

EASTER FLOWERS

The cost is \$11.00 per plant.

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 13!

Please fill out the form below and place it with your payment in one of your green *Special Offering* envelopes from your packet or by using a pew envelope and mark it "Easter flowers."

Please place the envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

----- cut -----

Easter Flower Sponsor

Name _____
(As you would like it to appear in the bulletin; names only, please)

Envelope # _____

Lily _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Tulip _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Hyacinth _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Daffodil _____
 # x \$11.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor
Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 30, 2025

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!
Congregation: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE *Canzona* Zipoli

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P 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.

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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 Amen.

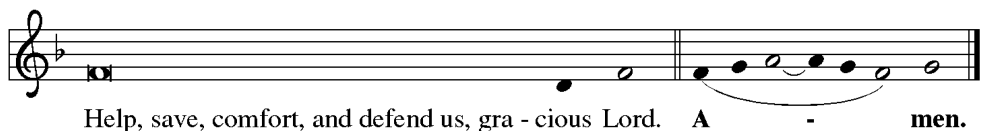
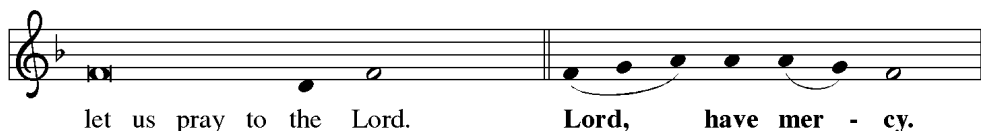
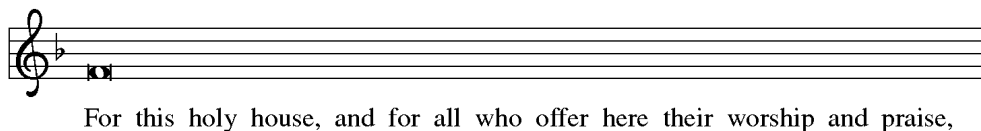
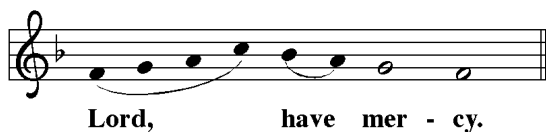
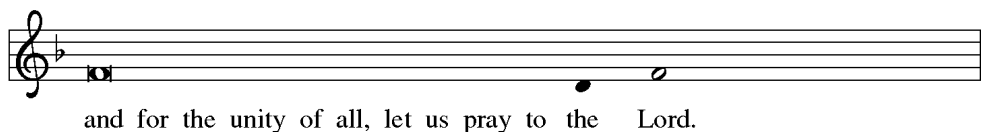
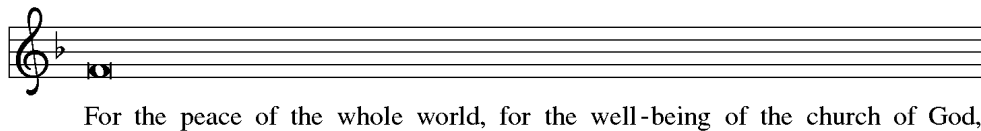
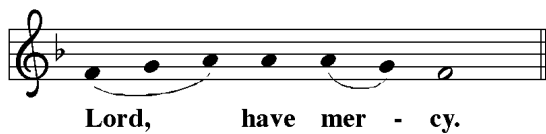
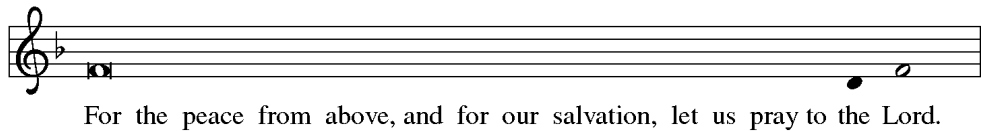
GATHERING HYMN #779 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

GREETING

A 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.

