

Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

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March 2025

From the Wilderness to the Mountain: Trusting God in the Valleys of Life

I've always found the number 40 in Scripture fascinating. It marks times of testing, transition, and transformation. Think about it: Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness before leading God's people out of Egypt. The Israelites wandered 40 years in the desert before entering the Promised Land. And when Jesus began His earthly ministry, He spent 40 days in the wilderness, fasting, praying, and facing temptation before stepping into the work His Father had given Him.

We, too, are walking through 40 days of Lent, a season where we slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts for what's ahead. It's a season that mirrors Jesus' time in the wilderness—a time of struggle, but also of spiritual sharpening. The wilderness was harsh, lonely, and full of temptation, yet Jesus never lost trust in the Father.

Maybe you've had a wilderness season in your own life. Times of uncertainty. Moments of doubt. Valleys where God feels distant. It's in these moments that the enemy whispers, just as he did to Jesus: "*If you really are God's child, why is this happening to you?*" Satan tempts us to believe that trials mean God has abandoned us. But Jesus shows us otherwise. He faced temptation not with His own strength, but by trusting in God's Word.

But here's the beauty of the Gospel: the wilderness is not the end of the story. Just as Jesus' ministry began with 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, it ended with 40 days of feasting after His resurrection. Forty days of breaking bread, restoring His disciples, and preparing them for their mission. The same Jesus who endured hunger, thirst, and loneliness in the desert later ate fish with His friends, encouraged the doubting, and stood victorious over sin and death.

The pattern is clear: **God often leads us through the valley before bringing us to the mountaintop.** Without Good Friday, there is no Easter Sunday. Without the wilderness, we can't fully appreciate the feast.

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Maybe you're walking through a valley right now. Maybe you're facing temptation, doubt, or struggle. If so, take heart—Jesus has walked this road before you. He knows what it's like to feel weary. He knows what it's like to be tempted. But He also knows the joy that comes after the struggle.

So in this season of Lent, I encourage you to do what Jesus did:

Lean on God's Word when the enemy tries to shake your trust.

Trust the Father even when life feels uncertain.

Remember that the wilderness doesn't last forever—the feast is coming.

Because when the 40 days are over, we don't just celebrate the end of Lent —we celebrate the resurrection of Christ! And in Him, every valley leads to a mountaintop.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott Kirchoff



Bible Study Opportunities



Sunday Morning Bible Study

We are excited to announce a new Bible study on the Pentateuch, also known as the Books of Moses. Over the course of 14 weeks, we will explore the foundational stories and teachings from Genesis through Deuteronomy. These books reveal God's covenant with His people, the origins of His plan of salvation, and His call to holy living. We invite you to join us on this journey of discovery and growth! Class begins at 9:15 am.

Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

We meet every Monday at 6:30pm on Zoom (use Holy Lamb's standard meeting code) and all women are welcome to join us to delight in God's word as sisters in Christ! We are studying the book of Acts using our Study Bible as our guide. If you have any questions or need the Zoom link please contact Darcy Taiani (call or text) at 724-840-0888 or email at darcytaiani@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join us at Holy Lamb Lutheran Church for a new Tuesday morning Bible class. This 10 lesson study will focus on the life and faith of the Apostle Peter, exploring his journey from fisherman to faithful disciple of Christ.

Come and grow in your understanding of Peter's story and how his experiences can strengthen our own walk with the Lord. All are welcome to attend!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Cancer Issues

Linda G., Carol Stocum's goddaughter
Sami, friend of Dave & Linda
Terri, Pat Allison's daughter
Mary, friend of Paul & Jane
Pastor Omar Krieger
Les Cotton
Ted, friend of Ed & Sylvia Stedina
Dorothy O., Adell Keeney's friend
Eleonore Kidder

For Our Homebound

Sue Alderson, Ron and Joan Johnson, Mary Margaret Kluge, Bob and Myrle Rumsey, Brenda Tainter

Mourning the Loss

Prayers of comfort for Mary Beswick and her family who are mourning the loss of Mike. God bless you with His comfort and strength.



