



The 4th Sunday in Lent 2026

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

The fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally called 'Gaudete' or 'Joy' Sunday from the theme of the readings. In the days of severe Lenten fasts this would be a day to loosen the fast a little, have a day to feast... just a little in anticipation of the celebration of Easter.

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book, and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

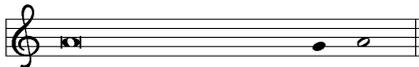
Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

Gathering

PRAYER AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *A time for prayerful preparation. Please stand in body or spirit at pastor's invitation.*

THE KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



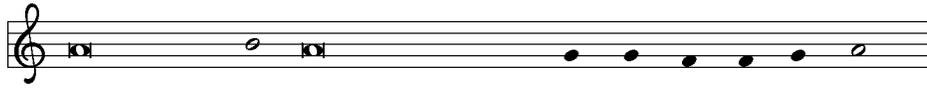
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CONFESSION

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, sovereign of the universe,
for you have preserved us and brought us to this day. **Blessed be God forever!**

The sacrifice God desires is a contrite and ready heart;
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love.

Silence for reflection

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings.

**We have neglected your holy word;
we keep 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.

**Through our Lenten journey renew us, O Lord
that we may grow as disciples of Christ
and live out our faith according to your purpose. Amen.**

WE SING THE GATHERING SONG #752, ELW LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray: *the Prayer of the Day is offered and concludes:* one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

THE FIRST READING is from 1 Samuel, the 16th chapter. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

¹ 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." ² 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.'" ³ 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." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ 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.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ 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." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ 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." ¹² 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." ¹³ 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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 is read responsively.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **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.**

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

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from Ephesians, the 5th chapter. (Ephesians 5:8-14)

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to John, the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** (John 9:1-41)

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The 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?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He 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.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ 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 ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ 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.” ²² 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. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ 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?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ 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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

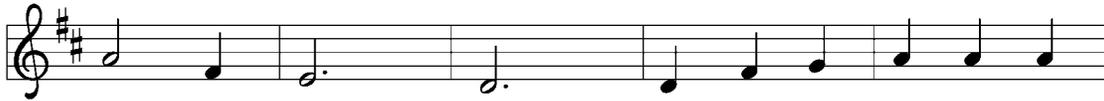
The Gospel Acclamation repeats.

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY #815, ELW I WANT TO WALK



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

Following the hymn, please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

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 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**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the world, our community, and all in need of healing and wholeness from God. Each petition concludes: ... Holy One, receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to bring wholeness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you". Please feel free to step out of your pew and greet one another as you are comfortable: a handshake or a wave, a hug or a hand placed over your heart. Following the peace, please be seated.

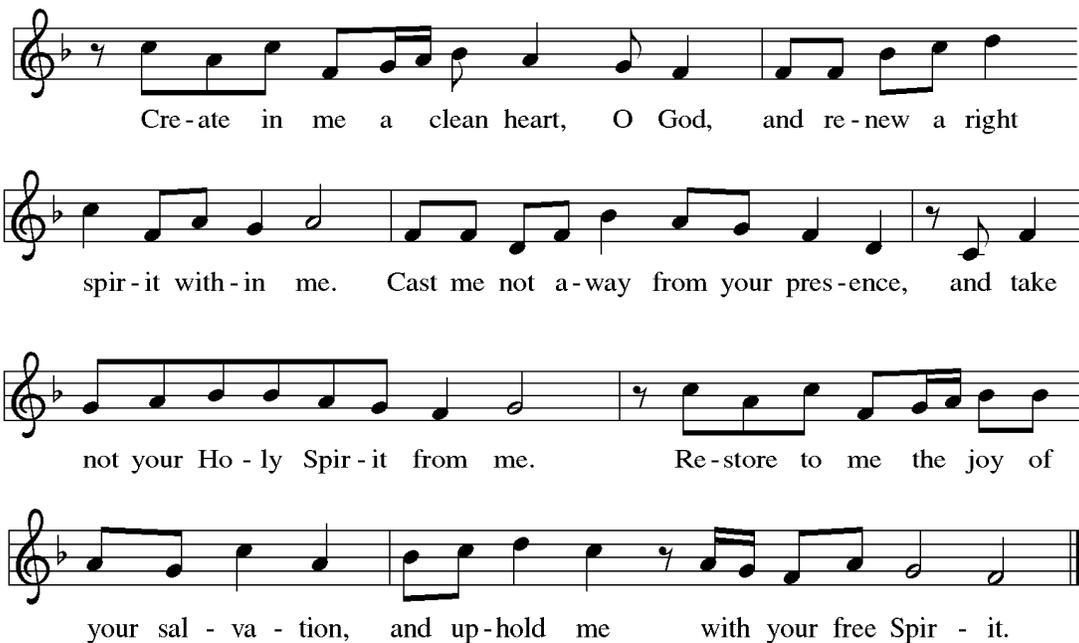
COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS/ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. The ushers will be gathering the offering. In-house or joining us online, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given online at christpipersville.org, using the QR code, or mailed.



PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

As the offering is presented, we stand and sing the OFFERTORY.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. –*Silence*– Father,

**All we call our own comes from You,
gifts of Your mercy and a sign of your love.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,**

**draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Table is prepared as we pray and prepare our hearts.

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 our duty and our joy to give you thanks O God

For you created us in your own image,
and blessed us with all we could ever want or need.

When we turned away, you reached across sin and separation.
and sent your Son clothed in our humanity.

He reached out to the hurting, the ill and the outcast
in compassion and healing, calling all people to repent, and come to your mercy.

On the cross Jesus was obedient to your will and on him are the wounds that make us whole.

For 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.

O God strengthen us as we gather around your Table

Giving You all praise and glory in the Spirit

as we pray with trust and hope for the coming of the Kingdom in the prayer our Savior gave 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;
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.**

AGNUS DEI... "Just As I Am," ELW #592 verses 1 & 3

**Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are we who are called to his table.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

THE COMMUNION

We believe Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation that you wish. Those online are communed, followed by the musicians. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer.

The hymn during communion is #481, Come to the Table:



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Sending

When all have communed, the Table is cleared. Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. -*Silence*- Holy God, loving Father:

**You have welcomed us to your Table,
and we have been fed and forgiven.**

**In this Lenten journey strengthen us to be faithful in prayer,
refreshed by fasting, and generous in charity,
going into the world blessed to be a blessing.**

In the name of Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MISSION, MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Silence for reflection. Please be seated. Following the announcements, at pastor's invitation, please stand.

THE BENEDICTION

May Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

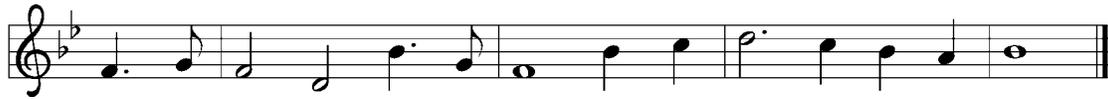
WE SING THE SENDING SONG ELW #623, ROCK OF AGES



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

DISMISSAL & SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

The Rev. Marie Caron, Pastor

Mrs. Kim Campbell, Council President

Mrs. Cynthia Carper, Parish Secretary

215. 766. 8730

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WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MARCH WEB SITE is sponsored by Pastor Caron and Michael Clement in honor and memory of

Pastor's father, David Caron, and Mike's grandfather, Dominic Amicone.

LECTOR:

FELLOWSHIP: Debra Moench

WE WELCOME Debra Bacak as our organist this morning and thank her for her musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Susan Jura (H,R), Marilyn Gruver (Safety in Doha) and the family and friends of Jytte Lippert Vogeley (esp. Lippert, Allison & Vogeley families) as they mourn her death. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS AT NOON - Brown Bag Table Talk & Quiet Communion: Each person brings their own lunch and place settings as needed. We take the Lenten theme deeper, sharing, learning, laughing around the table.

LENT COIN OFFERING – Our Lent coin offering has been designated for The Lord's Pantry. Special jar lids and envelopes for this purpose can be picked up on the table in the hallway.

A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED to coordinate the set-up, food, clean-up, etc. for this year's Easter morning breakfast at 8 a.m. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Pastor Caron or the church office to volunteer. You may also sign-up on the bulletin board to provide food items for the breakfast.

EASTER FLOWER AND REMEMBRANCE FORMS are available on the table with the bulletins. The cost for flowers is \$6 and you have a choice of red or yellow tulips or white lilies. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. The deadline for placing your orders is Sunday, March 22nd.

DELEGATES NEEDED FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY – This year's Synod Assembly will be held on May 29 & 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale. We need one female and one male delegate to represent our congregation. Please let Pastor Caron or the church office know if you are interested in attending. Thank you.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

The Week of March 15th at a Glance

- Sun. 03/15 The 4th Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
- Tues. 03/17 Happy Birthday, Diane Allison!
Happy Birthday, Jim Campbell!
- Wed. 03/18 11:00AM Ensemble
12 noon Lenten Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch & Communion
Happy Birthday, Amy Zearfoss!
- Thur. 03/19 8:30AM Morning Prayer, NO Bible Study (resumes April 16)
Happy Anniversary, James and Cindy Carper!
- Fri. 03/20 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
- Sat. 03/21 4:00PM Wedding Rehearsal
Happy Birthday, Cindy Brutsche!
- Sun. 03/22 The 5th Sunday in Lent
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
2:30PM Wedding – Andrew Snyder and Gabriella Swope