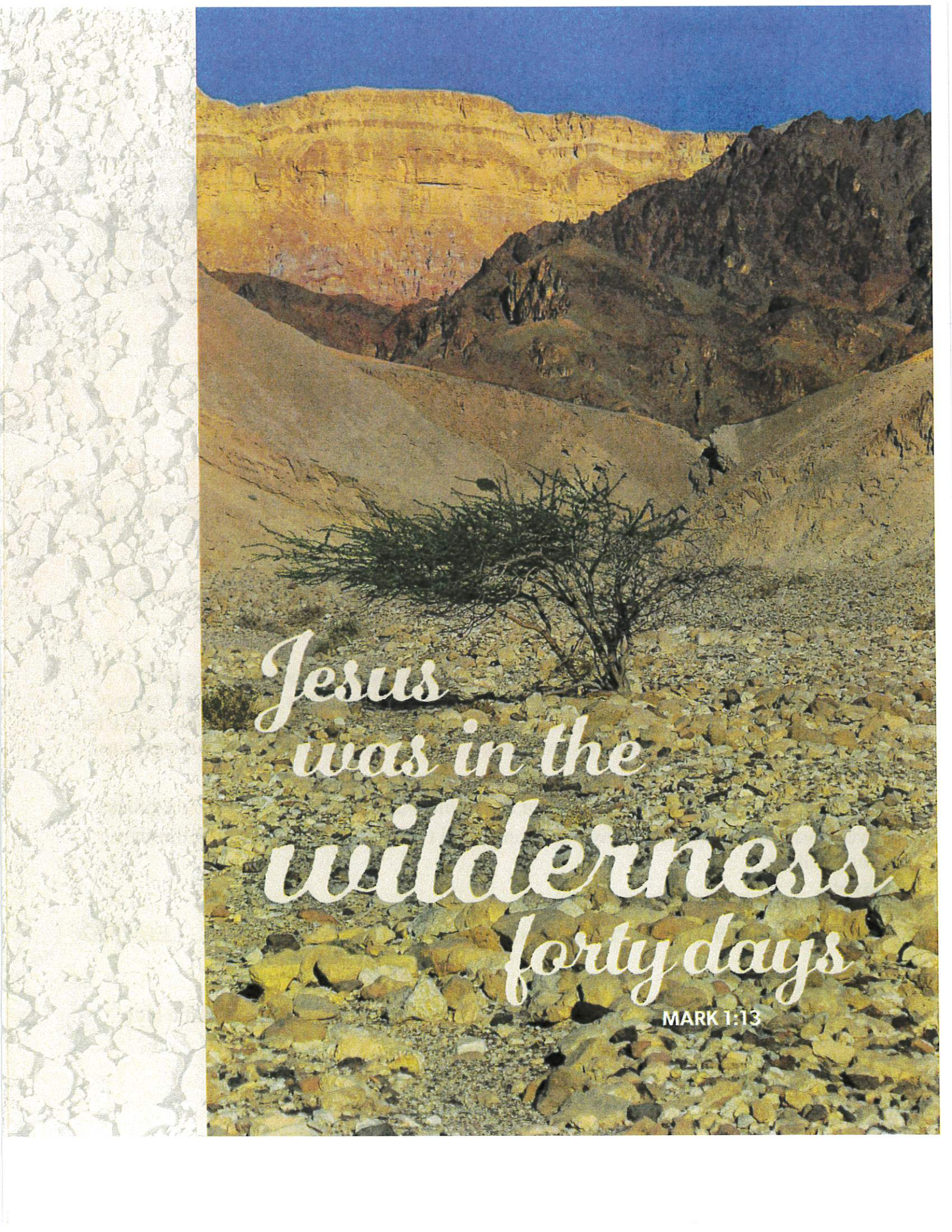




*Jesus
was in the
wilderness
forty days*

MARK 1:13



The First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 17, 2024 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, February 18, 2024 ~ 9:00am

