

# St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street  
Greenfield Indiana 46140

Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ,  
encouraging relationships with Him and others.



## Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 5, 2023

**Meditation:** Invisible God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ, sharing your own Spirit in communion with our spirit. As we come to worship disclose yourself more fully as we hear your written word and pray in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen

**Today's flowers are given by Maggie Bode in honor of Mark Bode's birthday.**



1741 S. State Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
Phone: 317-462-7340  
Email: [office@stjamesnalc.org](mailto:office@stjamesnalc.org)

### **Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church**

The mission statement of our congregation is:

*To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.*

*Rev. Dr. Richard Blue, Jr.  
Pastor*

#### **TO ALL GUESTS...**

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
  - **PARTICIPATE**
    - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
    - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
    - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
  - **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
  - **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
    - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
    - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

## PRELUDE

*O Savior Precious Savior*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please Stand*

† **We Lift Our Hearts in Worship** †

## INVOCATION AND PRAYER (Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1)

P: Loving God,  
we come this morning  
seeking to abide in your presence.  
Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom,  
that we may know how to live as your people.  
Open our hearts to your spirit of truth,  
that we may love all your people with a love  
that speaks of justice, kindness,  
and radical grace.  
May this time of worship  
be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**C: Creator - Restorer - Ruler: We are prone to point the finger at others and to pervert justice by exaggerated charges. We want the rich to feed the hungry, but not to share from our own provisions. We prefer charity in principle, but in practice evade our duty even to our own kin. Some of us live in half-empty houses while there are families crowded into rooms too small for them, if they have rooms at all. Forgive our failure to live up to the best we know and to let the oppressed go free even after you have freed us. Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Pastor: Friends, hear the Good News! Christ nailed to the cross attests the cost of God's love and forgiveness.

**People: Our faith is not built on human wisdom, but on the power of God.**

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

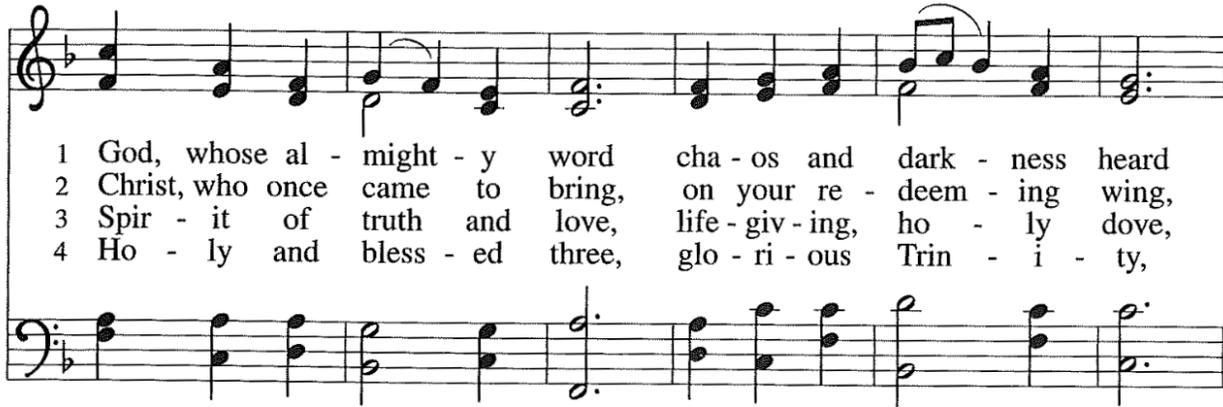
C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word ELW 673

