

*Second Sunday of Lent ~ February 25, 2024*  
*Abiding Hope Lutheran Church*

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 – 814.868.8685

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor 814.881.3266 – [pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorparsh@gmail.com)

Coordinator of Music – Sheryl Williams



The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**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 - *Christ in Me Arise*

## CHORUS



Christ in me a - rise and dis - pel all the dark - ness. Christ in me a - rise with Your



pow - er and Your strength. Christ in me pour out Your \_ bless - ing and heal - ing.

## THIRD TIME



Christ in me a - rise and I shall rise with You.

## VERSES

1. Be now my vi - sion,
2. Be now my foot - steps,



o - pen these eyes, show - ing me all that I must see; On - ward to the king - dom,  
lead - ing the way, tak - ing me where \_ I must go. On - ward to the king - dom,



You are the way; A - rise in me and I shall rise with You.  
You are the way; A - rise in me and I shall rise with

## BRIDGE



You. You know my heart \_ and You know my ways, You who



formed me in my moth - er's womb. I live and move in You, my whole be - ing thrives in



SING CHORUS AGAIN

You. \_\_\_\_\_

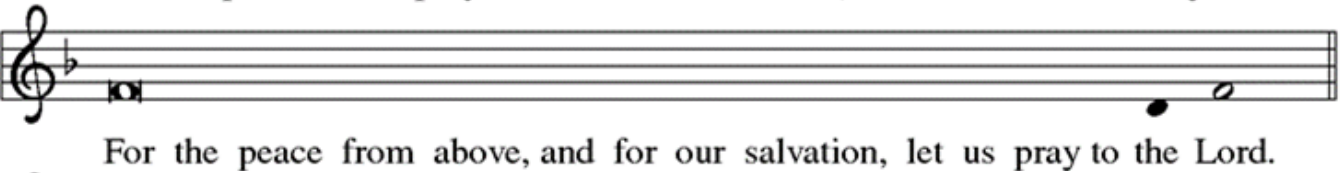
## GREETING

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.**

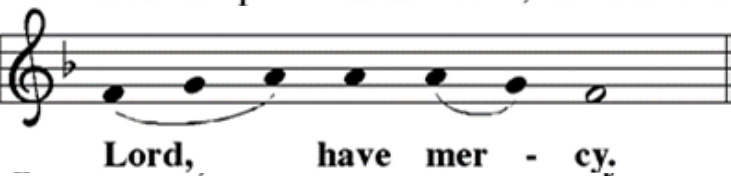
## KYRIE



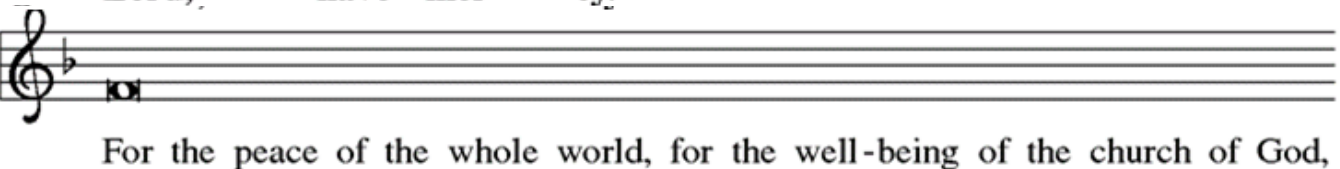
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



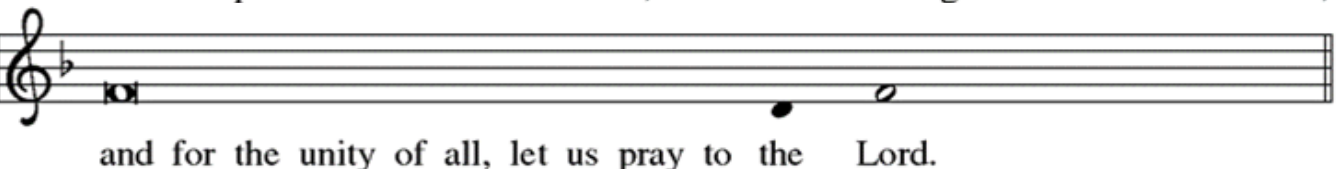
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



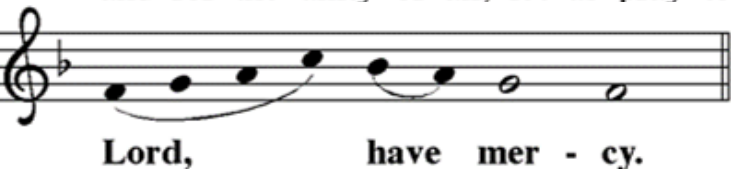
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



