

Sunday, April 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an (you!) rises daily from the deadly mine of

apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

Coffee Hour. We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801 Church Office: 516-931-0710 (*email* ststephenoffice@msn.com) Mason Griffin, Minister of Music Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com) Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Gracious God, C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

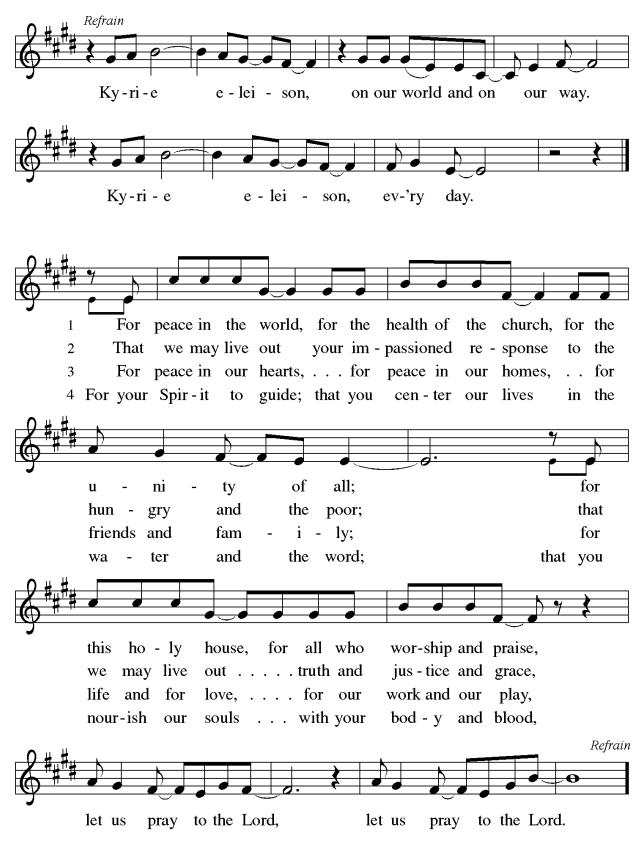
P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

ENTER IN SILENCE

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C Amen.

+ **WORD** +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 126

The psalm for the day is read responsively

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

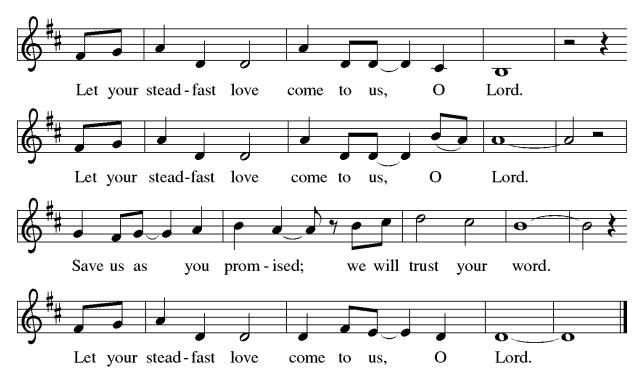
SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ...The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

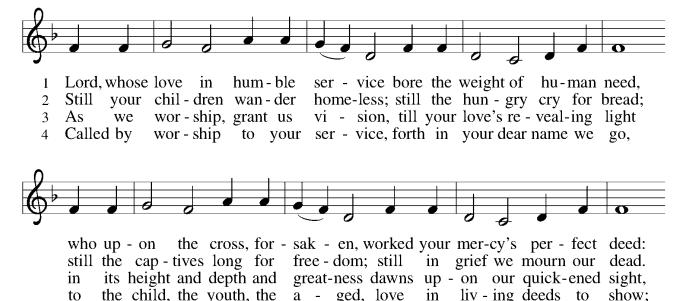
P The holy gospel according to John. C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)





we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole. stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share. that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

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.

INSTALLATION AND BLESSING OF OUR CALL COMMITTEE

P The following people have been called to serve on the Call Committee: Bill Artus, Kevin Dolan, Brianna Feeney, Joan Hagner, Rich Humann, Tanya Maurer, Rick Mosebach and Maureen O'Brien.

We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mission together as a congregation.

A A reading from First Corinthians.

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

P You have been called and elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been called? If so, respond: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Call Committee members respond, then the assembly is invited to stand. P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these sisters and brothers, your appointed leaders, in their service? Will you support them through prayer, as we share in the mutual ministry Christ has given us?

C We will, and we ask God to help us.

P I now declare you installed as Call Committee members. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C Amen!