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

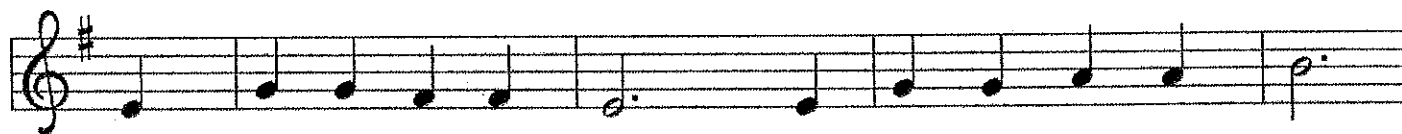
ELW #326

GREETING

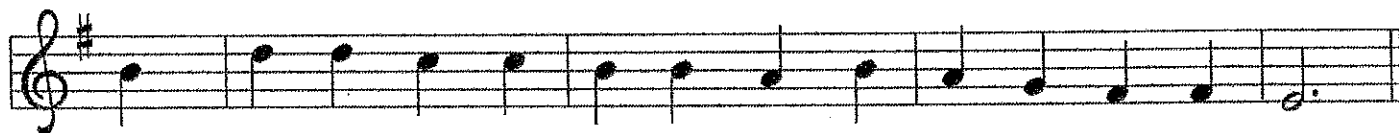
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

People of Praise

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future

generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”
¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

- ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**
⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from First Peter.

- ¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.
²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of

Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

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

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

ELW #517

APOSTLE'S 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 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 THE CHURCH

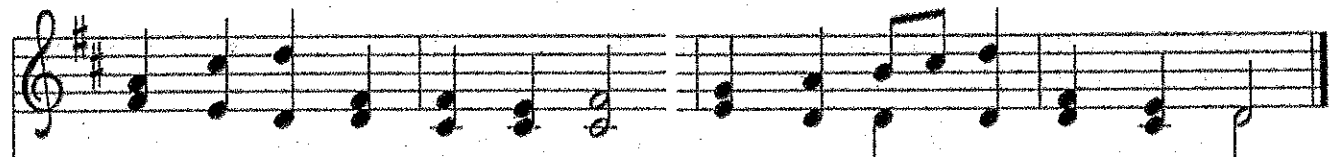
SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "Take My Life, That I May Be"



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



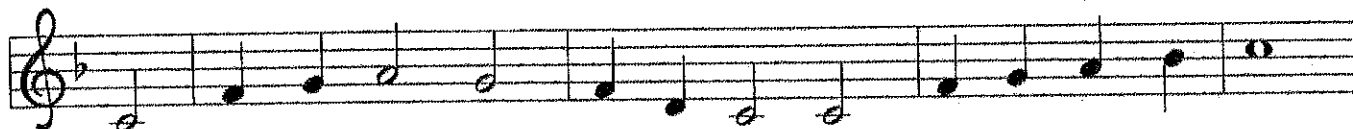
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

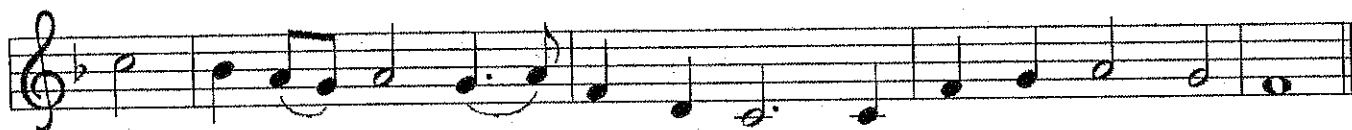
LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION SONG



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW #325

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

ELW #319

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mike & Rita Smith
Reader	Kelly Wyatt
Communion Assistant	Kelly Wyatt
Counters	Mike & Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Diane Krebs & Carol Roe
Reader	Joni Kuehl-Schneider
Communion Assistant	Joni Kuehl-Schneider
Counters	Kenny and Sue Oetzmann

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Teri Wittkowsi and Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante , & Kevin Zidarich





How Beloved You Are!

Jesus' journey to the cross and resurrection begins with his baptism. As the Church journeys with Jesus through Lent and toward Easter, we each remember our own baptism, and our life in Christ is renewed.

At the Jordan River, God stops at nothing to declare Jesus beloved. Not even the sky can cloud the message; God tears open the heavens and proclaims it loud and clear. Now each time we dip our hands into the font or trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, we remember this promise anew: "You are a beloved child of God." Nothing can separate you from God's love.

Immediately after baptism, Jesus must contend with Satan and wild beasts in the wilderness. Then, before Jesus' ministry begins, John is arrested. The Gospel of Mark doesn't give the fact more than a passing mention at this point in the story, but John's arrest and subsequent death make for a trauma that comes at a crucial moment in Jesus' life. How was Jesus able to begin his ministry after all he had been through? And how are we, who have experienced temptation, torment, or trauma, to journey on?

