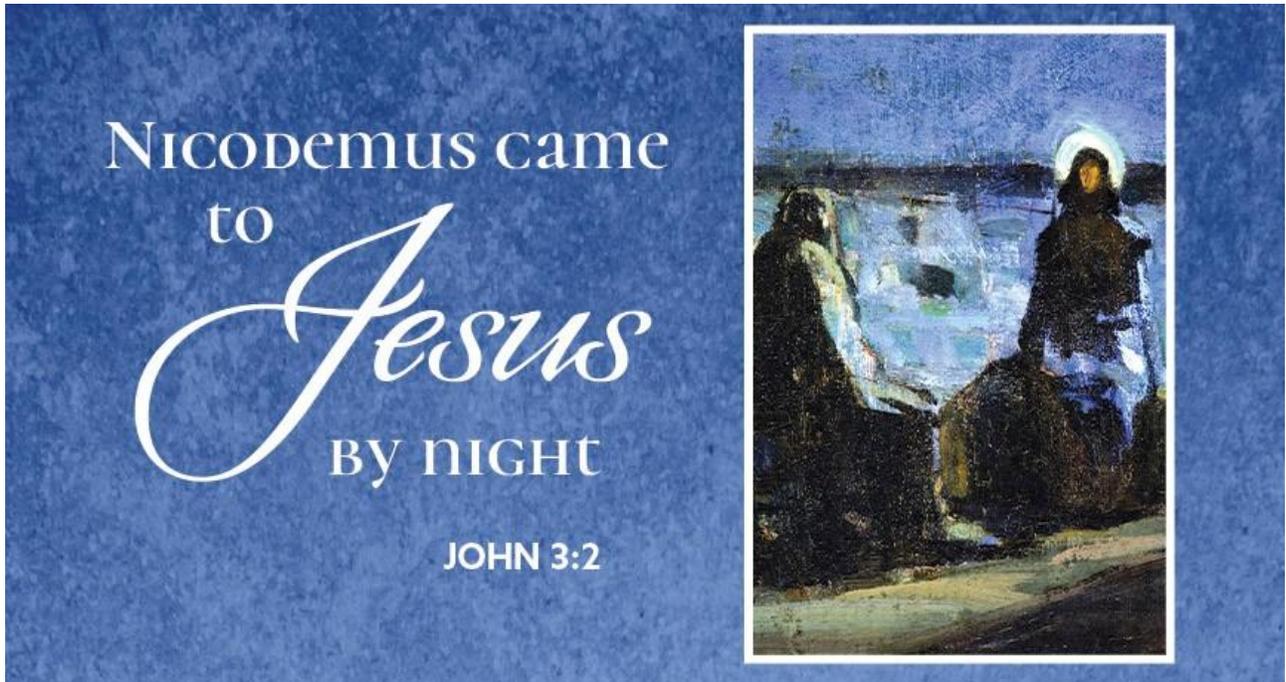


# Second Sunday in Lent



**March 1, 2026**

**WELCOME!**

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

## **Faith Lutheran Church**

550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228

Blakeslee, PA 18610

Office 570-646-0309

**Email:** [faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org](mailto:faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org)

**Website:** [faithlutheranblakeslee.org](http://faithlutheranblakeslee.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312>

Leader:..... Peggy Rapp

Lector..... Lois Childers

Greeters/Ushers: ..... Don Childers

Music:..... Molly Finkbiner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Easter Flowers:** Order deadline is March 5. If you would like to order flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, order forms are in the back of the church.

**Flowers and bulletins:** donated by Glenda and Roy Hoffmann in memory of Aunt Margery J. Batchler.

**Faith Fellowship Team:** Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

**Faith Cookbook:** Recipes can be for appetizers, soups and salads, main courses, side dishes, casseroles and desserts. Please submit your recipe to Sara Cornell or Barbara Laughlin. Include your name with your recipe.

**Altar Service Signup:** Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris\_fan@yahoo.com to help.

**Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations:** Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

## MEETINGS/EVENTS

**AA Meetings:** Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** March 11, 2026, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

**Bible Study:** Sundays, 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Joshua.

**Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

**Lenten Study with Soup Supper:** Our six-week sessions begin Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church along with one to volunteer to bring soup and bread to share. Hope you can join us.

