

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

10:15 AM

Theme: The good news is...great love for God and neighbor.

Paragraph for bulletin cover:

Simon and some Pharisees host a dinner for Jesus and an unexpected guest arrives: a woman from the city who kneels at Jesus' feet and washes him with expensive perfume. Simon scoffs at this party foul, but Jesus reorients his focus, asking him to truly see the woman and recognize that she has shown "great love," offering the tender hospitality he was not granted when he entered Simon's home. The woman with the alabaster jar shows a shocking, extravagant love that exemplifies the Greatest Commandment: to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. Will the other guests see that loving God goes hand in hand with loving neighbor? We've paired this story with Jesus' words in Matthew 25. When we care for the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned—each of whom are created in the image of God—we are showing love for God, too.

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE Lord, Throughout These Forty Days - arr. Krug
St. John's Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. Join me in opening ourselves up to God's grace.

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that

you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow, we bring ourselves to you for forgiveness, O God. Amen.

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of good news, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. **With hope we pray in Your name.**

Amen.

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Luke 7:36-50

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Matthew 25:35-40

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Marcia Bell

HYMN OF THE DAY I Come With My Devotion



I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve
I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost
God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom



my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me
and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,
we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne
of our love — since it's God's face we bear
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,**

so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING My Jesus, I love Thee - Adoniram J. Gordan
Mike Wolf, tenor

OFFERTORY

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation and your good news is for all people. May the gifts we offer be used to spread the good news into the world, in the name of One who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS - at the rail

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of good news, 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.**

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.

**For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.**

**It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.**

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking it,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God
for this good, good news.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 328 Restore in Us, O God

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ed & Billie Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Marie Wolfe, Erik Ockenlaender, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Gladys Kazalonis, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Paige Seasock, Tanner Antalosky, Will Morgan, Richard Mitchell, David Wargo, Kate Umstead, Barry Long and Jim Martin.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 2	5:30 Lenten Soup and Study 7pm Great Songs of Faith Choir rehearsal
Wednesday, March 4	7pm Mid Week Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hill
Saturday, March 7	9-11am The Open Link Food Collection Friedens Union Cemetery Clean off Day
Sunday, March 8	8am Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15 Worship

Cemetery Clean Off is Saturday, March 7th It would be appreciated if you have any Christmas decorations on your cemetery lots to please remove prior to then. Also note that the cemetery does not maintain the roads in the winter. This is all weather permitting. All are welcome to come out and help.

Donations for the College Care packages Please sign up through the link in the Weekly Email being sent out tomorrow. All items must be at the church by March 8th.

Sunday Morning Coffee Bar is BACK! Join us at the coffee bar at the back entrance for coffee, hot tea, breakfast treats and conversation starting at 8:30AM.

Volunteers are needed to cover the coffee bar each week - which means set up, bring treats to share and clean up. The sign up sheet is available outside Pastor Becky's office - please sign up to help!

First Communion Workshop Saturday, March 21 9:30-11:30 AM Any 2nd-5th grade student who has not received communion is welcome to attend this spring's first communion workshop. A parent/grandparent must attend the workshop with each student. Students who attend will receive their first communion on Sunday, March 29 at the 10:15 AM service - a luncheon with cake will be held after worship to celebrate with our first communion recipients. Sign up link on Monday's weekly email or contact Pastor Becky.

RISE Against Hunger Event is March 22nd at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Hill. Online slots are still available, see the weekly email for the link to sign up.

Mid-Week Lent Worship 2026 Mid-week Lenten worship will be held on Wednesdays at 7 PM followed by a time of fellowship and food. We hope you'll join us!

March 4 – What do you live for? Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill;
preacher Pastor Stephanie Thompson

March 11 – Who will you love? Worship at Pennsburg UCC, Pennsburg;
preacher Pastor Kevin Compton

March 18 – What are you looking for? Worship at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunnyside;
preacher Pastor Serena Sellers

March 25 – Who do you say that I am? Worship at Palm Schwenkfelder Church, Palm;
preacher Pastor Becky Schanely

Family Bathroom We are adding a family bathroom to meet the needs of some of our members. It's a big job. I believe the job itself has been blessed. The architect provided our plan pro bono. The supplier of most of the fixtures for the bathroom has discounted their products in exchange for some advertising opportunities. They even donated the sink! It's still an expensive project. We are in search of grants. Grants aren't easy. But, we're doing our best. If you know of one that might help us please let the office or a Church Council member know. In the mean time, if you feel it in your heart, we have a designated fund for donations. As you know, many hands make the lift easier! Just write "Family Bathroom" on an envelope. Thank You!

Readers Needed for Palm/Passion Sunday Palm/Passion Sunday is March 29, 2026 - we will worship at one service at 10:15 AM. The service will include the reading of the passion interspersed throughout worship. Readers are needed to participate in the reader's theater-style presentation of the passion.

There will be a rehearsal the day before, Sat. March 28, at 10 AM to run through lines and the movement of readers (when to read, where to stand, when to sit, etc.).



Soup & Study – Lent 2026

A Different Way to Journey Through Lent
Where Faith Finds Color

Mondays in Lent | 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Begins Monday, February 23, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sumneytown

We'll share a simple meal, meaningful conversation, and time to reflect together using [Coloring Lent](#). This group invites us to talk and color side by side, creating space for reflection, discussion, and quiet moments along the way. The book will also serve as a personal devotional guide throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Book: [Coloring Lent: An Adult Coloring Book for the Journey to Resurrection](#)

Books are available for \$10

from Pastor Becky, St. John's (pastorbecky74@gmail.com)
or Pastor Stephanie, Friedens (pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com)



Please bring your own coloring supplies to the Monday gatherings:

**crayons, markers,
or colored pencils.**

No artistic experience needed.

All are welcome.



2026 Easter Flowers Order



Orders are due in the church office by Wednesday, March 18

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Plant Information:

- _____ plant(s) Daffodils @ \$10.00
- _____ plant(s) Lilies @ \$10.00
- _____ plant(s) Colored Lilies @ \$10.00
(orange & yellow)
- _____ plant(s) Tulips (asstd) @ \$10.00

Flowers may be picked up after the 10:15am Easter Worship

Please return this form in an envelope marked **Easter Flower Order** on the outside to the church office or offering plate. Please provide exact cash or checks made payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church".

Please indicate how you would like the flower donation listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins:

In honor of _____

by _____

In memory of _____

by _____



Candy donations needed by Sunday, March 29th
Saturday, April 4th at 10 AM