673

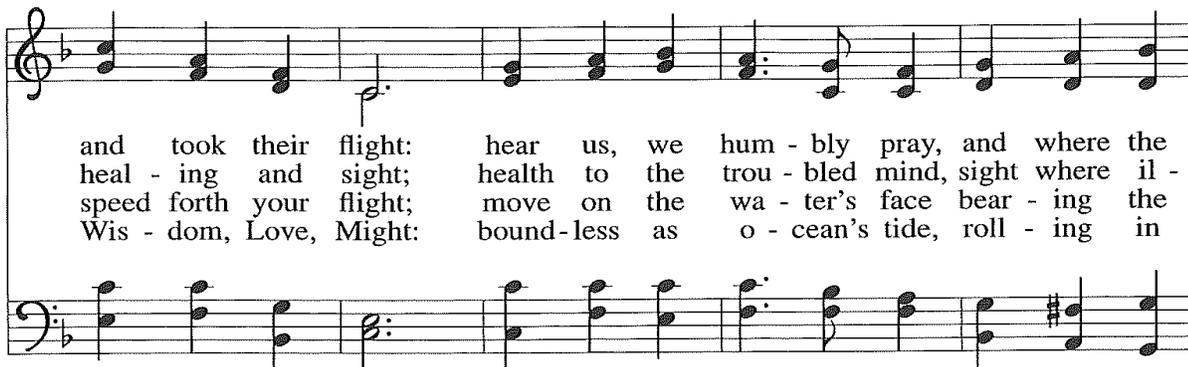
# God, Whose Almighty Word



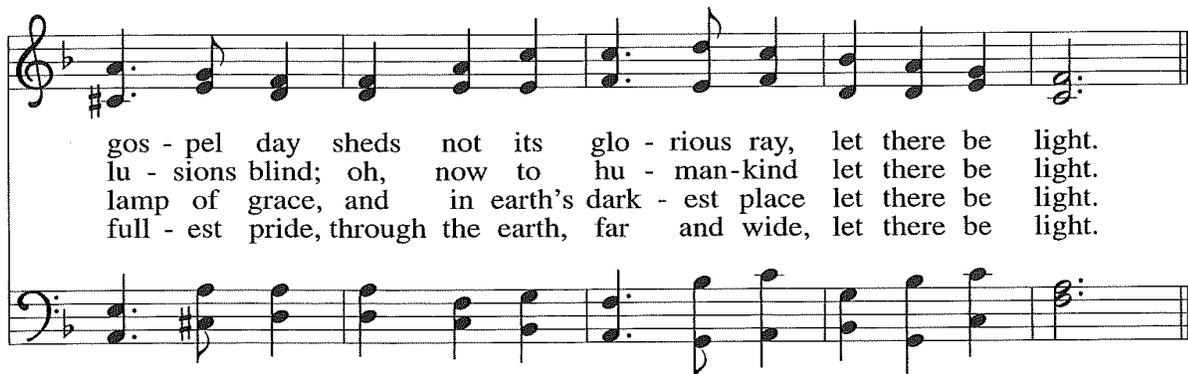
1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.  
Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

ITALIAN HYMN  
664 66 64



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: God said, "Let there be light."

**C: And there was light.**

L: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

**C: And the light shone in the darkness.**

L: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

**A: And the light shall not be quenched.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

P: God of wisdom and righteousness, your standards and expectations of us have not changed. Fill us with the desire to know your truth and to follow your commandments. Amen.

*Please be seated*

† **We Hear God's Word** †

## **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 58:1-9 (page 638 in your pew bible)

### **True Fasting**

**58** "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that does what is right

and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them.

<sup>3</sup>'Why have we fasted,' they say,

'and you have not seen it?

Why have we humbled ourselves,

and you have not noticed?'

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please  
and exploit all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

P: The Word of God for the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**“Alleluia”**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Salt and Light**

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**The Fulfillment of the Law**

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

**P: The Word of God for the people of God.**

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please Be Seated*

**MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

**Amanda Blue**

*Please stand*

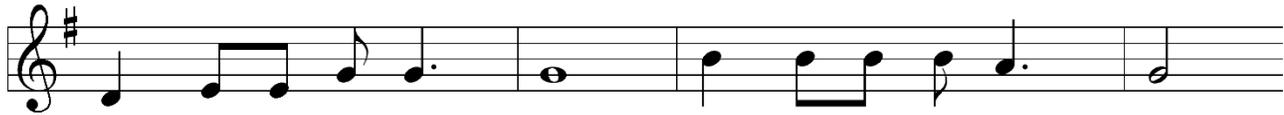
## This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: LET IT SHINE, African American spiritual

*Please be seated*

**MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES**

**Rev. Dr. Richard Blue**

*Please Stand*

† We Respond to God's Word †

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

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

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Please be seated*

## THE OFFERING

*Now we join with Christians all over the world in worshipping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St. James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship, and we now offer our offerings and tithes.*

*Please Stand*

## OFFERTORY MUSIC-

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

## THE OFFERING RESPONSE

**Let the Vineyards be Fruitful**

Let the vineyard be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## THE OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—  
in places we often fail to recognize as blessing.  
Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand  
the depth of your love and blessing.  
Today, we give out of that blessedness,  
dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love,  
giving all that we are and all that we have  
to bring about your beloved community,  
here and now. Amen.

