

# St. Paul Lutheran

# Smithville



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 1, 2026

**Prelude:**

**“Holy Manna”**

*performed by the Celebration Handbells*

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Our God is holy, merciful, and slow to anger.

We are told that we can turn from the things that lead us away from God and receive forgiveness and a new start.

Let's prepare ourselves to be in God's presence by asking for forgiveness and resting in God's mercy.

**C: Amen.**

P: God you call us to do justice and to treat others the way that we, ourselves, wish to be treated. We have not lived up to that expectation and have caused unnecessary pain and division.

**C: Forgive us**

P: You tell us to follow the example of humility and love that Jesus modeled for us, yet, we have raised ourselves up in an effort to get ahead of others.

**C: Forgive us.**

P: You have given us rules to guide us that we might have the good life that you intended for us but we have mistrusted you or ignored you completely, trusting instead in our own understanding.

**C: Forgive us.**

P: You have provided this world with enough that all may have what they need, but we have hoarded and taken more than our share while others have gone without. We have glorified the wealthy and judged the needy.

**C: Forgive us.**

P: Scripture says that if we will confess our sin and turn away from it, we will receive forgiveness and mercy. Hear these words of promise and receive the mercy of God. May the Spirit of the living God wash over you and cleanse you from the sin that you acknowledge and the times when our minds and hearts have wandered away from God's intention for our lives even when we were not aware of it.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn: “Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”**



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it - truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
 fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*\*Greeting & Call to Worship*

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.**

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

C: **and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray. Holy God,

C: **you work in ways that are so different from our ways. You give 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. Amen.**

*First Reading: Micah 6:1-8*

<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?

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Responsive Reading:*** Psalm 15

R: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**C: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

R: who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

**C: in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

R: who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

***Second Reading:*** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<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."

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

**\*Gospel Reading:** Matthew 5:1-12

<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.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

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

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 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.**

### *Children’s Sermon*

*Sermon:* Pastor Kristy Buyok

## *Hymn of the Day: #710 “Let Streams of Living Justice”*



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## *The Apostle's Creed*

A: Together, let us confess the belief that we share in this family of faith.

**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 catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(The words “catholic” and “apostolic” do not reference a particular denomination but mean: catholic = “one universal church” and apostolic = “the same faith that was handed down from Jesus to the Apostles”)*

## ***The Prayers***

A: God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for justice and mercy to come quickly. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray that this world that you made good would remain healthy that all may thrive. Soften our hearts to care more for your creation than we care for money. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Give us the freedom that comes only from knowing you and walking in your ways of love. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way especially: Mattie, Ann, Barb, Dave, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Titus, Shannon, and Ken. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth leaders who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those we have loved who walked humbly before you and now rest in your love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: We come to God confident that we are heard when we pray and ask for help with the things that weigh on our hearts that have not been spoken today.

**C: Amen**

***\*Sharing of the Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

***Choir Anthem:*** “River in Judea”

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***\*Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

**C: you are more magnificent than we can even imagine.  
Meet us here at your table of mercy and allow us to see  
glimpses of your eternal kingdom. Take what we have  
shared today and use it to further your mission in this  
place. Amen.**

**\*The 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,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth  
and the hosts of heaven, we celebrate your name and join their  
unending praise:

**C: Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed are you, our Savior and Lord!**

**\*Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

*\*The Lord's Prayer*

**C: 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.**

*Invitation to Communion*

**P: God is with us, here at the table of salvation.  
Come receive the promises of our God.**

*Holy Communion*

*(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal or you  
may come forward for a blessing.)*

## Communion Hymn: "Give Thanks"



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be-cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

*Last time*



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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*Communion Hymn: # 728 “Blest Are They”*

1           **Blest are they, the poor in spirit;  
                  theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow;  
                  they shall be consoled. (Refrain)**

**Refrain      *Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God!***

2           **Blest are they, the lowly ones;  
                  they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;  
                  they shall have their fill. (Refrain)**

3           **Blest are they who show mercy;  
                  mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart;  
                  they shall see God. (Refrain)**

