

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

Phone: 814/723-6450

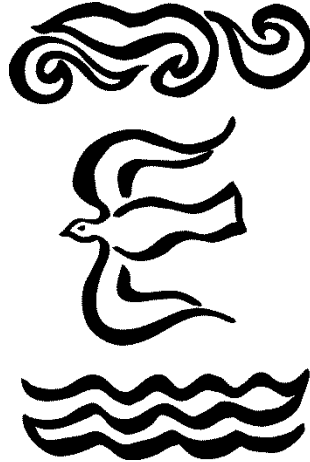
Email Office: office@flcwarren.com

Website: www.flcwarren.com

The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ewing, Pastor, pastor@flcwarren.com

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music

Julie Baughman, accompanist



“All are accepted and affirmed just as we are, with all our differences and gifts – unique children of God. No matter your race, ethnicity, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, social or economic status, we have a place for you. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, anti-homophobia, social & economic justice, and environmental care. As part of the whole complex, colorful spectrum of God’s creation in all its diversity we are all one in Christ!”

Land Acknowledgement Statement

As we gather in this place, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Seneca Nation (Onödowá'ga:'). We remember that we also share this land with other parts of God's good creation: plants, birds, and animals.

May we be good stewards and good neighbors.

Setting IV
March 1, 2026

****Indicates for the congregation to please stand as you are able.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please let the lighting of the altar candles signal our time to quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

Chanson

Gordon Young

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs

of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

***HYMN**

What Wondrous Love is This

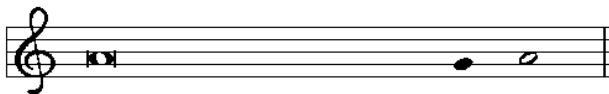
#666

***GREETING**

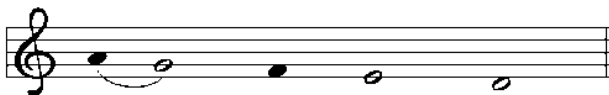
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

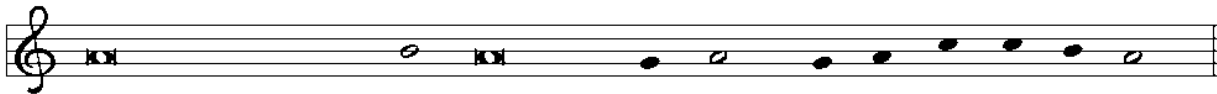
KYRIE



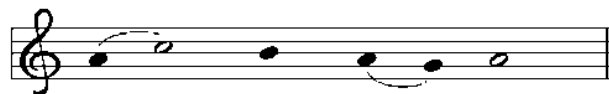
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



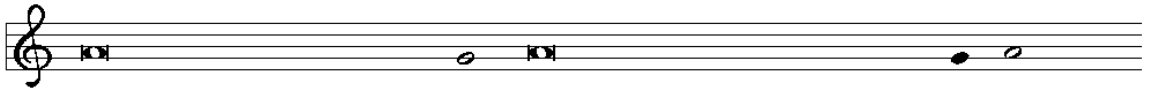
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



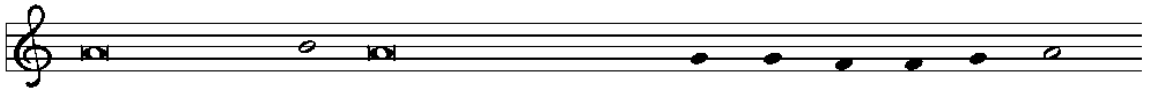
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation

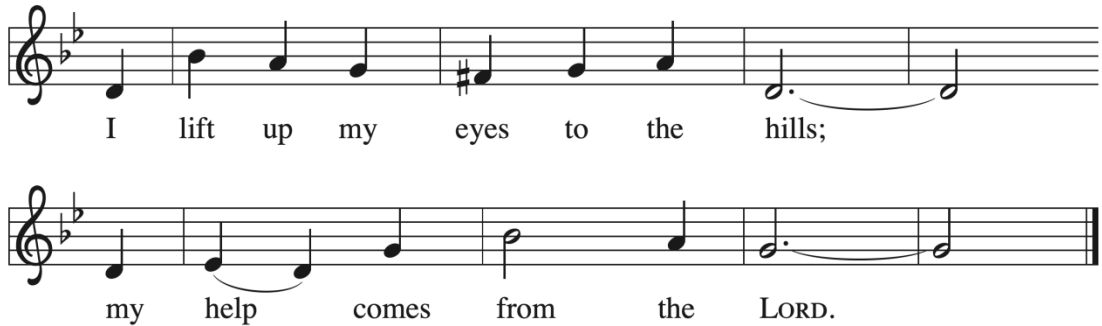
.¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*