KYRIE



Sunday Sinfonia

Music is the Tie That Binds

April 12, 2025

3PM

Bern Reformed UCC

3196 Bernville Rd (Rt 183)

Leesport, PA

April 13, 2025

3PM

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

250 Church Lane Rd

Reading, PA

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road
Reading, PA 19606

Pastor Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor:
pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

Church Office Phone 610-779-3480

Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257

RINGGOLD BAND



173rd Anniversary Spring Fundraising Concert

Come join the Ringgold Band and the Ringgold New Horizons Band for an enjoyable afternoon of concert band music at our new venue:

Muhlenberg High School, 400 Sharp Ave, Reading, PA 19605



Col. Timothy J. Holtan



Mr. Ariel Metzger

Our 173rd Anniversary Spring Concert will feature The Ringgold Band's talented musicians performing a variety of musical genres under the skilled direction of our conductor, Charles Ebersole. This year's featured guest is the Maryland

Winds conductor, Col. (ret.) Timothy J. Holtan. The band is also proud to feature our Ringgold Band Young Artist Award winner, Mr. Ariel Metzger on Marimba. You will also be treated to the exciting sounds of the Ringgold New Horizons Band.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 — 2:00 p.m.

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15.00: available online at ringgoldband.com, from any band member, or at the door | **Students: Free**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE The Rev. Richard Bardo

FIRST READING Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 *read responsively*

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ **I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds
those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

LENTEN VERSE



P The Gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property

EASTER BRUNCH DONATIONS

The brunch will be held April 20 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ANY OF THE
FOLLOWING FOR THE EASTER BRUNCH, PLEASE
COMPLETE THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS FORM AND
RETURN IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE BY APRIL 13.

DONATED ITEMS MAY BE PLACED IN THE
OFFICE BREEZEWAY, CHURCH KITCHEN OR CHURCH
OFFICE

BY SATURDAY, APRIL 19.

----- cut -----

BAKED GOODS DONATION

Name _____

_____ Bagels and Cream Cheese

_____ Muffins

_____ Coffee cake

_____ Fruit

_____ Cookies

_____ Danish

_____ Donuts

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

10:00 A.M.

FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

EGG HUNT

MUSIC

STORIES

CRAFTS

PRIZES



that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Richard Bardo

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

#343 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Lenten Soup

Supper

6 P.M.

April 9



**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER
BEFORE OUR LENTEN SERVICE.
FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED.
A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.
PLEASE HELP US PLAN BY TEXTING
610-780-9825 WITH YOUR NAME AND THE
NUMBER ATTENDING....OR CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE
AT 610-779-3480**

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL CAMPAIGN

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays — April 2, 9 — 7:00 p.m.

We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*

Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 9. (please see next page)

So, what is Lent? Lent is the season of preparation leading up to Easter. It commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. We use these forty days to contemplate our relationship with Christ and the call that He has for each of us.

People celebrate Lent with different practices: fasting, prayer, self-denial, and almsgiving. Self-denial could include giving up certain activities or luxuries, or maybe favorite hobbies for the season. And Almsgiving is all about living a generous life. But, be especially generous during Lent - maybe give to the church's **LENTEN SELF-DENIAL campaign**. You will find special **Lenten Self-Denial Envelopes** in the Narthex. Please use these envelopes to add a special and additional offering to your normal weekly or monthly offerings. This year, the Lenten Self-Denial Offering will go to support the Veteran's Stand Down in Pottstown which supports homeless veterans and veterans in need in the Pottstown area. Veterans receive hot food and can participate in a special clothing closet and food pantry just for Vets. They also can talk to providers for services and benefits and spend some fellowship time with fellow vets.



A God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion, especially:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Cindy Fliegel | Barbara Hafer |
| Kurt Schmaldinst | Janice Smithson |
| Tom Bowersox | Jayne Phillips |
| Tracy Rohrbach | Suzanne Trigg |
| Jim and Lauri Walker | |

We pray for all those concerns and people we quietly name in our hearts.

(Silent prayers)

Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of gracious love, bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Share the peace with one another.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

ANTHEM *Lamb of God* Larson
Sr. Choir

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



THE 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

BLESSING

P God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
C Amen.



