

First Sunday in Lent

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

March 6, 2022

Interim Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com

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These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Holy Communion update: Beginning today, the congregation will celebrate holy communion as we did pre-pandemic. We will once again, kneel (or stand) at the altar rail and receive the host from Pastor Karen, then, choosing grape juice or an empty cup, receive the wine poured from the chalice from the communion assistant. The common cup will not be offered. For those who wish to use pre-packaged communion, sets are available as you enter the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

✠ In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence for reflection

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

Holy One,

we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 319 - O, LORD THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

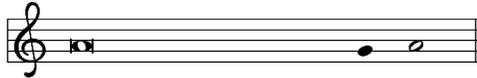
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



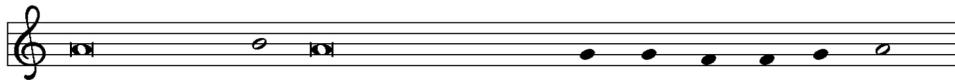
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

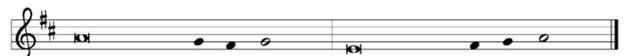
¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 SUNG RESPONSIVELY (Tone 5)

¹You who dwell in the shelter of ¹ the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹ the Almighty—
²you will say to the LORD, “My refuge ¹ and my stronghold,
my God in whom I ¹ put my trust.” R
⁹Because you have made the ¹ LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your ¹ habitation,
¹⁰no evil ¹ will befall you,
nor shall affliction come ¹ near your dwelling.
¹¹For God will give the angels charge ¹ over you,
to guard you in ¹ all your ways.
¹²Upon their hands they will ¹ bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- ¹ gainst a stone.
¹³You will tread upon the lion ¹ cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion ¹ and the serpent.



¹⁴I will deliver those who I cling to me;
 I will uphold them, because they I know my name.
¹⁵They will call me, and I will I answer them;
 I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and I honor them.
¹⁶With long life will I I satisfy them,
 and show them I my salvation. R

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

^{8b}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

The assembly stands.

Return to God

Sing twice

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
 mer-cy; come seek the ten - der faith-fill-ness of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.’ ”

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him,

“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 325 - *I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME*

The assembly stands.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick especially Lois and her sister Bonnie, Denise, Milo, Karen, Ruth, Don, Irene, Judi, Bishop Lozano, Carrie, Evelyn, Jack & Marjorie, Judy and Joyce. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by this conflict in Europe. Bring peace and hope to these people and inspire their leaders to negotiate with honesty and integrity and help them construct a lasting peace. Be with families separated by this conflict and bring them safely back together. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have died. Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

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

The assembly greets each other from their pew space.

The assembly is seated while the Pastor prepares communion.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly stands

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.
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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

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

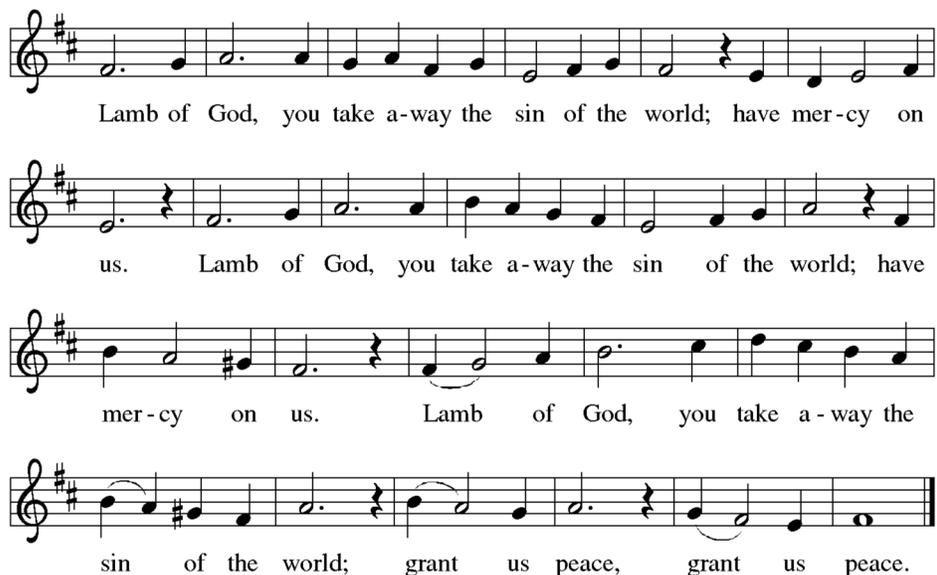
Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

COMMUNION—*At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice as an alternative. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

LAMB of GOD



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.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 787 ~ ON EAGLE'S WINGS

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG ~ ELW 768 ~ LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



GOSPEL MESSAGE

You Are Not Alone

When Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, he may not have had the company of friends and family surrounding him, but he was not alone. Every word he spoke to address the temptations of the devil came from Deuteronomy. Through these familiar words, Jesus was able to summon up the presence of his ancestors and the voice of God that spoke to them, recorded in Holy Scripture.

Memorization is an old art, rarely valued or taught in schools anymore. And yet, in times of distress, familiar words find their way back into our minds: a fragment of a poem, a song lyric, a Bible verse learned in childhood. People with advanced dementia are often still able to join in praying the Lord's Prayer, the words coming from a deep place within.

What words are written on your heart? In times of crisis, what words find their way through the ages to bring you strength? The coronavirus pandemic brought great loneliness and isolation as so many of our familiar connections and gathering rituals were no longer available. Yet spiritual connection with those unseen is a big part of what it means to be united in the mystical body of Christ. Even when we are unable to gather at the same physical table, familiar refrains from the liturgy continue to hold us together.