The journey is not easy for Jesus, and neither will it be for us. But it's amazing what is possible when you know just how beloved you are. How long must the voice of God have echoed in Jesus' mind after that baptism day! Perhaps the angels whispered in his ear as they waited on him: "You are beloved. With you God is well pleased." Every Sunday, we return to the waters because we can never have too many reminders. When times get tough, we can trust in the promises of God made to us in baptism. This is a flood that saves us. These waters bring new life out of death. God's love will stop at nothing. Today, remember just how beloved you are!

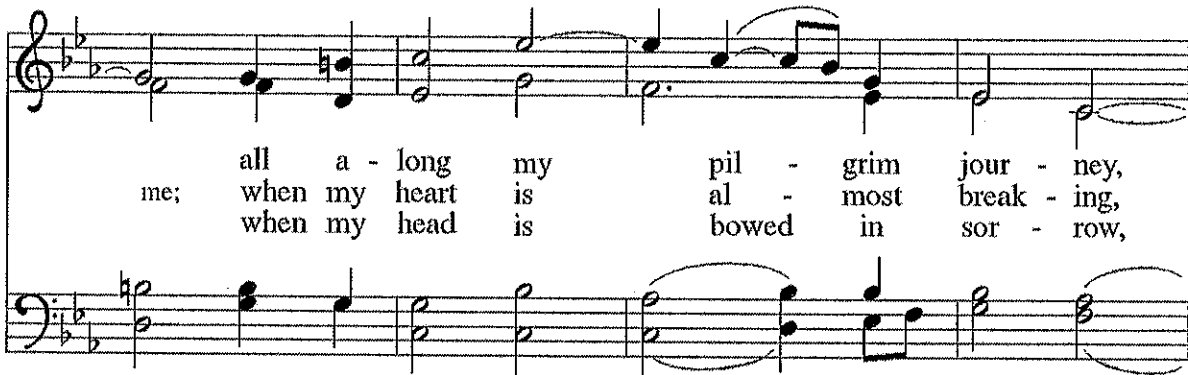
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



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;