† **We Celebrate the Lord's Supper** †

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins*

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Pastor: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to  
give You thanks, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On this Sunday, we give you thanks for the gift of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and  
for the promise of salvation that he brings to us. Through his death and resurrection,  
we have been made new, and have been given the gift of eternal life.

We come to this table to partake of the gifts of your son's body and blood, given for the  
forgiveness of our sins. As we partake of this sacrament, we remember his love and  
sacrifice for us, and we are strengthened in our faith.

And so, with all the angels and saints we proclaim Your glory, as with one voice we  
sing:

**Sanctus**

**People: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full  
of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Words of Jesus**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**People: 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. Amen.**

### **Invitation**

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we have reflected on the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are now invited to partake in the sacrament of Communion. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given us the gift of his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith.

As we partake in this sacrament, let us come to the table with humility and gratitude, recognizing the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and the love that God has for us. If you have confessed your sins and have faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, you are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper.

Let us partake in the sacrament of Communion with joy and thanksgiving, as we remember the love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and are strengthened in our faith. Amen.

### **Communion**

*Please be seated*

### **LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace.

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

*Please Stand*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

**Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 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;



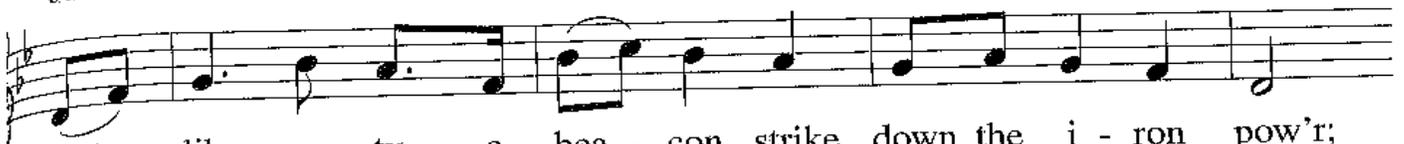
give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



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.

*Remain Standing*

## **THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL**

Pastor: Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the blessings we have received through the sacrament of Communion. We ask that you continue to bless us and guide us as we go out into the world, sharing your love and grace with all those we encounter.

May the body and blood of Christ, which we have received, strengthen us to be faithful servants and to be your hands and feet in the world. And may the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forevermore. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

P: Go forth in the peace of Christ, and may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, abide with you now and forevermore. Amen.

**All: Amen.**

**† We Depart in Peace †**

THE WORD

233

Thy Strong Word

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; At thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark-ness, Dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be-speaks us righ-teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis-dom shin-ing Break-eth

speaking it was done. For cre-ated  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 thine own ho-li-ness, Glo-rious now, we  
 forth in con-quiring might; From the cross for-

light we thank thee, While thine or-dered sea-sons run.  
 thy sal-va-tion, Breathed thine own life-giv-ing breath.  
 press toward glo-ry, And our lives our hopes con-fess.  
 ev-er beam-eth All thy bright re-deem-ing light.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to  
 Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise to

thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

## THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

<b>Worship Volunteer Schedule</b>	<b>Sunday 2/5/2023</b>	<b>Sunday 2/12/23</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Tracy Guffey	Joan Shaw
<b>Lector</b>	Christian Gries	Alison LaFlower
<b>Ushers</b>	Sheila Bryan John Browder	Jim & Deb Jackson
<b>Greeters</b>	Alan & Jeanette Berkshire	June Gries Donna Matsuoka
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Diana Clements-Scott	Karen Bell
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Karen Bell	Karen Bell
<b>Acolyte</b>	Eli Stearns	Darrell Turner
<b>Sound Technician</b>	Ronald Kissell	Dan Ivers
<b>Video Technician</b>	Neal Guffey	Neal Guffey
<b>Bread Baker</b>	June Gries	June Gries
<b>Women's Bible Study Snacks</b>	Sherry Coomes (Feb 6)	Liz Clark (Feb 13)
<b>Slide Creators</b>	Terry Clark	Richard Bell
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Amanda Blue	Alison LaFlower
<b>Counters (Monday)</b>	Phil Miller Cindy Gregory	Maggie Bode Cindy Gregory