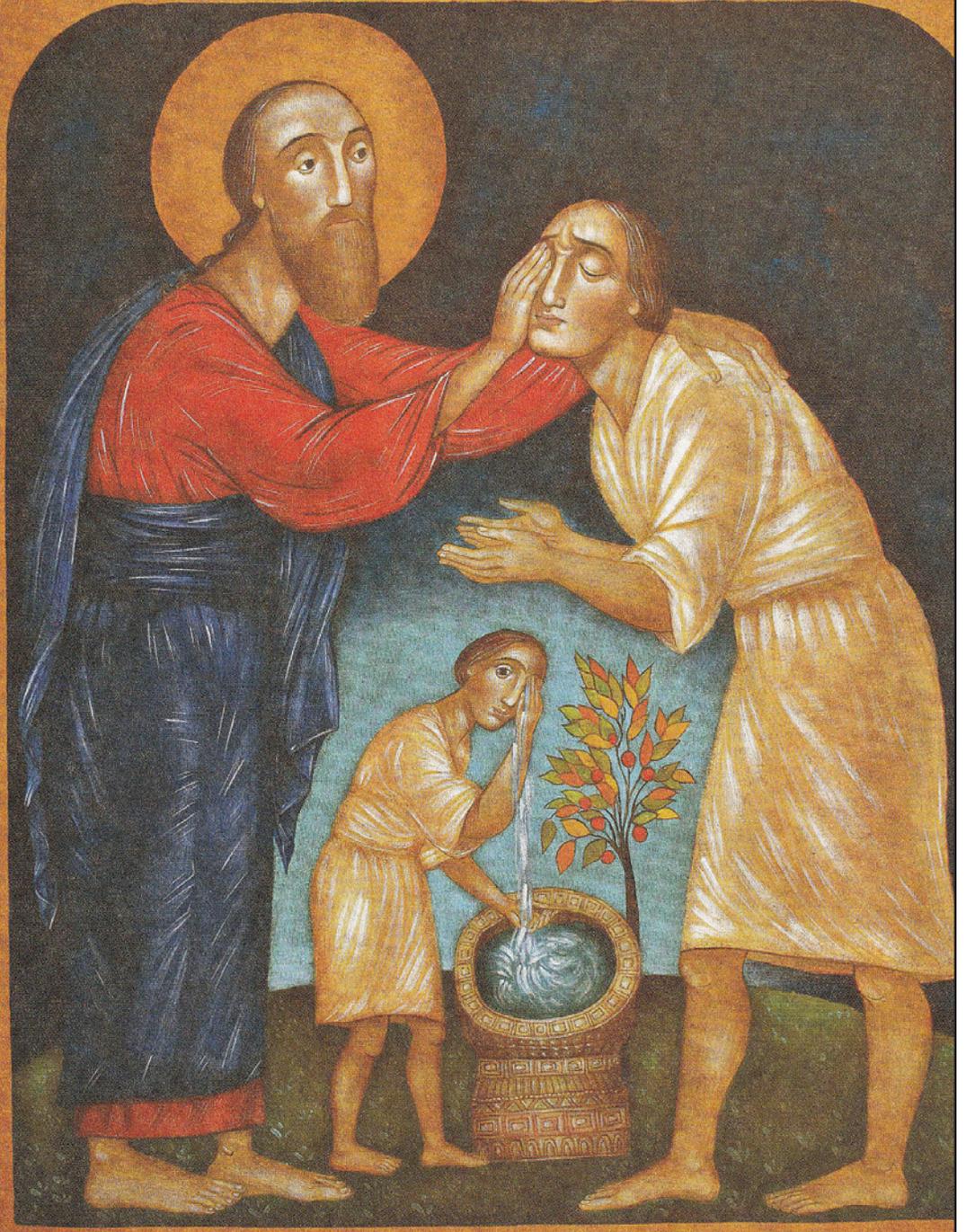


# St. John Lutheran Church

# Lord, I believe

JOHN 9:38



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# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 15, 2026

## Reverent Reflection

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Church Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

- D. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- D. 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.**
- D. 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.**
- D. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C. **Amen**

**Gathering Hymn:** There Is A Balm In Gilead (#614)

## Greeting

- D. 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.**

## Kyrie p. 147

- D. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- D. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

## **Canticle p. 149**

- D. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- C. **Lord God, heavenly King, God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**
- D. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

*Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **Word**

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."<sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"<sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord."<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

**Response: "You anoint my head with oil."**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. R**

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation p. 151 (Lent)**

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **Gospel: John 9:1-41**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

<sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Children's Sermon**

### **Anthem**

### **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.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (here local congregations may be named) and across the globe (here international companion churches and synods may be named) in right paths for your name's sake.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great..**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

