



February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one
another our need for repentance and God's
mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Opening Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God

No. 504

504

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

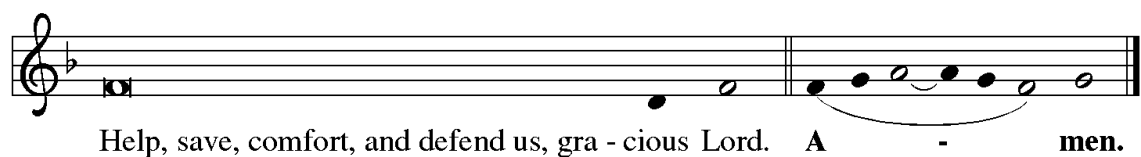
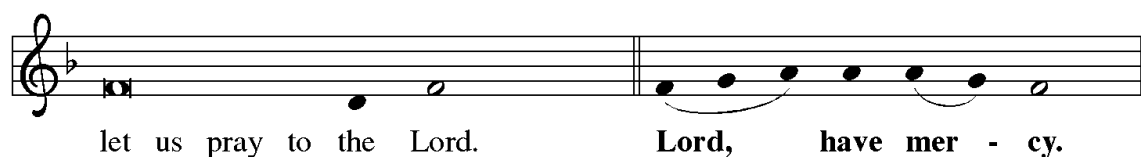
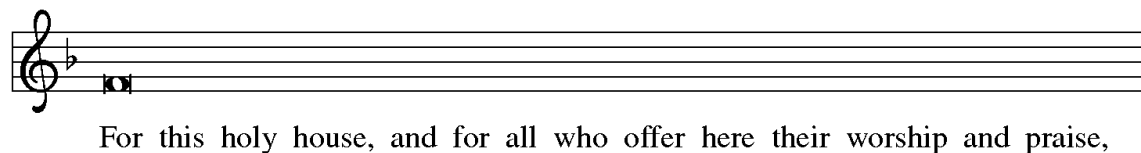
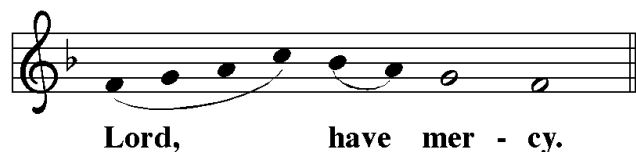
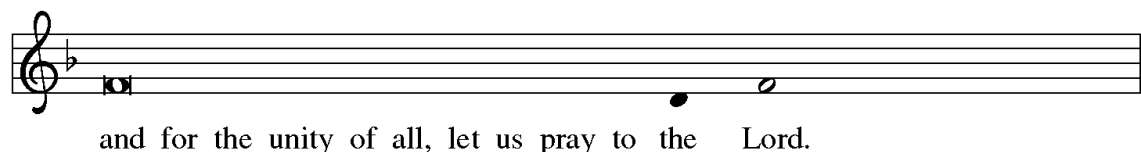
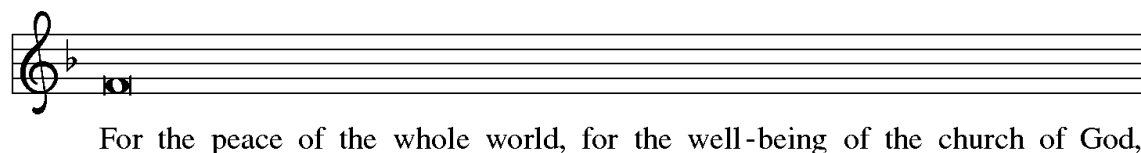
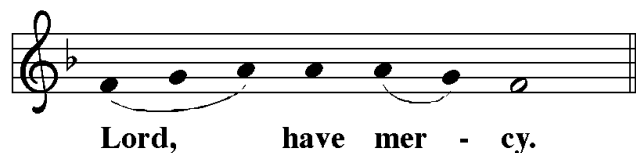
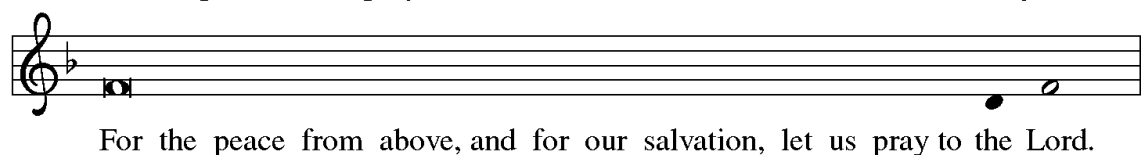
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Greeting

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



Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces 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.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

