

*Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 15, 2026  
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church  
We are a Loving Family, Growing In Faith,  
Sharing the Hope of Christ...  
Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor  
Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music*



*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

## **WELCOME**

***We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.***  
*(please silence your cell phones)*

**PRELUDE - Choir – *The Walk to Calvary* -Price/Besig.**

## **GATHERING**

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

*Please stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

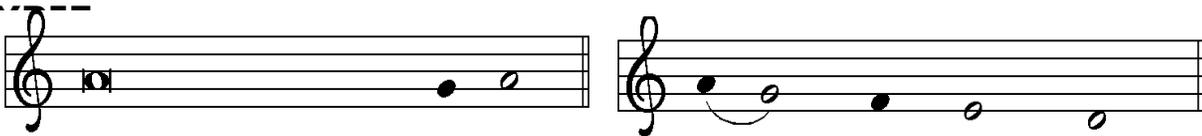
Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN - ELW 793 *Be Thou My Vision***

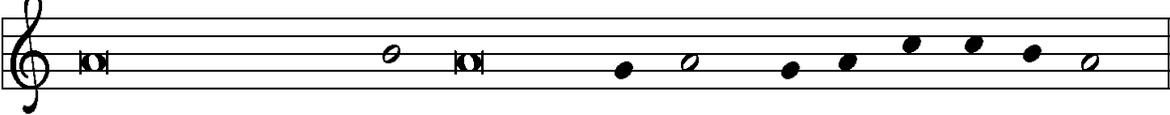
## GREETING

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.**

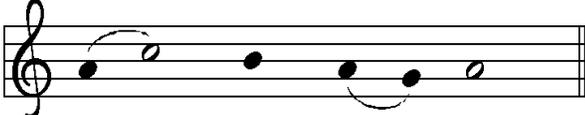
**K**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



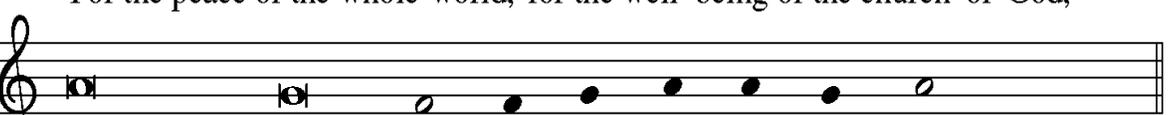
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



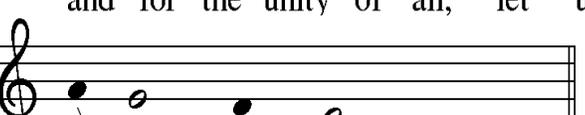
Lord, have mer - cy.



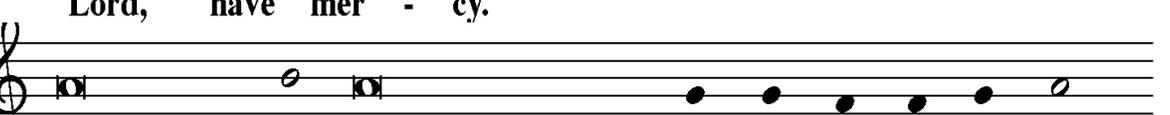
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



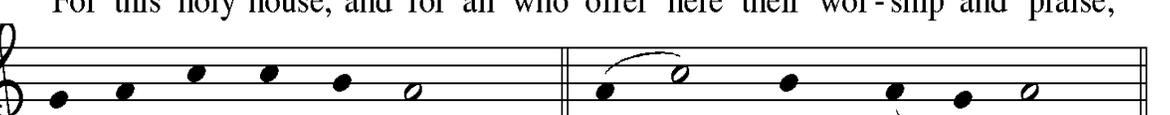
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray. **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: ELW 780 *Shepherd Me, O God*

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

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

Verse 2

2. I will take your heart of stone and place a heart with -  
in you, a heart of com - pas - sion and love. D.C.

### GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 9. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" **cont'd**

<sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

**cont'd**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** – Pastor Karen Parsh

*Please stand*

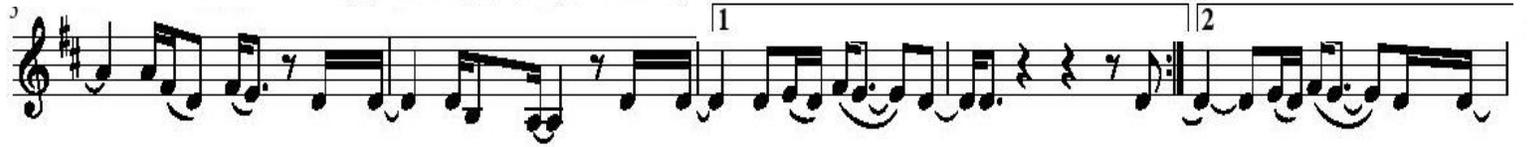
**HYMN of DAY** – *Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone* pg.7



VERSE 1 & 2



1. A maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once



was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. 2. 'Twas I first be - lieved.  
cious did that grace ap - pear, the hour

CHORUS



My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Sav - ior has ran - somed me. And like a



flood His mer - cy rains, un - end - ing love, a - maz - ing grace. 3. The Lord has prom - ised good



to me, His word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and por -



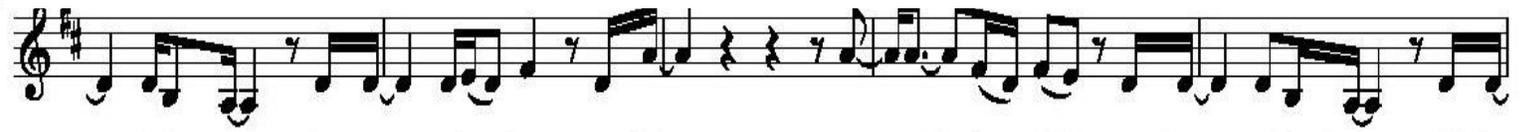
tion be, as long as life en - dures. My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my



Sav - ior has ran - somed me. And like a flood His mer - cy rains, un - end - ing love,



a - maz - ing grace. My chains are 4. The earth shall soon dis - solve



like snow, the sun for - bear to shine. But God, who called me here be - low, will be



for - ev - er mine, will be for - ev - er mine. You are for - ev - er mine.

## **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 for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day. We pray especially for: Ed & Jeanne, Trish, Carl, Pastor Karen, Peggy, Christine P., Kathy C., Dolly, Darcée, Ava, Ed, Matt, Carolyn, & Elliott, Paul, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren, Christina S., Jackie S, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Candy & Arch, Leslie, Michele & Sue, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and Little Library visitors. Hear us, O God. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*Please be seated*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

### OFFERING –

*Please stand*

### OFFERTORY HYMN – *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Cre - ate in me \_\_\_ a clean heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might serve \_\_\_  
You; \_\_\_ Cre - ate in me \_\_\_ a clean heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might be re -  
-newed. So fill \_\_\_ me and heal \_\_\_ me, and bring me \_ back to \_\_\_  
You. \_\_\_ Cre - ate in me \_\_\_ a clean  
heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might serve \_\_\_ You.

**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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

### **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, .... Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

### **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.

### **COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 614** *There is a Balm in Gilead* *Instrumental Meditation*

### **PASTORAL BLESSING**

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

## **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.**

### **SENDING**

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

### **BLESSING**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,  
**grant courage and hope.**  
Where anxiety is infectious and widening,  
**grant peace and reassurance.**  
Where impossibilities close every door and window,  
**grant imagination and resistance.**  
Where distrust twists our thinking,  
**grant healing and illumination.**  
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,  
**Grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.**

### **SENDING HYMN – WOV 745 *Awake, O Sleeper***

**DISMISSAL** – Go in peace. Make known the Savior of the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

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### **PARISH NOTES ~ March 15, 2026**

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[ahadministrator@hotmail.com](mailto:ahadministrator@hotmail.com) - [www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org) -  
FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

**Please keep in your prayers:** Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Trish Cirillo, Pastor Karen Parsh, Dolly Pacileo, Carl Larese, Peggy Kaeberlein, Pat Kerr, Christine Petrone, Kathy Cirillo, Darcée Anthony, Ava Whitely, Ed Whitbred, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Christina Sontheimer, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Harry & Susan Speakman, Candy & Arch Watkins, Kathy Sinnott, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

**Sunday, March 15: Worship 930a - Choir: 1045a - Bible Study 11a**

**Monday, March 16: Prayer Shawl Ladies meet @ 10a**

**Tuesday, March 17: Care Team Meeting @ 1230p. Volunteers Needed!** If you enjoy visiting nice people, please consider becoming a Care Team member. Bringing Holy Communion and a smile to homebound members is a joyful ministry.