Prayer Requests

For Healing

Maryanne , mother of Michael Zabbara	
Verlene , sister of Myrle	
Ron , Ed's Cousin	
Scott , son of J.R.	
Brian , Son of Adell Keeney	
Joan , friend of Marsha Dunn	
Nathan , B-I-L of Blain & Christel Lefort	
Eric , brother-in-law of Doug	
Bobby , brother of Sharon Bumgarner	
Brian , friend of Hayley Lauritsen	
Bill , stepdad of Darcy Taiani	
Nancy , mother of Warren Gall	
Maureen , neighbor of Chuck/ Sharon Bumgarner	
Tammy , sister of Sharon Bumgarner	
Katie , daughter of Pastor & Caren Vogt	
Faith , friend of Adele	
Pat Allison	Norm Boulet
Marsha Dunn	Merle Falke
Mary Margaret Kluge	Mary Lee
Karen McCarthy	Kathy Orlowski
Doc & Steven Rehm	Marty Reynolds
Doug Ruddick	Bob & Myrle Rumsey
Sylvia Stedina	Doc & Nancy Rehm
Monica Steele	Al Heiber

Prayer Requests

Unless otherwise requested, prayer request information will be announced in worship, shared with our prayer chain, and published in our bulletin or newsletter. To respect the privacy of those for whom we pray:

- * With regards to health issues last names will not be given in worship or in print unless they are members of Holy Lamb.
- * Information regarding conditions, diagnosis, or procedures will be given only at the initial church announcement, not in print.

Holy Lamb Financial Profile—Giving

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Month of February (to date)	\$24,234	\$13,448
Year to Date Needs	\$40,824	\$26,896

Praying in Color Ministry

Attention Praying in Color team and anyone who would like to know more about this program. Please mark your calendars for March 8th and plan to come to our annual meeting. We will meet about 11:00 am after the LWML meeting that starts at 10:00 am. We will have a potluck lunch and then...well you will just have to come to see what else is planned. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex starting Feb 2nd. Please bring samples of your work and be prepared to share where you get your supplies. Also, please bring colored pencils and or gel pens. Thank you!

Attention men who love to relax coloring--you are invited to join us for the Praying in Color Ministry meeting to be held on March 8th at 11 AM. Sign up sheet is the green sheet in the narthex. Come see what it is all about.

Eileen StClair

Church Sign Fund

The Valentine Dinner was a wonderful success – we raised over \$1100 with an evening enjoyed by 30 people!

Raffle Ticket 68131-214 won the Faith – Hope – Love Plaque. Please see Pat Marquardt to claim your prize.

Thank You to all our Volunteers: Devyn with the Beautiful Voice, Ron who can fit many tables and chairs into a small room, Andrea beautifying those tables with roses, Barb making delicious coffee, Hayley manning all the stations, Linda serving up some great Chocolate Cake and running the raffle/silent auction table, Pete and Garth who know how to boil up spaghetti and serve it without clumping, Michele and Tom at the meatballs & sauce station and Phil and Reyne who are fantastic at making a great salad!

Pat Marquardt

Thank You For Your Prayers

Thank you to all my friends at Holy Lamb. My daughter Katie is home at her apartment in Yonkers after a month or more in the hospital. Her Mom, Caren, remains with her for the time being. Katie now has four screws in her neck and is learning to walk and function on her own. I have returned to Myrtle Beach to take care of things at home. I hope to see many of you soon.

Pr. Steve

**In His Service
March 2025**

Altar Guild	Pat Marquardt	Hayley Lauritsen
Newsletter Proofer	Linda Snyder 3/27	
Bulletin Assembly	Reyne & Phil Harris	

March 2	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	Neal Riley
Ushers	Ed Stedina	Hayley Lauritsen
Ushers	N/A	Bill Steele
Audio	Phil Harris	Darcy Taiani
Video	N/A	Tom Marquardt

March 23	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	Tom Marquardt
Ushers	Pat Allison	Warren Gall
Ushers	N/A	Paul Jankowski
Audio	Julia Diem	Linda Snyder
Video	N/A	Tom Marquardt

March 5	Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday 6 PM
Usher	Warren Gall
Audio	Linda Snyder

March 26	Midweek Lenten Service Wednesday 6 PM
Usher	Hayley Lauritsen
Audio	Julia Diem

March 9	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	George Hulshart
Ushers	Pat Allison	Warren Gall
Ushers	N/A	Paul Jankowski
Audio	Julia Diem	Linda Snyder
Video	N/A	Seth Rylander

