# The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle.



Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days and sustains us with the gift of grace. C: Amen.
- *P*: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.
- P: Holy God,
- C: 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.
- P: 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. C: Amen.

## \*OPENING HYMN

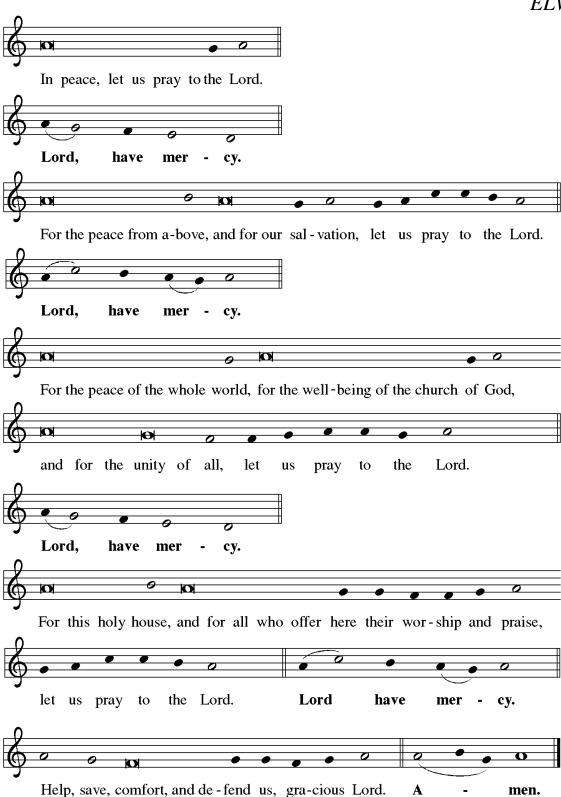
The Lord's My Shepherd

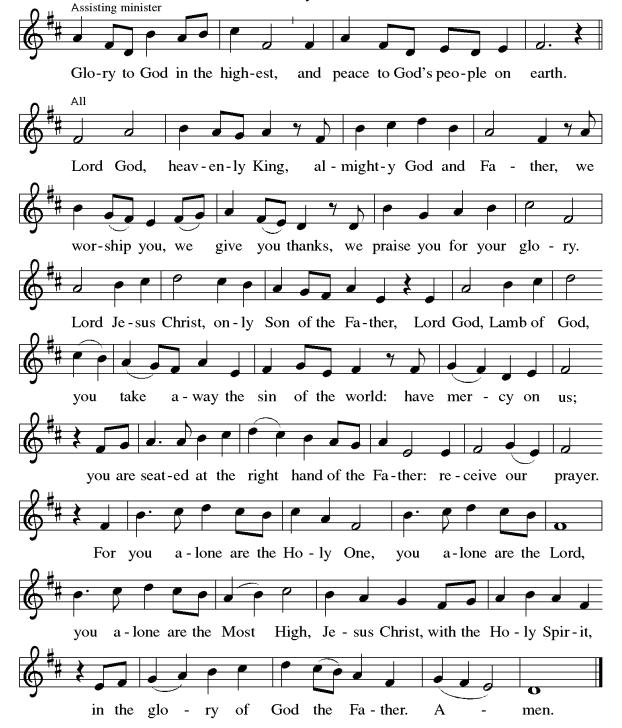
ELW # 778

## **GREETING**

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

KYRIE ELW # S 147





## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... 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. C: Amen.

## FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The 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." <sup>2</sup>Samuel 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.' <sup>3</sup>Invite 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." <sup>4</sup>Samuel 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?" <sup>5</sup>He 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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

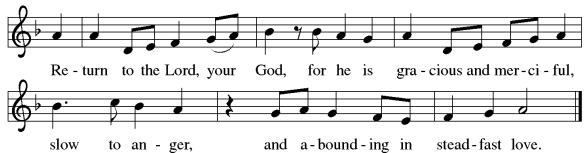
# **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<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."

