

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.
If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book
located in the Narthex.

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### Calendar of Events

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Epler's UCC**  
2/25 (1151 West Leesport Road, Leesport Pa 19533)  
No Choir Rehearsals

Sat. 2/28 - Sat. 3/7 Mission Trip to Ashville, North Carolina

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/1 9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
(Chapter 2: Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl)  
**10:00AM Worship Service led by Dawne Clay**

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Gernant's Church**  
3/4 (13 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport Pa 19533)  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

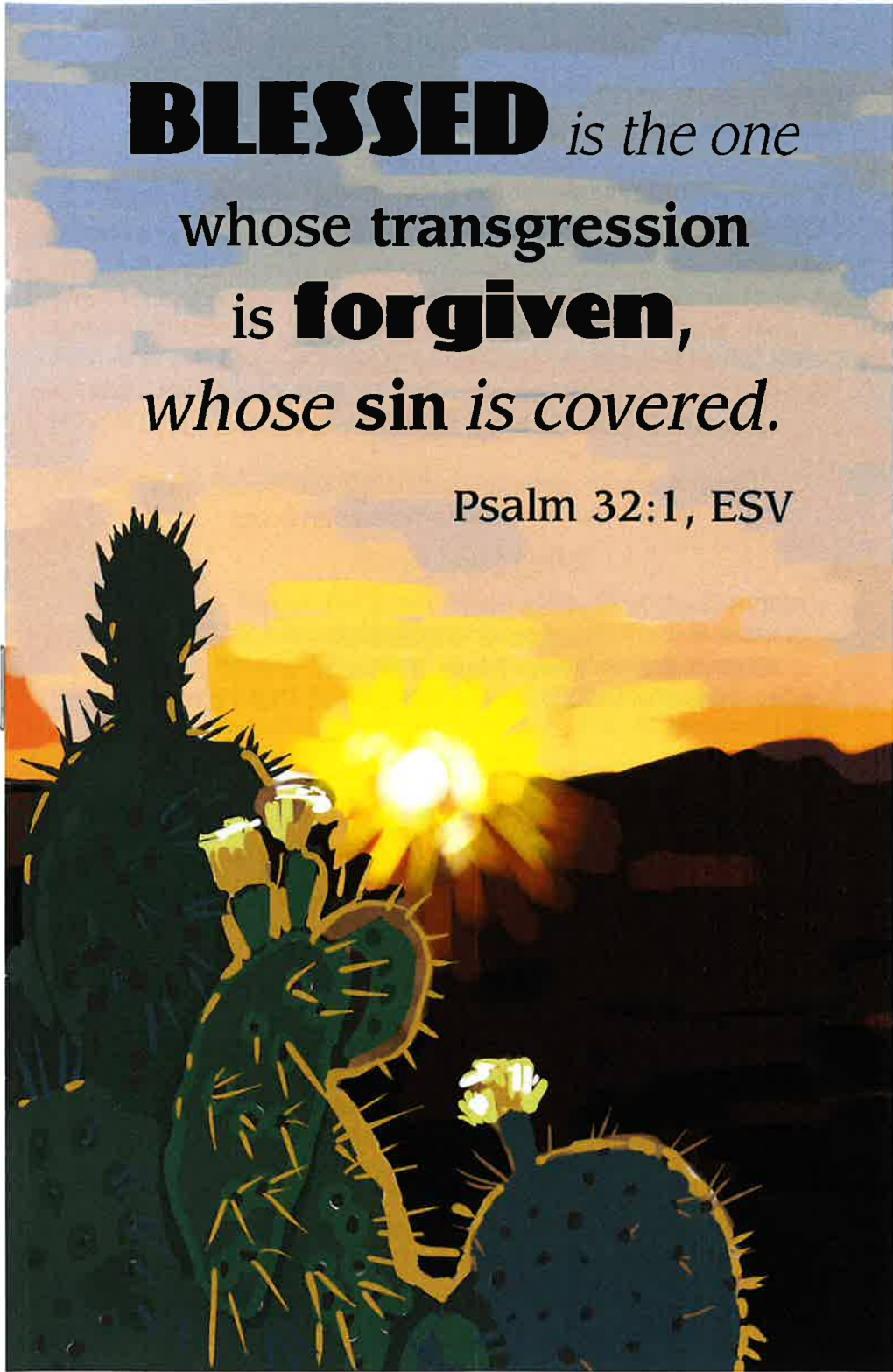
**Sun. Holy Communion**  
**3/8 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
(Chapter 3: Unlikely Freedom: Barabbas)  
**10:00AM Worship Service led by Rev. Barry Spatz**

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern Lutheran**  
3/11 (820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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Acknowledgements:

Permission by CCLI license #2391601
The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978
Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life
and Leadership, 1986
The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004
Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023 (pp. 35-36). Ab-
ingdon Press. Kindle Edition.



BLESSED *is the one*
whose transgression
is **forgiven,**
whose sin is covered.

