



8 Church Square, Lititz, PA 17543 Church Office: 717-626-8515 office@lititzmoravian.org Website: www.lititzmoravian.org

Mission Statement: Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!

# March 23, 2025 Third Sunday in Lent LIFT Worship Service 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Enter expectantly, pray reverently, greet each other warmly, listen thoughtfully, sing joyfully, and leave faithfully.

Chief Elder and Head of the Church: Jesus Christ Pastors: Rev. Mark V. Breland, Rev. Sayward E. G. Lippincott Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell Trombone Choir & Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Winfield Children's Ministry Coordinator: Allyson Miller Lay Ministry Assistant: Greg Bomberger Office Manager: Courtney Hackman Administrative Assistant: Jaime Weik Sexton: Josh Bailey Custodian and Security: Dan Turnbull Treasurer: Barbara McKenney Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

#### \*Stand, if you are able.

**Prayer for Meditation:** Your glory and power, O God, surround us in the sanctuary. We lift up our hands and call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Prelude:** Wir glauben all an einen Gott

# Welcome, Announcements and Greeting

Due to Covid and flu concerns, it's okay not to shake hands. Just greet your neighbor with a smile, a word of greeting, fist or elbow bump. Please pass prayer request cards to the aisle for the ushers during the first hymn. Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it through the pew. Please see an Usher or Sacristan if you would like: headphones to assist the hearing-impaired, large print bulletins, walker, wheelchair, or activity bags to help busy young children.

# Call to Worship: (Leader / Congregation)

Everyone who thirsts:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live. All who are hungry for righteousness:

**Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.** All who need the help of God:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

# \*Hymn: 573

# Call to Confession:

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

# **Prayer of Confession:**

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

LIFT Worship Leader

Johannes Pachelbel

LIFT Worship Leader

LIFT Worship Leader

In the Morning When I Rise

### Words of Pardon

God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God....

# **Shared Joys and Concerns**

# Prayer

# Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.""

10:30 a.m. Children's Chat Hymn: 679 (v. 1& 3)

10:30 a.m. Children's Chat

Joyful Noise Offering - Camp Hope

\*Hymn: 337

Message: God of the Second Chance

The Offering of Tithes & Gifts

(8:00 a.m.) Offertory Organ Music

(10:30 a.m.) Offertory Anthem: At the River

Adapted by Aaron Copland Arr., R. Wilding-White

Pastor Mark Breland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel's feet have trod, With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease. Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes, we'll gather by the river....

LIFT Worship Leader

LIFT Worship Leader

*Little Children, Welcome!* Allyson Miller

Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

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**Serving Today:** Sacristan: (8:00 a.m.) Don Stoner (10:30 a.m.) Matt Good Head Usher: Tim Hartel **Scripture Readers:** (8:00 a.m.) Pastor Sayward Lippincott (10:30 a.m.) LIFT Worship Leader Sound Booth Personnel: Wayne Wolf No Nursery due to LIFT Worship

### \*Offertory Response: 817 **Offering Prayer:**

LIFT Worship Leader God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one Table you have set; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# \*Hymn: 799

#### \*Benediction May the mercy of God ground us, the love of Christ take root in us, and the Holy Spirit grow in us, that we may be ready for the coming of the kingdom.