In the season of Lent, we are invited with Jesus into the wilderness—into times of quiet reflection, commitment to spiritual practices, the acceptance of limits. In the quiet, may we savor the subtle ways that God shows up, moments of connection that go unnoticed in noisier times. In the loneliness of dry seasons, may we find courage and hope and assurance that in the trials of life, we are not alone.



Parish Notes ~ March 6, 2022

Please pray for: Lois Kuhns and her sister Helen, Bonnie Gebhardt, Judy Nordin, Denise Miller, Karen Shick, Milo Mariotti, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

Enjoy Coffee Hour today following both services, hosted by Hospitality Committee.

Lenten Worship: New Hope Presbyterian Church will join us for all Lenten Worship, AND Soup Suppers. Mid week plans, beginning Wednesday, March 9th, include worship and study, *Journey with Our Savior*, and will explore spiritual relevance of key geographical points along the path of Christ's passion. Join us, for Lenten Soup & Bread suppers at 5:30 followed by Worship / Study at 6:00 and choir at 7:00 pm. Sign up to bring soup or bread on sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you.

Communion during Lent: Beginning today, the congregation will celebrate communion as we did pre-pandemic. We will once again, kneel (or stand) at the altar rail and receive the host from Pastor Karen, then, choosing grape juice or an empty cup, we will receive the wine poured from the chalice from the communion assistant. The common cup will not be offered. For those who wish to use pre-packaged communion, sets are available as you enter the sanctuary.

Sign-up for Easter Flock: Plans are beginning for an Easter event to be held Saturday, April 9th at the church. This community event will take many folks to plan, promote and execute. We need your time and talents to make this a success. If time and talent are in short supply, your monetary gift to help defray the costs are welcome. Sign up today!

Winter Schedule for In-Person Worship: Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a**. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the AHLC web page. Please check Parish Notes for Sundays that worship may have a different time.

Bible Study: Continues on **Sundays at 9:30a** between services.

Adult Choir: Beginning Wednesday March 9th, choir practice will be at 7 PM following the Lenten service.

Church Council meets on Tuesday evening, March 8th at 6:30 PM.

Seniors: Senior Fellowship will be held on Wed, March 16th at 12 noon.

Office Hours: While our office administrator, Denise Miller, is on medical leave, normal office hours will not be honored. If you leave a message your call will be returned or, for immediate assistance, call Pastor Karen at 814-881-3266. Pastor Karen is in the office every Tuesday AM.

Lenten 7 PM Sunday Zoom study group with Pastor Karen and Lon Jenkins. Beginning **TONIGHT at 7 PM** and running through Lent we will be studying the book *The Shack* by William Paul Young. (We will have a number of copies in the Pastor's study that you can purchase for \$9.00 each.) Be sure to sign up for *The Shack* study group on Zoom by contacting Lon Jenkins at jenkinslon@aol.com and he will send you your Zoom instructions.

Shoes and Clothes: Special thank you to those to donated clothing and, yes a crib, delivered to **Bethany Outreach this week.** We continue collecting gently used shoes and are looking to add gently used clothing to that collection. Donations are taken to Bethany Outreach. Items (any season) are needed for **men, women and children.** Bethany Outreach is the light in the darkness of many lives who are in need. They can receive these items without charge. Donations can be left in the mail room. Any questions, please contact Analee Cree - 814-397-6168.

Bishop Lozano : Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They'll be forwarded several times. A box is the narthex.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for worship, a sign-up form is on the table in the narthex. The costs of the flowers remain the same as before, **\$20.00 per arrangement.** Please return your request and payment one week ahead of your chosen Sunday.

Sign Up sheet is in the narthex for Bible purchases for summer Bible reading initiative. Costs: The Message Bible - \$21, Lutheran Study Bible / hardcover - \$35, paperback -\$25

Candles for today's worship service were given by **Carol Wunch**

In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch

CURRENT FUND REPORT

January Income:	\$ 8,580.00	Year to Date Income:	\$ 8,580.00
January Expenses:	\$10,046.57	Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 10,046.57
January Difference:	\$-1,466.57	Year to date Difference:	\$ -1,466.57
Year to Date Budget: \$ 11,505			

Worship Leaders - March 6, 2022

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Videographer	X	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Rick Penn	Penny Gresh
Comm. Assist/cups	Analee Cree	Jeanne Tropper
Comm. Assist/wine	Lon Jenkins	Nancy Cunning
Comm. Assist/tray	Carol Whitbred	Judi Pacileo
Presenter	Mike Paris	Penny Gresh
Presenter/Usher	Ed Whitbred	Andy Saska
Counters	X	Andy Saska
	X	Judi Pacileo

Easter Flowers or KAFP for 2022
 All are invited to place a plant in the altar area for
 EASTER SERVICES on Sunday, April 17th



OR choose to donate to the

KEARSARGE AREA FOOD PANTRY

Please fill-in the following information and return the form with
 your payment in an envelope, Attn: Denise.

In the offering plate by MARCH 27th or to the office by MARCH 28th
 for all flower orders or April 6th for KAFP donations.



PLEASE PRINT

If necessary, use a second form for names to complete your request

Given to the glory of God:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

From: _____

PLEASE MARK THE NUMBER OF PLANTS: *(plants come with foil wrap)*

6 ½ inch Easter Lily \$8.00 ea. _____ 6 ½ inch Hyacinth \$8.00 ea. _____

6 ½ inch Tulip \$8.00 ea. _____ 6 ½ inch Daffodil \$8.00 ea. _____

Amount enclosed for flowers \$ _____ OR

Amount enclosed for the Food Pantry \$ _____

Please place this form with your donation, in an envelope marked **EASTER FLOWERS OR EASTER KAFP**, in the offering plate by **Sunday March 27th** or return to the church office by **Wednesday, MARCH 28th** for flowers or **April 6th** for KAFP donations. Thank you.