**DONATIONS OF CANDY FOR THE
EASTER EGG HUNT WOULD BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED. THE DONATED CANDY SHOULD BE
INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED AND SMALL ENOUGH
TO FIT INTO A PLASTIC EGG.**

**DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN,
THE CHURCH OFFICE OR IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA.**



The New Journey Soup Kitchen ministry has been part of our outreach for years. The need is greater than ever. So in an effort to increase the amount of soup we donate, we are modifying our on-call team and extending an invitation to everyone in the congregation. A list of everyone who is willing to make soup at least one month during the year will be compiled. Every month the recipe for that month's soup will be sent to the on-call team and to all the people on the new list, and they can choose whether or not to participate that month. (The existing teams will still prepare their recipes as always. If you want to participate more than that one month, have your name added to the new list.) If you participate, you will need to let Carol Gunzelmann or the soup team captain know your intention and have your labelled soup in the kitchen upright freezer by the middle of the month. 3-4 quart containers are available in the kitchen or can be purchased at the dollar store. Complete the form below to have your name added to the list. Contact Carol Gunzelmann 610-401-5731 or carolgunzelmann@gmail.com with questions.

----- CUT -----

I am willing to prepare soup for the New Journey soup kitchen at least one month of my choice.

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____



Please place completed
form in the offering plate
or drop off at the church
office.
Thank you!

CALENDER FOR LENT / HOLY WEEK / EASTER

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays — April 2, 9 — 7:00 p.m.

We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* Service

Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on April 9.

PALM SUNDAY

April 13

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Reading of the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17

7:30 PM Holy Communion Service

Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18

7:30 PM Worship Service

EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19

10:00 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20

8:00 AM Early Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion

SENDING HYMN #773 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Dialogue* Dandrieu

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Please be advised that all of our worship services are broadcast live via zoom to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email to members of the congregation and posted on the church's Facebook page.



The Congregation is cordially invited
to an Easter Brunch
April 20, 9:00 A.M.
in Fellowship Hall

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Jesse Gibney Assisting Minister
Denton Quick Usher Captain
Layla Gibney Acolyte
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Ian Carr Carillonneurs
Carolyn Woodford Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome The Rev. Richard Bardo as our supply pastor this morning.

If you are a visitor, a special welcome to you, and if you are without a church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. You are also encouraged to sign our guest register with your preferred contact information. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table.

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Mary Phillips in honor of her sister, and 2) by Stephanie (Hafer) and Tyler Shaak in celebration of the 7th birthday of their twins, Kenton and Tenley.

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored 1) by Kevin and Sally Kennedy in honor of Jersey Girl's first birthday, and 2) by Mark Hoover in gratitude for his church family.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Children's toys, games, puzzles and books are available in the Narthex.

Church-time Nursery is available downstairs in the "Parent and Me" room with plenty of toys and books for toddlers and youngsters.

WE ARE IN NEED OF **ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS** for April 27 and all of May. WE ARE IN NEED OF **BULLETIN SPONSORS** for all of April. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

The **April issue** of our *Pulpit and Pew* newsletter and the **Apr/May/June issue of Christ In Our Home** are available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances.

BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Thursday, April 10, at 9:00 a.m. at the Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

Last Sunday's Current Envelopes Offering:

Budgeted income \$ 4,038.00
Actual income \$ 3,672.00

Baptism

THE CONGREGATION IS CORDIALLY INVITED

to the baptism of Emily Elizabeth Miller,
daughter of David and Meghan Miller,
granddaughter of Pastors John and Amy Miller.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, AT 11:00 A.M.

here at Schwarzwald Lutheran Church.

There will be a luncheon following the baptism.

If you would like to stay for the luncheon,
please RSVP to the Church Office **by March 31.**

SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

During the month of April, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting **clean, gently-used clothing** for the **Hope Rescue Mission**. Personal care items, such as razors, deodorant, body wash and shampoo, as well as new, packaged men's underwear is also welcome.

Place all donations in the marked bin found in the Narthex. The **final collection day will be Sunday, April 27.**

Thank you for your generosity and support!

GODS WORK, OUR HANDS.



Thrivent Choice Dollars—Thank you to those who have Thrivent products and have designated Schwarzwald Lutheran Church as a recipient of funds. Continue to check on your accounts! You can access your account on the computer at Thrivent.com/choicedollars or call a representative at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. **March 31 is the deadline to designate 2024 Choice Dollars.**