March 22, 2026 ☩

Fifth Sunday in Lent

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude –"Your Kingdom Come O Father" arr. David Cherwien

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

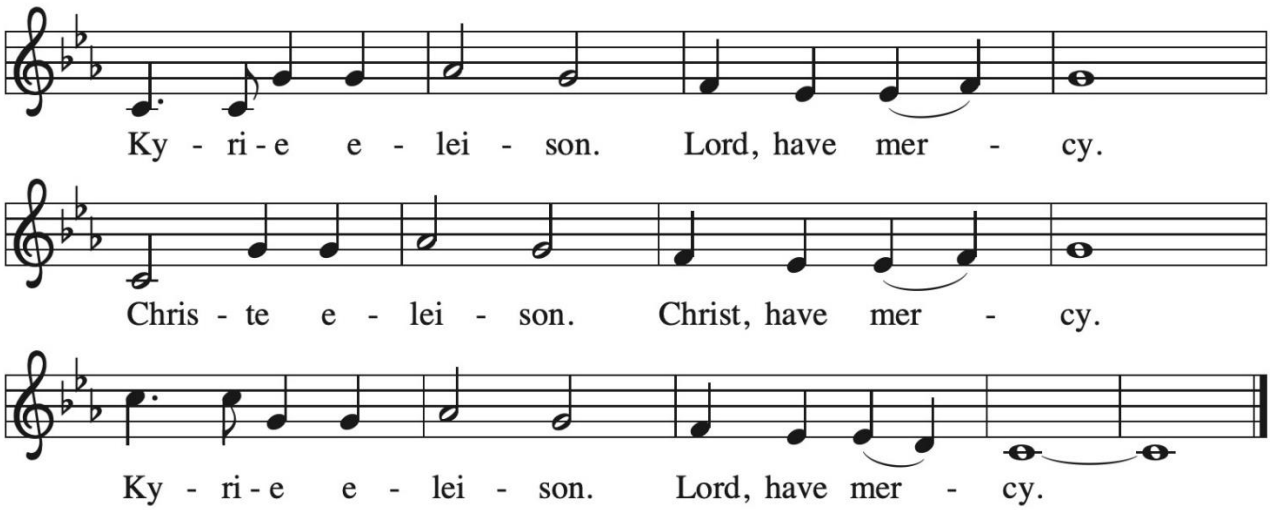
***Confession and Forgiveness**

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.**

*__Apostolic Greeting__ P: 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.**

*__Kyrie__ – page 31, *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



*__Prayer of the Day__

P: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and
set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there
were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these
bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these
bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to
these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you and
will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall
live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."
7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise,
a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on
them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in
them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:
Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain,

that they may live." [10] I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

[11] Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' [12] Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. [13] And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. [14] I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130- *The psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse.*

[1] Out of the depths
I cry to you, O LORD;
[2] **O LORD, hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
[3] If you were to keep watch over sins,
O LORD, who could stand?
[4] **Yet with you is forgiveness,**
in order that you may be feared.
[5] I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.
[6] **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**
more than those who keep watch for the morning.
[7] O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.
[8] **For the LORD shall redeem Israel**
from all their sins.

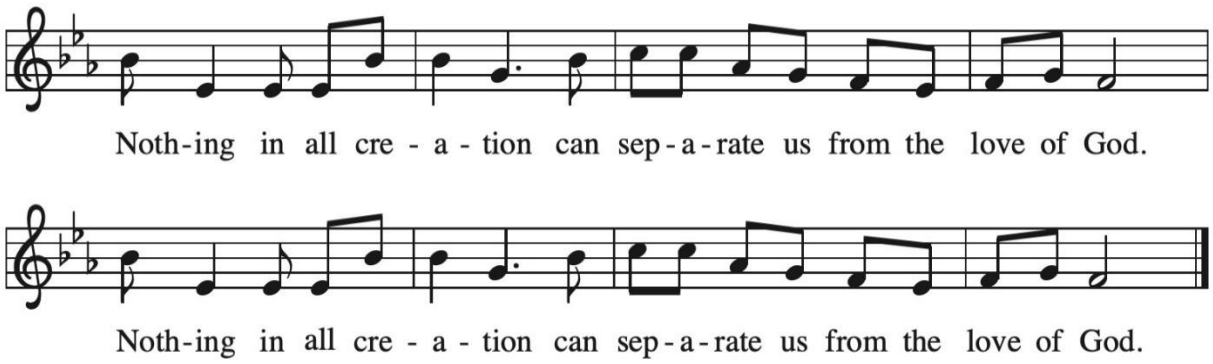
Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