## Offering

## Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Blessing

**Sending Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision (#793)

## Dismissal

## Postlude

### PRAYER LIST

*Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:*

Jen Bailey	Marie Lentine Douglas	Ed Kagen	Bill Murray	Bill Steel
Krystal Booras	Tracey Drew	Tracey Kelly	Renate Murray	Carol Taylor
Michael Botti	Indie Fisher	Carl Knopp	Erica Polito	Bill Todt
Brian Byrnes	Rhea Fryor	Eunice Knopp	Samantha Reed	George Vaneman, Sr.
Meadow Cantoral	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Kimberly Rickert	George Van Wagner
Randy Cantoral	Bob Garner	Bob Lindamood	Ashley Rosser	Beverly Warming
Janet Cappuccio	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Dorcas Schellhas	Mary White
Joe Condoli	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman	Helen Yezusko
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Melanie Miles	Gladys Sheppard	Bob Zielsdorf
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Kent Montford	Frank Siderio III	
Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	Sue Murphy	Eric Sprengel	

*Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.*

### ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>

*Dedicated by Bob and Sue Rappeleye in Honor of Jaimee Rappeleye's Birthday.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir ( <i>every other Sunday</i> )
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Lenten Giving — Shelf Stable Milk Collection Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Wednesday, March 18th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper in the Ed. Building
Sunday, March 22nd	After Worship Service	St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, March 25th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper in the Ed. Building
Saturday, March 28th	10:00 am	Easter Bunny Races in the Ed. Building
Thursday, April 2nd	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Friday, April 3rd	11:30 am	Good Friday Unity Service and Procession First United Methodist
Friday, April 3rd	7:00 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sunday, April 5th	6:30 am	Easter Sunrise Worship Service at New Brooklyn United Methodist
Sunday, April 5th	9:30 am	Easter Worship Service
Tuesday, April 7th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Saturday, April 11th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Wednesday, April 15th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Sunday, April 19th	2:00 pm	Faith250 Workshop

*Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.*

### WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

The cost (\$23) of the Weekly Worship Bulletin to fully cover the cost of paper and printing is donated by Henry and Marie Fickenscher in memory of their loved ones.

This Worship Bulletin is printed on paper that is made with renewable resources from third-party certified, sustainably managed forests.

Please place any Worship Bulletins to be discarded in the recycle bin in the narthex.

ANNUAL

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

after the Worship Service  
in the Education Building

## ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094**

**Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohndlutheran1002@yahoo.com**

**Website: [www.stjohnselc1002.org](http://www.stjohnselc1002.org)**

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF

**Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer**

**Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver**

**Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher**

**Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith**

**Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver**

**Head Usher: Ted Adams**

**Sexton: Betsey Eley**

**Webmaster: Tom Schofield**

**Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher**

# There Is a Balm in Gilead

614

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

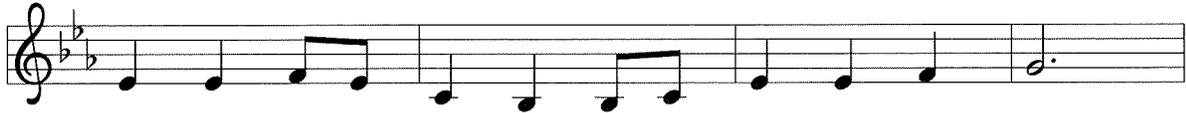
1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual

BALM IN GILEAD  
Irregular



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
 Music: Irish traditional

SLANE  
 10 10 10 10



## LENTEN GIVING FOR 2026

### Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Milk Carton Banks are in the Narthex.





## MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

### 6:00 pm in the Ed. Building

Bring your favorite soup, side or dessert  
to share and participate in the Lenten Study.

# Easter Bunny Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> • 10:00 am to noon

Cost: Freewill Donation

- Photos with the Easter Bunny (Sensory-friendly picture area)
- Bunny Races (Choose a bunny to win the race)
- Crafts for the Kids
- Basket Raffle



Fun for all ages! Refreshments! Crafts! Prizes! Games!

St. John's Lutheran Church Ed. Building • 1002 S. Main St., Williamstown, NJ



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WILLIAMSTOWN  
159 S. Main St. Williamstown, NJ

Good Friday Unity Worship Service  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> • Noon to 3:00 pm

Good Friday Procession from St. John's Lutheran Church  
to First United Methodist Church at 11:30 am



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Good Friday + April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

New Brooklyn United Methodist Church  
1336 E. Malaga Rd. Williamstown, NJ

Easter Sunrise Service

April 5, 2026 + 6:30 am



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Easter Sunday Worship Service

He IS Risen! April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am