

Isaiah 42:16

**I will lead the blind in a way
that they do not know.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Faith Lutheran Church
311 2B Judges Rd. Wilmington, NC 28405
www.flcwnc.org

Welcome to our Visitors!

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are glad you are here. It is our sincere prayer that God would refresh you by His Holy Word and Sacrament and that you would take with you His peace and joy. If you would care to give us your contact information, we would like to get to know you better and keep in touch. If you have questions or are interested in membership, please speak to anyone here.

Holy Communion

We come to the table at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

Mission Statement

“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

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Ministers: Members of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Paul Ebert

Director of Parish Music: Debra Ebert

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

LBW Setting II

*Congregation please stand

Bold-Congregation responses

PRELUDE MORNING HYMN

Arr. Timothy Shaw

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have received your many blessings with a lack of gratitude; and have failed to be good stewards of your creation.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have followed our own selfish will and ways, and have failed to be your trusting and obedient servants.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven, and have failed to be your witnesses in the world.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our unfaithfulness – our fear, our anger, our pride, and our trust in our own righteousness.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, our lack of concern for the needs of others, and our sense of entitlement to all we possess.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, our negligence in worship, and our rejection of your Word in our lives.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Give us the joy of your saving help again, and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

God our Father does care about us. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all you sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May Almighty God strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

Amen



***ENTRANCE HYMN Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun**

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

***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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .

Holy One, you give sight to the blind and life to those who trust in your Son. May the light of your Christ pierce through our blindness and open us to your way of life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING

The First Reading is from Isaiah, the 42nd chapter.

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 142

¹I cry to the Lord with my voice;
to the Lord I make loud supplication.

²**I pour out my complaint before him
and tell him all my trouble.**

³When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path;
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴**I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me;
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.**

⁵I cry out to you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

⁶**Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low;
save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.**

⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name;
when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gather around me.

SECOND READING

The Second Reading is from Ephesians, the 5th chapter.

⁸... {F}or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*RETURN TO THE LORD



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord your God, who is



gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

*GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel is taken from St. John, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As {Jesus} passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He 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?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pr. Paul

HYMN OF THE DAY **Be Thou My Vision**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: Irish traditional; arr. Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
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***APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

***THE PRAYERS**

**Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(At this time we greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

OFFERTORY "He Knows My Name" *Piano Solo*
Music by Tommy Walker Arr. Carol Tornquist

***CREATE IN ME**

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

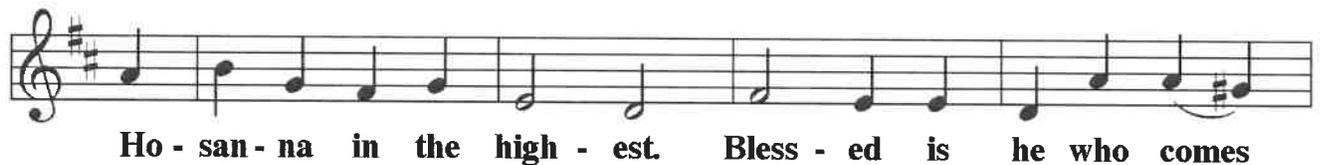
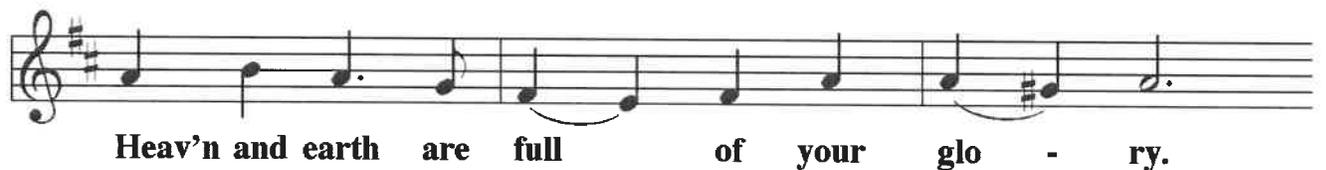
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

***SANCTUS**



***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***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

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

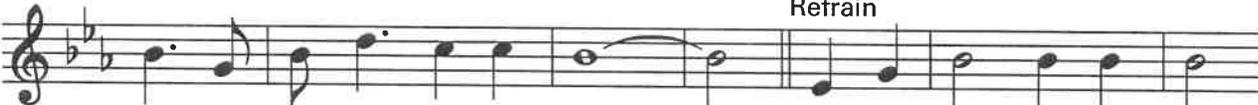
COMMUNION HYMN **Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees**

Verses



1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees; Let us break
2. Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees; Let us drink
3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees; Let us praise

Refrain



1. bread to-gether on our knees; When I fall on my knees,
2. wine to-gether on our knees;
3. God to-gether on our knees;



With my face to the ris-ing sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: 10 10 with refrain; Spiritual. Music: LET US BREAK BREAD.

