



MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533
Phone: 610-374-4343 / Fax: 610-374-1014
Email: bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.berchurch.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP:

In-Sanctuary Worship on Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman, 610-790-7195 (cell)
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri, Phone: 610-370-0965

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Brenda Reichart, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Theresa Shurr, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Jane Battaglieri
Christopher Becker
Michael Braucher
Richard Greener
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger

BUILDING PRINCIPLES:

- Devotion to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Compassionate Sharing and Community Service
- Persistent Faithfulness
- Courageous Witness
- Flexible Leadership

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

God's purpose for our congregation is to:

- Learn God's mission
- Share God's love
- Witness through Word and Service
- Welcome all to a fellowship of forgiveness and thankful praise

BERN BUGLE NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

The *Bern Bugle* for March is given to the Glory of God in memory of Verna Speicher by Tim and Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 18th:

- The sound system update was completed in mid-December.
- A motion was made to pursue opportunities for a shared pastor.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, February 19th:

- Approved the request of Worship and Music Committee to add the doxology back to the service, as well as bringing the offering forward.
- Discussed next steps in working toward a shared pastor and approved at the Congregational Meeting.
- Reviewed the current committees of the congregation to update mission and membership as needed. Committees will all resume formal meetings.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY

The Catechetical Class would like to thank the congregation for the overwhelming support of our Souperbowl Sunday collection to benefit the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. We collected 20



cans of soup and a total of \$313 in monetary donations! Our members called it correctly with \$247 donated in support of the Chiefs and \$66 donated for the 49ers. Thank you to all who contributed. We appreciate your generosity.

FOOD & FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Epler's UCC will be holding their Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, March 1**, with a fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Come out for an evening of worship and fellowship.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

On **Saturday, March 16, at 7:30 a.m.** Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help at the next food pantry distribution at Church of the Holy Trinity, Apple Street, Leesport. If you are able to participate, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact Korinne in the church office.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the April *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, March 19th.**

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE – March 20

Bern Lutheran Church will be hosting the Midweek Lenten service on **Wednesday, March 20, at 12 noon.** This includes "Soup and Sandwiches" prior to the service and dessert after the service.

Volunteers will be needed to assist with preparing and serving the meal. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for opportunities to assist. Any help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772 with any questions.

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

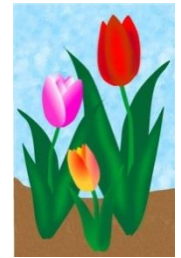
Sign-up sheets for 2024 are available on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices remain the same as last year with Altar Flowers costing \$35.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, and the Newsletter for \$40.00/month. You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God. You may also contact Korinne in the church office to sponsor any of these items.

MARCH SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for Sunday, March 3 and 10, and Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, March 31. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you would like to sponsor any of these dates. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

We are planning to beautify our sanctuary with flowers and decorating the Lily Cross on Easter Sunday (we will need 28 white lilies to fill the Easter Cross). Please see the order form included with this newsletter. Orders are due by **Wednesday, March 20th.** Thank you!



Confirmation Class

Below is the schedule for our Confirmation classes and the Acolytes scheduled for the month of March:

<u>Acolyte</u>	
March 3 – Class	Aiden Angstadt
March 10 – Class	Derian Readinger
March 17 – Class	Jameson Kasisky
March 24 – NO Class	Hannah Lash
March 31 – NO Class	Aiden Angstadt

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children are invited to join us for Sunday School after the worship service from 11:00-11:30 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday).

INCLEMENT WEATHER

From time to time the weather may affect our scheduled worship services and activities at church. If there would be inclement weather, particularly on a Sunday morning, there are a few ways you can check to see if worship has been cancelled.

You can check the message on the answering machine, check



our website or Facebook page, or tune into WFMZ-TV Channel 69 for any information on delays and/or closings. Any decision to cancel the worship service will be made through consultation with the officers of Council at least 2 hours before our worship service.

The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise."

—Carl Knudsen



This year we will be joining together with other Schuylkill Valley area churches to celebrate Lent. The midweek Lenten services will begin with a soup and sandwich luncheon at 12:00 noon followed by an abbreviated Lenten worship, followed by dessert after the worship service. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. Below is the schedule:

Midweek Worship, March 6 at 12:00 p.m.

Salem Belleman's Church

3540 Bellemans Church Road, Mohrsville

Midweek Worship, March 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

102 Apple Street, Leesport

Midweek Worship, March 20 at 12:00 p.m.

Bern Lutheran Church

820 West Leesport Road, Leesport

Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Bethany Evan. Congregational Church

308 Main Street, Leesport

Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Salem Belleman's Church

3540 Bellemans Church Road, Mohrsville

SUGGESTION BOX

A friendly reminder that if you have any comments, questions, and/or suggestions, we would love to hear them. Everything will remain anonymous.