[6] To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. [7] For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, [8] and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

[9] But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10] But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** "Nothing in all creation" – page 34, *All Creation Sings, setting 12*



Gospel: John 11:1-45

The Gospel of John, the 11th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister
Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her
hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you
love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for
God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus
loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two
days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to
him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus
answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not
stumble because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble because
the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,
but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep,
he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that
he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your
sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who
was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now
Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha
and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had
been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you
whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to
him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am
the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and
everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him,

"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately,
"The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and
went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha
had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly
and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep
there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping
and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply
moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus
began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not
he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying
against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,
"Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I
not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone.
And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you
always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may
believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come
out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face
wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did
believed in him.

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

Sermon Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** –no. 334 vs 1, 2, 3 and 5 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

***The Apostles' Creed** –
Together let us profess our faith.

**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__
AM: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *After each petition*: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – "What Wondrous Love is This" arr. Lloyd Larson

*__Offering Prayer__

AM: O God, maker of heaven and earth, 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.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

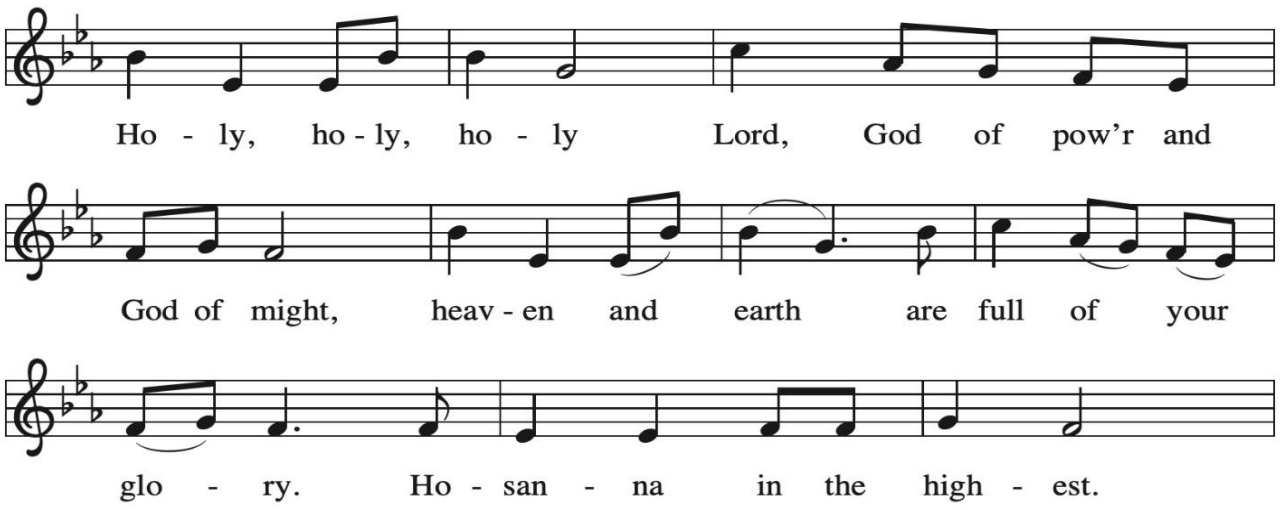
*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ – spoken