**Postlude:** *Prelude and Fugue in F Major* 

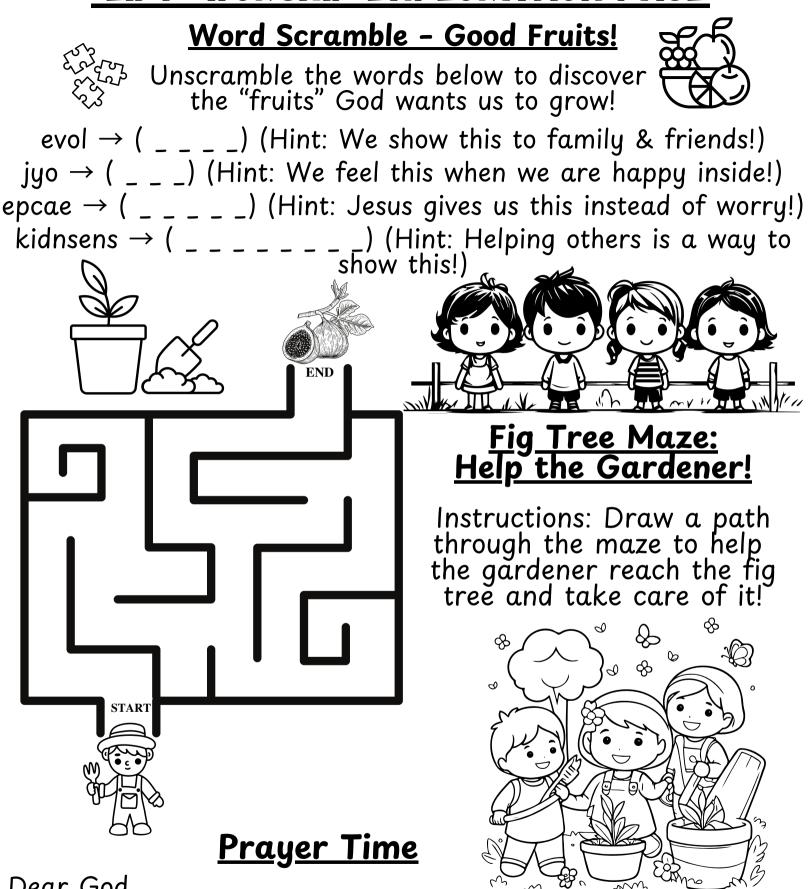
Jesus, Still Lead On

J. S. Bach

LIFT Worship Leader

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

# "LIFT" WORSHIP EXPLORATION PAGE



Dear God,

Thank You for loving us and helping us grow. Help us be patient, kind, and full of love like You. Teach us to grow good fruit in our lives so we can share Your love with others. Amen.

# Announcements March 23, 2025

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Have something to submit for the bulletin, SPIRE or social media?

In an effort to streamline requests,

we have created a form to be completed and submitted to the office.

A paper form is available in the office or we can email you an electronic version. Thank Yow

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If you see a repair or an area that requires maintenance attention, please fill out a form and place in container. Forms are located outside both office doors. The office will forward the information to our Grounds and Maintenance Team.

If you would prefer to submit your request by email, please email: Courtney@lititzmoravian.org.

We will address each request as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your help in helping to keep our Church Campus maintained and well kept. ೭೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯೯

Only a few more spots open to fill up the nursery volunteers until summer break! Scan QR code to sign up or

Scan QR code to sign up or call Sue Bomberger at 717-723-1526



# Join Us for a Meaningful Lenten Journey

As we walk together through the season of Lent, you're invited to an evening of fellowship, reflection, and nourishment—both for the body and the soul.



Starting Wednesday, March 12th, at 6:00 PM, and continuing every Wednesday during Lent, we will gather for a Lenten meal and study.

# In The Footsteps of the Savior - Max Lucado

March 12: Capernaum: Following Jesus When You Doubt
March 19: Sea of Galilee: Following Jesus in Your Storms
March 26: Mount of Beatitudes: Following Jesus When You Worry
April 2: Temple Steps: Following Jesus ... And Only Jesus
April 9: Garden Tomb: Following Jesus When You Need Hope

Whether you come hungry for food or spiritual growth, there's a place for you at the table.

Bring a friend, bring your questions, and let's journey together.

Where: Fellowship Hall



When: Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 12th at 6 PM

# All are welcome—come as you are!

# **Class Membership**

Has it been on your heart to become a member of Lititz Moravian Church?

> Join us for our Membership Class on March 29th from 9-11 AM.



It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our congregation, deepen your faith, and take the next step in your journey with us.

We'd love to welcome you!

Learn the Moravian approach to Christian faith and living!

Explore the opportunities for growing in Christ here at Lititz Moravian!

+ Enjoy informal, inspirational discussions with the pastors and others inquiring about church membership.

To let us know you are coming, please reach out to Pastor Mark at 717-626-8515.



As we look forward to Easter, would you like to honor or remember a loved one by placing a lily in church on Easter Sunday?

If so, please return this form to the Church Office or place in the Sunday offering plate no later than Sunday, April 13th.

The cost for lilies is \$18 per plant. Please attach your payment to the order form at the time you turn in the order.

You may pick them up following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Please make checks payable to Lititz Moravian Flower Fund with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. **Deadline to order is April 13th.** 

<u> </u>
Your Name:
First Plant:
In HONOR or In MEMORY of:
Second Plant:
In HONOR or In MEMORY of:
Third Plant:
In HONOR or In MEMORY of:
Number of Plants: x \$18 =
Please indicate if you are enclosing cash or check number:9

The 2025 Lititz Moravian Community Garden

Do you enjoy gardening? Are you looking to plant a garden but don't have your own plot? Do you have a heart for feeding families who need access to fresh produce? Then please consider helping the 2025 Lititz Moravian Community Garden get "off the ground" this season.

Our garden was totally renovated in November, and the new beds are higher and easy to reach, making them more accessible to gardeners with physical limitations.

What fits your schedule? Would you like to pick a few weeds or water the garden when going to and from church? Would you like to plant and harvest on a regular basis? Would you even like to tend or sponsor your own raised garden bed?

The tentative date for prepping and planting will be Saturday, March 29th, and you are invited to help out. There will be many opportunities during the growing season to pitch in a little or a lot, so please contact Brenda Barnes at barnes1@ptd.net or 717-201-5384 to help.

