

### March 19, 2023 Fourth 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: God, Whose Almighty Word** 

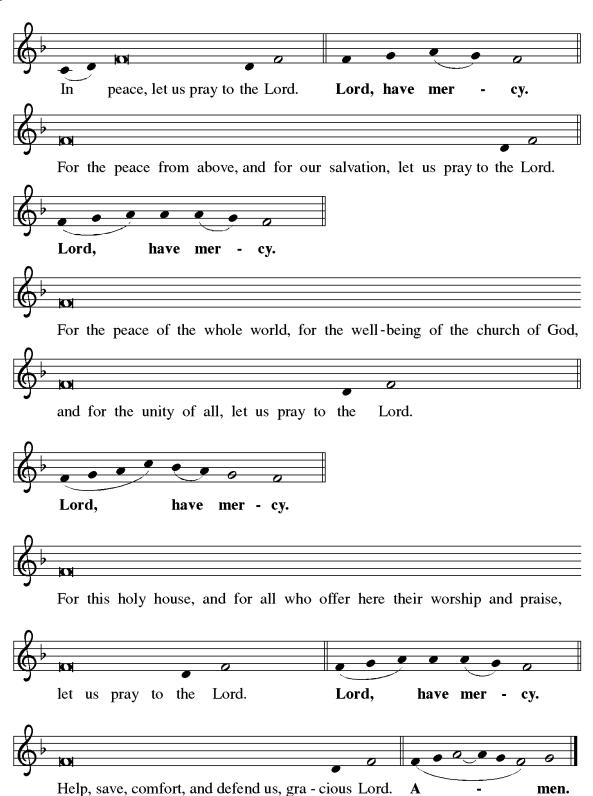


### Greeting

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**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. <sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

### Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

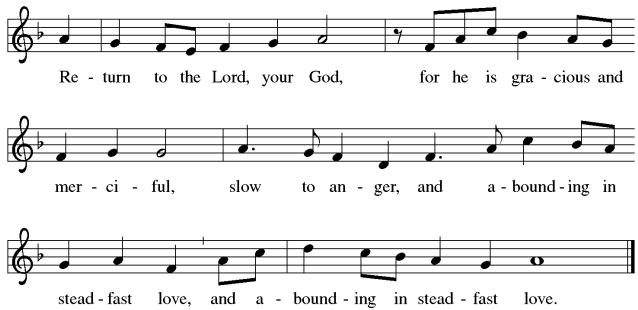
<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Gospel: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ¬saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁶The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁶Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has

spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

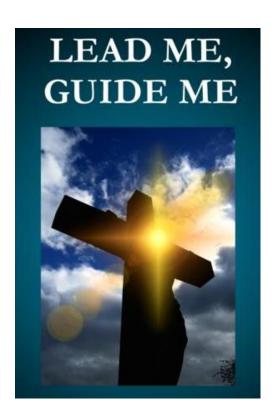
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

### Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Lead Me, Guide Me



No. 768

### Lead Me, Guide Me

768



Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995 Music: Doris Akers

Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME 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.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials (*specific leaders may be named*). Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve (especially). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community (*especially*). Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

### Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (*especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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.** 

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

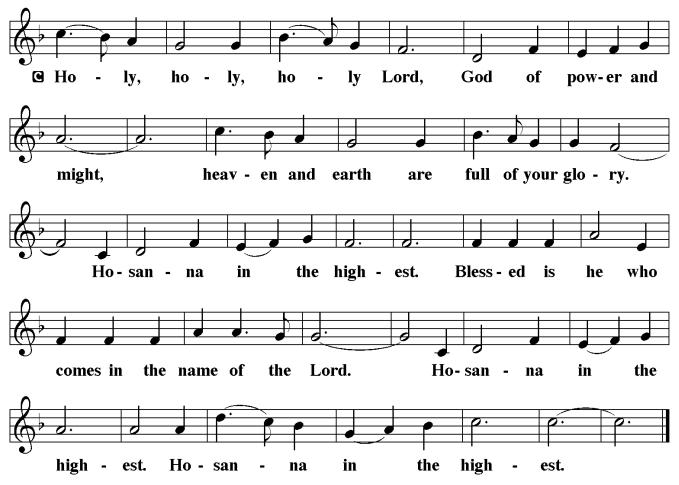
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### **Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

### Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

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

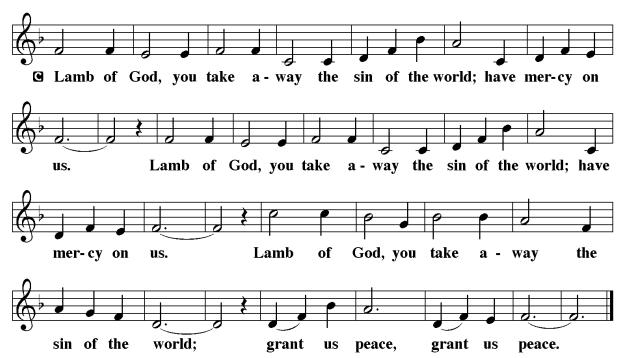
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and forever.

Amen.

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

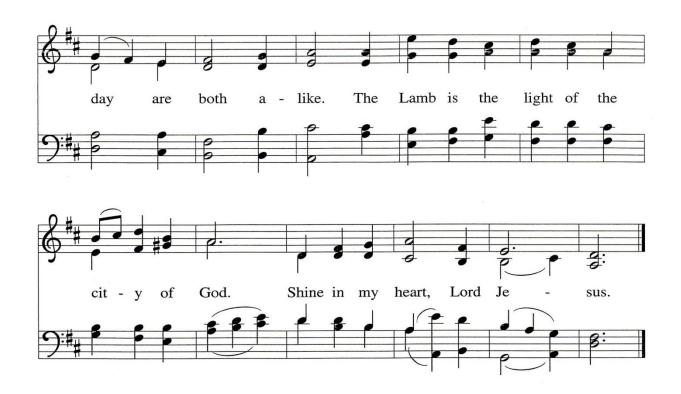
### Communion

### Lamb of God



### I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light





After all have returned to their places, please stand

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

### **Prayer after Communion**

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

### **Blessing**

God, the giver of love,

H Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

**Closing Hymn: Be Thou My Vision** 

No. 793



### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

### Thanks be to God.

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### PRAYER CONCERNS

The Family and friends of Norm Stierhoff who passed away Thursday evening; The Family and friends of Barb Wiedenheft who passed away Friday morning; Dan Miller, at Otterbein Assisted Living;

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; Shirley Miller;

the people of St. John, Union Corners and their pastor, Stacy Lauer-Scovanner; personnel of the Sandusky Post of the Ohio Highway Patrol.

### AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Interim Pastor: Pastor Ralph Schibler

Lector: Sally Warner Communion Assistant: Guy Miller

Usher: Mark Wiedenheft Acolyte: Carlie Wiedenheft

At 10:30...

Interim Pastor: Pastor Ralph Schibler

Lector: Candy Beatty
Communion Assistant: Candy Beatty
Usher: Bob Troike
Acolyte: Claire Conner

March Altar Care: Pat Wiedenheft and Candy Beatty

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God by Linda Gantz in loving memory of her father, George Bennett and sister, Diane Cherry.

**ATTENDANCE:** March 12: 46 + 31 = 77

**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 Fund. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.



### **Devotions for Lent 4**

The week of March 19th

Called to Attentiveness – As Unfinished People of God

Texts: John 9:1-41 (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14)

Theme: The man called Jesus

Look back on the past day, week, or month. Think about how you spent your time and attention. Now think about what you value, what is important to you. Did your time and attention align with your values? Were you attentive to what really matters in your life, or did other things capture, take, and hold your attention? And how were you - or are you - shaped by where your attention goes? In the story of the Man born unable to see, we find an evolution in his attentiveness. Having to repeatedly tell how he came to have sight, we discover that the more he tells his unfinished story, the less it becomes about him, and the more it becomes about Jesus. In our own unfinished lives, how does our attentiveness to who Jesus is and what Jesus does alter, change, or transform us, our stories, and our living?

Reflect upon your attentiveness:

- How do I typically decide where I invest my attention?
- What captured and held my attention today?
- Where do I wish I could have invested my attention today?
- Did my attention align with my values?
- What do I need for tomorrow?