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

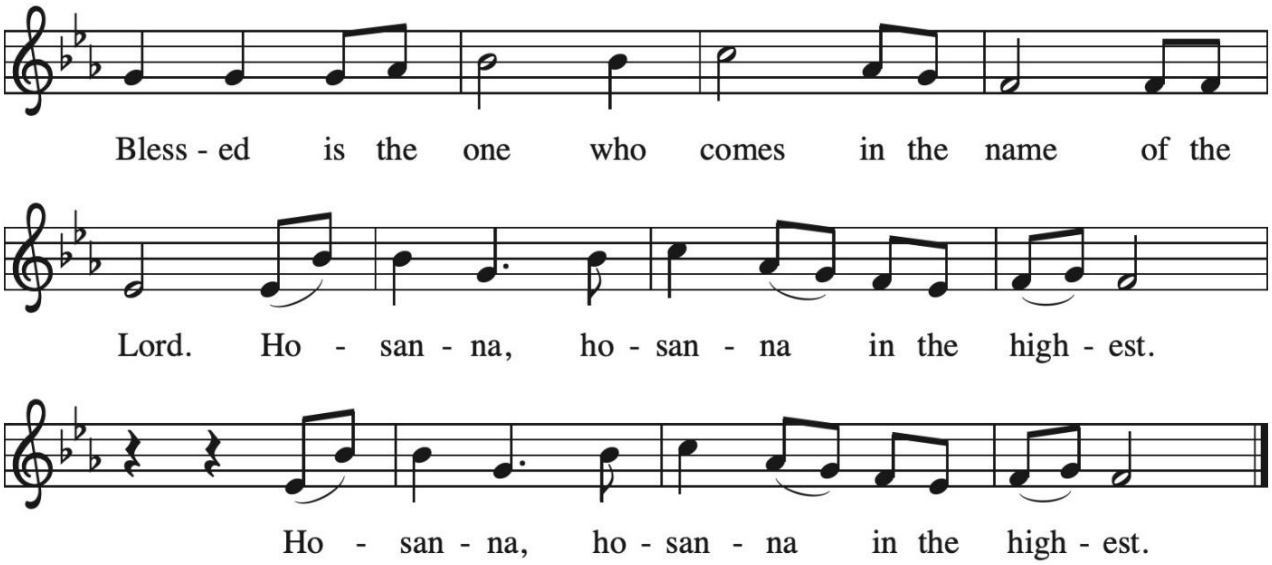
P: Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ - page 36 from *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ continues...



