

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 2025



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information

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Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

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Director of Christian Education

Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Jeff Moyer, Tom Parrish Sr., Emily Parrish, Amy Weik, Roger Gehman, Jonah Hogan, Jay Weaver, Dave Wilhide, Clair Miller (with family in NJ), Pat McQuate, Tim Harting, Tess Freeman, Mike Leed, Elaine Haldeman, Shirley Sweigart, Skip Hutchinson, Jane Goshert (Home Hospice), Jay Stoltzfus (with family in Florida), Beverly Sweigart, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, Sam Soto, Roy Latshaw, Amanda Benton, Marty Leed & Family, Fay Weitzel, Vivian Gehr, Barb Moyer and Judy Meckley.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Dorothy Hutchinson, Vesta Reber, Shirl Tobias, Pauline Sawyer, Joan Wentzel and Bob Weaver

Ephrata Hospital: Iris Weaver & Dave Haldeman Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine

Lancaster General Hospital: Doug Cody

Maple Farms: Janet Hirneisen Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Ruth Bieler, Pope Francis, Fred Leathery, Mark Wojcicki, Karen Velez, Ron Neidigh, Kara Trowbridge, Randy Vollmer, Polly Stendl, Mary Morton, Dick Reed (Home Hospice), Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Good, Jason Harting, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler, Paul Sweigart, Kelly Root, Dick Mountford, Karen Leonhard, Sue Kreitz, Dennis Betz, Dale Firestone, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Fetter, Pastor Karen Larson, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Corrina Bender, Margaret Weller, Bud Bender, and Cynthia Peters.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Russell Petticoffer, Ella Felker, Tony Frey, Brittany Merklinger, Chris Miller, Richard Keller, Susie Wentzel, Matt Thorn, Nicholas Bolotine, John Hutchinson, Reverend Judy McKee, Ethel Leed, Grace Wentz, Don Craven, Faye Pannebecker, Maggie Bollinger, Harriet Stoltzfus, Mick Smyer, Lavern Gehman, Patricia Kieffer, Tom Craven, Bill Nodeen, Michelle Simpson, Sam Heiser, Hunter Bristow, Clair High, Tom Dittoe, Donald Hain and Clara Ingram.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *“Help and Save Us, Lord”*

-L. N. Porter
Hebrew Melody

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #658** *“O Jesus Joy Of Loving Hearts”*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

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. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

THE KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

LENTEN HYMN: #334 Sing Verse 1 then Lent 3 “*Tree of Life*”

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:1-9

Lay Reader (Lisa Reed): A reading from Isaiah the 55th chapter.

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God’s ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 63:1-8



O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

¹ O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
 weary land where there | is no water.

² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
 that I might behold your power | and your glory.

³ **For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
 my lips shall | give you praise.**

⁴ **So will I bless you as long | as I live
 and lift up my hands | in your name. R**

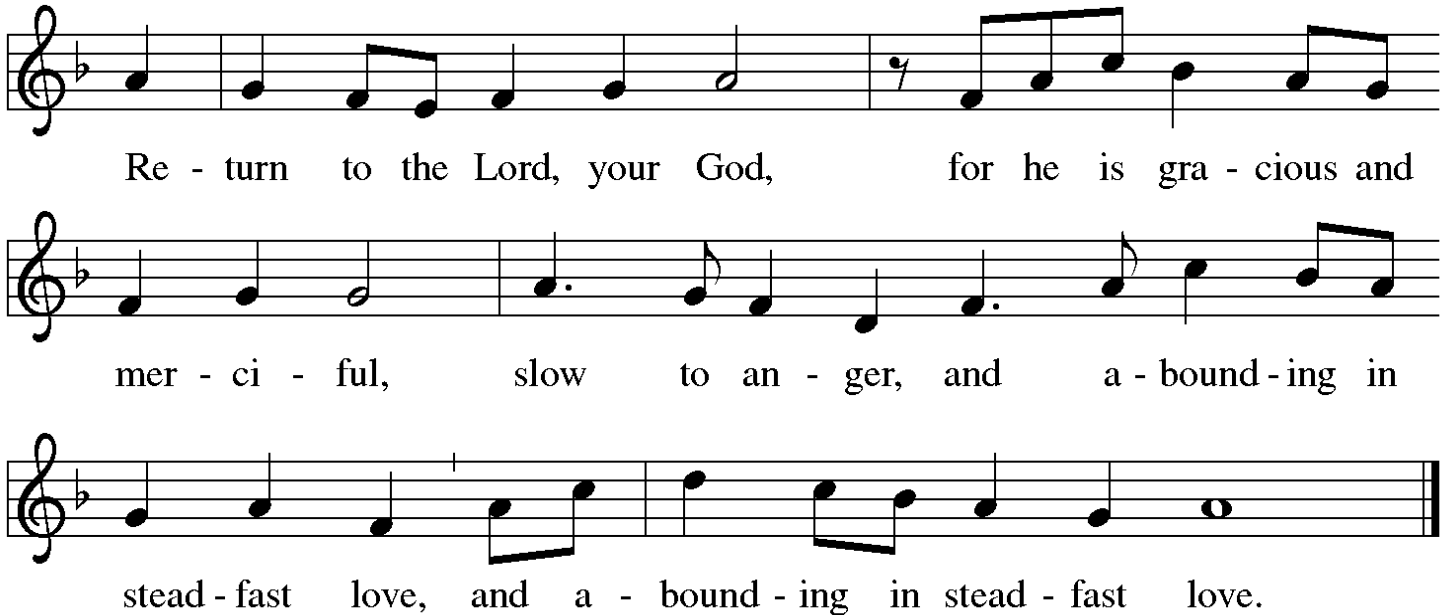
⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
 and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed,
 and meditate on you in | the night watches.