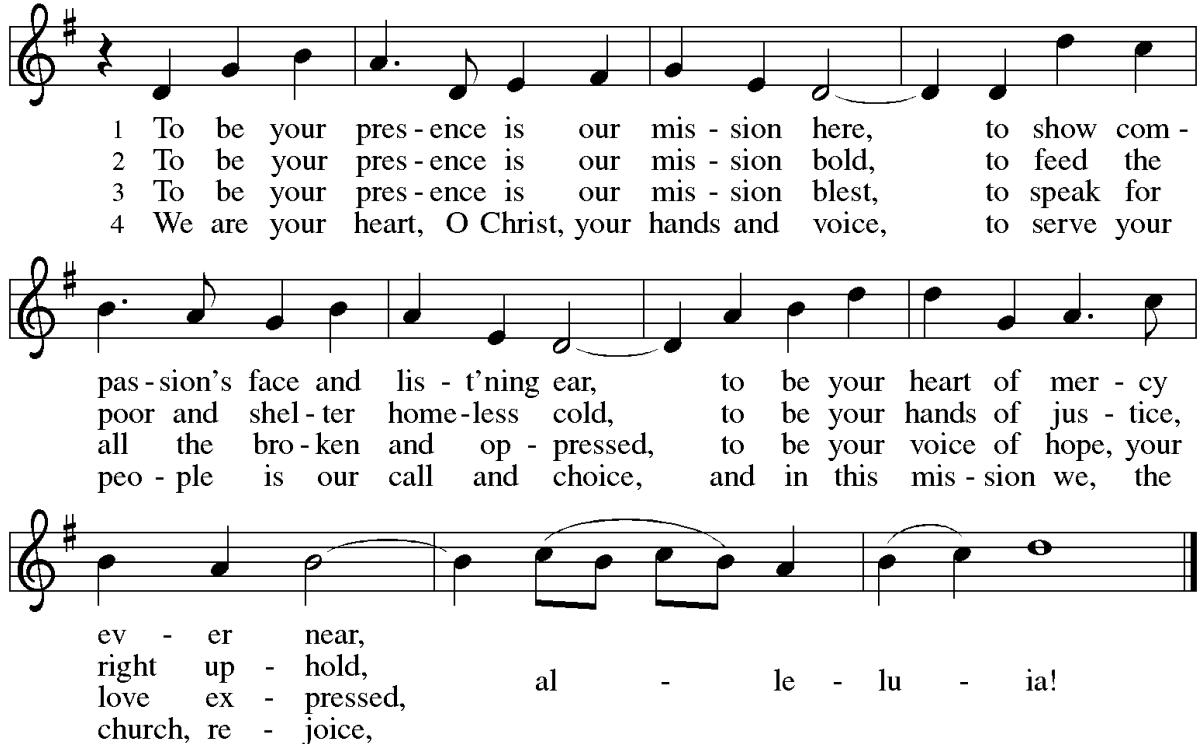
4           **Blest are they who seek peace;  
                  they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith;  
                  the glory of God is theirs. (Refrain)**

5           **Blest are you who suffer hate,  
                  all because of me.  
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom;  
                  shine for all to see. (Refrain)**

## *\*Post Communion Blessing*

## *\*Benediction*

## *\*Sending Hymn: #546 “To Be Your Presence”*



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
poor and shel - ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,  
right up - hold,  
love ex - pressed,  
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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## ***\*Dismissal***

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Be kind.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ***Postlude***

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### ***Your Prayers Are Requested For:***

***Mattie, Ann, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Titus, Shannon, Ken, Barb, Dave, and Jaime***

### ***Thank you to those serving this morning***

Pastor: Rev. Kristy Buyok

Cantor: Lesley Mast

Assisting Minister: Lynn Moomaw

Reader: Aleena Mast

Pianist: Joe Hennell

Handbell Director: Jane Ross

Communion Assistant: Tim Preston

Altar Care: Larry & Sandy Allen

Ushers/Greeters: Rex Raff & Nancy Percy

Bread Baker: Nancy Carr



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Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:

[www.stplcsmithville.org/services](http://www.stplcsmithville.org/services)

If you are unable to access via the internet,  
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.  
Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.  
[stplcsmithville.org](http://stplcsmithville.org)

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### This Week

<b>Sunday:</b>	Worship Sunday School Bible Journaling	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
<b>Monday:</b>	<i>Pastor's Day Off Office Closed</i>	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Quilting	6:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Meal Choir Handbells	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday:</b>	Euchre Healthy Life Class	11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday:</b>	Women's Day Event	10:00 a.m.
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Worship Souper Bowl Canned Soup Drive Sunday School Youth Valentine's Service Project	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

## Upcoming & Announcements

**Healthy Life Series:** Our Healthy Life Series continues this Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm. Meet up for a 6-week series with Pastor Kristy and find out what she is doing to feel healthy. Open to all. No judgement or pressure. We are cooking this week.

