SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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Our citizenship



is in heaven

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

"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."

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 16, 2025

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Meditation on Three Lenten Hymn Tunes** - Charles Callahan

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

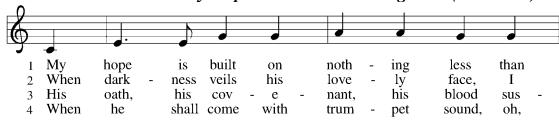
Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

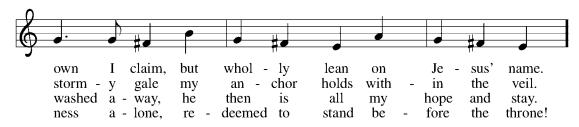
You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 597)







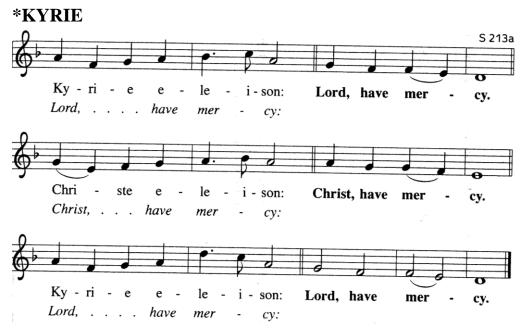


On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*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.**



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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 A Lenten Consecration - Mary Kay Beall

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to

give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then [|] shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I [|] be afraid?

² When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek $God^{\,|}$ in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- on a rock.

⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music $^{\mid}$ to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call; have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

8 My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

¹⁰ Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me, the LORD will | take me in.

¹¹ Teach me your | way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

12 Subject me not to the will | of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

- ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living!
- 14 Wait for the LORD | and be strong.

 Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians.

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

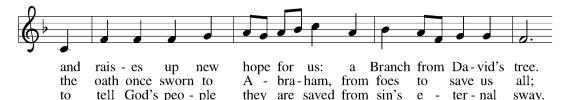
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

•

SERMON Tender Mercy.

*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

HYMN OF THE DAY Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW 250) 1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,







Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

*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.

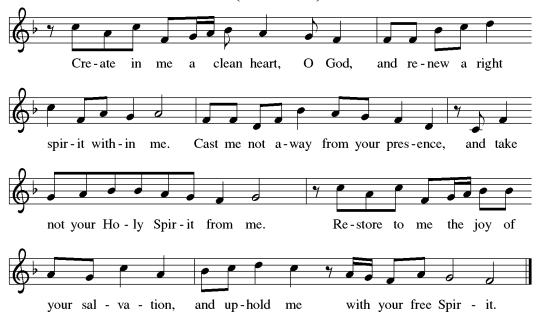
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Please respond)

P: God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

*PEACE

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

*OFFERTORY Create in Me (ELW 186)



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

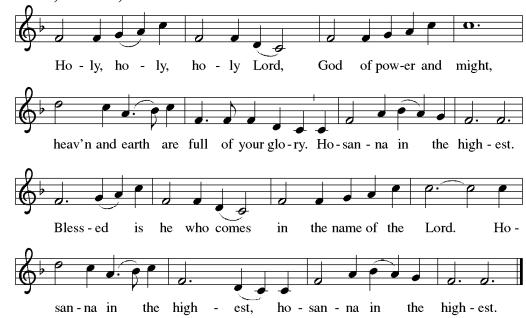
We lift them to the Lord.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

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

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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

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.



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite Music: O JESU, ÄN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

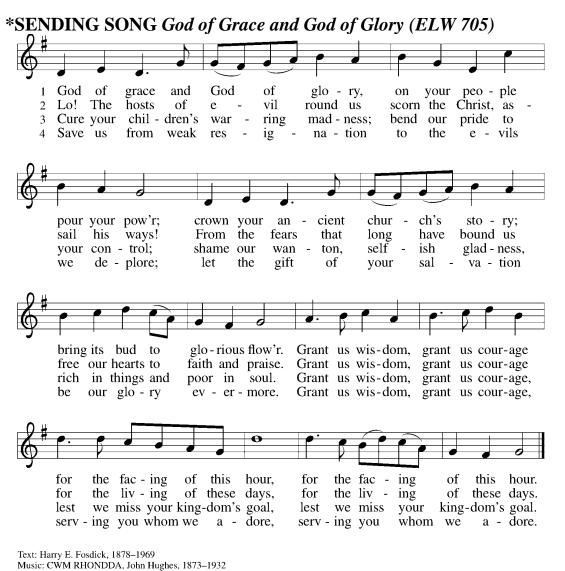
*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
Hbless you now and forever.

Amen.