**7 For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.**
**8 My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast. R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Return to the Lord Your God”*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 13:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

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

P: *Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”

³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁴ 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? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then 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. ⁷So 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?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

MESSAGE: “*Seek The Lord While He May Be Found*” -Pastor Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: “*At The Cross*” -Issa Watts & Ralph Hudson

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

C: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

† Prayers of Intercession †

*P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

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

C: And also with you.

***OFFERTORY HYMN #481:**

“Come To The Table”



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: 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

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER †

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

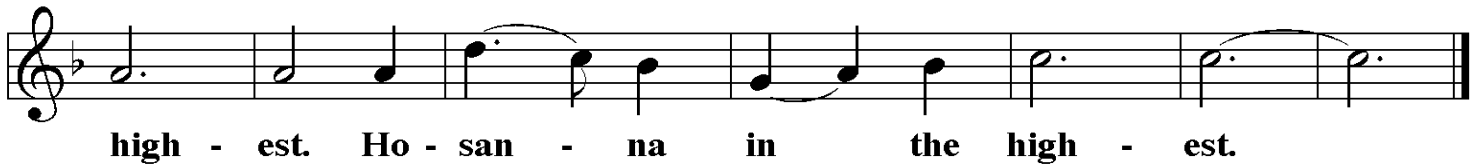
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

☞ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

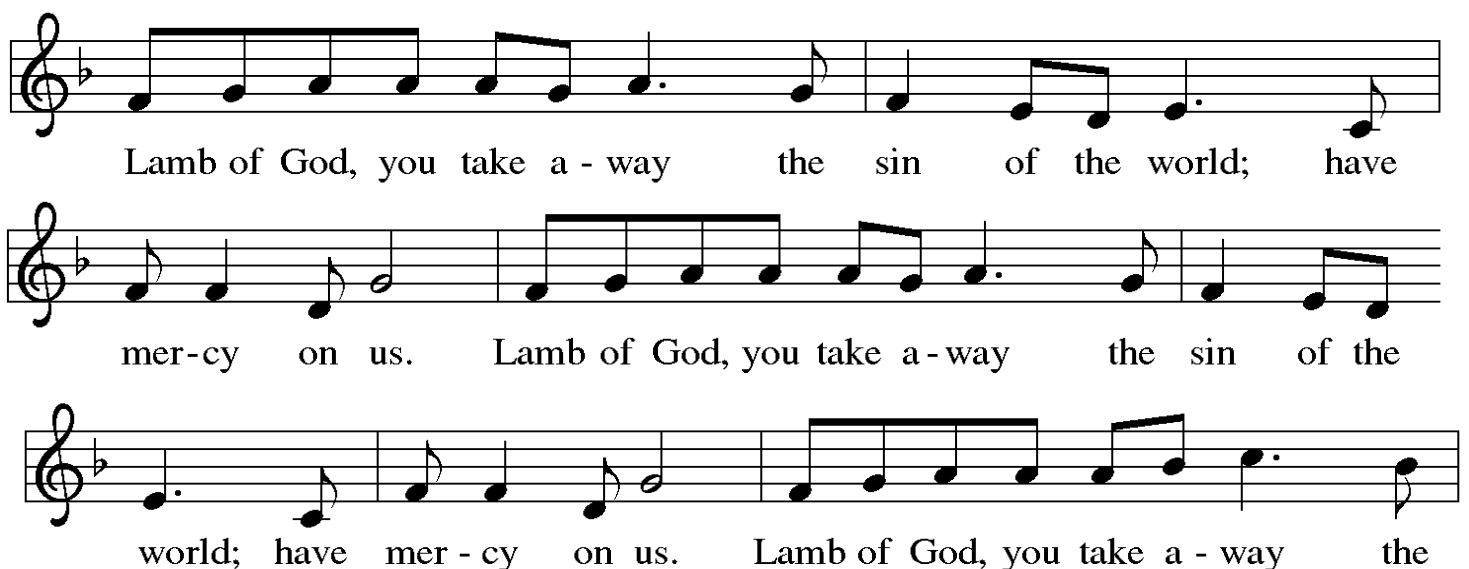
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: 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.