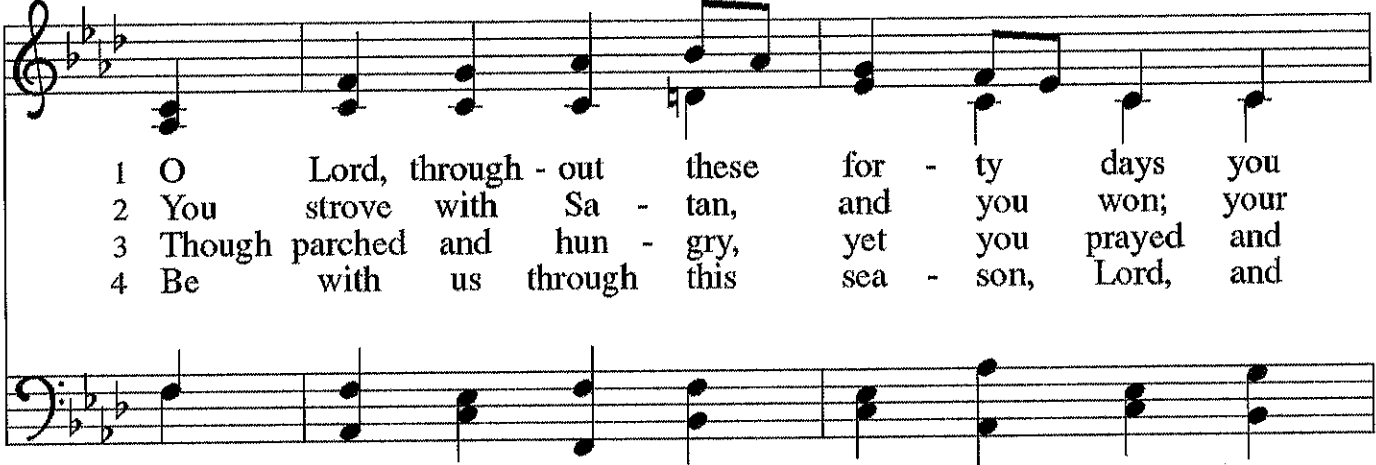


me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

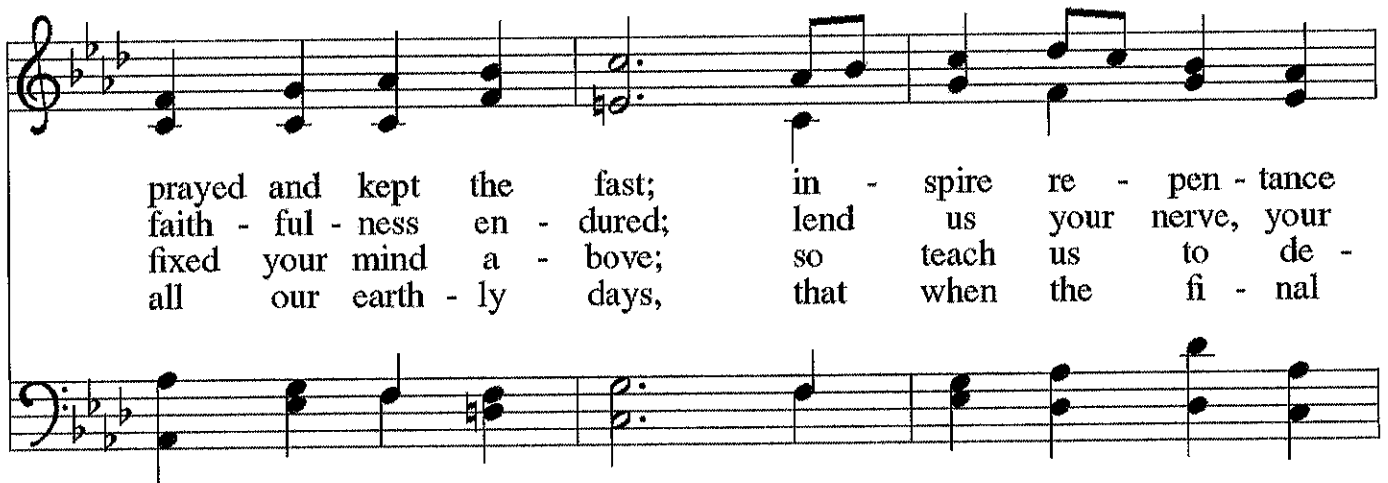


Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

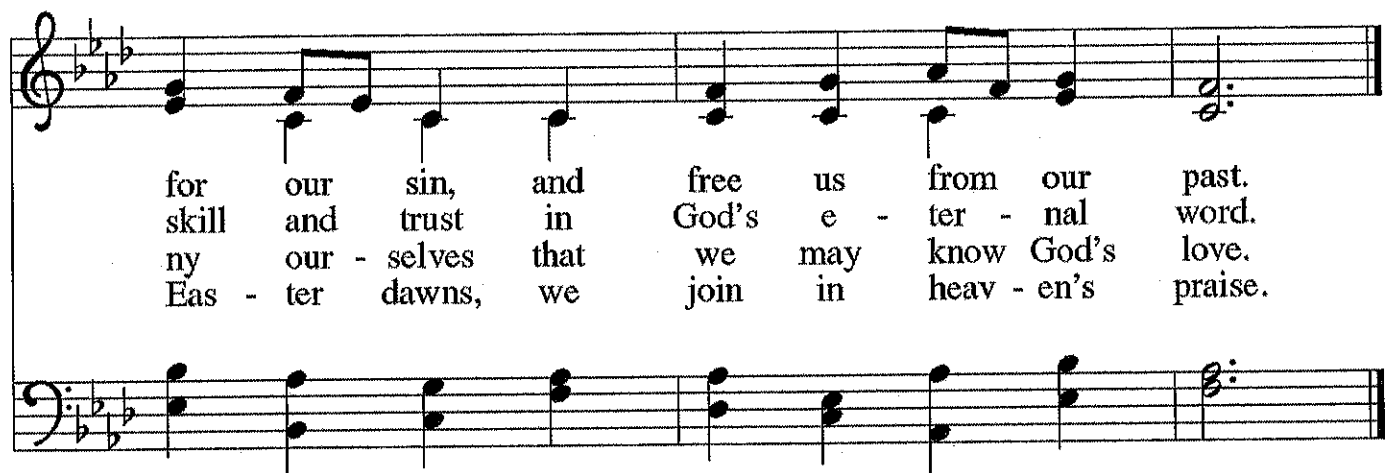
O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



