

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP***

***THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT***

***Mar 8, 2026***

***Holy Spirit Lutheran Church***

***And Nursery School***

***2545 Franklin Ave.***

***Secane, PA 19018***

***Office: 610-544-2707***

We thank Pastor Sebastian for sharing the good news today.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## WELCOME, WORSHIP NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### + GATHERING +

(Please stand as you are able)

#### \*GATHERING HYMN

ELW 777

### Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

#### *Refrain*



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Please be seated)*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**





this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 17:1-7*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike

the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.”  
Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place  
Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD,  
saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***PSALM 95***

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and  
the sheep <sup>l</sup> of God’s hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup> **“Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’ ”

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand, as you are able)*

**\*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.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL****John 4:5-42**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John the fourth chapter.

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

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God

is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

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

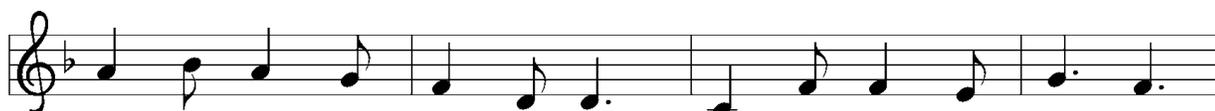
*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**Pastor J. Jayakiran Sebastian**

*(Please stand as you are able)***\*HYMN OF THE DAY****ELW 335****Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

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



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

*Refrain*

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



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

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

**\*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)*

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

*(response after: Hear us, O God)*

**C: Your mercy is great**

**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'.*

## “LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, siblings all are we  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

### 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

ELW 481

#### Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

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

We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**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:** Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*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:

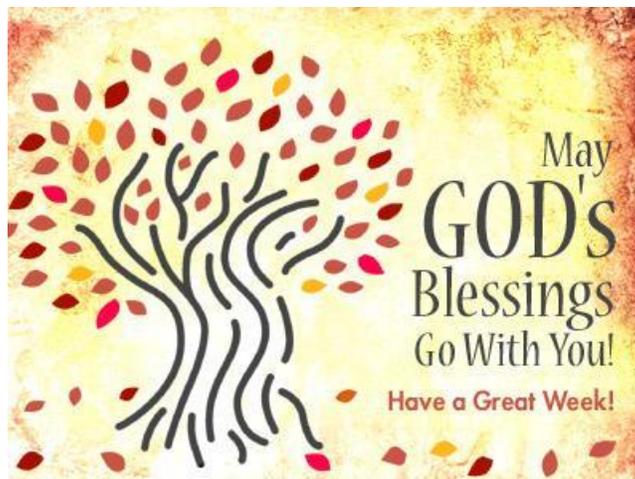
**A:** God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

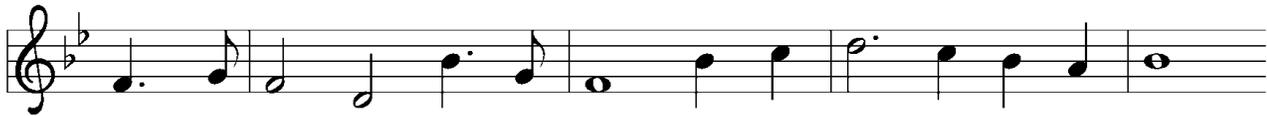
Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

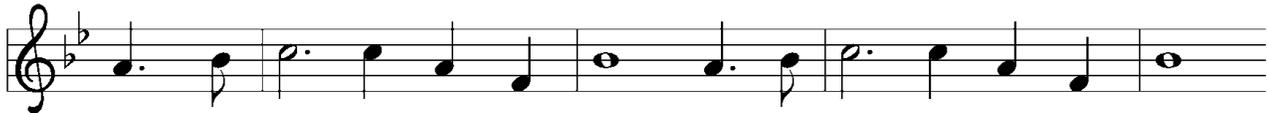
**P:** Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**



**\*SENDING HYMN****ELW 623****Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

**\*DISMISSAL****A:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.**C:** Thanks be to God.**Feb's Income: \$ 11,305****Average Attendance: 18****Feb's Expense: \$ 10,465****MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD****Scheduled to serve 3/8***Greg C. – Assisting Minister**Alan S./Alan D. – Ushers**Greg C. – Counter**Meghan G. – Altar***Scheduled to serve 3/15***Donna G. – Assisting Minister**Colahans - Ushers**Colahans - Counters**Meghan G. - Altar*

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

<b>Mon, Mar 9</b>	<b>6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Wed, Mar 11</b>	<b>6:00pm – Mid-week Lenten service @ St. Matthew's, Woodlyn</b>
	<b>6:30pm – G/S (Mtg Rm)</b>
	<b>7:30pm – AA (Hall)</b>
<b>Thu, Mar 12</b>	<b>7:00pm – AA (Hall)</b>
	<b>7:00pm – DA (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Sat, Mar 14</b>	<b>10:00am – AA (Hall)</b>
	<b>11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)</b>
<b>Sun, Mar 15</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:

3/11 @ Matthew's, Woodlyn

3/18 @ St. Timothy's, Aston

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

\*\*\*\*\*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*

*Benny Hoffman*

*(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for March, 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**

**COFFEE HOUR–March 15** after service sponsored by Shawn, Denis, and Alan D.

**FILL EASTER EGGS** – Please join us on **Monday March 23 at 6:30pm** in the social hall to help us fill Easter eggs with toys and candy in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you for your assistance.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE WITH MEAL** – **March 25 at 6:00** at Holy Spirit. Please see sign up sheet outside the office to help with the meal.

**EASTER FLOWERS** – Please help beautify the worship space for Easter Sunday by ordering potted plants. Take home afterwards or leave to beautify our gardens outside the church. Orders are due back by **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**



**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.

**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.**

**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.

# 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!**

**HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA - (Ridley Township)

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY**  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**

for kids ages 2-10

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

**11:30 a.m. – registration**

**12:00 noon – Easter Egg Hunt 2 & 3 Year olds**

**12:15ish p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt for 4-10 year olds**

**Hotdogs \* Drinks \* Prizes \* Craft for kids**

**Reservations are required!**

**Go to: [holyspiritevents2545@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritevents2545@gmail.com)  
to make reservations or if you have questions.**



## 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)	

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## GOSPEL MESSAGE

### Our “Other” at the Well

The woman at the well is a familiar text for many people. This image of Jesus standing at a well talking with a Samaritan woman is emblazoned in our visual and theological imaginations, but as with all Bible stories that we *think* we know, we might do well to take another look! Perhaps relegating this text to the simple moralism “be nice to people who are different” causes us to miss how deeply radical and difficult the message really is. We may assume this gospel simply urges us to stand with the marginalized, especially women. Yet while standing with marginalized women is a commendable action it can lead us, after doing so, to congratulate ourselves for being just like Jesus. A more critical and searching look at this text calls us to the reality that Jesus doesn’t just stand with *the other*, Jesus stands with *your* other; *your church’s* other. Your church’s “Samaritans” may be LGBTQ+ people, evangelicals, urban people, rural people, conservatives, liberals, the poor, the rich, the dying, or single parents. Your church’s Samaritans could very well be the key to this text. Because, like it or not, when we draw lines between ourselves and other people, Jesus is always on the *other* side of that line. So communities and individuals who thirst for the living water would do well to look to who our own Samaritans might be. And when we find them we should perhaps not be surprised to also find Jesus; a Jesus we thought was all our own but who, in reality, is the living water who comes to us in the strange and the stranger.



## ***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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