Psalm 121:1-2

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ I lift up my eyes [|] to the hills;
from where is my [|] help to come?
- ² **My help comes [|] from the Lord,**
the maker of heav- [|] en and earth.
- ³ The Lord will not let your [|] foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you [|] fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- [|] er of Israel**
will neither slum- [|] ber nor sleep; R
- ⁵ the Lord watches [|] over you;
the Lord is your shade at [|] your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike [|] you by day,**
nor the [|] moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord will preserve you [|] from all evil
and will [|] keep your life.
- ⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your [|] coming in,**
from this time forth for- [|] evermore. R

SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL LESSON: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the

Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Ewing

Silence for reflection may follow.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

#735

*APOSTLES' CREED

Congregation:

**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

Congregation response:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL _____

OFFERING

An offering tray is available at the entrance of the sanctuary.

For those wishing to do so, we encourage you to donate online at flcwarren.com/give.

As always, thank you for supporting the work of bringing God's love to all people through First Lutheran!

*OFFERTORY [8AM]
[11AM]

*What Wondrous Love is This
For God So Loved the World*
Senior Choir

arr. Marc Jordan
Dale Grotenhuis

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Are an Offering #692

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: **your steadfast love embraces all creation.**

**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.**

**Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

Congregation: *SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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 high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND RESPONSE**

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

... Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

As Lutherans we believe that Jesus is present in the elements of communion, bringing forgiveness and new life to all who receive it. The table is open to everyone, and the gift is always given, never taken. Simply make a cradle with your hand(s) as you receive the bread. **Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available from the ushers. Bring them forward to be blessed by the pastor.** The response after receiving both the gift of bread and wine is
"Amen."

For those who would like to continue to celebrate in the pews, please let the usher know. For our friends who are not celebrating communion, simply fold your arms across your chest and receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

#451

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

#623

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

#811

On my heart imprint your image,
blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures
ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation,
all my glory and salvation!

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: God of our salvation,

**C: we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**

**Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

***BLESSING**

P: God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#863

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Glorificamus

John Redman

Please feel free to exit during the postlude.

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Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Sally Hawkinson in honor of my sister, Sara Sawtelle.

Given by Addy Landrio in memory of my parents and brother

Last Week's Altar Flowers

*Given Linda & Earl Ross, brothers & sister
in memory of Jezidiah Michael Brannon.*

Given by Siby & Sunny Thomas in memory of Varkey & Annamma Thomas

Serving Today	March 1	March 8
Cantor	(8AM) Anne Benson (11AM) Dave Campbell	Anne Benson Linda Ross
Assisting Minister	(8AM) Don Reed (11AM) Linda Ross	Kris Whitaker Cathy Southwell
Acolyte	(8AM) Jen Kersey (11AM) Allyx Hoden	Jen Kersey Allison Kellogg
Children's Message	Pastor Jeff	Cynthia Klenowski
Digital Deacon	Heidi Colosimo	Denise Whipp
Counters	Barb Hill Steve Horsley	Steve Horsley Brenda Hunter

PRAYER LIST

Names will remain on the list for a period of three weeks.

Names may be returned to the prayer list by contacting the church office.

Please receive permission before submitting names to be included on the Prayer List.

Prayer Requests: *servicemen & women, especially Andrew Shodi, Swede Backhus, Adam & Ben Frederick, Shane Simpson, Curtis Royek, Ty Elmquist, Julie & Joey Gilman, Hunter Feeny, Kohl Feeny, Jordan Curtis*

March 1: *Larry Rambish, Alyssa Dennewitz, Ron & Lois Hart, Connie Buerkle, Rita Hawk, Terry Pearson, Val & Nancy Condio, Brent Casey, Kristin Frick, Joel Nowacki, Doug Granger, Sarah Downey, MaryBeth Nawrocki, Ariel Mickle, Dee Schultz, Mitch Tabol, Heidi Nugent, Addy Landrio, Robert Cooper, Corey Spattifor,*

February 22: *Kim Tome, Rose Troyan, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, Victor Vierra Janet Wilson, Sarah Downey, Jeff Bastow, Elaine Powers, Donna Smith, Kia Lee, Betty Berdine, Vic Wolfe, Cara Smith, Joe Krall, Jerry Johnson, Mariah Nowacki, Barry Seastead, Maryann Long, Denise Cederquist, Jim Rapp, Cathy Morrison, Linda Philhower, Dusty Johnson, Lori Lee, Roberta "Bobbi" Hessley, Sue Burke, Nicole Hall, Susan Rocks*

February 15: *Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Jeff Granger, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Jan Thorpe, Katie Silvey*

Please contact the Church Office if you, a family member or someone from the parish is in the hospital.