**Women of the Church:** Save the date on Saturday, February 7 from 10 to noon.



The flyer for the Women's Day Event features a white background with a pink and gold decorative border at the top and bottom. The title "Women's DAY EVENT" is written in a large, elegant script font. To the right of the title is a pink heart-shaped graphic with a gold geometric pattern. Below the title, the text "Join us for a day devoted to you! Special Speaker Angel Jackson" is displayed. A photo of Angel Jackson, a woman with short brown hair, smiling, is shown in a frame. Below her photo, the text "ANGEL JACKSON Speaker" is written. The central message "God's Love Changes the World" is displayed in a large, serif font. Below this, event details are listed: "FEBRUARY 7 10-NOON" with a clock icon, "777 S. SUMMIT ST. SMITHVILLE, OH" with a location pin icon, and "REGISTER NOW" with a phone icon. To the right, there are two images: one of hands holding a small red heart over a sunset, and another of a coffee cup with a heart-shaped foam design. Text next to these images reads "SERVICE PROJECTS" and "COFFEE BAR BY KAILYN PASTRIES BY MISS AMY'S BAKERY". The bottom of the flyer features a pink and gold decorative border.

*Join us for a day devoted to you!*  
Special Speaker Angel Jackson

ANGEL JACKSON  
Speaker

**FEBRUARY 7 10-NOON**

**777 S. SUMMIT ST.  
SMITHVILLE, OH**

**REGISTER NOW**

330-669-2111

stpsmithville@gmail.com

**SERVICE PROJECTS**

**COFFEE BAR  
BY KAILYN  
PASTRIES BY MISS  
AMY'S BAKERY**

**Men of the Church:** Save the date on Saturday, February 21 for a special Men's Event.



# MEN'S DAY EVENT

*When we're well ~ We love well.*



Noah Raines Speaker

Packing gifts for the homeless



Join us for a meal, fellowship,  
speaker, and service project

February 21  
10am-Noon

Register by calling the church or  
signing up in person.

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ 777 S. Summit St., Smithville, OH 44677 ~ (330) 669-2111

**People to People:** Needed items: spaghetti sauce, kidney beans, cereal, instant oatmeal, and dry dog food. Thanks!

**Souper Bowl Sunday:** Please help us collect for the Salvation Army this winter. Drop off any canned soup or other canned goods in the Narthex on or before the big game on February 8.



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru Paypal.

### Wednesday Night Meals

February 4 – Ham, scalloped potatoes, salad and dessert

February 11 – Turkey casserole, salad and dessert

February 18 – Kitchen Committee casserole, salad and dessert

February 25 – Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert

<b>Serving in February In-Person</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>2/8</b>	<b>2/15</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday 2/18</b>	<b>2/22</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Aleena Mast	Lyn Miller	Lynn Moomaw	Lyn Miller	Tim Preston
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lynn Moomaw	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen	Vicki Svegel	Pam Root
<b>Greeters/ Ushers</b>	Rex Raff Nancy Percy	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler	Bruce Blough Hans Kwee	Ernie Buyok Tim Preston	Steve & Nancy Carr
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Tim Preston	Duane Eggeman	Lynn Moomaw	N/A	Lyn Miller
<b>Altar Care</b>	Larry & Sandy Miller	Rex & Beth Raff	Steve & Nancy Carr	N/A	Kathy Meitzler
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr

***Act of Kindness for the Week:*** Send a “just because” card to a friend to let them know you are thinking of them.

*Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor: 803-673-1727*

*kristybuyok@gmail.com*

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

*Church Office: [stpsmithville@gmail.com](mailto:stpsmithville@gmail.com)*