We now continue our service with the Prayers of Intercession

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Maureen O'Brien (4/9); Paul Portz (4/12)

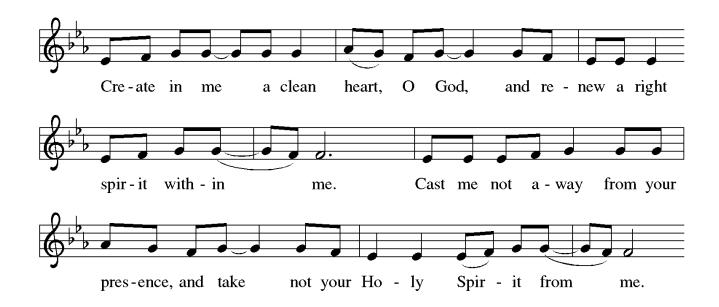
BIRTHDAY SONG

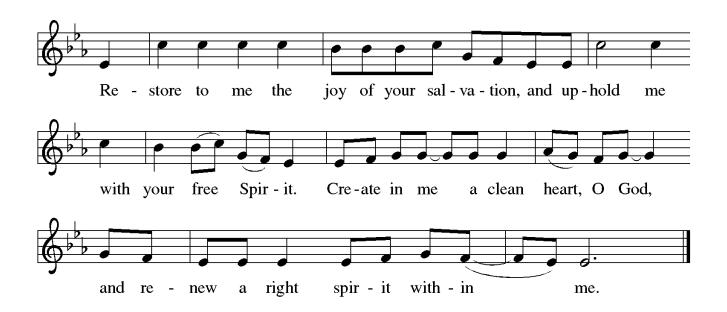
He who began a good work in you (2x) Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x) He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 185)





OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C Amen.

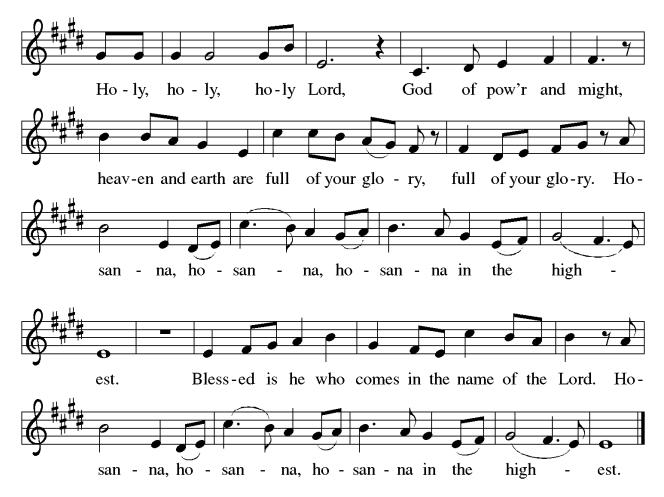
GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C 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. 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 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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

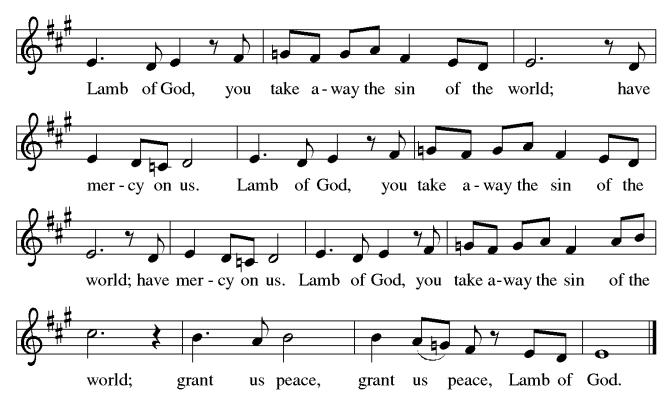
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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; 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 TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: You Are Mine (ELW 581)



14



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C Amen.