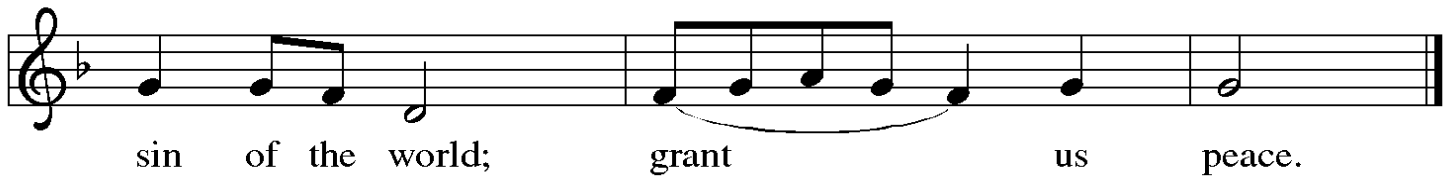
TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI





We Ask Parents to Bring Their Non-communing Children with Them. Pick Up an Empty Cup. A Grape Juice Option and Gluten Free Communion Wafers Provided. If You Cannot Come To the Chancel, Communion Will Be Taken To You. Please Notify An Usher. Those in the Parking Lot Partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn #697: *“Just A Closer Walk With Thee”*

Hymn #773: *“Precious Lord Take My Hand”*

Hymn #790: *“Day By Day”*

Hymn #616: *“Jesus Remember Me”*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *“Blessed Be God”*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN #618:** *“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer”*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *“Chorale”*

-Felix Mendelssohn

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Lisa Reed

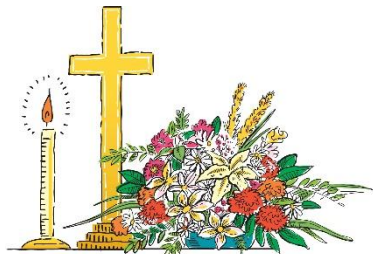
Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: John Biles

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Piper Leonhard, Kristi Leonhard and *Alt* – Dave Weidman



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated to the
Glory of God by Andy and Kristi Leonhard
in Honor of Piper's 17th Birthday

Weekly Receipts Report as of 03/20/25	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	68
Online Attendance	NA
General Receipts	\$750.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



****Correction to Address Update:**

Clair Miller has moved to:
 16 Mount Vernon Road
Manalapan, NJ 07726

****The city was spelled wrong in last week's bulletin.**



Ahava will be playing again on Sunday March 30th and Wednesday April 2nd Lenten Cluster Service.

Choir Practice Dates:

Thursday March 27 at 6:00 pm

Bell Choir Practice

Thursday March 27 7:00 pm

Easter Flowers

It is time to order flowers for our Easter Service on Sunday April 20th. This year, we are offering the following:

Daffodils – 6 ½ inch pot with 4-6 mini blooms for \$8.00

Tulips – 6 inch pot with 5 to 6 blooms for \$8.00

White Lilies – 6 inch pot with 3-4 blooms for \$10.00

Once your order form has been completed review the form for the correct number of flowers, total cost and notation of Memorial or Honoring. Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided, then either place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give directly to Pat Haller at church.

Please make checks payable to Mellinger's Lutheran Church.

Proceeds benefit Mellingers Needy Fund.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday April 6.

Please pick up flowers after the service on Sunday April 20.



GREAT 8 APPEAL OFFERING

March 9 to May 25



Mellingers Evangelical Lutheran Church
80 Gockley Road
Stevens, PA 17578

GREAT 8 APPEAL OFFERING

ENVELOPE #: _____

AMOUNT: _____

CHECK #: _____

(Check one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Builders of Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> ELCA Hunger Appeal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ephrata Area Social Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Camping Appeal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELCA Mission Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminarian Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter's Porch | <input type="checkbox"/> Mellingers Needy Fund |

If you are unable to pick-up the Great 8 Appeal envelopes. Please call and we will mail them to you. Or just designate Great 8 Appeal and your name or envelope number on an envelope with your choice to support.