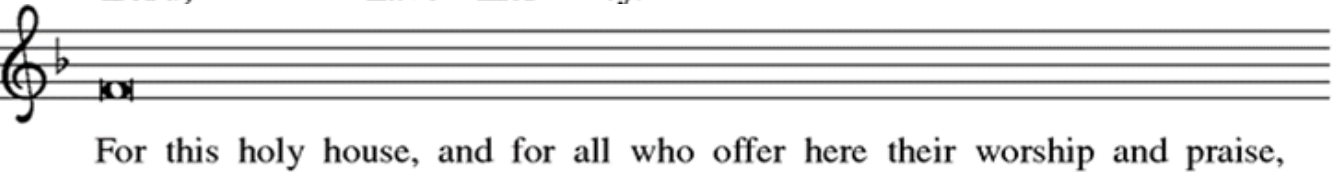
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



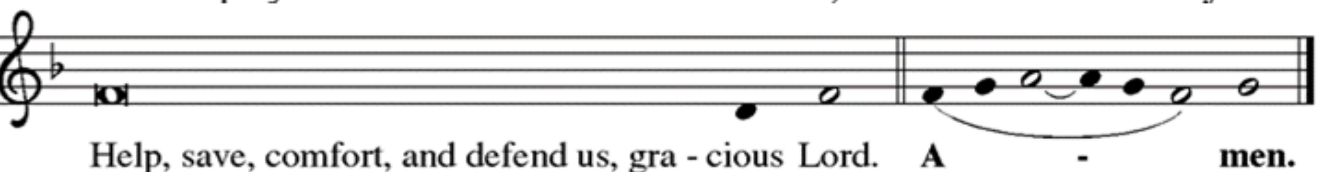
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

## **PRAYER of the DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* **O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

*Please be seated*

### **FIRST READING: GENESIS 17:1-7,15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

### **PSALM: 22:23-31 Sung Responsively Tone 9**



<sup>3</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's <sup>1</sup> line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- <sup>1</sup> spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their**

**poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;  
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your  
hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel  
be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

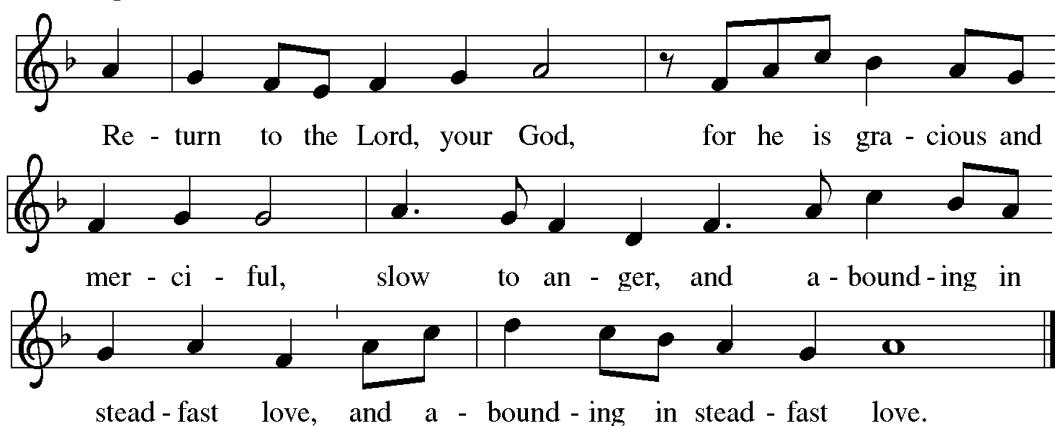
<sup>31</sup>**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"**

## **SECOND READING: Roman 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from

the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### **GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

The holy gospel according to Mark, Chapter 8. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.<sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

*Please be seated*

### **SERMON**

*Please Stand*

**HYMN of DAY - ELW 802** *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

### **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**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who

are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, console the bereaved and bring comfort and strength to those who are ill or recovering from an illness, especially: Sheryl, Stephanie, Ed T., Lori & Jerry, Trish, Ruth, Darcee, Susan & Megan, Ed R. Damian & Marcia, Pastor Karen & Dave, Diana, Don & Skip, Tammy and Evelyn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

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

*Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

**MEAL**

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

**OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS**

**OFFERING - Choir:** *Prayer for Peace* -Sarandon/Lightfoot

**OFFERTORY HYMN - Create in Me**

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



**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.**

*Please Stand*

### **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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.**

## 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 and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

## LAMB of GOD

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: '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'.

*Please be seated*

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS - ELW 465** *Around You, O Lord Jesus*

**ELW 796** *How Firm a Foundation*

## **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**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN – Step By Step**

O God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise -  
You. O God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise -  
You. I will seek You in the morn - ing, and I will learn to walk in Your  
ways; And step by step You'll lead

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **GOSPEL MESSAGE - Hope against Hope**

Paul tells us that Abraham hoped “against hope” (Romans 4:18). Many of us know this feeling. The injustices in our world, the damage we see in the environment, and the wounds we bear in our own souls can all seem like too much. The promises of redemption poured out in baptism sometimes seem so far away.

