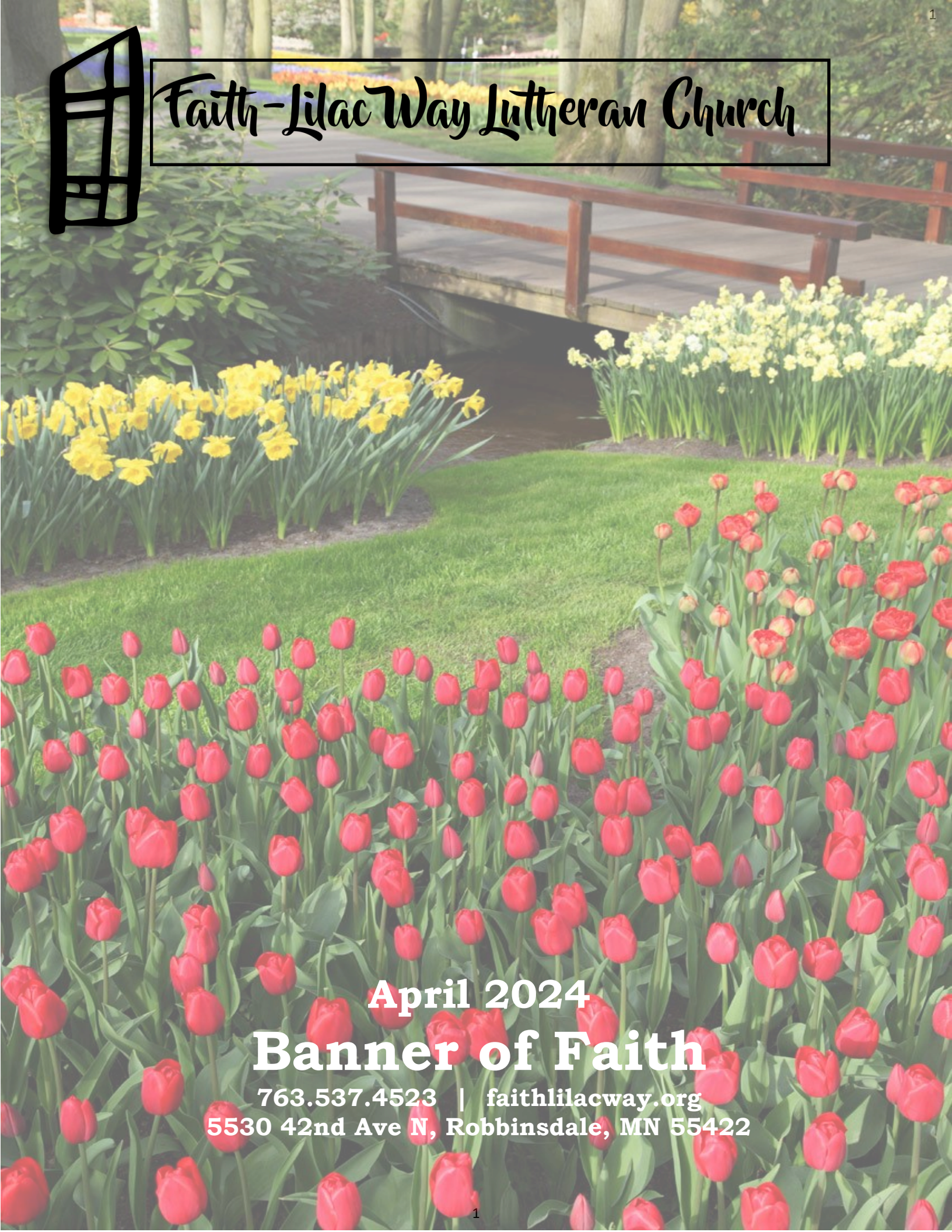




# Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church



**April 2024**

## **Banner of Faith**

763.537.4523 | [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)  
5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

## Pastor 's Article

We arrived early to stake out our place on a field at the edge of a small town in Wyoming. They were ready for us. Even though it was only about ten in the morning, the local root beer stand was hopping. And, we were not the first. Lots of people had already gathered there and set out their lawn chairs and more were coming after us.

My family and I had traveled to a little town in nowhere, Wyoming to see the solar eclipse. But this little town was suddenly swarming with people because it was located along the narrow path of totality—where the moon covers the sun completely. We had our safety solar glasses. We had our chairs pointed in the right direction. We were ready.

There was a buzz in the air as we watched and waited, all anticipating the same thing. But there was no rushing the main event. As we got closer to the hour, the sky became dim like it does at twilight. The birds began their “end of the day” song. The crickets started chirping. The air felt a little cooler as the sun began to go behind the moon.

