



# Lent

2024



**March 10 at 9:30AM**

**In-Person Worship**

## **WORSHIP WITH US**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9**

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

**Pastor Erin Evans 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](#)**

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In the neighborhood...  
For good.

**CLC  
MILLVALE**  
Christ Lutheran Church



The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying. ~

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# *congregational* **MEETING**



## **Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 17th**

A candidate has been put forth by the Call Committee, and has been interviewed and approved by the Council. They will preach and lead worship on Sunday March 17th, and following worship we will have a Congregational Meeting. The agenda for this meeting is a call vote. **All active members should plan to attend this exciting morning!**

On **Saturday, March 16th**, you will have an opportunity to meet the candidate at an **Open House from 7-8pm** here at the church. The name and details of the candidate will be kept confidential until that time, as is our practice. **Stay tuned for information about and opportunities to help with the "Meet and Greet" Open House.**

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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.

***March 13 and 20***



**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look up on you with favor and give you peace. ✝**

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🌸 SPRING SOCIAL EVENT

## Sip And Snip!

Learn the art of flower arranging  
and take home a beautiful bouquet!  
\$20 covers all flowers, supplies,  
beverages, light appetizers, and a  
donation to CLC.

SATURDAY APRIL 6  
4:00PM - 6:00PM

Please register by March 17th - call  
the church office at 412.821.4300  
or sign up the in narthex



### WILLIAM J. WOLF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

was created by a bequest from  
William J. Wolf, founder and presi  
dent of General Cleaning Company.  
Although Mr. Wolf completed high  
school, he did not have the means  
to attend college, which he regretted. Through the estab-  
lishment of this fund, he is able to give back in perpetuity  
to the Pittsburgh community that he and his wife, Eliza-  
beth, 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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# The Woods

Joseph Imhoff

As the time for the Passion nears I'm reminded of the poem by Sydney Lanier (1844-1881) who was born in Macon, Georgia. He now has a lake named for him near the border with South Carolina. The poem, A Ballad of Trees and the Master, was written in 1880:

**Into the woods my Master went, clean forespent\*, forespent,  
into the woods my Master came forespent with love and shame.  
But the olives they were not blind to him, the thorn tree had a  
mind to him, when into the woods he came.**

**Out of the woods my Master came and he was well content;  
out of the woods my Master came, content with death and  
shame. When death and shame would woo him, from under the  
trees they drew him, 'twas on a tree they slew him last when out  
of the woods he came.**

\*Forespent, adj. archaic, 1: worn out, exhausted

Walking in the woods alone is a unique experience, there is no one to distract your mind, you come across things you have never seen, sounds you may never have heard, and often strange smells, pleasant or foul. In such a place it is easy to lose yourself and be lost from others. Upon your return you usually feel refreshed, renewed.

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep," Robert Frost reminds us. Dark and deep indicates to me that something mysterious is just beyond our view. Prayer is a mystery, just beyond our understanding, our private conversations with God: confession, praise, requests, questions, and responses.

Christ went into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, it remains there to this day as an olive grove, a gathering of trees, the woods. The poet does not tell us what happened between the coming in and going out only that he was refreshed upon his return.

Think of prayer as going into the woods of your own mind but you will not be alone since The Master will be beside you and you will be going to meet God. What will happen there we do not know; you will return refreshed and ready with the knowledge of God's importance in your life. ~

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## *Lifted Up for Us*

“So must the Son of Man be lifted up,” Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society’s ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity’s rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls “the passions of our flesh” (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being “lifted up,” for “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world. ~

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## This Week at CLC:



### Sunday

March 10 -

8:30am Sunday School

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

### Monday

March 11 - 9:30-11:30am Food Pantry

5-6 TOPS Club, 6-7 Yoga, 6:30-8pm Violin

### Tuesday

March 12 - 9am to 3pm 412 Food Rescue,  
6-8pm Violin

### Wednesday

March 13 - 4-8pm Anchorpoint Community  
Counseling, 5-7pm FOOD PANTRY

6:30-8pm ESL Tutoring,

6-7pm Choir Practice

7-8pm Spiritual Drumming

### Thursday

March 14 - 6pm ESL Tutoring ,  
6:30-7:30pm Boy Scouts Pack 162

### Friday

March 15 - 9:30 to 11:30am FOOD PANTRY

6-8pm- Girl Scouts, 7pm NA meets-Library

### Saturday

March 16 - 9am AA meets in the Library

7pm NA meets in the Library

### Sunday

March 17 - 8:30am Sunday School

CLC Sunday Worship Service at 9:30am

**Don't Forget!! . . .**

**Saturday, March 16 - Open House 7-8pm to  
meet the Call Committee Candidate.**

**Sunday, March 17 - Special Congregational  
Meeting for a Call Vote; all active members  
please attend!**

March						
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	30
31						



# 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!**





Donations are requested for

♦ **PEANUT BUTTER**

and

♦ **JELLY**

**The Food Pantry is Open**

Mondays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am,  
and on Wednesdays from 5pm to 7pm.

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### Upcoming Commemorations

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

**Friday, March 10, 2023**

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

**Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.



**ONLINE  
GIVING**



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