Amid this reality, we hear Jesus teach that he “must” suffer, die, and rise again. To Peter this sounded like foolishness. If the Messiah were rejected, how could the salvation they longed for ever come? But Jesus insists that to deny this is to reject “the things of God.” Why must it be so?

Because of God’s great love. Jesus must suffer because he will do everything that needs to be done to rescue God’s world from sin and death. He will endure rejection, torture, and even death. He “must” do this because the world’s brokenness is that deep. We don’t need better teaching or stronger motivation. We need rescue from powers greater than ourselves. He will bear the burden of sin and death in his body to release us from their grasp. Love drives him to this full extent of mercy.

And in the mystery of God’s grace, Jesus will die. But he will be raised again. And his death and resurrection set us free from sin and death’s power. We can hope, even in the most hopeless of circumstances, because Jesus has passed through all the evils that threaten us and emerged triumphant. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven, the world’s injustices will not last forever, and everything broken will be made gloriously new. Until then, he gathers us around the life-giving word and gives himself to us in a holy meal. He leads us on our cross-shaped journeys of dying to sin to discover true life. And he sends us forth to share the good news of God’s mercy with a world longing for hope.

## **PARISH NOTES ~ February 25, 2024**

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

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

**Please pray for:** Sheryl Williams, her daughter Stephanie Volland and family, Ed Tropper, Lori & Jerry Hart, Trish Cirillo, Ruth Hinkson, Darcee Anthony, Susan & Megan Huff, Ed Randall, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Skip Kleckner, Diana Stoker, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Tammy Sharp McIntyre, and Evelyn Senger.

**Sunday February 25:** Choir – 9:00 & 10:45a. Bible Study-10:45a. Confirmation class @ St. Paul's 10:45a.

**Wednesday, February 28:** Mid-week Lenten worship @ 6:00p following the "Soup Supper" @ 5:30p. A form to sign up to bring soup and/or bread is on a table in the narthex.

**Saturday, March 2:** Maple Sugaring at Lutherlyn Saturday Safaris. A great way for all ages to spend some time learning about nature in the woods! \$10/person for a 2 ½ hour program. [www.lutherlyn.com/safari](http://www.lutherlyn.com/safari).

**Palm Sunday Children's Presentation:** Children are needed for the Palm Sunday presentation at 9:30 on March 24! Tentative rehearsals will be Saturday, March 9 from 10:00-11:30, Saturday, March 23 approximately 3:15. Ask your grandchildren/nieces/nephews or any child in your life to participate! If interested, please contact Pastor or Connie Kerr Vogt ([ckerrvogt@gmail.com](mailto:ckerrvogt@gmail.com)).

**Easter Lilies/KAFP Easter Donations:** The price for an Easter lily plant is \$8.50. If you wish to place a plant on the altar for Easter Sunday, a form for ordering plant(s) or donating to KAFP is on the table in the narthex. **Deadline dates** are on the form.

**The Little Free Library:** is quite busy with books being exchanged, and food items taken. Individual servings of cereals and raisins, granola bars, and rice packaged meals are most popular. Still needed are "inspirational bookmarks", with space to place an Abiding Hope Label, which are placed in all books donated. Please place "Little Library" donations in the basket in the Heritage Room, or in the Vogt mailbox. All members are welcome to use the library. Blessings! -Connie Kerr Vogt.

**Capital Funds Campaign:** The sound system is installed and working. Contributions (in any amount) are still being accepted to help reach our goal. **We are at a standstill!** The chart for the donation progress is in the narthex. Please note on your checks that your gift is for the "Sound System". Thanks to those who have contributed.

**Narthex & Fellowship Hall TV monitors:** We now have TV monitors on both levels thanks to members' amazing donations and Andy Saska's skillful installation. It will

be a useful addition to our Bible studies and Speaker Series events as well as for promotion of upcoming events and items of interest.

**Bethany Outreach:** Please remember the **collection of used clothing** and **household items** is ongoing as well as pairs of shoes in good condition for **Chosen**. Drop off in the Heritage Room. Thank you! Analee Cree.

**Are you on Facebook?** Be sure to "friend" Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, and LIKE and SHARE the post to help promote events at AHLC.

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p.

**Altar Flowers:** Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

### CURRENT FUND REPORT

January Income	\$ 7,266.89	Year to Date Income	\$ 7,266.89
January Expenses	\$11,524.95	Year to Date Expenses	\$11,524.95
January Difference	\$-4,258.06	Year to Date Difference	\$ -4,258.06

### Worship Leaders - February 25, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Lector/Prayers	Donna Holder
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Analee Cree
Comm. Assist/cups	Carol Korn
Communion tray	Mary Randall
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Connie Kerr-Vogt
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Andy Saska, Analee Cree