

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023

February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *The Glory of These Forty Days* (ELW 320)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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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 (ELW p. 98)

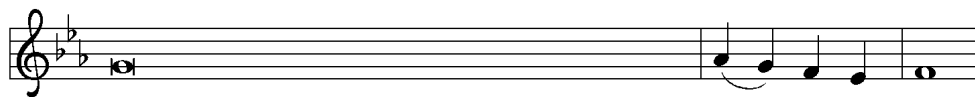
(Sung responsively between cantor and congregation)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



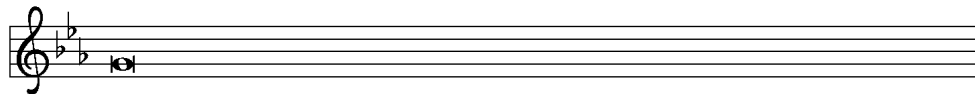
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



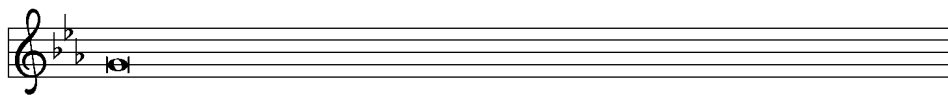
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *JESUS, SAVIOR*

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

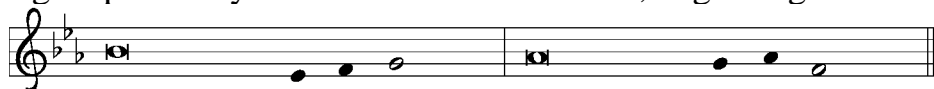
^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

(Sung responsively between women and men, beginning with the women.)



¹Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you.”

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from Romans.

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of

righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (W&P 27) *Cares Chorus*

C G/B Am CM⁷/G

I cast all my cares up-on you; I

F C/E Dm Gsus G

lay all of my bur - dens down at your feet. And

C G/B C/B^b F/A Fm/A^b

an-y - time that I don't know what to do, I will

C²/G C/G G⁷ sus G⁷ F/C C

cast all my cares up-on you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BARB

HYMN OF THE DAY *When We Are Tested* (ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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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 (*Please respond.*)

P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY *Come to the Table* (W&P 33)



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.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all 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.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

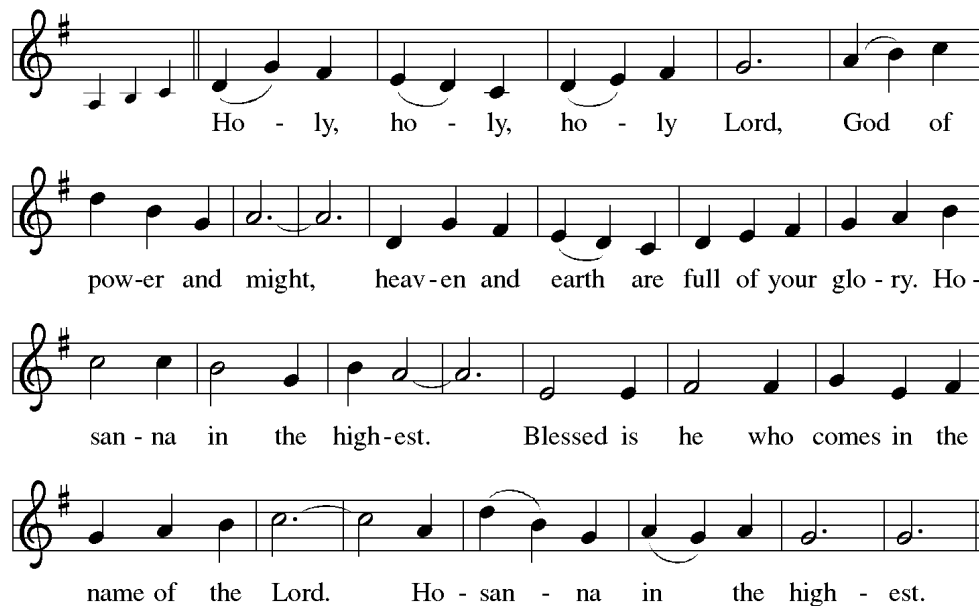
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
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 (ELW p. 108)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

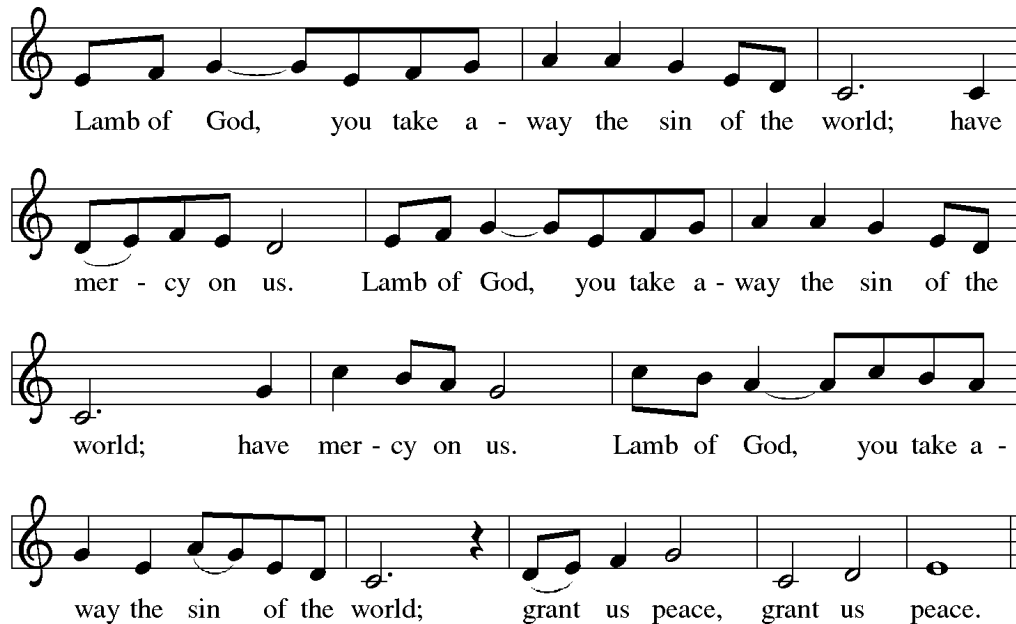
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)* (ELW 785)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 113)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)



