Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
March 30, 2025
God's Work/Our Hands
St. John's Lutheran Church
5th and Race Streets (PO Box B)
Mifflinville, PA 18631
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Rev. Daniel Warntz, pastor

Fourth Sunday in Lent Holy Communion March 30, 2025 God's Work/Our Hands

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

■ In the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen

- P Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

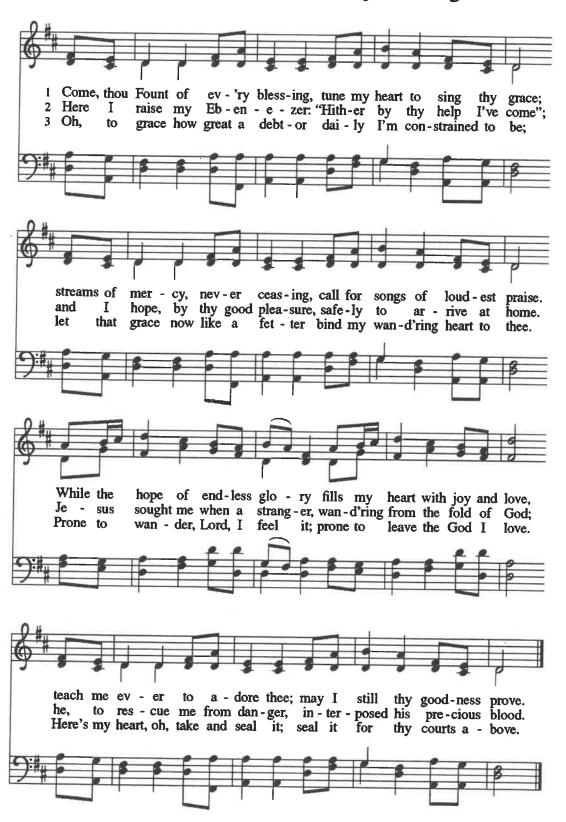
 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- @ who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
- And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P Almighty God, merciful Father:
- I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



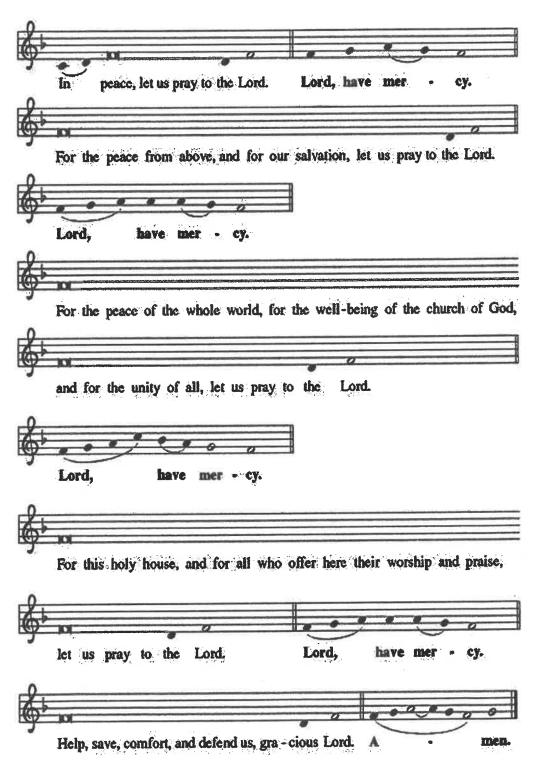
Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

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GREETING

- P 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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHOIR-AMAZING GRACE

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,

and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow,

they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you

should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Oreat are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

(cont'd)

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's own self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand for Acclamation



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

@ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

(cont'd)