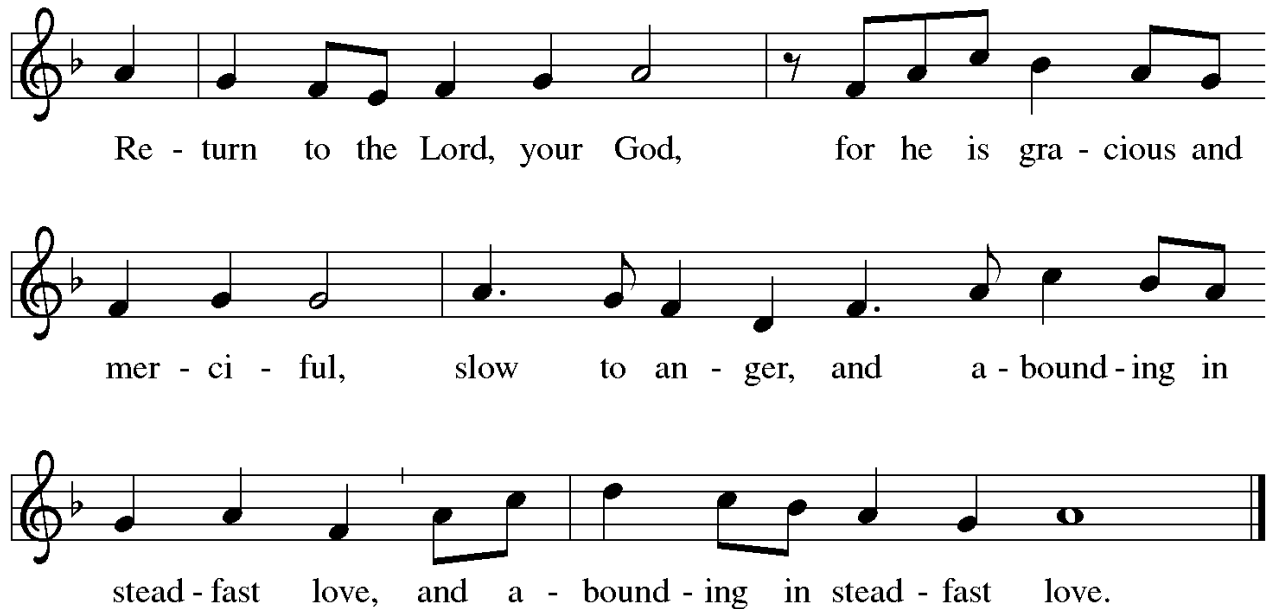
¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: I want Jesus to Walk with Me

No. 325

WALK WITH ME.



LENT

325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SOJOURNER
 Irregular

Apostles' Creed

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 was 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards (*local sources of food and food distributors may be named*), that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially*).

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants (*other ministries of care and hospitality may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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. 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 forever.

Amen.

Blessing

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Still Lead On


No. 624

Jesus, Still Lead On

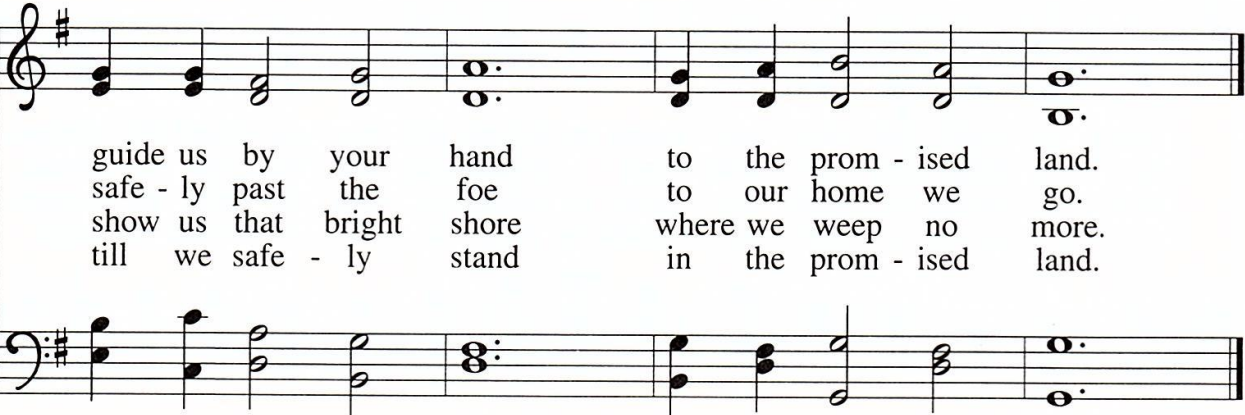
624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the glory of God by Jim Bertsch in celebration of Robert Bertsch's 99th birthday on February 27.

ATTENDANCE

February 19: 38 + 24 = 62, Ash Wednesday: 42

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sally Warner, she fell and broke her wrist;
Bernie Neidler, at Firelands;
Paul Wiedenheft, at Providence Care;
Norm Stierhoff, at Providence Care;
All those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria;
For all directly or indirectly effected by blizzards, tornadoes, and flooding,
Covid, Mass Shootings happening nationwide and Ukraine Crisis;
FAITH members, including; Judy Welser;
the Roman Catholic Parishes of Sandusky;
firefighters and emergency medical personnel of the greater Sandusky area.

AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Interim Pastor:	Pastor Ralph Schibler
Lector:	Joyce Patterson
Usher:	Brad Stierhoff
Acolyte:	Tyler Wiedenheft

At 10:30...

Interim Pastor:	Pastor Ralph Schibler
Lector:	Candy Beatty
Usher:	Barb Sessler
Acolyte:	Mason Russell

February Altar Care:	Linda Gantz and Cindy Norman
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DONATIONS TO OUR "PENNY JUG" support the global relief and habilitation efforts of ELCA World Hunger, a mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

THIS MORNING'S LOOSE CASH OFFERING (money not in an envelope or given without other designation) benefits Current Expenses. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.

This Week at Trinity

TODAY	Worship Service Sunday School	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am
MONDAY	Dartball Playoff Games at Huron	7:00 pm
TUESDAY	Soup Meal prior to service at Zion Lenten Service at Zion	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	Worship & Music Meeting "We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
FRIDAY	Office Closed	Carol on Vacation
SATURDAY	"We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.)	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Communion Service Sunday School	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am



Devotions for Lent 1

Called to Values - as Unfinished people of God.

Texts: Matthew 4:1-11 (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7;

Psalms 32; Romans 5:12-19)

Theme: Led by the Spirit

There are countless things in this life that we value. Some of those valuables are tangible, like people or relationships, or good food, fine wine, time with loved ones, or warm sunshine. Others are intangible, like love, or hope, or peace. Some things that we value are life-giving, and some might be life-draining. And sometimes life might get in the way of us valuing in practice what we value in idea. In the story of Jesus' temptation, we are invited to hear the words "led by the Spirit" not simply as words about Jesus, but words for us, too. On our own journey between no longer and not yet, we are led by the Spirit as we daily wrestle with what it means for our own lives to value what Jesus values.

Reflect upon your values • What do I value? • How have I lived my values today? • How have my values been in conflict today? • What do I need for tomorrow?

Prayer: Lead me by your Spirit, O God, to value what you value. In the name of + Jesus. Amen.

WINTER WEATHER GUIDELINES. Church will be closed if it is a Level 3 snow advisory. Please check the office answering machine message for updates. The west sanctuary doors and educational wing doors will not be unlocked, and the sidewalks will not be shoveled. Please use the south and east doors for entry.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL AT LMC ON MARCH 12, 2023, FROM 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, maple infused sausage and live music performed by a local band. You can purchase sassafras tea and donuts that are cooked over an open fire, buy real maple syrup, or take a nature hike. Be sure to visit the sugar shack. You can relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with friends, old and new. This annual tradition is a fun and welcoming family and community festival themed in maple syrup. Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships. This event takes place at **HopeWood Pines, 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334, Phone: 419-864-8030, pines@hopewoodoutdoors.org** (HopeWood was formally known as Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, which we send a yearly donation to.)

Directing Choice Dollars® and Personal Giving: A How-To Guide

Direct Choice Dollars Online

1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. Click **Direct Choice Dollars**.
3. Log in by entering your User ID and password.
(If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click **Register for account access**.)
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **Direct Now** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **View activity history** link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **Search**.
5. Choose **Direct All** or **enter a specific number** and click **Direct Now**. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say **Thrivent Choice**.
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions.
(If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Want to make an even bigger impact?

Make a personal donation at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.* Click **Make a personal donation** and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click **Make a Personal Donation**. You'll then be sent to InFaith Community Foundation to make the donation.

Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.





PROJECT SHARE

of Margareta Township

Annual **SPAGHETTI BENEFIT**

Grace Lutheran Church

Saturday, March 4th

4:30 pm until sold out

Free Will Offering

**Spaghetti with meat sauce,
Salad, Breadstick, and
Dessert**

**Drive-Thru Pickup ONLY
in Back of Church**

Project Share of Margareta Township is a 501(c)(3) organization who annually provides gifts, clothing, and food for families of Margareta School District who share a need.

**Delivery is available for
shut-ins, call 419-357-3672
to schedule a delivery.**

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

****Open to anyone in the community****

Grace Lutheran Church
203 S. Washington St.
Castalia, OH 44824



Date: Wednesday, March 8th

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
(or until sold out)

How: Free Drive-thru pickup
in the back of church

MENU:

**TURKEY TETRAZZINI, LETTUCE
SALAD, BREAD SLICE
& DESSERT**

**Delivery is available for shut-ins, call 419-357-3672
to schedule a delivery**

**For the Lord God is our sun and our shield.
He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will
withhold no good thing from those who do
what is right.**

Psalm 84:11