# Attention Flower Enthusiasts!

The Cemetery Board is seeking individuals or groups interested in planting and maintaining select flower beds on the church grounds.

Select beds include: Memorial Arch, General Sutter's grave, areas around the Christian Education Building, Main Street sign, Memorial Garden and large rock bed at God's Acre.

If you have a green thumb and a love for flowers, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact David Cochran at dlcochran65@gmail.com for more details.

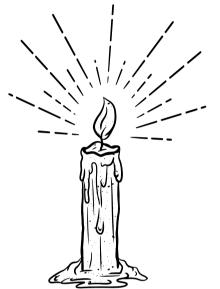
Let's brighten up our church grounds together!

# It's Never Too Early to Prepare the Vigil Candles!

The light may shine bright during our Christmas Vigil services, but the work starts now!

Join us as we begin the careful preparation of the Vigil candles because a beautiful tradition takes time (and a little waxy dedication).

See the dates below to join the "plucking, pulling, prying and trimming-candle" preparation fun!!



# Thursdays at 6:30 pm

March 20th and 27th April 3rd, 10th and 24th May 1st

Location: Craft Room

# <u>Saturdays at 9:00 am</u>

March 29th April 5th, 12th and 26th May 3rd and 10th

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# Easter Morning Breakfast

Following the Easter Sunrise service on Easter Morning (April 20th), there will be a light breakfast served. The breakfast will be served from 6:45 am to 8:00 am.

Volunteers are needed in the afternoon & evening of April 19th and again the morning of April 20th.

If you would like to help with this event, please email Jaime in the Church Office at jaime@lititzmoravian.org.



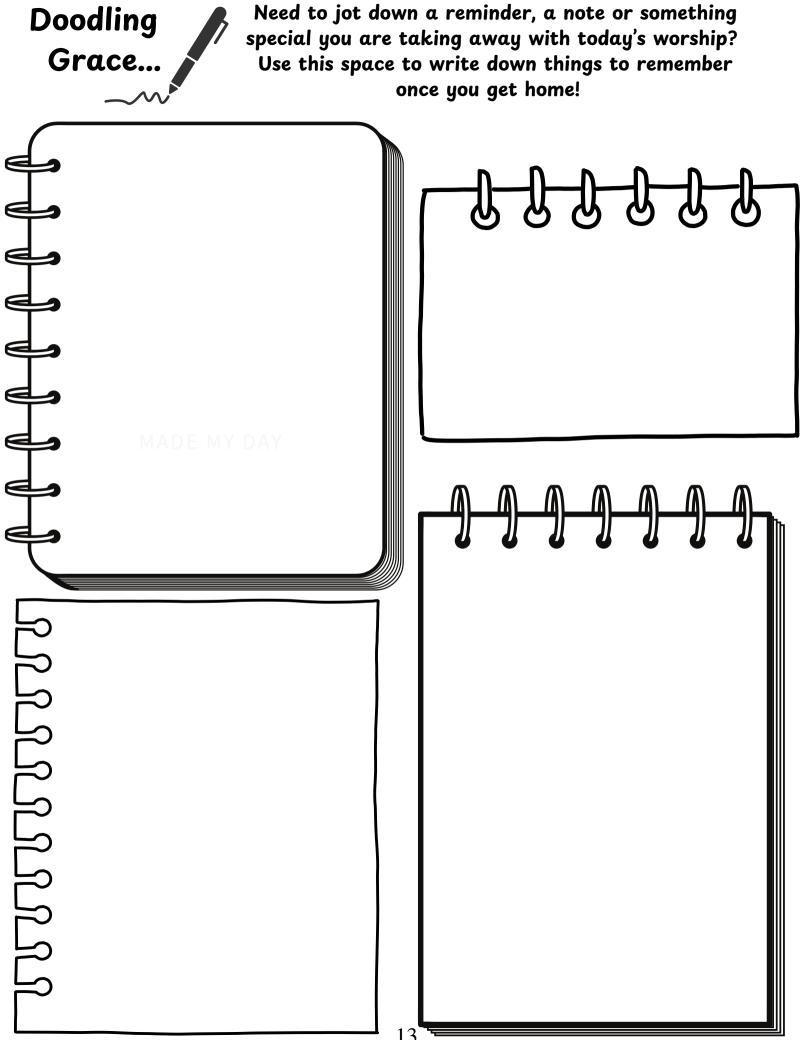
The Cemetery board needs some willing hands for spring Clean-Up of the church grounds for Easter.

Work by yourself or with a partner starting the week of April 7th (or before!) by raking leaves around the shrubbery, pick up limbs & twigs, weed, edge, etc.

We will be grateful for anything you are willing to help with. **U** Mulch day is on April 12th starting at 8 am (raindate is April 19th). Please bring a shovel or pitchfork, along with gloves.

Pray along with us for good weather and lots of help as we beautify the grounds for Easter.