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So Jesus told them this parable: 11b "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The slave replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven

dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

- P God, in your mercy,
- c receive our prayer.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- And also with you.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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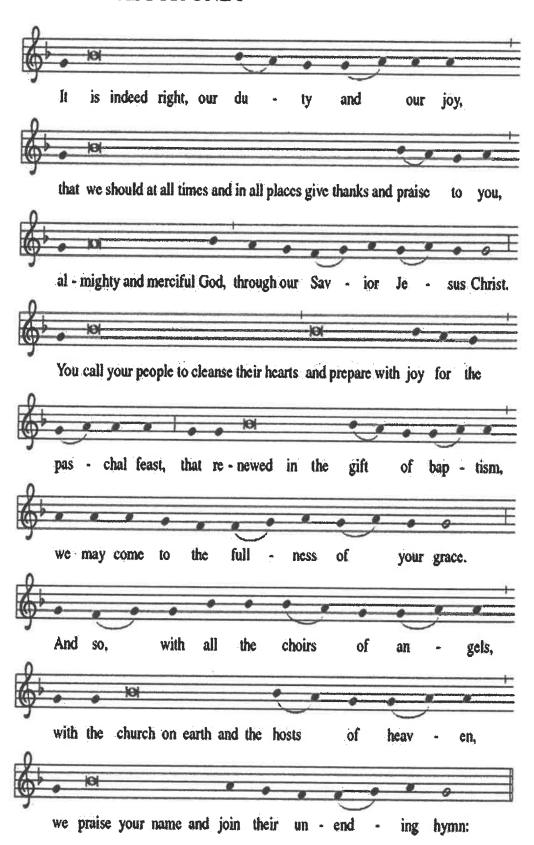
OFFERING PRAYER

- P God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- @ Amen.

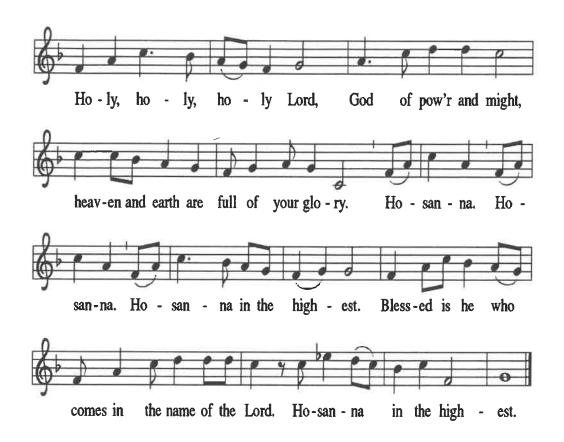
DIALOGUE



PREFACE PASTOR ONLY



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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

(cont'd)

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 for the 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

(cont'd)

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

THE FRACTION

- P Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed once for all upon the Cross.
- C Therefore, let us keep the Feast.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

POST COMMUNION DISMISSAL

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

@ Amen.

Now, Lord



Music: Plainsong, adapt. Lutheran Book of Worship Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

- P God our tender parent,
 God the crucified one,
 God the reconciling Spirit,

 → bless you now and forever.
- C Amen.

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
- Through all the tu mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- C Thanks be to God!

DEAR FRIENDS & MEMBERS, In an effort to have our prayer list as current and as accurate as possible, please indicate whether or not you would like to have a name continue to be included. Thank you!

* Michelle Bahlavooni *Roland Baker Sr * Mike Deptula* David Ferro* Carl Frank *Adam Gajkowski * Lisa Haley* Bonnie Haney *Jim Hess* Scott Hollenbach *Joanne Johnson * Marlen Karchner* Dave Madara *Joyce McCorty *Cindy Miller *Vinnie Moroney* Henry Reinsburrow * *Tammy Roche* Ken Roush* Bonnie Swafford *Tom Termini* Mark Troup * Marlene Trotman* Melissa Waltman* *Kathy Whitesel* Ron Wolfe* Shirley Young* Family of Lea Adams*

THIS SUNDAY: MARCH 30, 2025

Outdoor Greeters: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Lance Miller Greeters & Ushers: Emily Johnson & Dan Comstock Lector: Paul Zajac