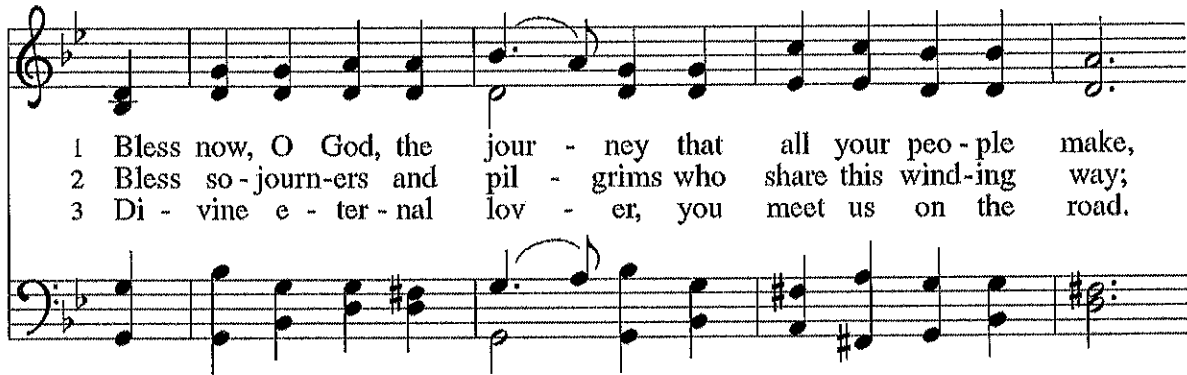
prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



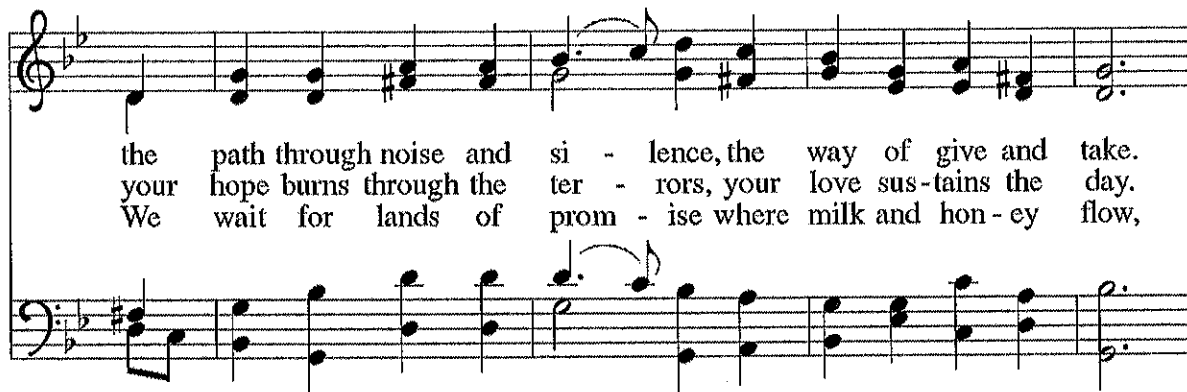
for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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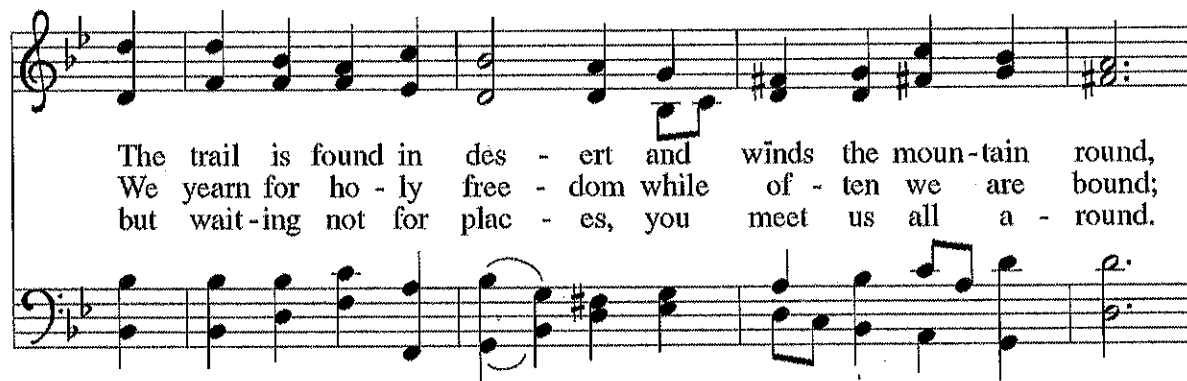
Bless Now, O God, the Journey



