

**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 22, 2026**

February 22, 2026
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

ORGAN PRELUDE *Lamb of God* - John Carter

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

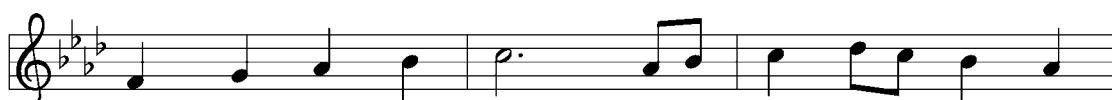
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
 Through faith, the free gift of God,
 you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
 In the name of [†] Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
 dwells in you,
 pours God's love into your hearts,
 and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (ELW 319)**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davissón, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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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 S213)

S 213a



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the adversary 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 *A Lenten Consecration* - Mary Kay Beall

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.

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

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but 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'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the

garden,³ but 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.’ ”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die,⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So 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.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;
I will guide you¹ with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are¹ 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.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

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

¹⁸ Therefore 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. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



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 - clin ed.

*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.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
⁶ saying 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.’ ”

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

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Julia Brown

*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

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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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: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart (Hillert)* (ELW 186)**



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.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
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.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

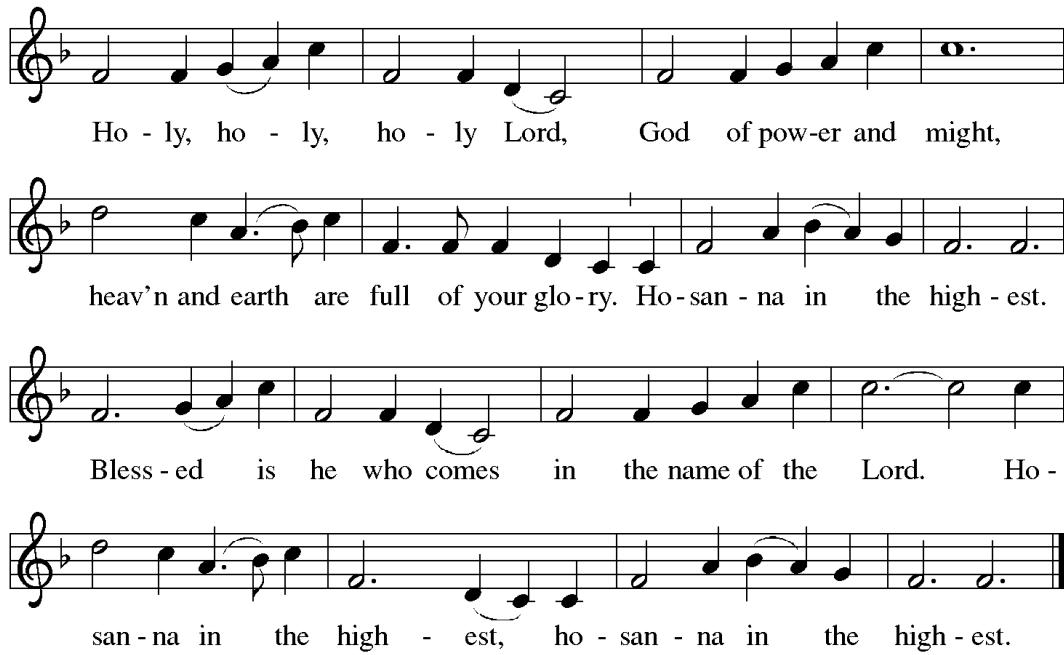
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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. 207)



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

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**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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. 146)

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

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God: Your Only Son* (ELW 336)

1 Your on-ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru-ci-fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have
sent him from your side to walk up-on this guilt-y
scorned him as he died. The hum-ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and
sod and to be-come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac-ri-ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.
Refrain:
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho-ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
in your pre-cious blood, my Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Chief of Sinners Though I Be* (ELW 609)



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Forty Days and Forty Nights* - Robert Lau

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Larry Socks
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector	Kathy Bowen
Securing Offering	Marjorie Dale & Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up	
Communion Clean-Up	
Communion Bread	
Communion Assist	
Attendance Last Sunday	32

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in memory of my mother Katie Douglas given by Kathy Bowen.