Communion Assistant: Loreen Comstock Altar Guild: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Gail Utt Offering Counters: Janet Gibney & Sharon Bachman Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

NEXT SUNDAY: APRIL 6, 2025

Outdoor Greeters: David & Karen Bird Greeters & Ushers: Bill Hower Sr & Bill Hower Jr Lector: Liz Shotwell

Communion Assistant: Diane Young Altar Guild: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Vinniedee Hippensteel Offering Counters: Tina Baucher & Valerie Lynn Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Our Sanctuary Lamp this week burns to the Glory of God by Nan Quintrell In memory of loved ones ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, at 1:00 PM, and Deitrich Bonhoeffer at 2:00 PM.

BELLS / CHOIR

Bell choir Thursday 6:00 PM, Vocal choir at 7:00 PM

LENTEN SOUP/SANDWICH

Faith United will host this evening. St. John's will be hosting April 6th. Sign up sheets are available on the table in the sanctuary.

EASTER CARDS

Easter Cards for our shut ins will be available to sign until Palm Sunday, April 13th.

GIRL SCOUT FUNDRAISER

Pick up orders April 5th from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

GATHERING TIME

Our next gathering time will be following worship on **April** 13th.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our next Senior Luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 16th. Please notify Jan Peifer by Tuesday, April 15th if you plan to attend. Her number is 570-204-7531.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Support will meet on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 PM. Anyone who has experienced grief due to the recent or past death of a loved one is welcome to attend. This is an informal group whose purpose is to talk about any issue members may be experiencing related to loss. Refreshments will be served.

FILL THE SHELVES

Our next Fill the Shelves Sunday will take place on April 6th.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday service will be held at FUEL at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 17th.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday service will be held at St. John's at 7:00 PM on Friday, April 18th

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive will take place on Tuesday, April 22nd from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

THE DAY OF LEARNING

Day of Learning will be held on April 26th. The theme is Brushstrokes of Faith and Strength. You can find fliers on the back table which include more information. The cost is \$25.00 for the day. Pre-registration and payment are due by April 1st.

RAISE RIGHT!

St. John's is joining thousands of other churches and organizations who fundraise easily for themselves by simply asking people to do what they already do every day. Shop!! Simply buy a gift card (examples, Giant Foods, Amazon, Home Depot, Visa, etc.) You pay only the face value of these cards, but St. John's will be rewarded. If you would like to order, see Tenette our Project Coordinator, or Alison and Carolyn who will assist her. Order forms can be found on the rear table of the sanctuary. We will be ordering once a month for now, but may change to twice a month closer to Christmas. We accept cash or checks made payable to St. John's. Please place in an envelope with your order form. Our next order will be submitted on April 21st. Please have it ready by Sunday, April 20th,.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 30, 2025

Eucharist: 9:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Monday, Mar 31, 2025 Office Hours 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday, Apr 1, 2025 Office Hours-Pastor in 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, Apr 2, 2025 Office Hours 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, Apr 3, 2025
Office Hours-Pastor in
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Bible Study/ Bonhoeffer
1:00 PM/ 2:00 PM
Bells / Choir
6:00 PM / 7:00 PM

Friday Apr 4, 2025 Office closed

Saturday, Apr 5, 2025 Office closed Girl Scout Fundraiser Pick up orders 11:00 Am to 1:30 PM.

Sunday, Apr 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Lent Lenten Meal 6:00 PM at St. John's

CONTACT PERSONS:

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Phone: 570-336-7023

Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

Email: theorgandude30@gmail.com

Phone: 570-752-2289 (office)

Cell: 814-360-4602

Last Sunday Attendance: 47

Offering Amount Needed Weekly:

Current: \$1,557.00 Benevolence: \$122.00

New Building: \$333.00

Offering Amounts Received:

Current: \$ 1,385.00 Benevolence: \$119.00 New Building: \$292.00

St. John's Website: www.stjohnslutheranmifflinville.com Join John's Lutheran Church, Mifflinville, PA