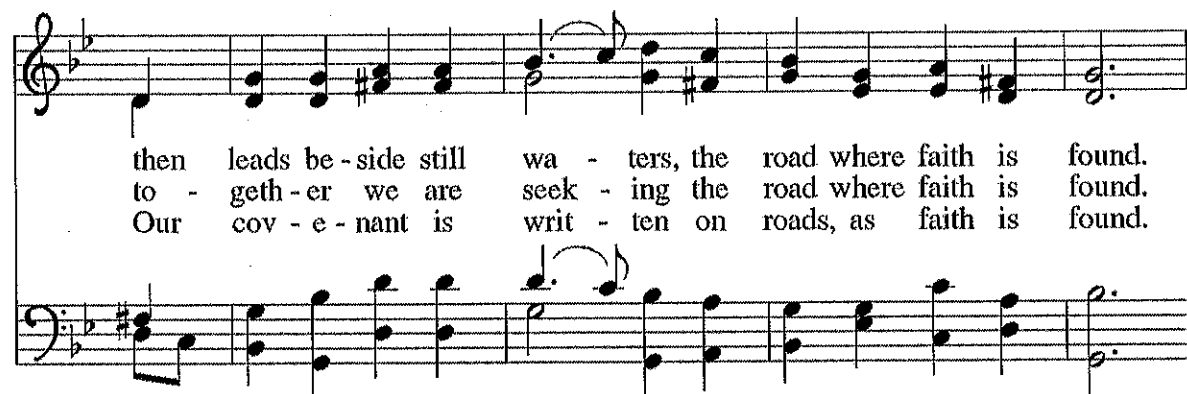
1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest
Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am
Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net



GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

The First Sunday in Lent
February 17 & 18, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheranelldridge.com.

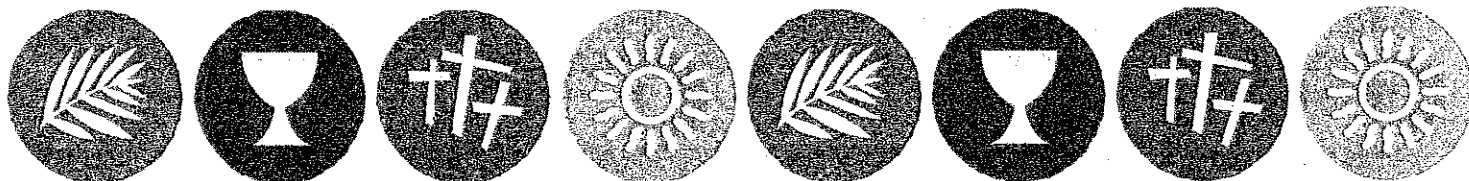
CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Dan Anderson	Sue Vogel	Glen
Sally Puls	Pam White	Andrew Arp	Kelly
Jensen Spencer	Jim St. John	Kim Pierce	Vaughn
Ann Kuehl	Carolyn Scheibe	Jeanette Myers	Shawn
Madison Russo	Maisie Knutsen	Bill Lind	Don
Janet Bowman	Jim Schneider	Pam Lueder	Tim
Kathy Stoltz	Ida Weibel	Barb Conklen	Craig
Steve Mixdorf	Ed Stoltz	Jacki Caugherty	Joyce
Duane Miller	Judy Knoer	Jim Peters	Roger
Henry Storjohann	Melissa Alden	Kathy Schultz	





WORSHIP
HELP NEEDED
for
MARCH

We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during March, especially during the Holy Week and Easter worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up. *Thank you for helping!*

Midweek Lenten Worship

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. It begins with an ashen sign of mortality and sin. Bright colors turn to deep purples, alleluias fall silent, and we ponder what to give up this year. Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Bells ring, alleluias echo, white and gold shine brightly, and every single candle is lit. Jesus is risen, and so are the daffodils, hyacinths, and lilacs. Joy clearly belongs to Easter.

Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter? A joyful Lent is not an oxymoron. As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent—and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward God's unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.

