

## ***WELCOME TO WORSHIP***

***TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD  
LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
Feb 15, 2026***

*Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
And Nursery School  
2545 Franklin Ave.  
Secane, PA 19018  
Office: 610-544-2707*

We thank Pastor Oppold for sharing the good news today.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### + GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

#### GATHERING HYMN

ELW 671

651

Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Refrain*

A E/A D A Bm B<sup>7</sup> E

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

A E/A D A Bm G E

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

A E/A D A Bm B<sup>7</sup> E

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with love and mer - cy;

(Cont'd)

To stanzas  
E/A D  
End  
A

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry. Shine on

Jesus4 E G Jesus4 E Refrain

me, shine on me: me:

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Please be seated)*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>☩</sup> one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C:** **you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

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

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

**Turn us to seek your face.**

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

**Amen.**

**P:** The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in <sup>☩</sup> Jesus' name.

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

**C: Amen.**

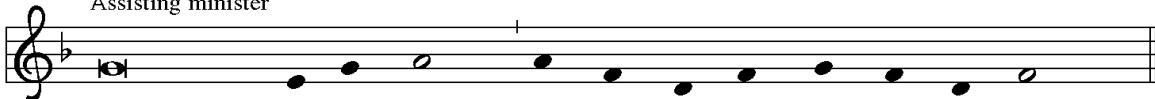
## GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,



we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;



you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## + THE WORD +

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 2**

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar?  
    Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together,**  
    **against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup> "Let us break their yoke," they say;  
    "let us cast off their bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;**  
    **the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
    and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anointed my king**  
    **upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
    who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance**  
    **and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an iron rod  
    and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup> **And now, you kings, be wise;**  
    **be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup> Submit to the LORD with fear,  
    and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup> **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.** Happy are all who take refuge in God!

## SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL****Matthew 17:1-9**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the seventeenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor David Oppold**

(Please stand as you are able)

**HYMN OF THE DAY****ELW 661****I Love to Tell the Story**

1 I love to tell the story of un-seen things above,  
 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best



of Je-sus and his glo-ry, of Je-sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won-der-ful-ly sweet!  
 seem hun-ger-ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the story, be-cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the story, for some have nev-er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo-ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

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**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –APOSTLES 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. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

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**+ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD +****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(response after: Merciful God*

**C: receive our prayer.**

**PEACE**

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another from our seats in the name of the Lord, saying, 'Peace be with you'.*

## OFFERING:

**A:** We worship through our tithes and offering. Now let us joyfully respond to God's goodness, through our personal giving.

*It is only through your giving that the ministry and mission of Holy Spirit continues. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their generous giving. Offerings can also be dropped in the mailbox or mailed in.*

## OFFERTORY

### Come by Here



1 Come by here, Lord, come by here; come by here, Lord, come by here;  
 2 Some-one needs you, Lord, come by here; some-one needs you, Lord, come by here;  
 3 Send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here; send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here;



come by here, Lord, come by here.  
 some-one needs you, Lord, come by here. O Lord, come by here.  
 send a bless-ing, Lord, come by here.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

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

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:** 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 in 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.*

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**+ SENDING +**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*In Holy Communion, the church shares the forgiving and renewing presence of the Lord Jesus in bread and wine. We invite all to receive this sacrament. Communion will be offered either by intinction or the prepackaged communion cups. You can pick up your prepackaged communion cup before entering the church and receive that from your seat at the appropriate time or come forward to receive the elements from pastor at the rail. Please discard your cups on the way out. Thank you.*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**P:** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## \*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

