



February 18 at 9:30AM

In-Person Worship

# WORSHIP WITH US

## First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

Seminarian Lindsie Struth preaching

Christ Lutheran Church

917 Evergreen Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209

Phone 412-821-4300 ~ Fax 412-693-9742

CLC Website: <https://www.clcmillvale.com/>

Youtube: clcmillvale Twitter: ChristMillvale

Facebook and Instagram: #CLCMillvale

Email to: [ChristLutheran917@gmail.com](mailto:ChristLutheran917@gmail.com)

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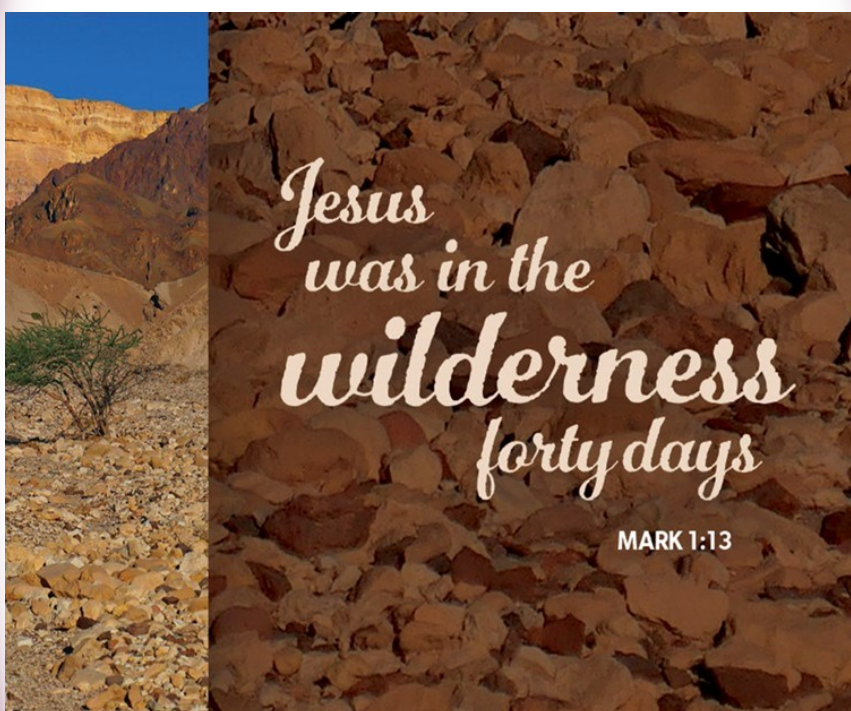
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*In the neighborhood...  
For good.*

**CLC**  
**MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church



On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world. ~

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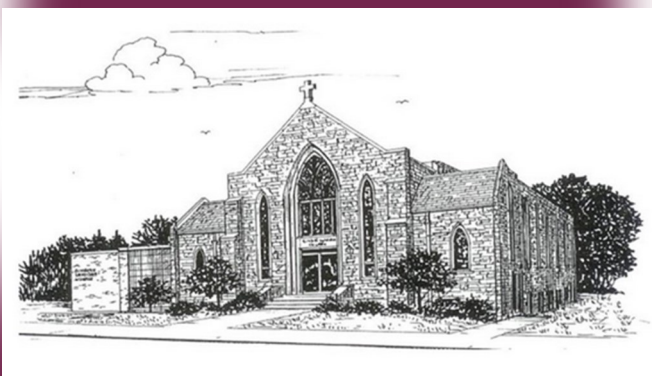
*Lenten Wednesdays: Spiritual Drumming*

## **SPIRITUAL DRUMMING**

**After the popularity of our Lenten Wednesday Evenings last year, we've decided to do it again!** Pastor Erin and Pat Bauer will again lead **Spiritual Drumming on Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm**. This 45 minute experience will combine open-ended questions and prayers, with short readings and blessings, as we drum together.

Drumming has been used in nearly every faith for the purpose of experiencing the sacredness of God. The earliest music one experiences is the heartbeat of their mother. The simple heartbeat is the sound of the universe – the sound of life. Drumming is a time-honored method of uniting people, and the power of drumming multiplies on many levels in a group of drummers. Share in the prayers and rhythmic energy of the drum as we lift our prayers up to God. No previous music experience is necessary, and drums will be provided.

***February 21 and 28 and March 6 and 13. ~***



CLC Annual Report of the Congregation 2023

**See your Weekly Update to Download & View.**

**Visit Us at [CLCMillvale.com](http://CLCMillvale.com)**



## DUFF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Are you a protestant student who has attended high school or been home schooled at least two academic years in Allegheny County, PA? Are you a high school senior or high school graduate planning to enroll (or already enrolled) in a full-time undergraduate course of study leading to a bachelor's degree at an accredited four-year education institution?

Do you have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.8 on a 4.0 scale? You may be eligible for aid from the Lola G. Duff and William H. Duff, II Scholarship Program. Information is available at:

<https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/duffscholarship/>.