During the season of Lent, we will explore how joy is planted, tended, nurtured and nourished by God and God's people through the scripture readings assigned for each week. Each Wednesday, during our Lenten Evening Prayer Service, we will use Holden Evening Prayer and will respond to readings from the previous Sunday using a different devotional practice to help provide fertile ground to explore the seed of joy. The theme and practice for each week will be:

Week 1: Persistent Joy—*Lectio Divina*

Week 2: Expectant Joy—Honest Prayers

Week 3: Liberating Joy—Embodied Prayer

Week 4: Transformative Joy—Praying the News

Week 5: Vocational Joy—Vocational Prayer

Holy Week will focus on "Joy Everywhere and Nowhere," and Easter will finally erupt in "Glorious Joy."

There will also be an accompanying daily devotion guide that will guide us through the covenants of God as we explore scripture's lead to explore the different textures and colors of joy each week. With the exception of the brief half-week at the beginning of the season, each week's devotions are structured by the regular practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving using a journal or through reflection or conversation, whatever works best for you and your life. Sundays will reflect on the scripture. Mondays will invite you the practice a kind of prayer to connect to a specific aspect of joy. Tuesdays will provide a prompt for journaling that suggests how you might ask for God's help. Wednesdays provide a suggestion for a fast, not from food, but to help you focus on what you already have rather than what you have given up. Thursdays return to the journal with prompts for how to direct thanksgiving to God. Fridays invite you to respond to God's work in your life by giving time, talent or treasure in a way that honors the week's exploration of joy. Saturdays invite you to connect with creation to learn how to "tell forth the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

We hope that you will join us on this Lenten journey as we seek that God-given joy that is richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness.



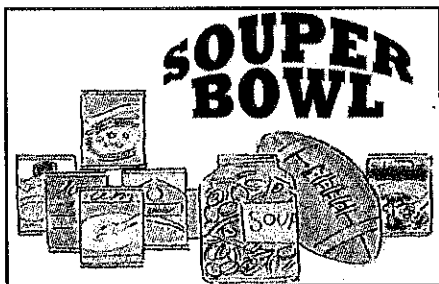
Ushers and those interested in becoming Ushers...

The Ushers have a important role in the safety and security of our church. Part of our safety plan requires quarterly training for the Ushers. Quarterly training will be held on **Sunday, March 3 @ 10:15 am** in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend!
Contact Tom Bauer for more information.

Service in the World Events

Compassion Children and Missionary Sponsorships

Our thanks to everyone who has sponsored our Compassion children, John and Denisse, as well as our missionary team, the Bencke family, during the past year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our Compassion children receive support in the form of nutrition supplementation, education assistance, medical checkups and loving Christian care. There are opportunities now available to sponsor an upcoming month for 2024. The sign up form is on the bulletin board and on our website. Thank you for your past and future support.



RESULTS of the Souper Bowl Challenge

KC Chiefs	22 items
SF 49ers	25 items
50 Yard Line	<u>10 items</u>
TOTAL	<u>57 items = 26 lbs!</u>

Thank you for helping us collect items for the NS Food Pantry through this fun challenge!
~ Service in the World Team



It is time for snow removal volunteers! If you are able to help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online using the link on our web site:
www.faithlutheranelldridge.com. **Thank you for your help!**



February 10 & 11: 5pm: 47, 9am:64, Online: 40, Total:151
Ash Wednesday: 7pm: 84. Online: 20, Total 104

Saturday, February 17

11:00 am
5:00 pm

Private Event
Worship In Sanctuary
& Online



Sunday, February 18

9:00 am
10:15 am
10:15 am

Worship In Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour
Sunday School

Monday, February 19

Office Closed

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am
1:00 pm
5:15 pm
5:30 pm

Quilting
Bible Study
Resounding Joy
Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 21

5:00 pm
5:30 pm
5:45 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

Confirmation Dinner
Confirmation Conversations
Pre Confirmation
People of Praise
Worship Service
Youth Group

Thursday, February 22

6:30 pm

WOF Bible Study

Friday, February 23

9:30 am

Food Pantry

Saturday, February 24

(Noisy Offering Weekend)

11:00 am
5:00 pm

Private Event
Worship In Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, February 25

(Noisy Offering Weekend)

9:00 am
10:15 am
10:15 am

Worship In Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour
Sunday School



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office **Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.**