There are papers on the table in the narthex. Just jot down anything that is on your mind and drop it in the Suggestion Box. The papers that are in the box are picked up and reviewed at our council meetings.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thank you to those members who designate their Thrivent Choice dollars to Bern Lutheran Church. This program continues to benefit our church through your quarterly designations. If you would like to designate your "Choice Dollars" to Bern Lutheran Church, please call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836. When you hear the menu options, simply say "Choice Dollars" and you will be connected to an operator to conduct the transaction. To make your designation by email, go to Thrivent's website at www.Thrivent.com and fill in the necessary information. **All Thrivent contributions must be directed by March 31, 2024.** Thank you!

COMMITTEE CORNER



Over the next few months, the committees of our congregation will be featured in our newsletter to allow all members to know a little more about what that committee does, and provide an opportunity for members to volunteer to serve on a committee that may spark their interest. Our first committee to feature is "Outreach." This committee suspended formal meetings during COVID, but is now ready to come back together. The mission of the group is "to provide activities that nurture the Christian spirit of the congregation and provide opportunities that allow the community to be touched by that spirit." In our 2023 Annual Report, you can see some of the activities that fell under that committee this past year, and many of them are planned again for 2024. The committee will also be considering new opportunities to spread the good news and provide opportunities for fellowship within our congregation and our community. If you would like to join the Outreach Committee, please contact Linda Lash.



June M. Kochan, 83, of Reading, passed away on December 23, 2023. She was the daughter of the late George and Margaret Gilbert. June is survived by her husband of sixty-four years, Jack Kochan, two sons, Jeffrey and Jonathan, a granddaughter, Marisol, and a sister, Ruth Keeney. Services for June will be announced in the spring. Leibensperger Funeral Homes, Leesport is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.leibenspergerfuneralhomes.com.

"Easter is more than a day, an event, a remembrance. It is a way of life."

—Michael Marsh

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
01/28/24	\$1,222.50	43
02/04/24	\$4,618.00	62
02/11/24	\$3,035.00	43
02/18/24	\$1,555.00	39

***\$3,259.19 is needed per week to meet 100%
of the Budgeted Expenses***

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$14,571.00	\$14,571.00
Congregational Fund Raising	.00	.00
Total Funds	<u>\$14,571.00</u>	<u>\$14,571.00</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$7,536.00	\$ 7,536.00
Non-Budgeted Income	7,035.00	7,035.00
Budgeted Expenses	7,700.00	7,700.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,895.00	1,895.00
Benevolence to be Paid	205.00	205.00
Surplus/Deficit	+4,471.00	+4,471.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$131.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	28.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	23.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	23.00	600.00
Other	.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$100.00
Interest	75.35	75.35
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$44,570.79</u>

Savings Account		<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$	153.00
Interest		402.75
Expenses		<u>.00</u>
		<u>\$238,639.60</u>

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

MEMBERS:

JoAnn Ketz, Arlene Lengel, Tina Hissinger, Jane Battaglieri, Evelyn Drobnick, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tim Moyer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Angie, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Sherry Lockhart, Kelly Cockrum, Terri Hine, Ziomara, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, Natalie, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, and Brenda Frey

(If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please contact Korinne in the church office. Please also notify her of anyone that could be removed.)



We would like to update the prayer list. Please review the prayer list above and if you have added anyone and they are doing well, we ask that you please notify the church office so they can be removed. Also, there are some names on the prayer list that we are not certain who added them, especially the ones with just first names. If you could, please let us know if you recognize any of these names. Thank you!

“Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 7 Christopher Knabb
- 7 Millie Schuler
- 9 Phyllis Stonefelt *
- 11 Adam Schuler
- 12 Gerald Pawlyk
- 13 C. Jacob Stricker *
- 14 Jay Field
- 14 Linda Heck *
- 21 D. Barry Shurr
- 22 Jean Lash *
- 23 Cerina Readinger
- 24 Barbara Braucher *
- 29 Michael Reichart
- 30 Linda Lash
- 30 Derian Readinger
- 31 Dennis Egan



- 6 Robert and Tina Hissinger (54 years)
- 8 Gary and Evelyn Drobnick (21 years)
- 24 C. Jacob and June Stricker (73 years)



Sunday, March 10, 2024

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

You can sponsor Altar Flowers for \$35.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, or our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway with your name and dedication next to the date(s) you want to sponsor.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

- March 3 – *sponsor needed*
- March 10 – *sponsor needed*
- March 17 – The Braucher Family
- March 24 – Linda and Carl Lash
- March 31 – Easter Flowers

Bulletin Sponsors:

- March 3 – sponsored
- March 10 – sponsored
- March 17 – Terri Shurr
- March 24 – The Braucher Family
- March 31 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor:

Tim and Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

Church Openers:

- March 3 – Michael Braucher
- March 10 – Patricia Yocum
- March 17 – Linda Lash
- March 24 – Richard Gruber
- March 31 – Theresa Shurr

Church Greeters:

- March 3 – Barbara Auchenbach
- March 10 – Nancy Malandra
- March 17 – Barbara Auchenbach
- March 24 – Nancy Malandra
- March 31 – Barbara Auchenbach

Lectors:

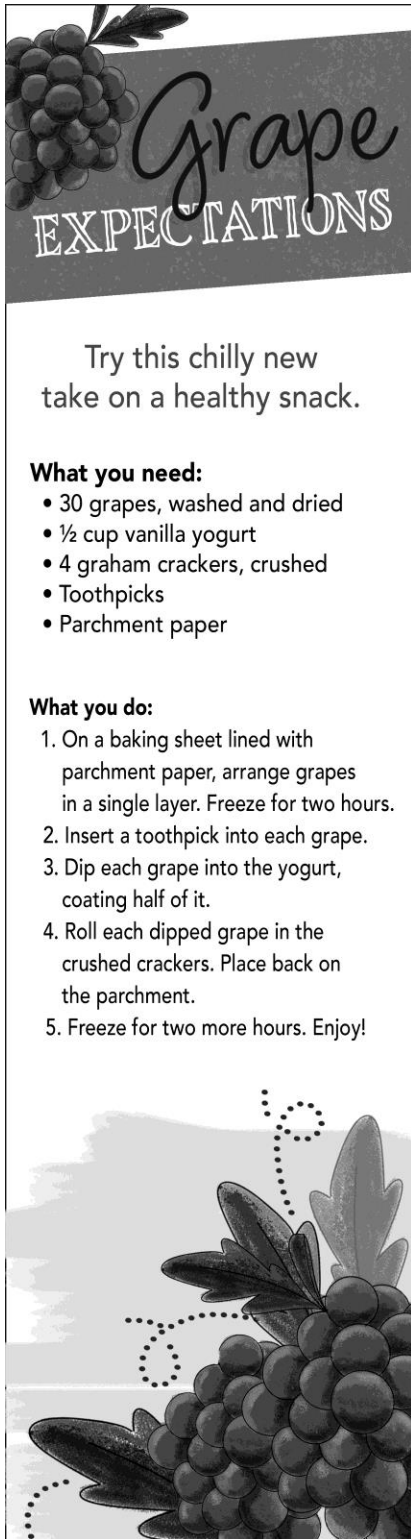
- March 3 – David Greenwood
- March 10 – Richard Gruber
- March 17 – Beth Hartman
- March 24 – Kate Schuler
- March 31 – Jay Field

Communion Assistants:

- March 3 – Linda Lash
- March 10 – Dianne Leininger
- March 17 – Linda Lash
- March 24 – Terri Shurr
- March 31 – Dianne Leininger

Supply Pastor Schedule:

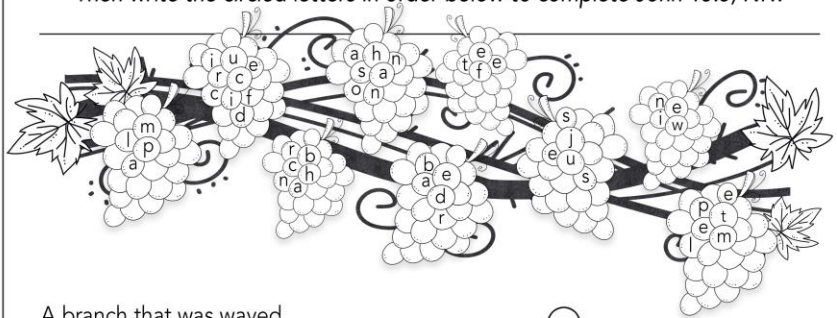
- March 3 – Pastor William Fryer
- March 10 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
- March 17 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
- March 24 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
- March 31 – Pastor David Kistler



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.

