

March 15, 2020

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **Drinking Fountain**

Some of us gather with colleagues at water coolers to share stories and catch up with each other. In biblical times the well was also a place to meet and gather. Since wells often were the place where matches were made, symbolically we could say they represent the place where things come together.

Things come together for the woman in today's gospel reading. The woman is concerned with wells and buckets, but Jesus has something else in mind. Coming to draw water for her daily needs, she encounters instead an invitation to a deeper relationship with God. Thirsty for meaning, for community, the Samaritan woman experiences the living water offered by Jesus.

It is a common human experience to be thirsty for more out of life. Advertisers promise that if we drink a certain product, wear certain clothes, or buy certain things we will be cool, happy, and fulfilled. We numb our spiritual thirst by becoming addicted to substances, our work, or being busy. We try to gain the approval of others to make the thirst go away, but it doesn't.

Today's gospel became a central text for those preparing for baptism at Easter. Baptism is about a new way of life. It's where things come together in Christ. It's about being thirsty and turning to Jesus as the source of living water. But what is more awesome is that God thirsts for us, and longs to fill our deepest needs.

It is not a well or a water cooler where we meet this Lord's day, but a drinking fountain. The water is streaming for all people to drink. It is God's mercy raining down on us and drenching us with grace. It is a flood drowning our sin and all the pain and injustice in the world.

So drink deeply from the cup we share this day. Drink deeply from the fountain that is your baptism, that is Easter, that is Christ!

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

2471 Seaman Street

Toledo, Ohio 43605

419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

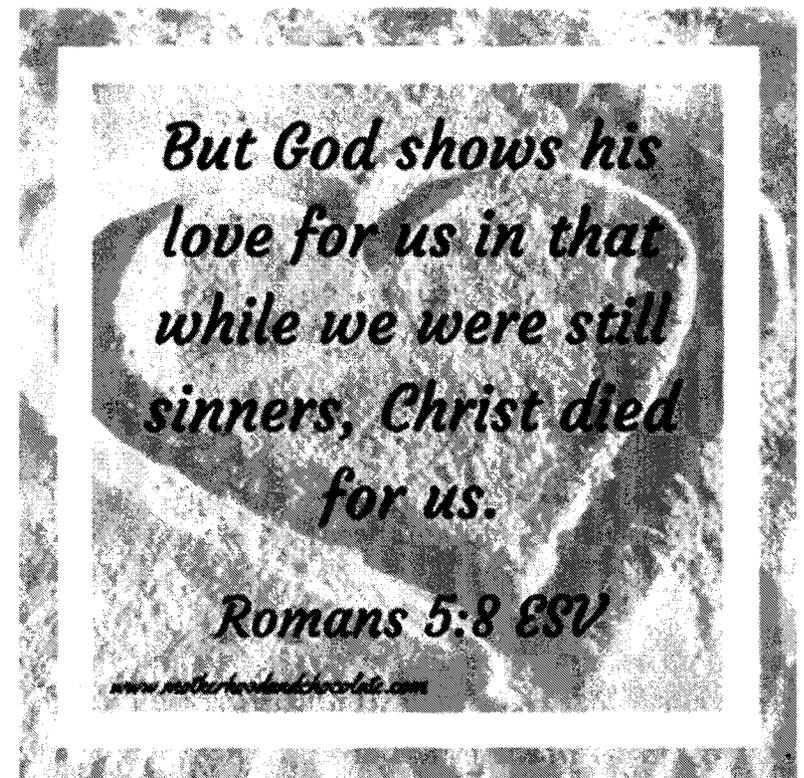
[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**March 15, 2020 - 7:45 am**

**March 15, 2020**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex.

We offer a traditional service and a celebration service, a joint effort between members of both services with special music and a message. Our Sunday schedule is:

7:45 am	Traditional Service
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Celebration Service

A.W.E. Service: We also offer a contemporary worship service on the second Wednesday of the month beginning with a light supper at 5:30 pm.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: The 7th grade class meets at 9:00 am on Sundays in the catechism room next to the ladies restroom on the second floor of the Educational Building. Eighth grade class meets every other Sunday at 11:30 am in the lounge for a light lunch and class.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement. In the hallway, the ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP – TRADITIONAL SERVICE**

Prelude            "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"            Wyeth  
Ringing of the Bell            (*Please stand*)  
Opening Hymn            "God, Whose Almighty Word"            No. 673

