

Second Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025

In many translations of today's gospel reading from Luke, Jesus says that "Mary has chosen the better part," which has been used to create a divide between Mary and Martha. However, in the Greek, Mary has chosen the "good portion," and Martha's tasks are called "ministry." Therefore, perhaps Mary represents our faith, our desire to know God intimately, and Martha represents our good works, our desire to transform the world. Both are needed, and both are good.

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Maria & Lily Snodgrass – "Prepare the Way, O Zion,"

music by Fernando Ortega & Bernard Chadwick

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: Come as you are.

C: If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,

P: If you know every scripture or none at all,

C: If you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,

P: If you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,

C: Come as you are.

P: This is God's house where none are turned away.

C: All are welcome here.

Confession

P: The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right, and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action – and everything in between. Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Faithful friends, God knows your sin, and in mercy, gave his Son to die for us. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gathering Song – “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807 (organ)

- 1 **Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 2 **Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**
- 3 **Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

**Greeting and Kyrie*

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.

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

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

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A 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.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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

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

**Hymn of Praise*

ASSISTING MINISTER



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

ALL



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: Loving God, when our anxiety hovers close, when fear clings to our bones, when our stress rises like the tide, see us. Speak to us. Call us by name. See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room. Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child. Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

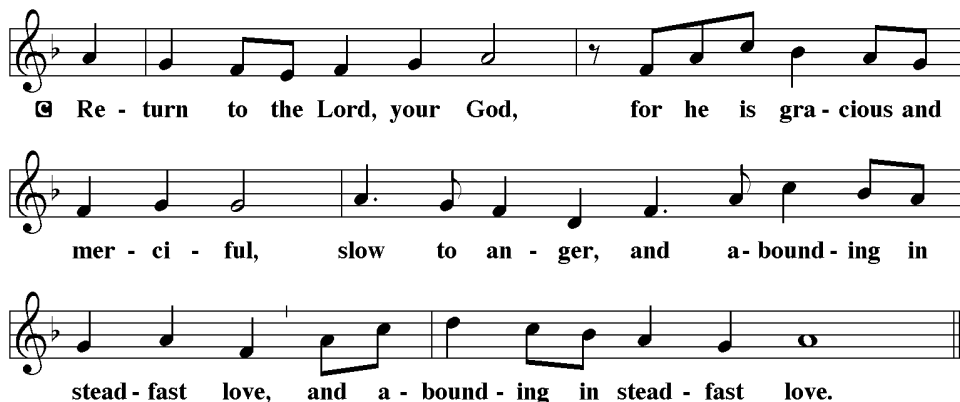
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

**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.

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 10:38-42

Reader: Angela Spray

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks;

so she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.’ ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.’

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

Sermon: "Faith and Works"

Song of the Day – “Great is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733

(piano)

- 1 **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 2 **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**
- 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

All gather at the font.

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and

raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents: We present Aubriella Joy Snodgrass and Naomi Grace Harlie Snodgrass for baptism.

Presiding minister addresses parents:

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the Holy Scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Presiding minister addresses Godparents:

P: Sam and Sydney, do you promise to nurture Aubriella Joy in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: I do.

Presiding minister addresses Godparents:

P: Melinda and Tyler, do you promise to nurture Naomi Grace Harlie in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: I do.

Presiding minister addresses the assembly:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Aubriella and Naomi and pray for them in their new lives in Christ?

C: We do.

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

Water is poured into the font...

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Baptism

Aubriella Joy Snodgrass, I baptize you in the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.

Naomi Grace Harlie Snodgrass, I baptize you in the name of the Father... and of the Son... and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Aubriella and Naomi with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Aubriella, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Naomi, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ, into this Faith Family, and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world!

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest),” arr. Galbraith
The Faith Singers

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–


**Great Thanksgiving*



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



☑ 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.