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

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING & BENEDICTION

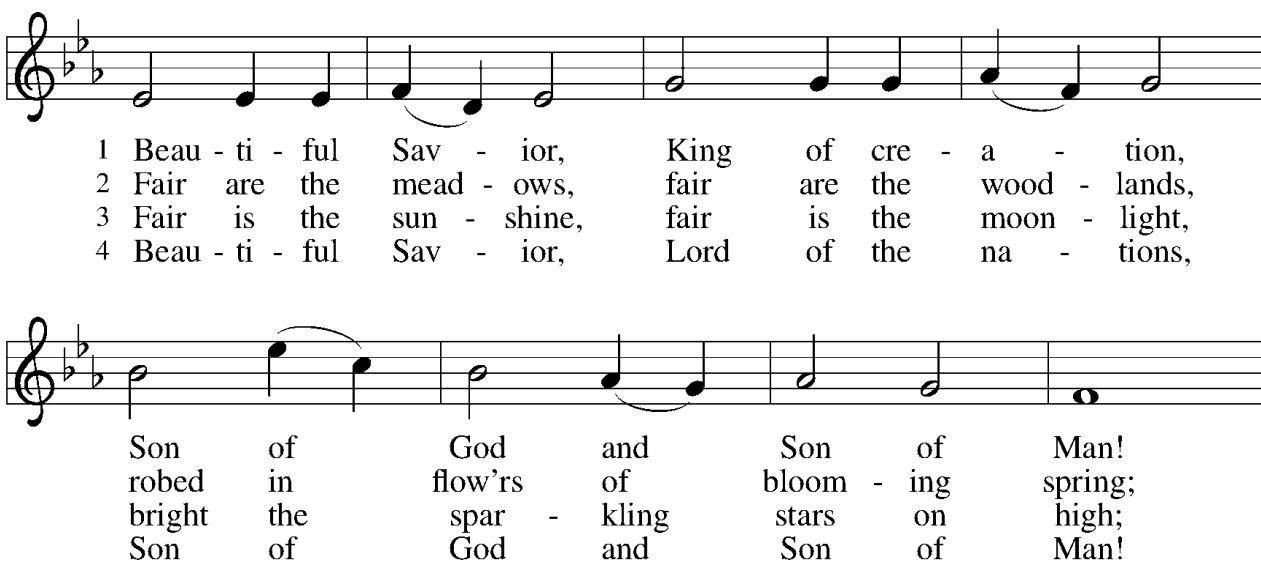
**P:** May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 838

### Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

(Cont'd)

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

## DISMISSAL

**A:** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Jan's Income: \$ 6,239      Average Attendance: 19**

**Jan's Expense: \$ 8,507**

**Note: 2 Sundays no service/no deposits**

**Altar flowers** are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of Katherine Hooper for her birthday by Nancy Hooper and in honor of Stephanie Yannuzzi, my niece, by Gary Pysher.

## ***MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD***

### **Scheduled to serve 2/15**

*Donna G. – Assisting Minister  
 Gary P. - Ushers  
 Gary P. - Counters  
 Barb S. – Altar*

### **Scheduled to serve 2/22**

*Alan S. – Assisting Minister  
 Klines - Ushers  
 Downey/Deemer - Counters  
 Barb S. - Altar*

\*\*\*\*\*WEEKLY CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\*

<b>Mon, Feb 16</b>	<b>6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Tue, Feb 17</b>	<b>6:00pm – Nursery School Mtg (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Wed, Feb 18</b>	<b>7:00am-9:00am – Drive thru ashes @ White Luttrell in Ridley Park</b>
<b>Thu, Feb 19</b>	<b>7:30pm – AA (Hall)</b>
<b>Sat, Feb 21</b>	<b>7:00pm – AA (Hall)</b> <b>7:00pm – DA (Mtg Rm)</b> <b>10:00am – AA (Hall)</b> <b>11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Sun, Feb 22</b>	<b>10:15am – Worship/Coffee Hour</b> <b>12:30pm – Song of Praise (Sanctuary)</b>

**MID-WEEK LENTEN GATHERING** - Wednesdays, **6:00** during lent is as follows:

2/25 @ Immanuel Lutheran, Norwood

3/4 @ St. Timothy's, Aston

3/11 @ Matthew's, Woodlyn

3/18 @ St. Timothy's, Aston

**3/25 @ Holy Spirit, Secane (Holy Communion)**

**Mark your Calendars!**

Please take note of the following very important Holy Spirit events.

**Saturday February 28 at 2 PM** – We will be holding a “Meet and Greet” with Pastor Christopher Drummond. This is an opportunity to meet Pastor Drummond in a relaxed social environment. Light snacks will be served.

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 AM** – Pastor Drummond will be leading the Holy Spirit congregation in worship. Immediately following the service we will be holding a special congregational meeting to officially vote on acceptance of our new Pastor.

Please plan to attend these two events and make your voice heard.

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\*\*\*\*

**Healing:**

*Annie Berner  
Eileen Maloney  
Lisa McDonough  
Hugh Mullarkey  
Lois Saunders  
Betty Lake  
Anne Rainsford  
Dolores Maurer  
Harry Collins  
Geralyn Gerakaris  
Joan & Harry Chaykun  
Nikki Miller  
Cyndi Kline  
Marie Schall*

*Jackie Bernduer White  
Jackie Dewitt  
Maureen Colahan  
John Turner  
Lynn McGrane  
Sue Thomas  
Jean Cilurso  
Phyllis Horton  
Lou Vallies  
Linda Martin  
Bill McVian  
Suzie Thomas  
Tom  
Diane Varano*

*(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Feb, please call the office)*

**Also please remember in your prayers homebound members:** Ruth Dell’Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Janet Kline, Dudley Henriques, Gerilyn Gerakaris, and Bob Kerns.

**Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.**

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

**COUNTERS NEEDED** – We are in need of one or two counters for the first week of the month. If you are able to volunteer for this, please call the office.

**COFFEE HOUR** – Feb 15 after service sponsored by “TBD”.

**NURSERY SCHOOL MEETING** – Feb 17, 6:00pm in the Meeting Room.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** - Feb 18<sup>th</sup> There will be a drive thru offering of ashes at White-Luttrell Funeral Home in Ridley Park from 7am – 9am sponsored by the local ministerium.

**NEW DIRECTORIES** - Will be available by February 8<sup>th</sup> . Please look on the back table for copies. If you would like one emailed to you, let the office know.

### **CHURCH'S 75th ANNIVERSARY!**

As you may have heard, this year is Holy Spirit's 75th Anniversary. We are going to celebrate this achievement on **Sunday, April 26, 2026** during a special worship service and a luncheon. There will be invitations coming to you in the next few months.

We would like to display pictures/mementos at the luncheon for everyone to see Holy Spirit through the years. If you have any pictures (or anything related to the church) that you could lend us, please put your name on it and hand them to Nancy Harris, Gary Pysher or Bill/Cyndi Kline. We will make sure you get them back.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. 2026 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are now \$20 per vase. There are several openings to sponsor flowers in January.**

**BULLETIN COVERS** –There is a sponsor sign-up sheet to sponsor special bulletin covers for **special occasions**. The cost is \$15.00. Please see sign-up sheet outside the office.

## Outreach Activity for Lent

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” - Matthew 25:40

Lent, the seven weeks before Easter is a time for reflection and prayer, fasting or doing without luxury, and charity or service. These are all classic Lent practices.

I thought we would help out people in our neighborhood by supporting the Life Center in Upper Darby, a homeless shelter that provides many services and a meal every day.

The Life Center of Eastern Delaware County is run by the Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC). Severe budget cuts and increased operating costs have caused a very big financial problem for emergency shelters in Delaware County. The CAADC created the Save Our Shelters (SOS) Campaign. This campaign is a cooperative effort between CAADC, the community, and faith-based groups to raise funds to bridge the shelter gaps. The CAADC shelters include: Family Management Center in Chester that serves families, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby that serves individuals and provides a daily feeding program, and the Wesley House Shelter in Chester that serves families and women.

You can support this campaign by mailing checks made out to the CAADC to:  
Attention: S.O.S. Campaign, CAADC, 1414 Meetinghouse Rd., Boothwyn, PA 19061  
Another way to help the shelters is to donate items to them. I contacted the Life Center and they gave me a list of their most needed items. **There will be a box in the hallway to collect these items during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. I hope that the congregation will support this project by filling up many boxes of the following items:**

Shampoo	Cleaning Supplies
Conditioner	Clorox wipes
Toothpaste	Towels
Twin size blankets	Washcloths
Twin size sheets	Paper towels
Pillows	Butter/margarine
Laundry Pods	Milk
Dish detergent	
Plastic spoons (we do not need plastic forks at this time)	

# EASTER EGG HUNT



Holy Spirit is sponsoring its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March, 28, 2026. The Egg Hunt will begin at 12 noon.

## WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP

### **DONATIONS NEEDED:**

- Bags of candy to fill the Plastic Easter Eggs. ALL CANDY MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED (please send in candy that will fit in a one inch egg). There is a container in the Narthex for you to leave the candy in. Please bring in the candy as soon as possible so we can plan ahead. No hard candy please.
- For the food – needed are hotdogs and water. See the sign-up sheets in the front hallway. Please give the hotdogs to Bill or Cyndi Kline, Nancy Harris or Gary Pysher. The water can be left under the table when you first enter the social hall.
- HELP on the day of the hunt. We can use volunteers to help with the hunt, craft table, registration and just being on hand to greet our community and join in the fun.

**ALL SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE FRONT HALL.**

**Thank you!**



## ***OUR STAFF***

### ***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church***

*Director of Music – Samuel Stevenson*

*Office Secretary – Jeanne Warner*

### ***Holy Spirit Nursery School***

*Pre-K Teacher – Nancy Harris*

*Teaching Assistant – Colleen Hall*

*Pre-School & MMO Teacher – Shelly Avila*

*Teaching Assistant – Michelle Brackin*

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## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the time comes to leave that mountain, walking with Jesus down to the valley and getting dusty with the ashes of daily life. Many churches symbolically "roll up the Alleluias" today, recognizing that this is the end of a glorious season celebrating Christ's light and the entrance to a no-less-real season of Jesus' and our own lives, the "valley" season of Lent. But that doesn't mean there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.