

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

**Happening Today!**      **Faithful Men Gospel Quartet**  
*Christian Ed Meeting after Worship*

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern UCC**  
4/2 **(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (4/5) Belleman's Day at Pine's Dinner Theatre

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
4/6 **9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
(Chapter 31 – The Choice is Yours, Matthew 7:13-29)  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bethany EC Church**  
4/9 **(308 Main St, Leesport, PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

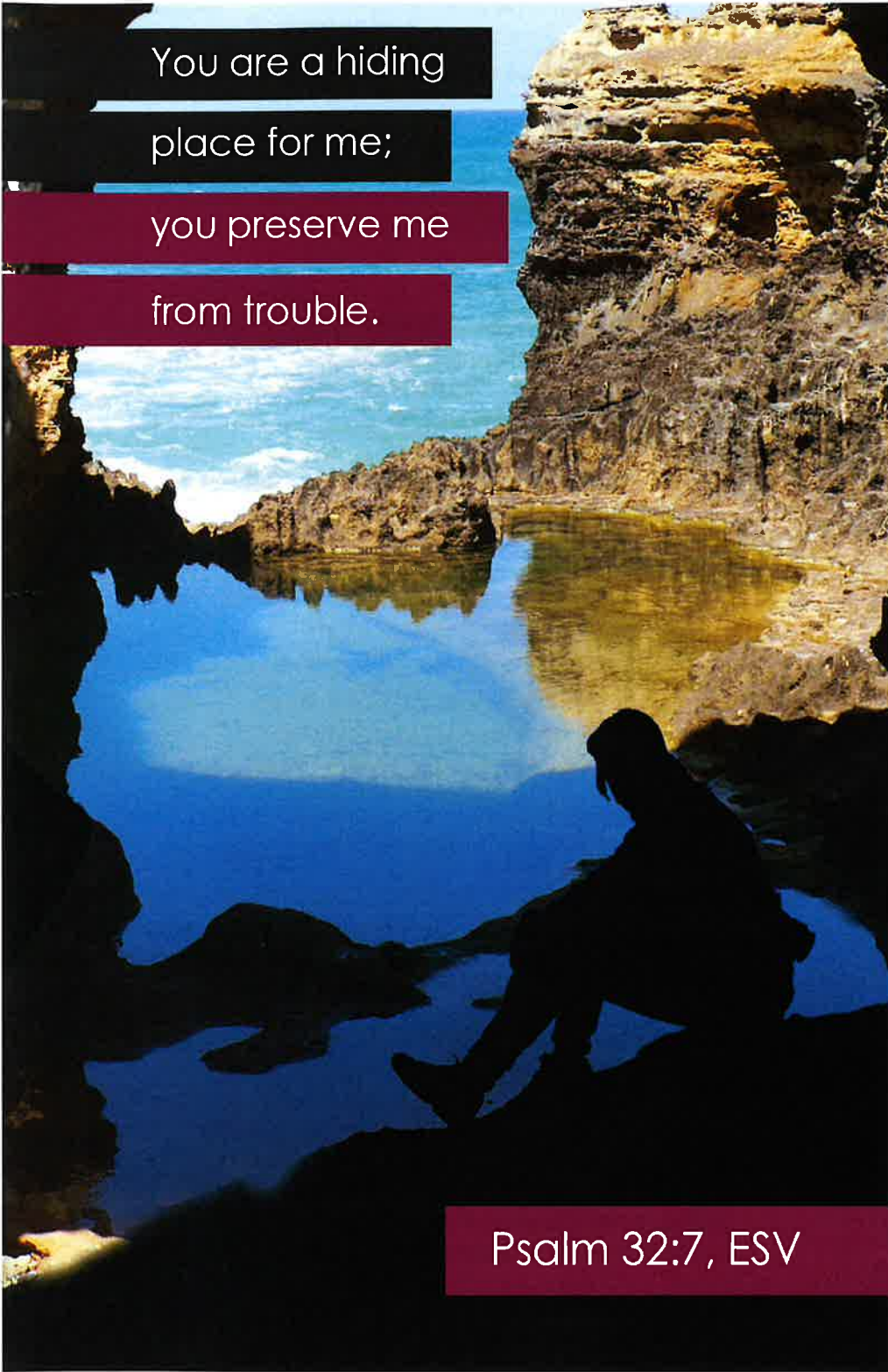
Sat. (4/12) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. Palm Sunday**  
4/13 **9:00AM Sunday School**  
**9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**  
(Chapter 32 – Peace March, Zechariah 9:9-10,  
Psalm 122, Luke 19:29-46)  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

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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
www.ministrymatters.org



You are a hiding
place for me;
you preserve me
from trouble.

Psalm 32:7, 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  
Web Site: 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.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away ... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

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*Prelude*

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Prayers for Healing*

Payton Shaffer, Mark Zipp, Nancy James, Ron Burkhart, Lloyd and Ruth Barnett, Janet Weaver, Megan Snyder, Bobbie Jo King, Riley Rejniak, Charles Werley, Peggy Hartman, Bridget Hoffert, Mike Hoffert, Nancy Rickert, Dorothy Dougherty, Steve Rentschler, Karen Himmelberger, Kelly Schoellkopf

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, SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and women serving our country.