### **Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father, and the (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us your own. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sins, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence for personal examination)*

P: Merciful God,

C: **forgive us. You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

*(Everyone extends a greeting to those around them by saying:)*

**"The Peace of the Lord be with you."**

*(Passing of the Peace which concludes by singing the following)*



### **Greeting**

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

**C:** And also with you.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### **The Hymn of Praise - Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

Jesus keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.  
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;  
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

*Today's reading is one of several that tell of experiences during the wilderness wandering. Here, the people complain because they have a legitimate need, and God responds by providing for them. Later in their wanderings, when the people complain because of their wants, God responds with anger.*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

<sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM: Psalm 95**

*Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)*

Come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great king above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

**<sup>6</sup>Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**<sup>8</sup>Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness,  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.**

<sup>9</sup>They put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works.

**<sup>10</sup>Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."**

<sup>1</sup>So I swore in my wrath,  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

*Through Jesus' death on the cross, sinners are put right with God through faith. Being made right with God produces results--ultimately, sure hope for the future, a hope produced and confirmed by God's Spirit.*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Lenten Verse** (Please stand)

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 Acclamation (spoken)**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

*In the culture of Jesus' time, Jews tended to avoid dealings with Samaritans, and men did not converse with women in public. When Jesus crosses these boundaries to speak with a Samaritan woman, he makes himself known as the agent of God who knows all.*

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

<sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

<sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

### **Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"O Zion, Haste"

Pastor Rayl  
No. 668

### **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.

### **Pastoral Prayer** (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, Lord.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

The Offering "The Old Rugged Cross" Cheri Sergent, Bells  
Accompanied by Dr. Anthony Pattin

(Please stand)

### **Offering Response** – (Sung by the congregation)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith;

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breath new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love. Remember us in your kingdom and join us in praying:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*prayed by all*)

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**

P: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey,  
drink for the desert.

**C: We come with open hands, hearts and lives.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Communion** (*distribution will be continuous*)

*If you wish to receive grape juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."*

**Communion Hymn-** During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be sung by the congregation:

*"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" No. 494*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: 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 Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**The Blessing**

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

**C: We turn to the Lord for our life and hope.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you (+) peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn  
Postlude

*"Shine, Jesus, Shine"*  
*"Rigaudon"*

No. 671  
Campra

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**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**ELDERS**

Ben Hodges, Bob Hecklinger

**READER**

Lisa Anderson

**GREETER**

Jean Garey

**ACOLYTES**

Kieara & Cieara Vartorella

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE  
**NASHVILLE TORNADO**

MARCH 2020

ELCA.org/disaster

A powerful tornado has ripped through Nashville and other parts of Tennessee, leaving destruction in its wake. At least 24 people have been killed, homes and other buildings have been destroyed, and thousands of people are without electricity. The tornado was part of a series of severe storms.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is working with those in the impacted area – including the ELCA Southeastern Synod, In Spiritus (formerly known as Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee)

and local congregations – to respond with immediate relief. Given the extent of the destruction, recovery is expected to take years. LDR plans to accompany the synod and In Spiritus to address survivors' needs over the long haul.

**Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete.** Together, we can support those on the long road to recovery. Please give today.

**YES, I WANT TO HELP!**

- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. tornadoes* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0020
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or make your check out to  
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center**  
**P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "U.S. tornadoes" or "Where needed most" on your check's memo line.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



# 160TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

## Thursday, April 2, 2020

### Hope Lutheran Church

2201 Secor Road • Toledo, Ohio

#### SCHEDULE:

5:30 p.m. Registration and hearty hors d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. Worship service and annual meeting

President/CEO Rick Marshall and members of the Genacross Lutheran Services Board of Directors will discuss the planned affiliation with Benedictine, a nationally recognized senior care ministry based in Minnesota. Delegates from member congregations will be voting on resolutions related to joining Benedictine in ministry.



To make a reservation, please call Bev at 419.861.4954 or email [BApel@Genacross.org](mailto:BApel@Genacross.org) by March 26, 2020.

[GenacrossLutheranServices.org](http://GenacrossLutheranServices.org)



## 2020 EASTER FLOWER SALE SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order the flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$9.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The final Sunday to order will be March 22<sup>nd</sup> when someone from the Altar Guild will be available to take orders in the Narthex. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran.**

*Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Number of plants @ \$9.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Type of plant: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living) \_\_\_\_\_