Help us help you when pastoral care is needed!



COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED!

The Social Ministry and Stewardship Committees need help for the upcoming Staff Appreciation Luncheon on the 4th Monday in March. We will be serving our traditional Baked Potato and Salad Bar (with LOTS of cookies) to the staff at WAEC. If you can contribute 3 dozen cookies, of any kind, by Sunday, March 22, it would be appreciated. We anticipate feeding almost 100 staff members that day! If you want to bake ahead of time, feel free to put them in the church freezer in the box marked "Teacher Appreciation Cookies". They do not need to be individually bagged.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Questions? Check with Penny Lester (814-757-8449 or plester@breezeline.net). THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY LENT SERVICE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30 PM

SERVICE AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN

Pastor Jeff

The 2nd Temptation of Christ

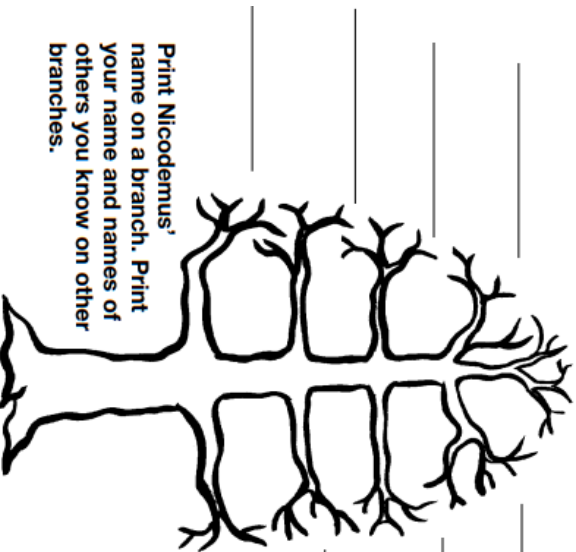
The Lutheran Men in Mission want to thank Barry Keller for his 29 years of faithful services as our treasurer. His detail to not just the finances, but to the history of LMM at First Lutheran is most appreciated! Barry, thank you, thank you, thank you!



Family tree

John 3:1-17

We believe Jesus brings us eternal life, just like a tree brings nutrients to its branches. We come to God's family through Jesus.



Print Nicodemus' name on a branch. Print your name and names of others you know on other branches.

Jesus told a leader named Nicodemus he could not see the kingdom of God without being baptized—born from above. Nicodemus couldn't understand.



Trace the dotted lines to find another kind of family tree.



Jesus died on the cross so we can live in God's family forever.

How many crosses do you see in the worship space today? Did anyone carry a cross in as worship began?

There are 40 days in Lent. Can you find 40 crosses in this bulletin?



Purple, the dark rich color of a royal family, is the color in Lent. Look for purple things in worship today. When do we see Jesus as the King?



Jesus our Savior, we are thankful to be called children of God. Amen



Refrigerator Schedule

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS

**Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday
at 6:30 PM (YR)**

*HP/Hansen Parlor; NH/ Niewoehner Hall; OFH/Old Fellowship Hall,
YR/Youth Room, UC/Upstairs Classroom, SY/Sanctuary, CR/Choir Room
UCR/Upstairs Community Room, N/Narthex, K/Kitchen*

Sunday, March 1	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:28 AM	Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
Monday, March 2	6:00PM	Losers (YR)
	1:00 PM	Mahjongg (NH)
	4:00 PM	WCSMS (NH)
Tuesday, March 3	6:00 PM	Silver Winds Rehearsal (SY)
	9:00 AM	Lakeshore CPS (UCR)
	10:00 AM	Stewardship (NH)
	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	6:30 PM	Lenten Service @ First Presby
Wednesday, March 4	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	7:30PM	RIC (NH)
	9:00 AM	Workshop (OFH)
	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NH)
	5:00 PM	Grief Yoga (OFH)
	5:15PM	Handbells (SY)
Thursday, March 5	7:00 PM	Choir (CR)
	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
Friday, March 6	9:00AM	Lakeshore CPS (UCR)
Sunday, March 8	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:28 AM	Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)