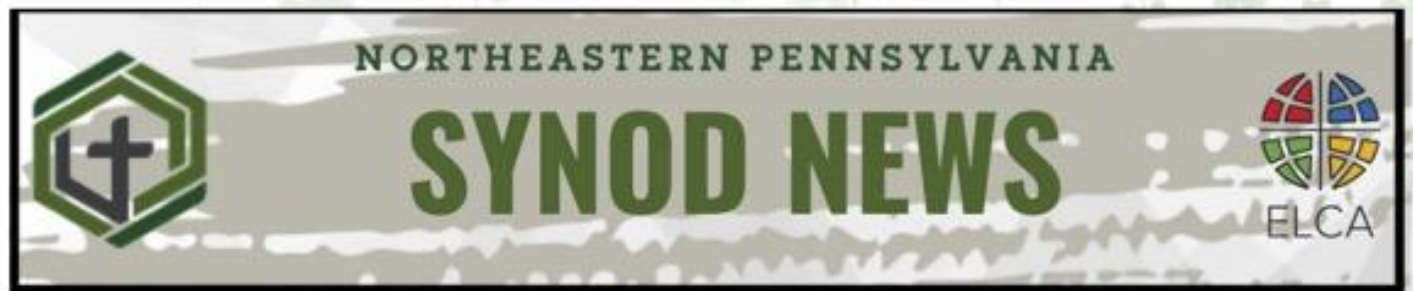


- A branch that was waved _ _ _ ○
- How Jesus was put to death _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _
- A stick attached to the vine _ _ _ _ _ ○ _
- People shouted this to Jesus ○ _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus washed these ○ _ _ _
- This was broken and eaten _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _
- The Messiah _ _ _ _ _ ○ _
- A drink from grapes _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
- Jesus drove the money changers from here ○ _ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit



Cultivating Generosity

Throughout the fall our congregations are often focused on stewardship and gratitude for the generosity of members. Folks provide stewardship talks, members complete commitment cards, and sermons are proclaimed to encourage generosity of time, talent and finances. But did you know that our ELCA Congregation and Synod Support Team offers training and recommendations on cultivating generosity?

This past fall, in partnership with the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, stewardship leaders from eight congregations, representing four ELCA synods, came together for a training series called "Cultivating Generous Congregations" (CGC). Over seven weeks leaders from these eight congregations gathered online as a cohort with the Lake Institute's trained faculty and each other. Cultivating Generous Congregations maps the new landscape of religious giving and provides congregational teams with tools to build a culture of generosity unique to each congregation's needs, challenges, and opportunities. CGC explores theology, the role of adaptive leadership, fiscal transparency, and the importance of giver care, with action steps to impact the exploration of generosity and energize congregational generosity to take the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change.

Following the final session, the eight congregations received a year of access to the Lake Institute's numerous stewardship resources, as well as optional coaching to assist in the implementation of these practices. Mission Support funds the opportunity for congregations and leaders to learn from stewardship experts and one another and to grow together so that their local mission, and how God is growing generosity, can be told in more effective ways in today's culture.





Atonement Lutheran Church
5 Wyomissing Blvd.,
Wyomissing, PA 19610



Northeastern Pennsylvania SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2024

“HUNGRY FOR LIFE TOGETHER IN CHRIST”

Saturday, June 8, 8:30am-4:30pm

TWO ATTENDANCE OPTIONS FOR VOTING MEMBERS:
In-person and online (Zoom)

Registration: \$130 (same for both attendance options)

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 16

Watch for email that day, with detailed info and registration link

Info also posted that day on our synod website: www.godslove.org

Questions? Contact: Laurie Christman laurie@nepsynod.org

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond World Day of Prayer	2
3 <u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School	4	5	6 12:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Salem Bellemans Church, Mohrsville	7	8 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	9
10 <u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00 am-Sunday School Daylight Saving Time Ends	11	12	13 12:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts	14	15 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	16 7:30am-Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution
17 <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00pm-Council Meeting	19 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use) First Day of Spring Newsletter Deadline	20 12:00pm-Midweek Lenten Service, Bern Lutheran Church, Leesport Easter Flower Order Deadline	21	22 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	23
24 Passion Sunday/Palm <u>Sunday</u> No Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School	25	26 4:00-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	27	28 6:30-9:00am-Boy Scouts Hawk Mountain Council Meeting (Social Hall use) 7:00pm-Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Bethany EC Church, Leesport	29 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond 7:00pm-Good Friday Worship Service, Salem Bellemans Church, Mohrsville	30
31 Resurrection of Our <u>Lord/Easter Day</u> 10:00am-Worship No Confirmation Class or Sunday School						



Easter Flower Order Form

We will be adorning our sanctuary with beautiful flowers for Easter Sunday. Please make your selection below and return your order form with payment to the church office or offering plate by **Wednesday, March 20th**.

PLEASE NOTE: We need 28 lilies to fill the Lily Cross.

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total</u>
8" Daffodil	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
White Lily (5-7 blooms)	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
6" Pink Tulip	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
6" Red Tulip	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
6" Yellow Tulip	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
6" Orange Tulip	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
6" Purple Tulip	_____	X \$7.00 =	_____
Total Amount Due: _____			

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEDICATIONS (*In Honor of, In Memory of, or To the Glory of God*):