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW # S 151b



# \**P*: Gospel: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

# C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>5</sup>As 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, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8The 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?" Some 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." <sup>12</sup>They 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**HOMILY**\*HYMN OF THE DAY Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
ELW # 779

# \*The Apostles' CREED

- A: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: 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

- A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: 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, C: receive our prayer.
- A: 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, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: 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. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: 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. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- A: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.
- P: 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. C: Amen.

#### \*THE PEACE

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

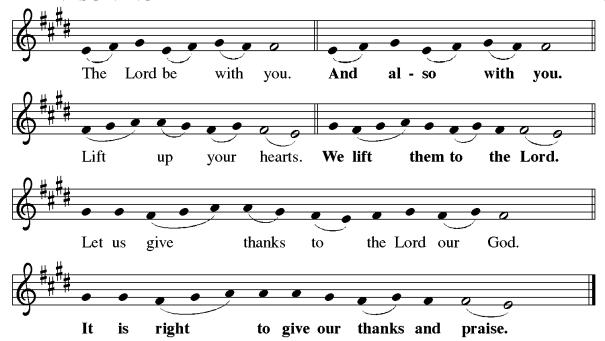
#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray ... Receive our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. C: Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

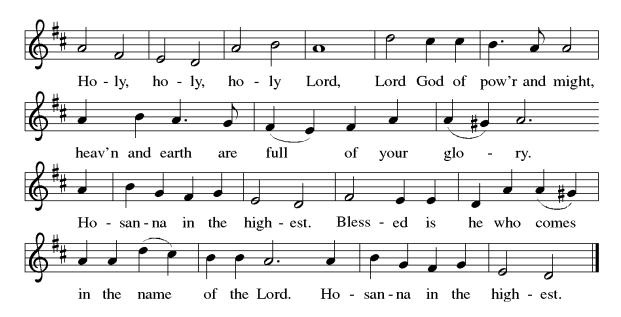
S 152



## **PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

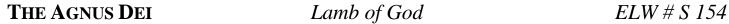
Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

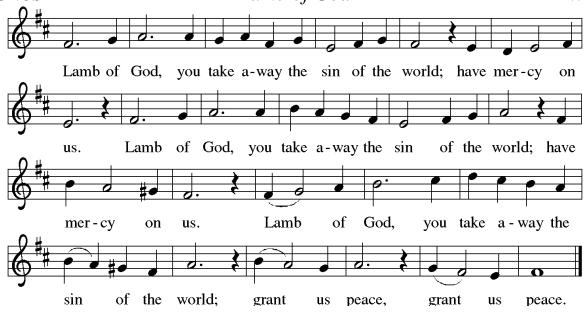
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: **Amen.** 

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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





#### **INVITATION**

*P*: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

#### **BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray...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. C: Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

\*SENDING SONG

I Bind unto Myself Today

ELW # 450

# **Dismissal**

*P*: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

# **Martinsburg Food Pantry**

Volunteers distribute items on the first and third Thursday of every month. The food pantry will be open to distribute from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.

**The March items most needed are**: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta or Rice Sides, Canned Fruit, and Scalloped Potatoes. These or any items can be placed in the basket at church. Thank You! *Linda Smith* 

The 2023 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00.

Dates available: 5/21, 6/4, 7/2, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17. If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

**Council Secretary** is needed for Council meetings. Council meets via Zoom or in the Window Room once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider filling this position that is required in our Constitution and By Laws.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl & Dawn Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Melissa Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, Cindy Thomas, John Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.

Add Bradley Buchart to your prayers as he is now in the Marines.

# **Prayer Vigil**



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April  $7^{th}$ , from 6:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous

prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 793-2413.

# Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist - Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family - On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Lector – Youth

Our Acolyte – Norah Kuster

Our Assisting Minister – Youth

Our Altar Guild - Cindy Snyder, Jeannie Smith

Our Usher – Youth, Mike Lamborn

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

**Annual Directories** are now located on a table in the Narthex. Please take your directory with you. If you know a homebound member has a directory in the box, please take it to them.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** are now available. You can find them in your bulletins, at the usher's station or in the church office.