+ SENDING +

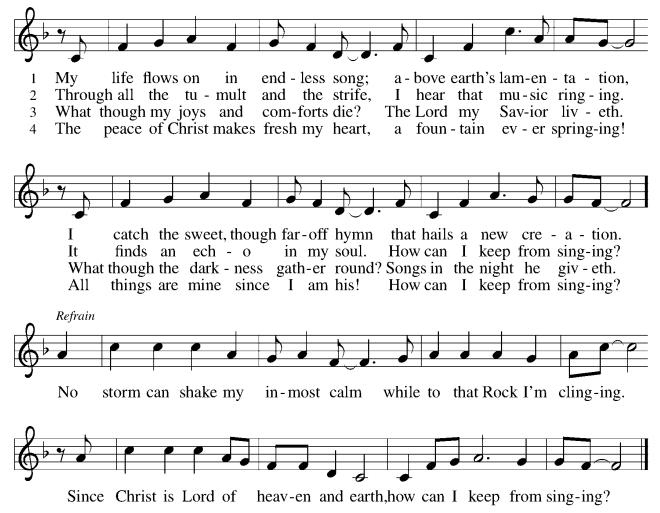
BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. C Amen.

SENDING SONG: My Life Flows On in Endless Song (ELW 763)



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you. C Thanks be to God.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

"I am doing a new thing." Thus God admonishes us as we enter the last week of Lent: prepare yourselves, for something you have not imagined is about to happen. The day that is coming will not be like any former day. It will come fresh and dazzling as a bright sunrise after a lifetime of drizzle and gloom. The new thing that is almost upon us will relativize everything—even our best preparations. For God is bringing us out of the isolation created by sin, into a communion of the forgiven. No matter how many times we experience it, no matter now many times we celebrate the repentance, Eucharist, and Easter, the forgiving embrace of God always comes upon us as brand new, totally unexpected, awesome in its revelation of ourselves and all others as beloved children of God.—*Mary Frohlich*

Upcoming Commemoration

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Announcements for the week of April 6, 2025

Celebrations in April

~ We welcome Pastor Rakoczy and thank her for leading us in worship this morning.



Happy

April 9th ~ *Maureen O''Brien April* 12th ~ *Paul Portz*

April 28th ~ Christel & Donald LaVorgna



JOIN US FOR SERVICES!

Palm Sunday ~ April 13 at 9:30 am Good Friday ~ April 18 at 7:30 pm Easter Sunday ~ April 20 at 9:00 am

** PALM SUNDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY READERS NEEDED **

Our Palm Sunday and Good Friday services call for multiple readers to share the day's story. Be an important part of our service and volunteer!

The sign-up sheets and readings for Palm Sunday and Good Friday are in the Narthex. *When you sign up for a part, please be sure to take the appropriate reading so you can practice before the big day*!

Speak with Barbara if you have questions.

CHANGE OF WORSHIP TIME

 \sim Pastor Moira Ahearne has been appointed as our stated supply pastor, leading us in worship every Sunday beginning on Easter Sunday when we will begin worshipping at 9:00am. We will continue with a 9:00am worship time until further notice.

 \sim We are pleased to welcome our new Parish Administrator, Kate Lenzo who will be in the office every day from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

~ Easter Plant Offering and Dedications ~ it's once again time to get your Easter plant offering and dedications in. Forms with complete instructions can be found on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 516/931-0710. **Deadline: Sunday, April 6th.**

~Lutheran Social Services has once again invited us to provide **Easter Food Baskets** to their New Life Center. A list of requested food items can be found on the table in the Narthex.

~ Lutheran Bible Study – Significant Themes of the Lenten Season Mondays beginning March 10th through April 7th at 7pm

Join zoom meeting <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976673296?</u> Pwd=liImhFtFMUnTUPBo3b8YFZjDtidkUp.1 Meeting ID: 819 7667 3296 Passcode: 779639

~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge. If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

~Boy Scout Troop 291 will be holding their **Family Pasta Night** on April 27th at 4:00. Ticket / reservation forms can be found on the table in the narthex.

 \sim A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (April 6th - April 12th)

Today	Fifth Sunday in Lent	
	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	H.S.S. Yoga
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Back to Basics
Wednesday	7:00 pm	N.A.
Next Sunday	Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday	

9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

	Sunday, 9:30 am
ASSISTING MINISTER:	Barbara Barcavage
LECTOR:	Dave Staton
ACOLYTE:	Gavin Barone
USHERS:	Kevin Barcavage
ACCOMPANIST	Mason Griffin
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Lauren & Bill Artus

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. <u>Please remember to keep the office updated.</u>

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Vinny Aiello Bill Artus Lauren Artus Dottie Eberhardt Jane Ebersberger Barbara Engert Richard Engert Roger Engert Pastor Ron Klose Claire and John Parrett Ilona Riggers

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz) Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien) James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger) Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn) Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer) John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna) Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz) Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson) William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family) Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family) Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family) John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger) Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family) Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien) Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger) Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation) John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)