

Bendersville Lutheran Parish

St. James
Wenksville
8:25 am

Christ
Aspers
9:45 am

Bethlehem
Bendersville
11:00 am

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

• January 29, 2023 •



Parish Office:

126 Church St. • P.O. Box 449
Bendersville, PA 17306-0449
Office Phone: (717) 677-9880
Office email: 3churches@centurylink.net

The Rev. Susan E. Scott:

Phone: (717) 497-1013
Email:
pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com

www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

***GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated.)

GLORIA



♩ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Micah 6:1-8

The First Reading is from Micah, the sixth chapter.

- ¹Hear what the LORD says:
 Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
 and let the hills hear your voice.
- ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
 and you enduring foundations of the earth;
 for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
 and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?
 In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
 and I sent before you Moses,
 Aaron, and Miriam.
⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 15

L: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**C: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
 who speak the truth from their heart;**

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
 they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**C: In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and
do not take back their word.**

L: They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Second Reading is from First Corinthians, the first chapter.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand.)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Celtic Alleluia”

WOV 613

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

Pastor Susan Scott

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

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.**

THE PRAYERS

P: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

Each petition ends:

P: Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom
and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

“As the Grains of Wheat”

WOV 705

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.
Amen.**

DIALOGUE



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE (*sung by pastor*)

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

P: Holy One, the beginning ... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup ... We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long ... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory ... now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to encounter Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to the Table. As directed, please come forward observing a proper social distance. The elements will be given by Pastor Susan or the Communion Assistant. If you would like a verbal blessing only, please place your hands on your own shoulders to let the Pastor know. Holy Communion may also be received at your seat. Just inform the Pastor or usher. The elements will be partaken at the Pastor's or Communion Assistant's direction:

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Holy one,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

P: And now, may the Lord torment you.
May the Lord keep before you the faces of the hungry,
the lonely, the rejected and the despised.
May the Lord afflict you with pain for the hurt, the wounded,
the oppressed, the abused, the victims of violence.
May God grace you with agony, a burning thirst for justice
and righteousness.
May the Lord give you courage and strength and compassion
to make ours a better world, to make your community
a better community, to make your church a better church.
And may you do your best to make it so, and
after you have done your best, may the Lord grant you peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”*

LBW 492

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.
Follow the way of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

• **JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023** •

SUN. Jan. 29	MON. Jan. 30	TUES. Jan. 31	WED. Feb. 1	THURS. Feb. 2	FRI. Feb. 3	SAT. Feb. 4
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem	7:00 pm: Parish Joint Council Meeting (Bethlehem) Snow Date: Feb. 6	1:00 pm: Care & Share Meeting (Bethlehem)	7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem) Discernment: Chapter 8			<i>Birthday:</i> Nicole Carey <i>Birthday:</i> Clinton Atha
SUN. Feb. 5	MON. Feb. 6	TUES. Feb. 7	WED. Feb. 8	THURS. Feb. 9	FRI. Feb. 10	SAT. Feb. 11
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem		7:00 pm: Christ Council Meeting	7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem) Dying Well: Chapter 12			
SUN. Feb. 12	MON. Feb. 13	TUES. Feb. 14	WED. Feb. 15	THURS. Feb. 16	FRI. Feb. 17	SAT. Feb. 18
8:25 am: St. James 9:45 am: Christ 11:00 am: Bethlehem <i>Birthday:</i> Bill Slaybaugh	7:00 pm: Bethlehem Council Meeting	<i>Birthday:</i> Joycelyn Taylor <i>Anniversary:</i> Scott & Donna Taylor	7:00 pm: Bible Study (Bethlehem) Testimony: Chapter 7	<i>Birthday:</i> Paul McCauslin	<i>Birthday:</i> Pat Junkins	<i>Birthday:</i> Dolly Chronister

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector

J Harold & Linda Heller
C Chris Cooley
B Chris Cuttitta

Greeters/Ushers

—
—
Troy & Danielle Horner

Altar Guild

Harold & Kathy Stoner
Deb & Dave Copenhaver
Kathy Singley



Altar Flowers:

St. James, Christ & Bethlehem
To the Glory of God



OFFICE HOURS AND PASTORAL NEEDS

Pastor Susan has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm at the Parsonage. You are welcome to stop by the Parsonage to visit. Her official day off is Friday, but she is available for pastoral emergencies.

For all your pastoral needs, please contact Pastor Susan Scott by phone/text at 717-497-1013 or email pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com.

2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED!

The Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA will be held:

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023 - via Zoom

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023 - in person (*location to be determined*)

Prior to the assembly, The Day of Edification will be held on SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 - via Zoom.

It is the obligation of each congregation to send one female and one male delegate to the assembly. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to service in the wider church. Please contact Pastor Susan if you are willing to serve.

ON-LINE SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship is livestreamed on YouTube at 11 AM on our Bendersville Lutheran Parish channel (this info can also be found on our website – www.bendersvillelutheranparish.com).

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

– Romans 12:4-5

“The eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.”