March 30	9:30 AM
Elder	Larry Lauffer
Ushers	Hayley Lauritsen
Ushers	Bill Steele
Audio	Darcy Taiani
Video	Seth Rylander

March 12	Midweek Lenten Service Wednesday 6 PM
Usher	Hayley Lauritsen
Audio	Julia Diem

March 16	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	George Hulshart
Usher	Ed Stedina	Rose Ruddick
Ushers	N/A	Bill Steele
Audio	Phil Harris	Darcy Taiani
Video	N/A	Seth Rylander

March 19	Midweek Lenten Service Wednesday 6 PM
Usher	Paul Jankowski
Audio	Linda Snyder

Volunteers Needed
Ushers (both services)
Audio and Video (both services)

Our church relies on volunteers to help us run our worship services smoothly. Without you, it would be difficult to do the many things we need to do. We are in need of volunteers to run the sound system (8am and 10:30am) and video (10:30am) services. **Just one hour a month is all we're asking ~ male or female.** Please volunteer!

Please consider helping out with this important part of our worship services. We could always use more ushers for both services too, especially 10:30am.

Contact Bill Steele if you can help.

Flowers purchased to the Glory of God for March 2025



- March 2nd ~ Vacant
March 9th ~ Vacant
March 16th ~ Parker's Birthday by
Doc & Nancy Rehm
March 23rd ~ Jack & Merilynn's
Anniversary
March 30th ~ Bill Steele's 80th
Birthday

URGENT ATTENTION NEEDED CONCERNING THE 2025 PUMPKIN PATCH AND FALL FESTIVAL !

We need someone **now** to take charge of the Pumpkin Patch and someone for the Fall Festival if we are going to continue with them in October 2025.

Please contact Darcy Taiani **as soon as possible** at cell phone 724/840-0888 (call or text) or email: darcytaiani@gmail.com

Church Sign Fund

The LED sign fund is making great progress. As of this month, we have raised \$25,925.55 towards our goal of \$50,000.

This is a wonderful opportunity to Serve and give Grace to Holy Lamb and our Community!

LWML News

Please remember to deposit the money from your mite boxes into the large mite box in the Narthex by March 2. If you are turning in the box, please pick up a new one or put your money in a plastic bag. Checks are also accepted made out to Holy Lamb and mark on the memo line: MITES. Thank you for your support. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 8 at 10:00 am. Linda Davis will be the Bible study leader.

Our ongoing project is the red stocking, with proceeds going to New Directions. It was handed out in December. Anytime in March you will put three (3) quarters in. Anytime in April you will put four (4) quarters in.

Karen Bombria, President, LWML of Holy Lamb

Flower Purchase Reminder

If you are purchasing flowers for our altar, please use the Flower Fund envelopes from the Flower Chart bulletin board and place in the collection plate or drop off at the church office.

The cost is \$40.00.