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413

**Office Hours** 

Pastor Traci – Wed. – 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Lori Tremmel – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## **This Week Events**

**Today** – Worship/Youth Sunday Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall in use 12:00 p.m.

Monday – Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Employee Meeting, Fellowship Hall 10:00 a.m.

Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Service, Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

Thursday - Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

#### Mid-Week Lenten Meals & Services

The Fellowship Committee announced that mid-week Lenten Meals will again be offered on Wednesdays prior to the service. The meal consisting of soup and sandwich will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Below is the schedule for menus, and the committee who will prepare and serve the meal:

March 22 Chili and Corn Bread - Council

March 29 Broccoli Cheese Soup & Ox Roast Sandwiches - Social Ministry Committee

The Social Ministry Committee would like to take soup to the homebound on Thursdays during the season of Lent. A list of homebound members is in place. However, if you would like someone to deliver soup to you, please contact the church office to have your name placed on the list.

**Dr. Adam Smith's** birthday was missed in the March Messenger. Give him a warm birthday wish today, March 19.

## **Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)**

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2022 and as a result has \$6,056.37 for distribution in 2023. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting one of the committee members: Beth Garner, Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 28, 2023. Funds will be distributed in June 2023.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

#### **PURPOSE**

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as, Cash, Securities, Bequests through wills or living trusts, Life insurance policies, charitable gift annuity and Life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

## **USE OF THE FUND**

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

- 1. Youth of all ages scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
- 2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
- 3. Worship and Music support for the worship of St, Matthew.
- 4. Capital Projects major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.



# Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 2, 2023

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2nd, 2023, following the 10:30AM worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the congregation to vote on upgrading the chairlift between the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary levels of the building to a platform lift capable of accommodating a wheelchair.

The Property Committee received three bids for this project:

101 Mobility \$33,485.00 Butler Mobility \$34,437.00 Garaventa Lift USA \$25,250.00

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Council voted to present the bid by Garaventa Lift USA for a congregational vote.

Full copies of the three bids are available in the church office; please call the church office at 814-793-2413 between the hours of 9AM and 12PM, Monday to Friday, to arrange a time to view the bids or to request digital copies.



#### **Easter Flowers**

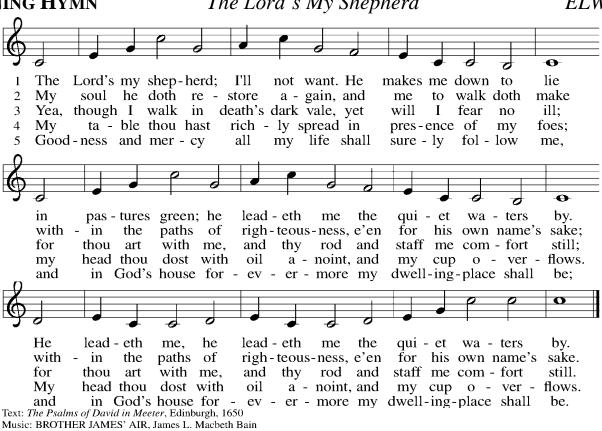
We are offering a variety of flowers to enhance our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to place flowers in the church for Easter Sunday, please complete the form below and return it to Margie Smith by placing in her mailbox OR, place the form in an envelope and then in the offering plate. Your check should be made **payable** to

# "St. Matthew Flower Fund."

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 27, 2023.

Given by		
In Memory of		
OR		
In Honor of		
I would like:  6½" Tulips \$10.00  Assortment	6" Daffodils \$10.00	6" Hyacinth \$10.00 White, Pink or
		Purple
I will pick up my flo	wer after Sunday.	
TOTA	AL ENCLOSED \$	





Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

be

God's praise than

as

long

when

as

we'd

life

first

en

be

dures.

gun.

tion

por

day

deep salt

of

doom,

sea,

Ι

a -

bind

round

un

the

to

old

my - self to - day. e - ter - nal rocks.



Text: attr. Patrick, 372–466; para. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE, sts. 1–3, 5: Irish melody. DEIRDRE, st. 4: Irish melody