Psalm 32:1, ESV

We welcome you to Salem (Belleman's) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

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Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
Web Site: [www.bellemanschurch.org](http://www.bellemanschurch.org)

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:00 a.m. weekly

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*Children's Bulletins are available in the pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

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Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Welcome and Announcements

Prayers for Healing

Mark Zipp, Peggy Hartman, Maya Hein, Dorothy Dougherty,
Kelly Schoellkopf, Richard Hartman, Richard Bausher,
Livia Kiwak, Rich and Oralee Folk, Sindy Bachman,
Robert Elliott, Shirley Felix, Michael, Nancy,
Mathew Machmer, Paul Holcombe, Family of Heather Light


Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

Military



Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner,
Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman,
Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman,
MSgt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts,
Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey, MAJ Michael Kufro,
SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and
women serving our country.

Prelude


**Gathering Hymn*



1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,



Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



**Call to Worship*

Temptation surrounds us every day.
Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven.
Opportunities to stray litter our path.
Happy are those whose sin is covered.
Though we stumble and fall, God's mercy picks us up.
God's grace brushes us off.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice,
God's love meets us here.

**CALL TO CONFESSION*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

God of wilderness wanderings, many things tempt us; many forces cause our feet to stray. Save us from the time of trial, for we easily succumb to temptation; we often heed voices that cause us to stray. Return us to the garden of your abiding love, for we yearn to walk with you with faithful hearts and upright spirits. Amen.

**Acknowledgment of God's Forgiveness*

Praise the Lord!
The Lord's name be praised.

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

*Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!
(The sharing of hands/hugs are optional.)*

**Lenten Hymn (Sung)*

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray... Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forcers that defy you tempt us with empty promises.

Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Proclaiming The Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴ "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

PSALM 32

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

² **Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.**

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

¹⁰ **Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's un-failing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.**

¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned, ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. ¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.



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.

**The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 4:1-11*

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Jingle Offering: Opportunity House



Hymn

1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our fool - ish ways;
2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian sea,
3. O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a - bove,
4. Drop Thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings cease;
5. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire Thy cool - ness and Thy balm;

Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, In pur - er lives Thy
The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like them, with -
Where Je - sus knelt to share with Thee The si - lence of e -
Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our or - dered
Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; Speak through the earth-quake,

serv - ice find, In deep - er rev - erence, praise.
out a word Rise up and fol - low Thee.
ter - ni - ty, In - ter - pret - ed by love!
lives con - fess The beau - ty of Thy peace.
wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm! A - MEN.

Sermon

Response to the Word

*The Apostles' Creed

In response to hearing God's word for us, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Choir Anthem

*Offering Response (Sung)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

*Pastoral Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.
Amen.**

*The Benediction

*3-Fold Amen (Sung)

*Sending Hymn

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail!
 'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Assisting in Worship

Lector: Amber Blatt

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Reminder from the Cemetery Board:

Please remove Christmas decorations by March 1.
The cemetery will be cleared by March 15.

Thank You!

**Upcoming events
by the Community Outreach Committee...**

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**BOWLING @ State Street Lanes, Hamburg**

We have reserved the whole place!!

It is a 30 bowler capacity, so come on out  
on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 1230-230pm.

Bowlers and cheerleaders are both permitted.



Pizza and sodas will be available. There is no cost to you!  
Please arrive early at **12noon** to get your shoes and settle in. Wear sneakers just in case they run out of your size in the fancy bowling shoes, as they may be limited.

Please sign-up in the narthex or text your **RSVP** to

Kim Smyre 484-256-3719 by **3/15/2026** to save your spot!

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**Belleman's Church day
at the Pines**

PINES
DINNER THEATRE

When: April 12, 2026, dinner at 12:30 p.m., show at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Pines Dinner Theatre
(315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown PA 18103)

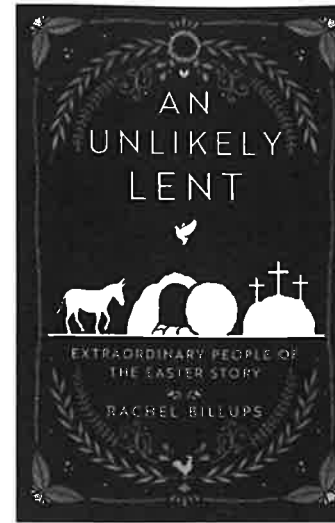
We will plan to organize a car pool for anyone interested.

Cost: \$65 per person due to the Church Office

The show presented this day is titled Lucky Malone's Not So Lucky Night.



Contact the Church Office or sign up in the narthex to assure yourself a ticket!



**New to the Coffee Talk
Discussion Group**

We will be using a new text for the season of Lent entitled "An Unlikely Lent, Extraordinary People of the Easter Story" by Rachel Billups.

The group meets in the chapel on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Come on out and join in the group. If you have any questions, please reach out to Eileen Fruchtl.

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**Lenten Worship Series 2026**

*Presented by the Schuylkill Valley Pastors Association*

During the season of Lent, there will be weekly Lenten worship services **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Lunch will be served first and will be followed by a brief worship. Services should be over by 1 for anyone planning to attend during their lunchtime. We look forward to embarking on this Lenten journey with the SV Churches as we head toward Easter Sunday! Lenten Service locations are as follows:

- February 25: Epler's UCC** (luncheon)  
(1151 West Leesport Road, Leesport Pa 19533)
- March 4: Gernant's Church** (luncheon)  
(13 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport Pa 19533)
- March 11: Bern Lutheran** (luncheon)  
(820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)
- March 18: Bern UCC** (luncheon)  
(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)
- March 25: Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity** (luncheon)  
(102 Apple Street, Leesport PA 19533)