Music. CWM KHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE Glory Be to Jesus - Robert Lau

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SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address	<u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u>
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	
Acolyte	Aaron Shreiner
Lector	
Securing Offering	
Communion Set-Up	Becky & Sam Mull
Communion Clean-Up	Becky & Sam Mull
Communion Bread	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist	Martie Veilleux & Becky Pecha
Attendance last Sunday	36

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in celebration of Austin Pincin's 3rd Birthday given by Gramma and Pap Pap Gayman.

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: Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Carol Ann Pugh, Kaitlyn Dovey, Angela Puchalo, Katelyn Mary Dodge, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.

Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

March 18 - Property time TBD Social Ministry 7pm

19 - Lent Service 7pm (Supper 5:30pm)

20 - Choir 7pm

This Wednesday, the mid-week Lenten service will be held at First Lutheran, beginning with supper at 5:30, followed by worship beginning at 7:00pm. The offering during this Lenten season will be given to Mercy House, a Hospice Home in Chambersburg.

Next Sunday there will be no Bible Study because Pastor Mike is away, preaching at St. Paul AME Zion Church in Gettysburg.

The April/May/June edition of Our Daily Bread and the Spring 2025 Living Lutheran are available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

During the month of April, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the totes under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary still has discount cards available for \$5.00. Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2025. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Becky Pecha if you would like to have a card.

Communion Cards – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

Choir rehearsal - Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. New members are most welcome to join us. We usually rehearse for an hour. See Mary-Jo Bedsworth or any choir member if you have questions.

The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. 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.

The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each. Lots of great recipes! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

Sunday Morning Bible Study - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space. Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our Gathering Hymn this morning, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less," was written by Englishman Edward Mote in 1834. Although shared several months ago, the story behind this familiar hymn is worth repeating. It is said that as he was walking to work one day, the thought popped into his head to write a hymn on the "Gracious Experience of a Christian." As he walked up the road, he had the chorus, "On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand." By the end of the day, he had four verses written out and safely tucked away in his pocket. Later that week, he visited his friend whose wife was very ill, and as they couldn't find a hymnal to sing from, he dug up his newly written verses and sang those with the couple. The wife enjoyed them so much she asked for a copy. Mote went home and sent it off to a publisher, saying, "As these verses so met the dying woman's case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution" (*Lutheran Hymnal Handbook*). Almost two centuries later, we continue to sing these words of hope and assurance, our declaration that in the midst of all trials and storms, we will cling to the rock that is our Savior. Originally the hymn was sung to the tune "Solid Rock,' but in our hymnal and previous hymnals, we use the tune "Melita," also known as "The Navy Hymn." (Hymnary.org).

Our sending hymn this morning, "God of grace and God of glory," was written in the summer of 1930 by Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) to be used for the opening service and for the dedication of the famous Riverside Church in New York City. Fosdick wrote the hymn as he reflected on the construction of the new building. As we sing this hymn, it may be helpful to remind ourselves of the events that shaped the "hour" and the "days" that provide the context of the hymn. The hymn was written while the United States was in the throes of the Great Depression between the two World Wars. Fosdick was a champion of the social gospel, a movement that recognized the plight of the poor, especially in the urban Northeast during the Industrial Revolution. The language of the hymn is ultimately that of petition or prayer. "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage" concludes each stanza with the effect of a refrain, asking for God's wisdom and courage to face the problems of our day. We beg for God's power, confess our fear and pride, and affirm a desire to seek social justice. (Umcdiscipleship.org; hymnary.org).

*Notes on organ selections during Lent: There is a wealth of beautiful Lenten/Passion music written for the organ. As we discovered at the beginning of Lent, Sundays are not considered to be part of Lent. Consequently, the Scripture readings are often based on Jesus' teachings and his life leading up to the events of Holy Week. This does not give us much opportunity to use the beautiful hymns associated with this solemn season. You may find on a given Sunday that the organ music is not necessarily based on any of the hymns for the day, as is often the case in most weeks. But it is the hope that the chosen selections will still enhance the meaning of our worship together. This morning's prelude, however, does include the tune we are using for the Gospel acclamation: "By the Babylonian Rivers," a Latvian folk tune. The other two selections in the prelude are "O Sun of Justis, Jesus Christ," (Gregorian Chant) and "My Song is Love Unknown," ELW #343.

EASTER FLOWERS - 2025

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 20, 2025, 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 23!

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

	nus beer	i uonuieu v	y •	
	(name)			
Daffodils (6"pot) Yellow	\$8.00			\$8.00 Purple
1	Lilies	\$9.00 White _		
Total amount enclosed		Total plan	nts ordered	
In memory of				
In memory of				
In honor of				
In honor of				