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!

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email jlouisebrown@msn.com or phone 703-434-9220.

Prayer requests for the following: *Clif Rau, Dennis Hose, Sam Brooks, Ellie Martin, Teahana, Carol Locke, Carole Rau, Peggy Weller, Patricia Yetter, Kaitlyn Dovey, Norm Kuykendall, Phil Johnson, Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, 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.*

Communion will be served every Sunday during Lent.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

February 25 - Lenten Service 7pm (soup/bread meal 5:30pm)
26 - Choir 7pm

The first mid-week Lenten service will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic beginning with supper at 5:30, followed by worship beginning at 7:00pm. The offering during this Lenten season will be given to Hearken House Ministry. Hearken House Ministry provides a work/training program for those being released on parole from a Pennsylvania state or county jail and who strongly desire to change the way of life they have chosen in the past. Checks to support Hearken House may be made **payable to LARC**.

If you would like to order Easter flowers in remembrance or honor of a loved one, there is a form attached to the bulletin (last page). Orders are due by March 8th.

Special congregation meeting, March 15, 2026, following worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a continuing resolution to our constitution on our view of homosexuality. This Continuing Resolution was proposed by several members and approved by council.

CR -III CLARIFICATIONS OF THE CONFESION OF FAITH

Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church View on Homosexuality

We believe that homosexuals receive God's love and grace as do all people. However, we do not condone homosexuality. Those who have a genetic disposition to homosexuality are not condemned, providing they do not participate in or promote homosexual behavior. We believe this is consistent with New Testament scripture and also applies to immoral sexual behavior. We also believe that the transforming power of God's love and grace can return a sinning person to righteousness and salvation.

Bible Study on John's Revelation. Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the fellowship center conference room.

Inclement Weather Cancellation Notification. In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce that our worship services are cancelled by sending an email to the entire membership who have email addresses. Also, the phone message on the office phone at the church (717-267-2266) will state when services are cancelled. **This will be done by 7:30AM Sunday morning.** If you receive an email notifying you of a cancellation and if you know a friend who does not have email, please contact them. **If the church office does not have your current email address, please let Kimberly in the church office know this as soon as possible, so it can be updated!** Above all, safety is our most important concern, so please do not take any unnecessary chances.

The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 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 \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

Power Pack Meals: We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. 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.

The 2026 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.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The 40 days represent the 40 days that Jesus was in the wilderness tempted by the devil. Many Christians use these 40 days of Lent as a time of personal reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. So, it is not by chance that the Gathering Song this morning, as well as the postlude, reflect this theme. The ELW has two hymns where the text is about these 40 days, our Gathering Song, #319, and #320, "The Glory of These Forty Days." (Christianity.com).

A song which presents Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world is "Lamb of God," our communion song this morning. The text was written and the tune was composed both by Twila Paris Wright (b. 1958). It has been published in multiple hymnals throughout the world, including our own ELW. The title "Lamb of God" is a significant designation for Jesus Christ, appearing prominently in the Gospel of John. John the Baptist proclaims Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," which we have heard in our readings during the season of Epiphany. The hymn expresses praise to God for giving us His Son as the Lamb who takes away our sins. How blest we are to know our sins are forgiven!

(hymnstudyblog.wordpress.com) and (worldhistoryedu.com).

EASTER FLOWERS - 2026

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Easter Flowers is asked to complete 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 5, 2026, 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 8!

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

(name)

Daffodils (6"pot) \$10.00
Yellow _____



Tulips (6 bulbs) \$10.00
Red _____ Yellow _____ Purple _____

Lilies \$10.00 White _____



Total amount enclosed _____ Total plants ordered _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____