– St. Justin, Martyr (c.120-165)



I would like to reactivate lay leaders to minister to the sick and shut-ins of our parish through home communion and visitation. Please let Pastor Susan know if you are interested in participating in this vital ministry of the church. A brief training session will be held in early February at the convenience of the group.

• LENTEN SERVICES •

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – ASH WEDNESDAY

6:00 p.m.: Supper 7:00 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Service

Join us at Bethlehem for the most solemn day of the church year.

The ashes we receive on our foreheads remind us of the frailty of human life.

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

March 1: St. James

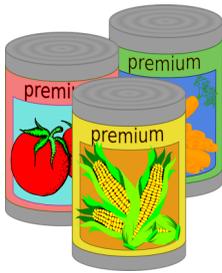
March 15: Bethlehem

March 8: Christ

March 22: St. James

March 29: Christ

Supper at 6 p.m. At 6:45, Pastor Susan will introduce a different way to pray each week. Our evening will conclude with Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.



• REMEMBER OUR BLESSING BOXES •

Things we need to include:

Mac 'n cheese, soups, canned pasta meals (aka Chef Boyardee), instant potatoes, canned veggies, canned meat, canned fruit/fruit cups, instant rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, beans (dried or canned), fruit gummies, sugary cereal, peanut butter, applesauce, instant cereal/oatmeal, toiletries (TP, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer)

Our Blessing Boxes are definitely filling a need in our community!

Here are a few additional ideas of things we might think about contributing:

Shelf stable milk, powdered milk, can openers, canned food with pop tops, oil (cooking, vegetable, canola, olive, etc.), spices, salt, pepper, tea bags, coffee, sugar, flour, tuna packets, crackers (all kinds), bread, cake mix, frosting, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent

- * Please don't buy bulk dry goods (rice, beans, pasta, etc.) and re-package at home. *
- * Due to food safety concerns, only factory sealed packaging should be put in the box. *
- * Be aware of glass items that might break. Take note to EXPIRATION DATES. *
- * Do not leave items OUTSIDE the box. *

“THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED!”

WEEKLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a reminder, items for the bulletin should be received at the church office by Wednesday noon for that week's Sunday Bulletin.

DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

As a reminder, items for the newsletter should be received at the church office by the 20th of the month for the next month's newsletter.



LET'S GET TOGETHER!!

Care and Share Card Ministry meets each month.
Remember, all are welcome and no talent is necessary.

* * * * *

Join us for the next Care and Share Meeting on:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31st, at 1 PM at BETHLEHEM

FRUIT CUP DONATIONS NEEDED FOR JOHN'S MEALS!

John's Meals is currently serving approximately 156 students weekly.
They would appreciate donations of the following fruit cups:

- MIXED FRUIT
- MANDARIN ORANGES
- PEACHES
- PEARS
- PINEAPPLES



GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

Francene Gantz would like to offer support for any who are grieving. If you need a listening ear, please contact Francene for one-on-one support and encouragement at 717-253-6569.

– Francene Gantz, BS Grief Counseling & Bereavement Education –



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN

SpiriTrust Lutheran The Village at Gettysburg is currently seeking individuals and/or groups to volunteer. We need help with Games, Crafts, Music, and Friendly Visits. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, boost your resume, meet new people, or just have fun. Please contact:

TERESA LAWYER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
717-893-0053 or tlawyer@spiritrustlutheran.org



Prayer List - Parish Members

Kay Black j
Ruth Bretzman b
Tony Bretzman b
Mary Chronister b
Roger Chronister c
Bob Cooley c
Shelvey Dugan b
Ed Fletcher b

Wahnetta Harvey c
Harold Hollabaugh b
James Hollabaugh b
Barb Mahoney j
Jim McGraw c
Paula McGraw c
Loren Mortorff b
Larry Peters b

Mary Peters b
Christopher Rinehart b
Alan Showers j
Donna G. Taylor j
Dan Turner c
Mike Wolfe c

Friends of the Parish

Darryl
Diane Baugher
Doug Baugher
Jean Behney
Jeff Black
Bev Bretzman
Nancy Cline
Alli Crowell
Jeanne Cuttitta
Helen Daniels
Diane Fetters
Luann Fix
Sue Garretson
Michelle Hadley
Jay Hall

Alison Haring
Galen Hartz
Jane Hollabaugh
Vickie Hollabaugh
Tom Horner
Kim Hughes
Rosalie Johnson
Jeannette Kime
Tessa Kime
Harold Kint
Paige Kriel
Glenn Kuykendall
Ike Kuykendall
Mike Lawson
Emily Maiolo

Danielle Martin
Pastor Bob McEllroy
Annette McGowan
Bradley Metz
Diane Myers
Zach Pelc
Kade Re
Brian Reed
Ginny Rinehart
Jim Rodgers
Charlie Westcott
Toby Wickline
Lynn Woerner

With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of those who have died in the faith and who are now at rest with their eternal Father (our saints who have gone before us).

Geraldine Cooley, Deacon Leanne Elliott, Donald Herring, Scott Schriver, and Denny Trowbridge