**Choir Rehearsals:** Sundays, 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Faith Library:** Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

**Faithful Community Quilters:** Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Free Community Lunch:** First Tuesday of each month. (Mar. 3) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House, 133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

**Pastor Jami Possinger** has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

*Please rise as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**                   “Herzlich tut mich verlangen,” “Munich”

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**



## GATHERING HYMN

### Hope of the World

1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,  
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,  
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,  
4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us  
5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,

Speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.  
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:  
show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:  
from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:  
who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:

Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,  
still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en  
walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways  
we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;  
we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;

who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.  
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.  
lure us a - way from you to end - less night.  
work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.  
you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

## 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



Leader  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM

121C

Psalm 121

Unto the Hills I Lift My Longing Eyes

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom. — 2 Timothy 4:18

1. <sup>1</sup> Un - to the hills I lift my long-ing eyes; Whence comes my  
 2. <sup>4</sup> He who keeps Is - r'el slum-bers not nor sleeps By night or  
 3. <sup>7</sup> You will be safe, pro - tect - ed by the LORD, By His con-

aid? <sup>2</sup> The LORD's my help, the heav - ens and the earth By  
 day. <sup>5</sup> The LORD keeps you, a shade on your right hand The  
 trol. From ev - ery e - vil that may come your way He'll

Him were made. <sup>3</sup> Your foot from stum - bling He will al - ways  
 LORD will stay. <sup>6</sup> Through - out the day the sun will nev - er  
 keep your soul. <sup>8</sup> While you go dai - ly out and in your

keep; The One who guards your life will nev - er sleep.  
 smite, Nor will the moon af - flict you in the night.  
 door, The LORD will keep you now and ev - er - more.

## SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **John 3:1-17**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very

truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”  
<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”  
<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.  
<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.  
<sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’  
<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”  
<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”  
<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.  
<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?  
<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.  
<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

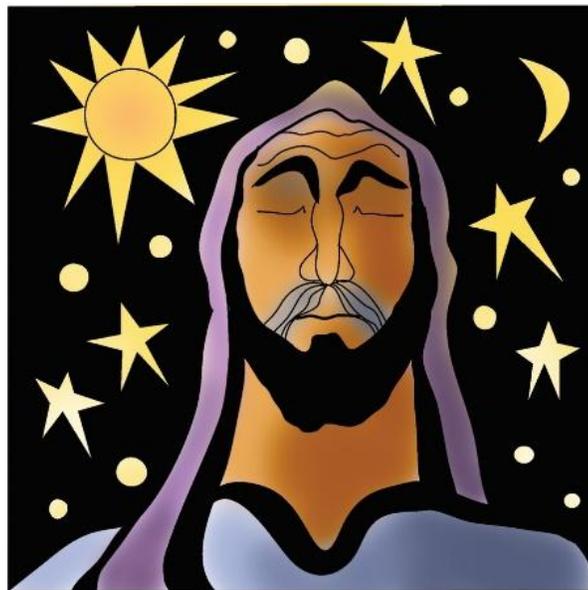
<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S TIME SERMON**



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Come to the Water of Life

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

## 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### PRAYER LIST

*Tom M.; Valerie M.; Pastor Michael Ryan; Jill A.; Nancy M.; Phyllis & Jim N.; Shirley S.; Jim H.; Jenn & Rachel; Bob & Gail C.; Martha E.; Mya; Mary D.; Nicky S.; Leon P.; Homer A.; Judi C.; James K. & Family; Kathleen A.; Tom S.; Larissa; Barbara & David L.; Joyce K.; Tammy H.; Mike & Peg; Eric L.; Dick M.; Don C.; David S.; Phil A.; Eric, Pat, & Brian R.; Michael K.; Sue E.; Tracy N.; Megan; St. Paul Smithfield Twp.*

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** "Assurance," John Carter,  
*played by Molly Finkbiner.*



F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C B♭ Gm

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup> F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C

you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

Gm F/A F/B♭ C F Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>

I might be re - newed. So fill me and

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Gm/D C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup>

heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A F/B♭ C F

ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **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**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**



## Blessed Assurance

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

### Prelude:

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### Gathering Hymn:

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### Psalm:

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### Hymn of the Day:

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### Offertory Music:

Assurance, John Carter. © 2005 Augsburg Fortress. #AF2020692. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726919. All rights reserved.

### Offering Song:

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### Sending Hymn:

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### Postlude:

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### Service Music:

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Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 10: We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You, Holy, Holy, Holy, Amen. © 2011 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Augsburg Fortress.

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## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Easter Flowers

Sunday, April 5, 2026

I, \_\_\_\_\_ dedicate these flowers in memory/honor of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Lillies: \$15 ea. x \_\_\_ qty - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils: \$10 ea. x \_\_\_ qty - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips: \$10 ea. x \_\_\_ qty - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards my donation.

**Order deadline is Thursday, March 5, 2026.**

Office  
Use:

Cash

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