#### Anyone in need of... ?? If you have a personal need or know 00 00 00someone who could use a residential stove, R ச we have 2 available!! Please contact Greg at greg@lititzmoravian.org. ROMEOS **WILUNCH** "Retired Old Moravians Eating Out" Join us for a Men's Lunch Group on the first Wednesday of every month! Come together for great fellowship as we visit local restaurants for lunch and enjoy a variety of activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with other men within our congregation, share good conversation, and make new memories. Next Contact Greg Bomberger at Luncheon greg@lititzmoravian.org for more info! April 2nd 12



#### Congregational Watchword for 2025: You will again have compassion on us; you will hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19 NIV

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember in your prayers this week all of our nursing home residents and shut-ins at home. Please remember in your prayers:

#### Serving our country in the military:

Lt. Col. Neal Miller, Army; Sgt. Jason Stoner, Army Reserves; Lt. Dain Bomberger, US Navy; Major Andrew Kemp; Staff Sgt. Austin Heacock; Lance Corporal Shawn Stauffer, US Marine Corps

Pastoral Visitation: Please contact Pastor Mark or Pastor Sayward to schedule a pastoral visit for yourself or family members.



### Prayers of Healing for:

Barry Erb Dick Martin Harry Lefever Jeff Bamberger Joy Sawyer Cynthia Good Pastor Dean Jurgen Meda Hostetter Lorrie Miller Don Wier Barbara Stump Arlene France Marilyn Copenhaver

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY Completed Month of February

	2024	2025
Tithes & Offerings	\$47,107	\$51,351
General Fund Other Income	\$931	\$991
General Fund Expenses	\$55,297	\$59,376
Net Income	\$(7,259)	\$(7,034)

#### **YTD Through the Month of February**

	2024	2025
Tithes & Offerings	\$98,659	\$111,867
General Fund Other Income	\$10,328	\$12,639
General Fund Expense	\$112,798	\$136,238
Net Income	\$(3,811)	\$(11,732)

# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

# Sunday, March 23, 2025 -

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. LIFT Worship with Joyful Noise No Nursery available this Sunday 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes - All Ages



Tuesday, March 25, 2025 -8:30 a.m. Tai Chi Easy- Dance Studio

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery 7:15 p.m. Trombone Choir Rehearsal

# Wednesday, March 26, 2025 -

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal & Study -

Mount of Beatitudes: Following Jesus When You Worry 6:45 p.m. Lenten Study - Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous - Liquid Classroom

7:45 p.m. Senior Choir Practice - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 27, 2025 -10:00 a.m. Warwick Release Time 6:30 p.m. Vigil Candles Prep - Craft Room 7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 28, 2025 -9:00 a.m. Beginner Community Yoga - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 29, 2025 -9:00 a.m. Vigil Candles Prep - Craft Room 9:00 a.m. New Members Class - Liquid Classroom 10:00 a.m. Community Garden Prep

# Sunday, March 30, 2025 -

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship with Trombone Choir  $\Box$ 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes - All Ages





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# **Look For the Helpers**

Sometime our suffering is the result of sin, our own and/or that of others. However, sometimes suffering *just happens*. Last fall two major hurricanes ravaged parts of the eastern United States: Hurricane Helene caused damage and destruction from the Gulf Coast of Florida through the Appalachian Mountains, including areas where hurricane damage was unthinkable. A few weeks later, Hurricane Milton tore across Florida, killing dozens, spawning deadly tornadoes, and leaving millions with damaged or destroyed homes or without electric power. Whatever the role of climate change (itself related to human sin) in the strength of these hurricanes, the persons injured or killed were not worse sinners than the rest of us. They were just *in the way*, as were those eighteen people killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them (Luke 13:4). They were in the way, like the thousands of civilians killed in bloody wars around the world. We live in a world filled with suffering.

Yet we live in a world filled with grace. Children's television host Fred Rogers always said, in response to disaster, "Look for the helpers." The gardener digs around the unfruitful fig tree and spreads fertilizer in hope (Luke 13:8). With every natural disaster, every war, volunteers appear seemingly "out of the woodwork" to help, some traveling for many miles at their own expense. Instead of blaming the victims for their own suffering, the gardener in our Gospel lesson and the helpers after disaster seek to bring healing in the face of trauma.

And as we see the suffering of others, Jesus directs us to change our own hearts and lives. It is not for us to judge the hearts and lives of others; it is for us to monitor our own hearts and lives, to seek to be the healers and the helpers—and to receive in glad humility the help of others when we are in need.

Upon the cross of Jesus my eye by faith can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness. (Elizabeth C. Clephane [1868], alt., Moravian Book of Worship, hymn 329)

> Nola Reed Knouse, pastor of congregational care and visitation, Calvary Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The Moravian Church

Third Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025