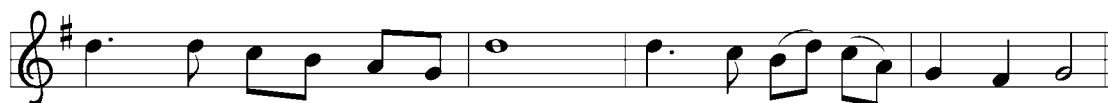
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

SENDING IN SERVICE

Go in peace. Serve in love.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Rev. Barb Barry
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Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Janice McEntire
Acolyte	Sam Mull
Lector.....	Sam Mull
Securing Offering	Becky Mull & Wayne Norman
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Mull
Communion Clean-Up	Becky Mull
Communion Bread	Linda Berberich
Communion Assist	Becky Mull & Peggi Norman
Attendance last Sunday	47

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of my husband, Wayne Dale on his 78th birthday given by Marjorie Dale.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following: *Virginia Detwiler, Terry Fell, Callie Mummert, Bernie Harris, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Doc Ensinger, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Phyllis Brehm, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Clayton Schwartz, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

Mar 01 - Psalm Bible Study 10AM, Lent Svc 5:30PM

Mar 02 - Choir 7PM

Help is needed to prepare and serve food for March 16 and March 18. See sign up sheets in Sunday School room.

The April/May/June edition of the Our Daily Bread is available in the pamphlet rack in the Narthex.

Bowling & Pizza Party – *Congregation Members are invited.* Saturday, March 25, 2023 – Nellie Fox Bowling 3:00- 5:00 & Vince’s in Marion for Pizza. We have 4 lanes reserved. Cost: 55.00 per lane for 2 hrs. (6 per lane). Christian Ed will pay for all Youth bowling & pizza. Sign-up sheet in Sunday School Room.

Join us today for Solomon’s Relay for Life Team Fund Raiser Luncheon. Menu: Hot Turkey Sandwiches, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Cranberry Salad and Dessert. *Donations accepted.* We appreciate your support of our Solomon’s Relay for life Team.

Easter Flower Orders: We will be ordering Easter flowers from Lurgan Greenhouse. Yellow daffodils (6” pot) \$7.00; red, yellow, or purple tulips (6 bulbs) \$7.00; and white lilies \$8.00 will be available. Flowers can be picked up after Easter service on April 9 or the following week during office hours. Orders must be received by March 12. Please fill out the order form (last page of bulletin) and place in the offering plate.

Power Pack Meals - the Power Pack Ministry is now packing meals for 25 students at New Franklin School. The program covers three meals a day for the weekend, that’s 150 meals that are being packed each week. The need is GREAT. Please consider doing what you can to help. Food can be placed in the gray tote in the Sunday school room. Monetary donations can be put in the offering, clearly mark your check “Power Pack”. Your response in the past has been great. THANK YOU!!!

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon’s will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon’s Facebook page, Solomon’s Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. A prerecorded worship service and bulletin will be available on the website. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children’s Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for 2023 are on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

EASTER FLOWERS - 2023

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Easter Flowers is asked to fill out the following form and return it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with cash or a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Easter Flowers." Flowers will be in the church on Sunday, April 9, 2023 and can be taken home that day, or call the office 717 267-2266 to make other arrangements.

The deadline to order Easter Flowers is March 12!

*The Easter Flowers in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
has been donated by:*

_____ *(name)*

Daffodils (6" pot)..... \$7.00
Yellow _____

Tulips (6 bulbs)\$7.00
Red _____ Yellow _____ Purple _____

Lilies.....\$8.00 White _____



Total amount enclosed _____ Total plants ordered _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus conquers evil.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 4:1-11	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	First sin and its punishment
Tuesday	Romans 5:12-19	Adam and Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Don't worship idols
Thursday	Ephesians 6:10-17	The whole armor of God
Friday	Hebrews 2:5-18	Exaltation through humiliation
Saturday	Psalm 32	The joy of forgiveness
Sunday	John 3:1-17	For God so loved the world

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. **Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you from all evil and give you peace through Jesus Christ.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you are going through difficult times, who supports you?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good and bad times? Explain.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place of testing and identity formation. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is adamant and without compromise. We, on the other hand, find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises lead to major sins and disappointments, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

Discuss: How does Jesus' victory over Satan give you strength and courage to live each day?

Pray: **Eternal God, you who never give up on us and always oppose evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. Decorate an Almsgiving Box to collect money for those in need during Lent. Place the box in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. This week rather than eating out, place money that you might have spent in the box to give to others.

Pray: **Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Help us to give to others so that they may also be given daily bread. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**