*__Words of Institution__

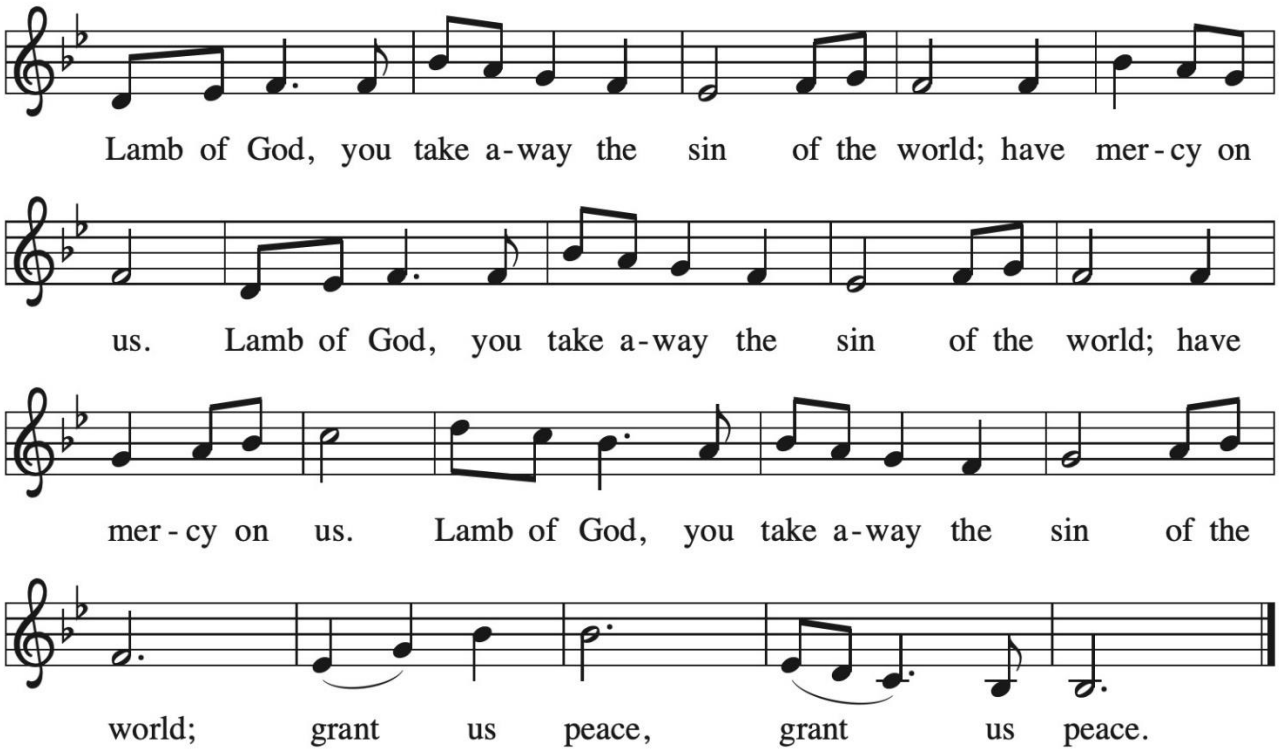
*__The Lord's Prayer__

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 the Table__ – P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*

Lamb of God – page 40, *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



Hymn –no. 328 "Restore in Us, O God"
Hymn - no. 773 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Prayer After Communion
P: God of our salvation, 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. **Amen.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 333 "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: 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.**

AM: Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Postlude__ – Prelude in g minor J. S. Bach

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Grace LaTourelle, GAC
Director of Choirs: Sarah Chambers
Clarinetist: Paul Szybnski

Ushers: Graham Menning, Josh Drinkall
Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers:
Acolytes: Reese Drinkall, Shay Drinkall

Tech: Brett Petersen, Henry Menning
Bread Baker: Betsy Bolint

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), and Sandy Grochow.

Acknowledgments

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QR offering code

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be served by Gary and Jean Hayer after worship today.
- **Pontius Pilate's Passion**: This Lenten season, join Annalise Rivas for an exploration of the Passion story like you've never seen it before. Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30pm in the Pioneer Parlor, February 11 – March 25.
- **Wednesday night Adult Ed in April:** Book study using Jane Goodall's book "Hope". Join Pastor Heather Culuris to dive into a discussion of biblical hope using multimedia resources, music, and poetry. This class meets in Pioneer Parlor on April 8, 15, 22, and 29 . It is best if you can read the book ***before*** the sessions. It is available to order online, as an e-Book, as an audiobook, or from the library.
- **Meals On Wheels** drivers needed. If interested, call Sue at 507-550-0730 and leave a message.
- Monday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9:30am in the chapel.
- **Art and banner session at Trinity today** 1-3 pm. Create a banner or sign for Walking the Palm Sunday Path. Supplies, ideas and help will be available for this creative, drop in session

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Final Lenten Soup Supper this Wed, 5:15 – 6:15pm**: Finance, Stewardship and Endowment Funds Management are providing our soup supper.
- **Continental Breakfast:** The Fellowship Committee will be serving breakfast at 9:00am before worship on Easter Sunday.
- **March Food Share Drive**. There's still time to contribute. Please drop your donations in the grocery cart in the Gathering Space. SPAF is in need of flour, oil and sugar.
- **A Noisy Offering** is being collected on Wednesday nights for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf throughout March. Thank you!
- "**Walking the Palm Sunday Path**" on March 29. FLC is participating in this family friendly public witness of our shared Christian values in peaceful assembly and prayer. Register here: https://secure.ngpvan.com/qV9i7G3sQUeYHA-zOQ4oHw2, or send Deacon B or Pastor Chris a note. Schedule: **lunch** at noon at FLC. **Caravan** to Grace Lutheran Mankato 1:00pm following the donkey. **Walk the route** with others: 2-3:30 pm. It is approximately a mile long with 7-stops featuring stories, prayers, songs and ***a live donkey*** and scripture based on Matthew 25. Join at any point along the way. ***Maps are available in the Gathering space.***
- **Palm Sunday Pathway Art Making session***: today, March 22 anytime between 1-3 pm* at Trinity Lutheran St Peter. Supplies will be available to create messages of Christian love for our neighbors
- **Adult BWCA Trip:** June 28th- July 2. If interested, call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com.
- **Personal Hygiene product of the month: toothpaste.** We collect a different item each month for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf. Please drop donations in the box in the gathering space.