**Wednesday, March 18: Lenten Weekly** gathering @ **100p** in the **F.H.** for **devotions and projects** for local caring organizations. **This week's project: Preparing a meal for the Liberty House (Veterans) for delivery.**

**Wednesday, March 18: Prayer Warriors.** The sanctuary is open **1-3p** for silent prayer and meditation. Please **join the Prayer Warriors** for as long as you can or pray from wherever you are.

**Wednesday, March 18: Men's Night Out – 6:30p @ Oasis/Tiki Bar.** **RSVP** on the **form** in the narthex **or just show up!**

**Thursday, March 19: Audit Team Meeting 1030a** in the **Office**

**Thursday, March 19: Share & Care @ 1p.** All are welcome to join this gathering for **meaningful discussions about God, Daily Life & Life Eternal**

**Thursday March 19: Ladies Night @ McGarry's Oakwood – 5:30p.** **Form** in the narthex. **RSVP** by **Monday 3/16.** Please indicate if you need a ride.

**Sunday, March 22: Worship - Healing Service 930a, Choir – 9a & 1045a**

**Tuesday, March 24: Meeting @ 1230p** for the **Saturday, March 28 EASTER FLOCK** event from **1-3p.** **Volunteers are needed, sign-up sheet in narthex.** **Raffle baskets and monetary donations** are also needed outreach event for children. **Please see graphic below.**

**Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths:** If anyone wishes to order a **spring plant** to place on the altar for **Easter Sunday** the cost is **\$8.50ea.** **Order forms** for **plants/KAFP donations** are in the **narthex.** **Deadline for flowers orders – Monday, March 16.**

**AHLC Directory: TODAY is the Final Sunday** for revisions to the **2026 Directory** before it is printed. The **template** is in the **narthex.** **Please check your information** and **make updates if necessary.**

**KAFP March Food Drive: Elbow Macaroni, Mac & Cheese.** Basket in **Heritage Room.**

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral needs, **Saturday-Thursday,** call **Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.** **Friday's** please contact **Rick Penn, 814-737-9974**

#### Worship Leaders - March 15, 2026

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Videographer               | Penny Gresh   |
| Greeter/Coffee             | Mary Randall  |
| Assisting Minister/Acolyte | Donna Holder  |
| Lector/Prayers             | Analee Cree   |
| Communion Cups             | Penny Gresh   |
| Communion Tray             | Michele Rion  |
| Presenter                  | Carolyn Hayes |
| Presenter                  | Diana Stoker  |
| Usher                      | Rich Filson   |
| Usher                      | Volunteer     |
| Counters                   | Analee & Paul |



## Easter Flowers ~KAFP 2026



All are invited to place a plant in the altar area for  
EASTER SERVICES on **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**Forms are in the narthex.** Please complete (PRINT) return with your payment  
to the office today, **Sunday March 15 or Monday March 16.**



Support the

## Easter Flock

Donate a Raffle Basket or the  
funds to make a basket.



Money made from the sale of raffle tickets helps pay  
for our magician, face painting and other activities at our  
youth events. Baskets needed by Wed., March 18th.

Volunteer to help at Easter Flock 2026, or  
attend, on Saturday, March 28th from 1 to 3pm.

## Holy Week at AHLC & New Hope

Maundy Thursday - April 2  
Soup Supper @ 5:30 and  
Worship @ 6:30 PM at New Hope

Good Friday - April 3  
worship at AHLC  
"Stations of the Cross" @ 12noon  
& Worship @ 6:30PM

Easter Vigil - Saturday - April 4  
Silent prayer, meditation and special  
readings @ AHLC from sunset  
(7:30) to 9:00

Resurrection of Our Lord  
- April 5  
AHLC @ 9:30  
New Hope @ 11:00

 *Abiding Hope*  
Lutheran Church  
2402 W Grandview Dr.

 **New Hope Presbyterian**  
5440 Washington Ave.