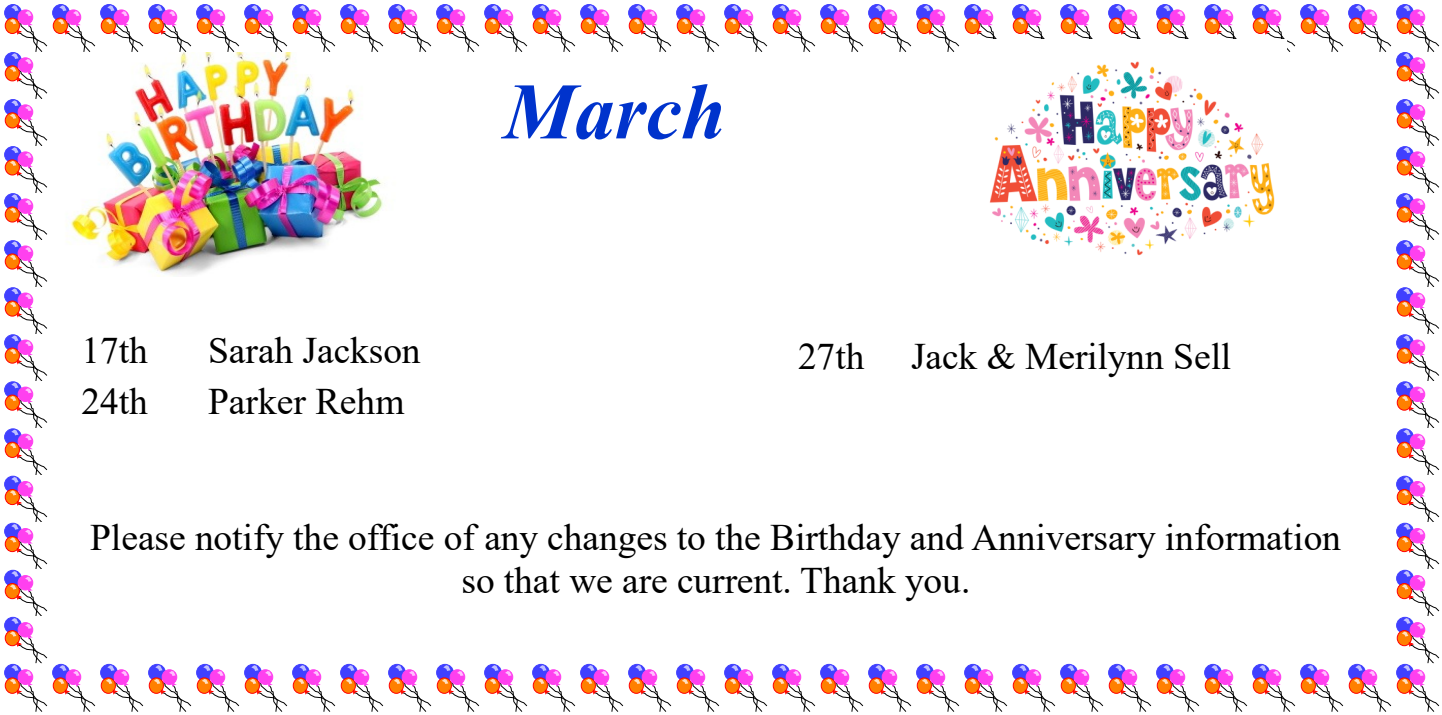
If special flowers are requested, there may be an additional charge.

**Please do not put flower payments
in weekly offering envelope.**

If you have questions, please contact Linda Snyder.

*We have many openings
for altar flowers during
2025. Remember a loved
one or honor a special
occasion with flowers.*





March



17th Sarah Jackson
24th Parker Rehm

27th Jack & Merilynn Sell

Please notify the office of any changes to the Birthday and Anniversary information so that we are current. Thank you.

Stewardship– Family Reads Program

We will clean books for Forestbrook Elementary School on March 15th at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall at Socastee United Methodist Church. This is hosted by Sunny Fry who started the Family Reads program in the Socastee area. Anyone interested is invited to attend for a worthwhile cause and good fellowship.

Philip Harris - Stewardship

Join us for Midweek Lenten Worship!

Our midweek Lenten worship services will be at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, starting with our Ash Wednesday service on March 5th.

During Lent, we will be serving a light meal at 5:00 p.m. Please consider signing up to bring a meal during one of the Wednesday's in the Lenten Season.

Ash Wednesday, March 5 will feature Soup and Crusty Bread. So far, six people will be bringing soup. We plan to have a contest to see which soup is best!

Please consider signing up for any of the following Wednesdays, bringing something easy and light. Perhaps a salad/sandwiches/soup on March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, or April 9th.

There is a clipboard in the narthex for those who wish to host the Lenten meals. Thank you!
Pat Marquardt

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2541 Forestbrook Road
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Rev. Scott Kirchoff, Pastor

Church

843-236-1344

Worship Schedule

Sundays—8:00 am & 10:30 am

Bible Study

Sunday The Books of Moses Bible Study	9:15 am
Monday Evening Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 1st	Family Game Night	4:00 PM
Tuesday, March 4th	Elder's Meeting	6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 5th	Soup Supper/Worship	5:00 PM
Saturday, March 8th	LWML Meeting	10:00 AM
Saturday, March 8th	Praying in Color Meeting	11:00 AM
Saturday, March 8th	Brew Crew	4:00 PM
Tuesday, March 11th	Men's Fellowship	11:30 AM
Tuesday, March 11th	Council Meeting	6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 12th	Soup Supper/Worship	5:00 PM
Saturday, March 15th	Family Reads	9:00 AM
Wednesday, March 19th	Soup Supper/Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday, March 26th	Soup Supper/Worship	5:00 PM

Daylight Savings is Coming!

Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night on March 8th!