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

*\*Call to worship*

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

**For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.**

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

**Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.**

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

**Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.**

*Faithful Men Gospel Quartet*



*Proclaiming The Word*

*FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12*

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

*PSALM 32*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup> While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my  
strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my  
iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not  
reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

<sup>8</sup> **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> **Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love  
surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**





## The Prodigal Son

### *\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread

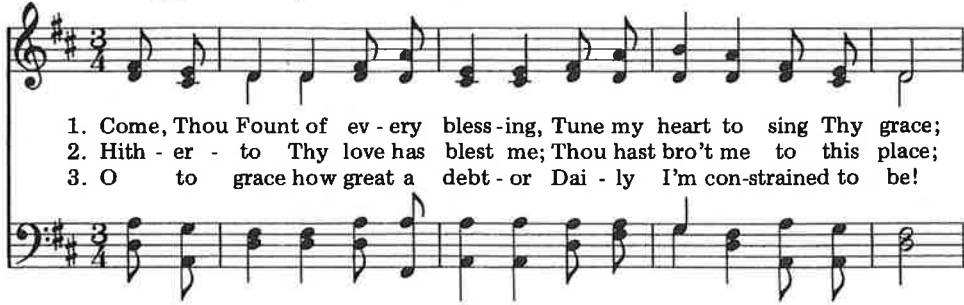
enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering:* Faithful Men Gospel Quartet

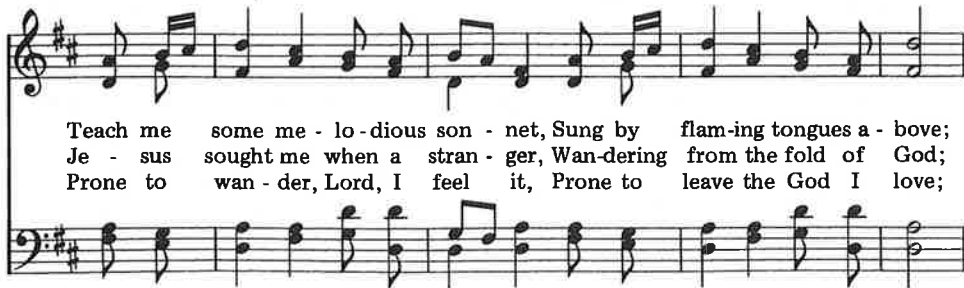
Hymn



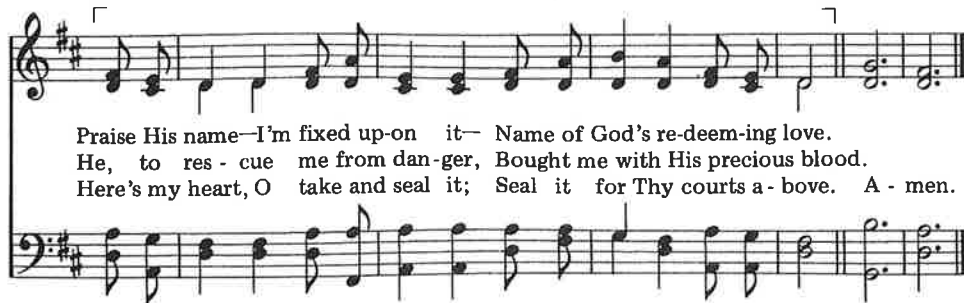
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
 2. Hith - er - to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro't me to this place;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 And I know Thy hand will bring me Safe - ly home by Thy good grace.  
 Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise His name—I'm fixed up-on it— Name of God's re - deem - ing love.  
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, Bought me with His precious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts a - bove. A - men.

Teaching Time

Offering

Offertory Selection

*\*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*

F B<sup>b</sup> F C

1 My life flows on in end-less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

F B<sup>b</sup> F C<sup>7</sup> F

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain F C Dm C F C F

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

F B<sup>b</sup> F F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

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

*Postlude*

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Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Eric Kissinger presented by Carlene, Jennifer, Adam and families.

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*Assisting in Worship*

|                        |         |                     |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| <i>Acolyte:</i>        | 10:00AM | Eden Gilmer         |
| <i>Lector:</i>         | 10:00AM | Dawne Clay          |
| <i>Greeters/Ushers</i> | 10:00AM | Lee and Logan Henne |

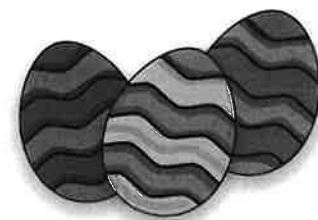
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Easter Egg Hunt 2025

This year's egg hunt will take place on **Saturday, April 19**. The egg hunt will start around **1:00 PM** and will take place in the church grove. We hope to see you there!

In preparation for this, the Primary Department requests **donations of small wrapped candies** for the Egg Hunt. Please drop them off in the Primary department with Brenda Kelly or with James in the office. Thank You!



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**Remember the** Coffee Talk Adult Discussion group meets every Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. The topic for the group is Brian McLaren's book, ***We Make the Road by Walking***. Anyone can participate in this guided study by engaging in weekly Bible readings, devotions & prayer. **Connect on Facebook by following "Belleman's Walkers"** See Eileen Fruchtl (in person or text 610-858-2053) for a book.