Prayer: Turn my attention to you, O God, that I might recognize you at work in my life. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GOODNESS (Last two weeks)

General Fund - \$6,606.19 Building Improvements - \$425.00



**SUNDAY, MARCH 26 BETWEEN SERVICES** will be a brief overview of where the first aid equipment is and how to use the AED. This is open to the whole congregation. Please plan on attending this to help us all be better prepared for a health emergency here at Trinity.

**HELP IS STILL NEEDED** for operating the video equipment for Sunday Services. It would be nice to get someone from early service to help so that the kid's programs can be shown also. Please let Cathy Wobser or the church office know if you would like to help.

### **This Week at Trinity**

TODAY	Communion Service Sunday School	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am
TUESDAY	Soup Meal prior to service at Zion Lenten Service at Zion	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	"We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.)	7:00 pm
SATURDAY	"We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.)	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Worship Service Sunday School	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am

**ANOTHER CAMP** is being planned for April 7 and our focus will be on Good Friday and All of God's Creatures! So, during the month of March until Easter we will be collecting items to give to the Erie County Dog Pound. This is the wish list they have given us: **bleach, trash bags, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, fabric softener sheets, puppy food, dog collars, rawhide chewies, and old blankets, towels, or <b>sheets.** There is a large trash container in the upstairs hallway to place your donations in. We thank you in advance for helping us with this project.



**NEED TO UPDATE LECTOR AND COMMUNION ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS.** It has been brought to the attention of the church that not all who are lectors want to be communion assistants and vice versa. Signup sheets have been placed on a bulletin board in the office hallway. Please sign your name to whichever activity you would be most comfortable with. New schedules will be distributed in April. If you have any questions, you can contact Nancy Vollmer or the church office.





**EASTER MEMORIALS** If you would like to make an Easter Memorial donation in honor of or remembrance of someone but are not really interested in the flowers or chicks there is an alternative. There are blue Easter Memorial envelopes available at the front and rear of the sanctuary. Just fill out what Trinity fund you would like to make your donation to, add your memorial information and drop it in the offering plate. These will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Morning.

ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE WITNESSED THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT PROJECT SHARE. Thanks to the donations and efforts of many, the spaghetti benefit held on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a success! While serving over 300 meals, \$4800 was raised for our Margaretta School district families. Project Share is fortunate to be the recipient of your goodwill and we thank you sincerely for your assistance. God's blessings to you! His Work, Our Hands! Blessings, Grace Lutheran Church

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

### Direct Choice Dollars Online

- 1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- 2. Click Direct Choice Dollars.
- 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.
  - To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click Search.
- 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

- Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say Thrivent Choice.
- 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.)
- A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

### Want to make an even bigger impact?

Make a personal donation at <a href="mailto:thrivent.com/thriventchoice">thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.</a>\* Click <a href="Make a personal donation">Make a personal donation</a> and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click <a href="Make a Personal Donation">Make a Personal Donation</a>. 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.



# Living Gifts to Celebrate Easter Purchase Either or Both!!! Flowers for Our Sanctuary



Choose from Easter Illies, hyacinths, tulips, Calla Lilly, and daffodils, for our chancel at Easter and for your home or that of a loved one after worship. Flowers will be from Corso's.

### Baby Chicks for Families in Underdeveloped Countries

Little chicks make a big
difference! When they are just
months old, these chicks begin
laying eggs, which make
nutritious, protein-rich meals for
families who are hungry. The
many extra eggs are often enough

to allow a family to start a small business by selling them for additional income.

## Order Form on Back

# Living Easter Gifts Order Form

Please put your name on this form

No. Item

White Easter Lilies (6" pot) @ \$13

Hyacinths (6" pot) @ \$11

pink \_\_\_ blue \_\_\_ white

Tulips (6" pot) @ \$11

\_\_ red \_\_\_ pink \_\_\_ yellow

Daffodils (6" pot) @ \$14

Calla Lilly (4" pot) @ \$14

Baby Chicks @ \$1.00

TOTAL DUE (flowers/chicks)

Dedicated By \_\_\_

DEDICATION FOR EASTER BULLETIN

Make checks payable to TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH and attach to this form.

Place in the offering plate or mail or take to the church office. Paid orders are due no later than March 26!