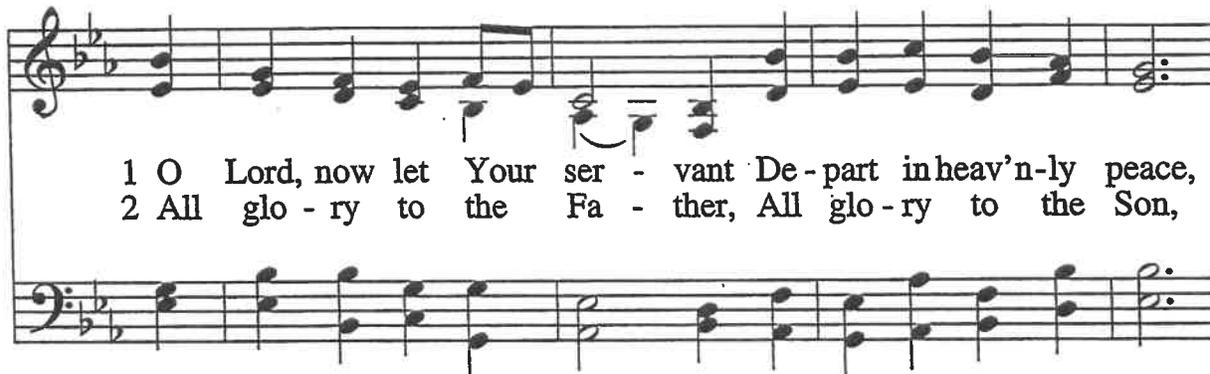


*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

Amen

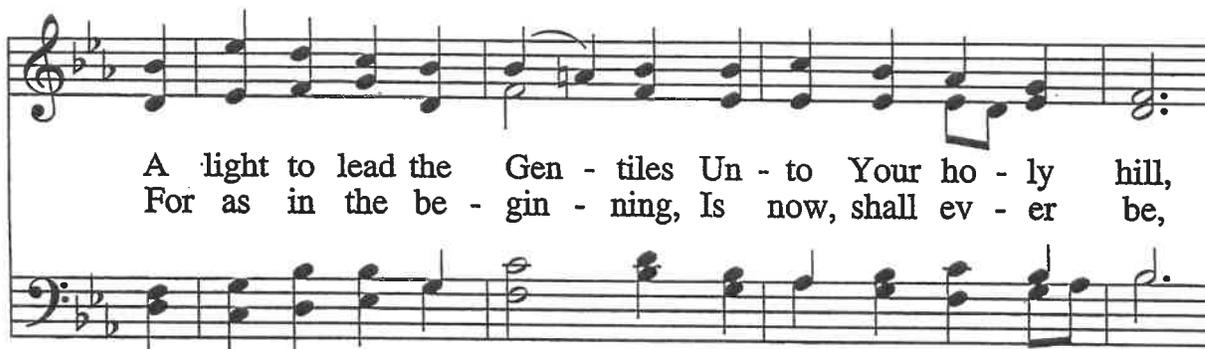
*NUNC DIMITIS



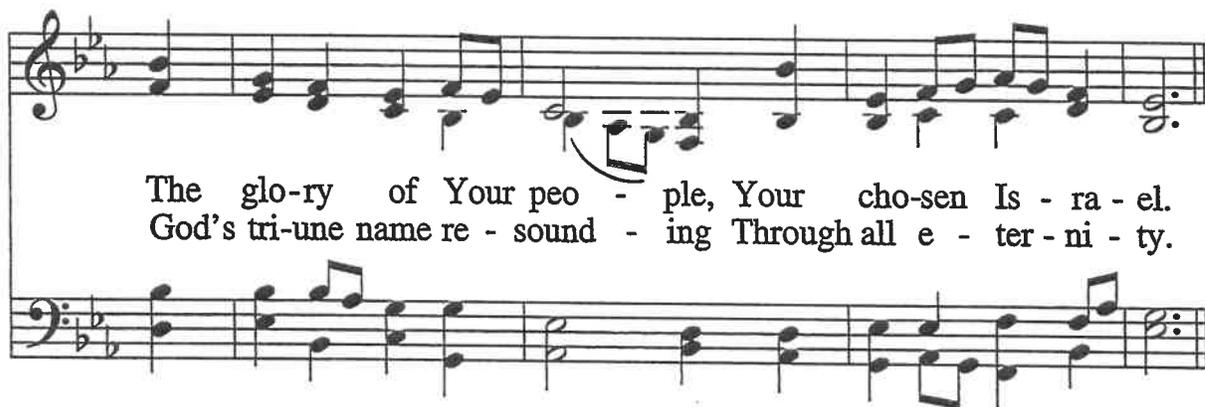
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De - part in heav'n - ly peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the Son,



For I have seen the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tles Un - to Your ho - ly hill,
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be,



The glo - ry of Your peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
God's tri - une name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

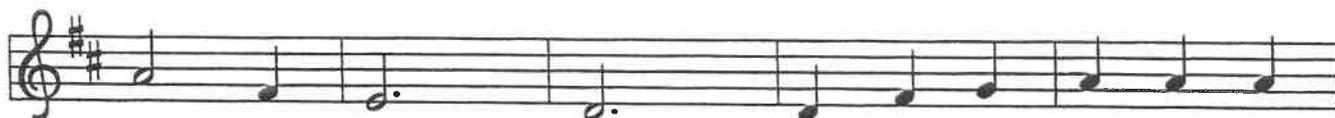
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen

*SENDING HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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SERVING THE FAMILY OF FAITH

This Week: 3/15

Reader: Renate Gray

Communion: Renate Gray

Fellowship: Deb Ebert

Usher: Gary Ebeltoft

Next Week: 3/22

Reader: Nancy Wells

Communion: Nancy Wells

Fellowship: Gina Schiess

Usher: Ken Schiess

Reminder: Today: Bible Study, "How We Got the Bible" after Fellowship.

3/18 Lenten Worship, Wed. at 12 noon with soup luncheon to follow

3/26 Women's Bible Study, Thursday at 10 am.

Given to the glory of God: \$385.00