

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

PASTOR: The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

P THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE.

C LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD IN IT.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.

**Please silence all electronic devices.**

**WELCOME!** Please observe Silent Meditation during the  
Prelude. **Ver ujier para boletín en español**

**Voir l'huissier pour le bulletin français**

**PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

### **CONSIDER THIS**

*Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

### **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE—** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* Messlter (arr. Innes)

*Stand* **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.**

**8:15 Sermon Lesson—Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th  
Chapter  
**C Glory to you O Lord**

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

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

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice 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

Sit 8:15— Sermon

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Stand **Hymn #873** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (vs 1-4)*

### The Ten Commandments

(According to Luther's Small Catechism)

P God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep God's commandments.

Therefore, we are to love and trust God and gladly act according to God's commands.

**C You shall have no other Gods**

**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the  
Lord your God**

**Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy**

**Honor your father and your mother**

**You shall not murder**

**You shall not commit adultery**

**You shall not steal**

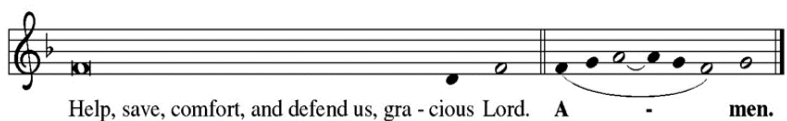
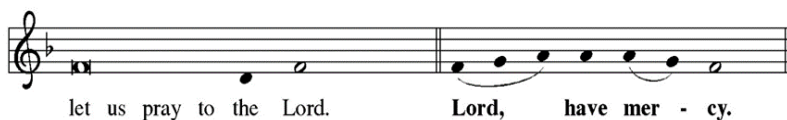
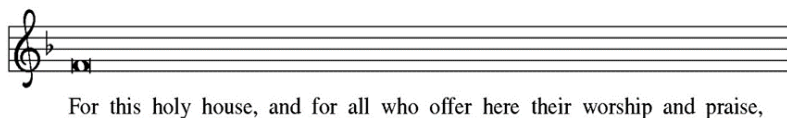
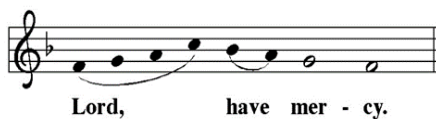
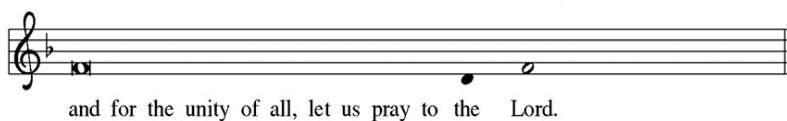
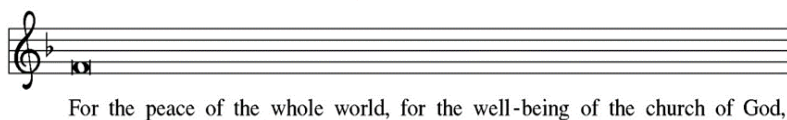
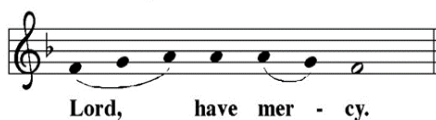
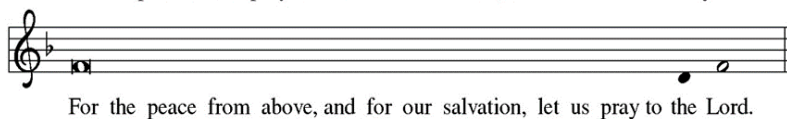
**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse... or anything  
that belongs to your neighbor**

P Having been reminded of God's perfect law, we now confess our sins, seek and receive forgiveness by God's grace.

# Kyrie



## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**C Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Sit or kneel as able*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

P The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
 and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.  
 May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
 and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise Glory

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.

Stand **Salutation**

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

**Prayer of the Day**—Let us pray...

A 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.

C **Amen**

**First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

A reading from Micah

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,

and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?



In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>O 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."

<sup>6</sup>"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?

<sup>7</sup>Will 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?"

<sup>8</sup>He 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?

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 15**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> 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 Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

### **A reading from 1 Corinthians**

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,

through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider 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. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**11:00—Stand Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.**

**11:00 Sermon Lesson Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th  
Chapter  
**C Glory to you O Lord**

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

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice 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**

Sit **CHILDREN'S SERMON/YOUTH MESSAGE**

**11:00 SERMON**

**Hymn #651** *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (vs 1-4)*

**Nicene Creed**

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

**P** Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**P** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**C Amen**

## **MEAL**

## **PEACE**

*The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share.*

*We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other.*

**P** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

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

**C And also with you**

Sit **OFFERTORY** *Morning Star Tune* by J.P. Harding

Arr. Dorothy Wells

Stand **OFFERTORY HYMN #302** *As With Gladness Men of Old*

vs 3



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## OFFERTORY PRAYER— Let us Pray

A God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## 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.

