9pm	15 IMPACT at New Tripoli Hotel Private Celebration
16 SS 9:00am VB 6-7:30pm	17 Ladies Night Out! 6:30pm	18 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am NYAA Lacrosse 6-7pm Softball 7-9pm	19 B. S./Abiding Co-op 11:00am-4:00pm 6pm Soup/Salad 7pm Lenten Service	20 Stephen Ministers 9:30-12:00pm	21 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	22 Private Celebration
23 SS 9:00am VBS Meeting 10:15-4:00pm VB 6-7:30pm	24 Twirlers 4:30-9pm	25 Sisters of Esther 9:30-11:30am NYAA Lacrosse 6-7pm Softball 7-9pm	26 Abiding Co-op 1:00-4:00pm 6pm Soup/Salad 7pm Lenten Service	27	28 Twirlers 5:00-9:00pm	29 Private Celebration

