THE GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
Rev. Robert J. Schaefer, Pastor
Mary K. Walley, Director of Music | Donna Wenger, Secretary
www.goodshepherdlife.org

the Third Sunday *in* Lent

Sunday, March 8, 2026

ELW Setting Three

PRELUDE

There Is a Fountain – arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Following each petition:

...Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

The presiding minister continues:

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

ELW # 533 – Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

*GREETING

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

*KYRIE

ELW p.138

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

Help, save, and defend us, O God.
Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Celebrate insert

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

FIRST READING

Celebrate insert

After the reading,

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Celebrate insert

SECOND READING

Celebrate insert

After the reading,

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.142

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

*GOSPEL

Celebrate insert

The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to _____.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading,

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 331 – As the Deer Runs to the Water

*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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Celebrate insert

After each petition,

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

*PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

God Is Love – Ralph Manuel

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

*OFFERING PRAYER

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

*DIALOGUE

ELW p.144

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.

*PREFACE

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

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p.144

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*COMMUNION SONG

ELW p.146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The communion follows. As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond:

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW # 447 – O Blessed Spring
ELW # 453 – Baptized and Set Free

*BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ keep you in his grace.
Amen.

*SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p.135

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared
in the sight of ev'ry people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

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 SONG

ELW # 618 – Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

Sunday, March 8, 2026

News and Notices

Take A Look-To help facilitate the congregation's move, the process to identify items we no longer have a need for has begun. The Altar guild has identified various items that have been a part of church services in the past but are no longer being used. At the March 8 church service, we will pray for these items and thank them for their service. At the conclusion of the service these items will remain in the Upper Nave for a few weeks and are available to congregation members who would like to offer them a new home.

Easter Flower Order Forms Available- Let's fill our sanctuary with a burst of springtime color! Celebrate someone special—or honor a cherished loved one—by dedicating beautiful Easter flowers that will bring joy to our worship space. **Orders forms** are available in the narthex.

Please return your orders by March 15.

After our Easter service, you are invited to take your flowers home as a radiant reminder of the hope, joy, and new beginnings we share.

New-The February edition of "Together In Faith" is available in the narthex.

Why Is the Alleluia Banner Displayed During Lent? In most years, we set aside the word Alleluia during Lent as we walk with Christ toward the cross. This year, we are keeping it before us.

In the last days before Lent, our congregation said goodbye to one of our Sunday school children. We sensed that this moment is too heavy to silence the word of resurrection. The banner, created by our children and marked by Lizzy's own handprint, now stands as a sign of hope in the midst of grief.

We do not hold onto Alleluia because we are not sad. We hold onto it because Jesus Christ is risen, and death does not have the final word.

Rooted: A Living Toolkit in the Face of State Repression- A three-part virtual course that will ground participants in an understanding of the systemic tactics of dehumanization and criminalization that the U.S. empire continues to deploy against oppressed communities. Together, we will examine how to stay informed, centered, and embodied through this current escalation. **Attendees will leave this course with the tools for rethinking personal and collective safety in their everyday lives.**

Wednesday, March 25 | 8pm ET
Class 2: We Take Care of Each Other with Afeni Evans and Phoenix
Co-led by Afeni Evans of Facts and Fire and Phoenix of America Hates Us, this interactive course will focus on mutual aid, community care, building power, and staying safe, both online and offline.

Wednesday, April 29 | 8pm ET
Class 3: New Media Studies with Afeef Nessouli
Taught by Pulitzer grant recipient and journalist Afeef Nessouli, this course will provide the foundations of media literacy as information becomes increasingly polluted and propagandized. We will also explore how dehumanization is employed in media to allow governments to erase people and extract their resources.

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.AROOTEDTOOLKIT.COM

Serving You Today

Altar Guild
Diane and Bob Rossetti

Assisting Minister
Leigh Pogue

Ushers
Patty and Joe Cummings

Music

Director of Music- Mary K. Walley

Anthem:
"God Is Love"-Ralph Manuel

Calendar

SUNDAY, 3/8

- 10:30 am-Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am-Sunday School (Older)
- 1:30 pm-MCC, PH

MONDAY, 3/9

TUESDAY, 3/10

- 1:30 pm-Bible Study, LR
- 6 pm- Lego Club, PH

WEDNESDAY, 3/11

- 4 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal, Chancel
- 5:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel

THURSDAY, 3/12

- 5:30 pm-TCT Meeting, Parlor
- 6:30 pm-Outside Group, LR

FRIDAY, 3/13

SATURDAY, 3/14

SUNDAY, 3/15

- 10:30 am-Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:30 am-Sunday School (Young)
- 1:30 pm-MCC, PH

Prayer Concerns

New Prayer Concerns
Family and friends of Travis White
The civilians, leaders and peacemakers during the Iran conflict

Ongoing Prayer Concerns
Brother of Fred Wiesner
Gary Rader
Mary Ellen Cartia
Donna Shubert
Family and friends of John Fabrizio
Lacey Grimes
Carol Ponist
Baby Miles
Family and friends of Carl Sbraccia
Leo Engleka
Kelly Smith
Fred Wiesner
Elijah
Karen
Ralph Beatty
Al
R. Rose
Shirah Goldstein
Caden Brush
Debbie Lendo Finke
Jan B.
Jennifer Tirko
Kerry Luehring
Michelle DePaulo
Rosemarie Michalov
Mary Ross

Military Service
Nathan Ridge
18244 Garin Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

Current Prayer List-A current prayer list can be found by going to:

www.goodshepherdlife.org/prayers