This block contains four staves of musical notation in G-clef and F-sharp key signature. The melody is written on a single line for each staff, with lyrics underneath. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

## PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

This block contains four staves of musical notation in G-clef and F-sharp key signature. The melody is written on a single line for each staff, with lyrics underneath. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and a few sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,', 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -', 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### Invitation to Communion

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

#### LAMB OF GOD



#### Communion Distribution

*We invite all Christians who believe that Jesus gives his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins to receive the sacrament with us, the communion assistant will distribute the wine from a pouring chalice into a cup you may pick up at the front of the aisle. If you are unable to take either the bread or wine, be assured that the sacrament is complete. Those not receiving communion are invited to come to the rail to receive a blessing. Parents of young children; please direct the pastor as to whether your child usually receives communion or not.*

# Communion Hymns

## Hymn #714 O God of Mercy, God of Light

## Hymn #1051 For the Troubles and the Sufferings



Pe - las do - res des - te mun - do, ó Se - nhor,  
For the trou - bles and the suf - f'rings of the world,

im - plo - ra - mos pi - e - da - de. A the  
God, we call up - on your mer - cy: the

um só tem - po ge - me - a cri - a - ção. Teus ou -  
whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain! Lend an

vi - dos se in - cli - nem ao cla - mor des - sa  
ear . . . to the ris - ing cry for help from op -

gen - te o - pri - mi - da. A - pres - sa - te com  
pressed and hope - less peo - ple: Come! Has - ten your sal -

tu - a sal - va - ção. A tu - a paz,  
va - tion, heal - ing love! We pray for peace,

ben - di - ta e ir - ma - na - da co'a jus -  
the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing

ti - ça a - bra - ce - o mun - do in - tei - ro.  
jus - tice, to cov - er and em - brace us.

Tem com - pai - xão! O teu po - der  
Have mer - cy, Lord! We pray for pow'r,

sus - ten - te - o tes - te - mu - nho do teu po - vo.  
the pow'r that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness:

Teu rei - no ve - nha - a nos! Ky - ri - e - e - le - i - son!  
un - til your king - dom comes. Ky - ri - e - e - le - i - son!

Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, b. 1951; tr. Simeí Monteiro, b. 1943, and Jorge Lockward, b. 1965

Music: PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO, Rodolfo Gaede Neto  
Portuguese text and music © 1998, 2004 Rodolfo Gaede Neto, admin. Augsburg Fortress

English text © 2004 General Board of Global Ministries, GIBOMusik

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Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**—Let us pray.

A Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen**

**Blessing**

P May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
+ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn #546** *To Be Your Presence*

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C We will. Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE ~** *Light Shone in Darkness* Sedio, Dufner

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**Altar Flowers** are in memory of my daughter, Kaitlyn Banks.  
Given by Deb Banks.

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

**CO-MINISTERS OF MUSIC** - Jenny Sustak & Faith Smeck

**YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER** - Kellen Michalowski

**ALTAR CARE** - Laurie Womer; Sandy Dinger

**USHERS** - Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Rick Frazier,

Chris Bair, Joe Boslet, Dave Featherman

**COMMUNION ASST** - Randy Whitaker; Zara Bennett

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT**— Randy Whitaker

**LECTOR** - Randy Whitaker; Dave Featherman

**FLOWER DELIVERY** - Laurie Womer

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT** - Dave Stanton

**NURSERY SCHL DIR.** - Jessica Broome 717-827--8104

**SEXTON** - Don Young

**Mae DeBlasio will be turning 90 on February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Let's shower her with lots of cards.**

**We appreciate members supplying bread for communion,  
please try to select bread with a soft crust. Thank you.**

**New Members Classes**

**9:45 am in Sanctuary**

**February 1<sup>st</sup> & February 8<sup>th</sup>**

## OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARK'S THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	02/01	<b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:45 am St Mark's Minis Sunday School 9:45 am Intergenerational Sunday School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gambler's Anonymous
MONDAY	02/02	
TUESDAY	02/03	8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Projects Day 6:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts Ministry
WEDNESDAY	02/04	10:00 am Bible Study
THURSDAY	02/05	1:00 pm Craft Artisans 1:30 pm Christian Ed Ministry 2:30 pm Community Outreach Ministry
FRIDAY	02/06	
SATURDAY	02/07	
SUNDAY	02/08	<b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:45 am St Mark's Minis Sunday School 9:45 am Intergenerational Sunday School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 7:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Gambler's Anonymous

Each holiday, we select a group for our church family to help by donating food, care essentials, or other needs. Your Christmas 2025 giving helped the UPMC Child Advocacy Center spread cheer to many Central Pennsylvania children and their families with the toys you donated.

The CAC is a multidisciplinary team that responds to and provides services for children and their families impacted by child abuse and neglect. Christmas is often in the forefront of charitable collections, but there is a yearlong need for support. The staff of CAC has let us know of their most needed items for the families they serve. A box has been placed in the narthex to collect items as you wish to bring them. It will remain as long as the need continues.

Thank you for all you do to help others.

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

Deodorant for men and women

Shampoo/Conditioner for African American families

Adult toothpaste

Child toothpaste

Alcohol free mouthwash