**Words of Institution*

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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631 (*organ*)

- 1 **Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**
- 2 **Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3 **Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4 **Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

“Blessed Assurance” ELW 638 (*piano*)

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***
3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
*Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: As you leave this place, know that God is with you in every messy middle, and go with God's 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.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858 (organ)*

- 1 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3 **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**

- 4 **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him!**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark
 Greeter: Lynette Hamilton
 Reader: Angela Spray
 Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner
 Pastor: Adam Dichsen
 Music Director: Jean Welch
 Organist: Sandi Watts
 Pianist: Jean Welch
 Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
 Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson
 Chancel Committee: Kim Heise
 Coffee Hosts: Hallie Mayner & Liddy Stark



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 16, 9:30am: Worship + Baptisms of Ella & Naomi Snodgrass
11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp
5:30pm: Faith Inkubators

Wednesday, March 19, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library
6:00pm: Lenten Meal
7:00pm: Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 23, 9:30am: Worship
11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room
3:00pm: JACC Youth Game Night (*see blurb on page 18*)

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00pm: Lenten Meal
7:00pm: Lenten Worship

The altar plants are given today by Liddy Stark
in honor of her mother and daughter Alyssa's birthdays
and
by the Roth & Snodgrass families in celebration of the baptisms of
Aubriella Joy Snodgrass and Naomi Grace Harlie Snodgrass

News Updates

Faith's Little Flock

This month, we will follow the Lenten worship themes. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far! The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in March!

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on its significance for us today.

Meal Signup for Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

We are looking for volunteers to provide meals when our children and youth meet on Sunday evenings. The meal is served from 5:30-6:00pm at the end of Bible Boot Camp and beginning of our youth night. Plates and utensils are available in the kitchen, and you are welcome to cook or heat the meal there as well. **If you can help, please sign up on the sheet located on the counter by the coat closet.** Thank You!

Bible Boot Camp

Last Fall, we introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children. Pastor Adam warms them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all join with parents and older youth for a meal. **Our next events will be held on Sundays, March 16, and April 6 and 13, from 4:30-6:00.** Spread the word and bring a friend!

Faith Inkubators

Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Future events are scheduled for Sundays, from 5:30-7:30.** The next date is **Tonight.**

Get to Know Our Youth

For Sunday mornings during Lent, we are looking for volunteers to meet with our youth after worship. You can choose from a variety of options, from following a list of questions to share your faith and get to know each other better, use a discussion guide to reflect on the scripture of the day, work together in the kitchen for a meal, do a service project together at church or someone's home, or more. Sign up by the Total Ministry Center and enjoy getting to know our youth.

Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Our schedule has changed for midweek worship services this year -- note that worship now begins at 7:00 p.m.

March 19 and 26

Outreach Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship: "Pray without Ceasing"

Our midweek worship services will focus on prayer and provide opportunities to pray without ceasing. We will worship in the sanctuary with a variety of music that invites us

into prayer. There will be time for your own prayer and some reflections on the power of prayer in our lives. ¹⁶*Rejoice always,* ¹⁷*pray without ceasing,* ¹⁸*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* - 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Midweek Supper and Worship with new “Outreach Meals”

Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, but with a significant change. The meals will no longer be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. **Groups are invited to sign up for a Wednesday to provide the meal.** Faith will reimburse them \$200 in outreach funds to cover their cost. The group can select a charity to receive the funds, and all of the offering will go towards that ministry. Sign up your group and charity at the counter outside the Total Ministry Center. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and all are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.

Lenten Devotional Books

Pick up your own devotional book to dig deeper into the weekly binaries that Jesus addresses in Luke’s gospel. In addition to scripture, each week includes commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and journaling prompts. Pair this book with your Bible as they accompany you through the Lenten season to the empty tomb.

Daily Devotional Cards

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the first few days of Eastertide, use these daily devotional cards with questions and prayers to deepen our spiritual walk through Lent. Day by day, may these prayers remind you that God is by your side, through your doubt, your faith, and everything in between.

Women of Faith

Women of Faith is on hiatus during the season of Lent. Make plans to join us again in May for a special Mother’s Day event. More details coming soon!

Discipleship Group

♥ Swing by the Faith Library at 10:00am on **Wednesday, March 19**, for a heartwarming chat all about LOVE and everything it brings. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com. Can’t wait to see you there!

Music and Choir Opportunities at Faith

At our recent listening session, we heard a desire for our choir to get back together. Our Music Director, Jean Welch, will be organizing a choir to sing on Easter and at our Living Last Supper worship, but there is one thing she needs... singers! If you would like to sing with us, contact Jean. We are also always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Game Time! Sunday, March 23, 3:00-5:00pm
 Beyond Tabletop Game Lounge
 70 E. Central Park Plaza, Jacksonville

Jr. High and High School youth groups and their sponsors are invited to a battle of board games! Snacks will be provided. RSVP to Libby West: lizz_e58@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches.

Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are available in the church office.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*