The application deadline is March 4, 2024.

## WILLIAM J. WOLF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

was created by a bequest from William J. Wolf, founder and president of General Cleaning Company. Although Mr. Wolf completed high school, he did not have the means to attend college, which he regretted. Through the establishment of this fund, he is able to give back in perpetuity to the Pittsburgh community that he and his wife, Elizabeth, loved, and to the Lutheran faith which they supported during their lifetimes. This scholarship is to assist with the college or graduate level education of students of Lutheran denominations who have a residence in Allegheny County and maintain good grades. To apply for the Scholarship go to <https://pittsburghfoundation.org/scholarship/1631>. Completed applications are due April 1, 2024.



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# Ashes and Dust

Joseph Imhoff

Tuesday: Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Church season known as Lent. Pastor Erin at the evening service will offer the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who wish it. From noon until one in the afternoon “Ashes to Go” will be offered in the heart of Millvale to those unable to attend regular services. One local business owner I know, she’s Catholic, was very appreciative of the opportunity last year.

Ashes and sackcloth were signs of mourning both in Biblical times and in many cultures around the world, though sackcloth may be hard to come by at Joanne Fabrics these days.

Still, they remain a symbol and part of the language, “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” The beginning of Lent isn’t about mourning and death in one sense and yet in another it is.

The ashes used are by tradition the burnt palm branches of the previous Palm Sunday, the fire burns away the impurities and we are left with ashes or the dust. “Remember thou art but dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.”

Dust and ashes are curious in that they become the soil from which new life springs. Where wild fires have raged new vegetation can set down roots quickly in the enriched soil, the nutrients being concentrated by the flames, a new crop of plants taking hold from dead seed planted in the ashes. We can grow in the the new soil (dust and ashes) of our lives.

Remind yourself that the ashes are still on your forehead even though you’ve washed your face and can’t see them. They are there because you asked for them and like the oil placed on the forehead at Baptism should be in the form of a cross.

As one pastor mused years ago, “That way Jesus will see you coming from a far distance and hurry to greet you!” ~

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## ***How Beloved You Are!***

Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection begins with his baptism. As the church journeys with Jesus through Lent and toward Easter, we each remember our own baptism, and our life in Christ is renewed.

At the Jordan River, God stops at nothing to declare Jesus beloved. Not even the sky can cloud the message; God tears open the heavens and proclaims it loud and clear. Now each time we dip our hands into the font or trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, we remember this promise anew: "You are a beloved child of God." Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Immediately after baptism, Jesus must contend with Satan and wild beasts in the wilderness. Then, before Jesus' ministry begins, John is arrested. The Gospel of Mark doesn't give the fact more than a passing mention at this point in the story, but John's arrest and subsequent death make for a trauma that comes at a crucial moment in Jesus' life. How was Jesus able to begin his ministry after all he had been through? And how are we, who have experienced temptation, torment, or trauma, to journey on?

The journey is not easy for Jesus, and neither will it be for us. But it's amazing what is possible when you know just how beloved you are. How long must the voice of God have echoed in Jesus' mind after that baptism day! Perhaps the angels whispered in his ear as they waited on him: "You are beloved. With you God is well pleased." Every Sunday, we return to the waters because we can never have too many reminders. When times get tough, we can trust in the promises of God made to us in baptism. This is a flood that saves us. These waters bring new life out of death. God's love will stop at nothing. Today, remember just how beloved you are! ~

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## This Week at CLC:



### Sunday

February 18 - 8:30am Sunday School

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

### Monday

February 19 - 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry

5-6 TOPS Club, 6-7 Tai Chi, 6:30-8pm ESL.

7-9pm Pain Clinic

### Tuesday

February 20 - 9am to 3pm 412 Food Rescue, 6-8pm Violin

### Wednesday

February 21 - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Community Counseling, **5-7pm FOOD PANTRY**

6:30-8pm ESL Tutoring,

**6-7pm Choir Practice**

**7-8pm Spiritual Drumming**

### Thursday

February 22 - 6pm ESL Tutoring ,

6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts Pack 162

### Friday

February 23 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

7pm NA meets-Library

### Saturday

February 24 - 9am AA meets in the Library

7pm NA meets in the Library

**Gathering Place Booked**

### Sunday

February 25 - 8:30am Sunday School

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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# Online Giving Update:

No matter the amount, the most helpful way to give to the ministries of the congregation is regularly and consistently. Whether it's weekly or monthly, make a prayerful decision ahead of time this Lent, and commit to a consistent amount.

With our online giving platform, Vanco, it's super easy!  
Go to:

<https://www.clcmillvale.com/donate/>

See the **Online Giving Code** here,  
and **Thank You!**





## Upcoming Commemorations

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546**

**Saturday, February 18, 2023**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.



**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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GIVING**



SCAN ME



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