And then...Awe and wonder. That is what I felt as I sat and watched the sun disappear behind the moon, the red hot corona dancing along the edges. It was truly inspiring.

I imagine that it was deathly frightening to the people years ago who did not have advance warning that the sun was going to disappear for a few minutes. - How scary that would have been!

But for us, it was awe and wonder and then joy. As the Psalmist writes, “The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy! Psalm 65:8

PS I'm hooked on solar eclipses! I'll be traveling to Missouri on Sunday, April 7 (after church) to hopefully catch the next one. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee of good weather. If it is cloudy, we won't be able to see anything. But, after April 8, 2024, the next eclipse in the US will not happen for over 25 years. So keep your eyes peeled (safely) for the next eclipse and be filled with awe and wonder!

*Pastor Pam*

### Prayers Requested:

God of compassion, Help us care for those in our congregation who have health concerns including: *David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Jackie Mueller, Betty Schmidt, Linda St. John, Jackie Woolgar, Vic Woolgar and those who you know who need care. Amen.*

Happy Easter! And happy spring!

April (rain) showers bring May flowers, and I am already planning my spring planting, but April is also the month when songbirds begin returning from their winter vacation spots in the South to pair up and begin building nests; when hibernating animals wake up and hunt for food and mates; and when migrating butterflies, like monarchs, painted ladies, common buckeyes, red admirals, mourning cloaks, question marks, clouded sulphurs and some skipper species start making their way back north too. It's also the month in which we celebrate Earth Day and bless our animal friends. And guess what? I love animals of all shapes and sizes and species, just as much as I love wildflowers.

I have practically a whole ark's worth of pets at home. I have four birds (two that talk) two saltwater tanks full of fish and *invertebrates*, including starfish, snails, crabs, anemones and corals, an African frog, and a dog. Believe it or not, I've had many more pets at one time than this. I've also had lizards and snakes, mice, rabbits and squirrels, all in the house. I also have wild animals outdoors that I feed and often refer to as wild pets—a woodchuck that lives under my shed, a pocket gopher that I put in my yard (on purpose) and fed carrots as it started tunneling in my yard, as well as deer, tree frogs, squirrels and bunnies... I bought a bat house to hang in my yard this year, too.

In addition to companionship and love, my pets give me hope for humanity. You see, my pets get along. They play with each other, and even look out for one another, even though cats and dogs don't usually fight, and both will eat birds, and birds seldom trust cats and dogs—at least, that's how it is in the wild. But that's because animals in the wild have to compete for food and territory. But my pets know that they don't have to compete for food, or territory, or attention. As a result, they willingly share. My parrot drops food on the floor for the cat, and lets the dog lick his beak clean. The dog shares her bed with the cats, and the cats let the birds chase their tails and even perch on them. Even my fish look after each other, and the anemones too! That makes me think that, if we could somehow find a way to ensure that *every human being* has enough food, water, shelter and love—if we could figure out how to meet the needs of all people—then maybe... just maybe, humans could live together in peace, just like my pets do. Now, that's something to hope for—something worth striving for! That would be the prophecy of Isaiah (11:6-9) come true! That would truly be paradise.

In spring, as in faith, hope springs eternal, because Christ is risen, and that means anything is possible. Alleluia!

Vicar Karen

## Looking for a wedding venue?

Look no further! Faith Lilac Way has hosted numerous weddings in our beautiful sanctuary for both member and non-member events. The Fellowship Hall seats approximately 200 people; a great space for a reception.

Contact the office for further information.  
office@faithlilacway.org or 763.537.4523



# Announcements

## **Join us for Treats and Talk on Sunday Mornings!**

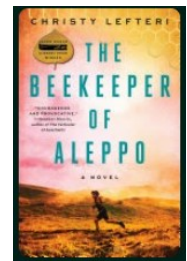
Join us in the library after worship on Sunday mornings for treats and conversation.

### **Prayer request from the Minneapolis Area Synod**

Please pray for the synod as we prepare for the election of the next bishop at the next Synod Assembly, which is set for May 2-4, 2024, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Ramsey. The bishop election process is an opportunity for us to discern the needs of the synod and who God is calling as our next leader to guide us. There will be four opportunities to learn about the current candidates for bishop and these opportunities are open to the public:

- 1) Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 2:00PM – 3:30PM at Our Savior’s Lutheran, 19001 Jackson St NE, East Bethel, MN 55011
- 2) Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 7:00PM – 8:30PM - location TBD
- 3) Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM at Bethel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis 4120 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN
- 4) Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:00PM-8:30PM Via Zoom

The Book Club will meet Sunday, April 28th at 7:00pm. This month’s book is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. A 2019 novel that deals with the plight of refugees from Aleppo in Syria to Europe during the Syrian Civil War. While a work of fiction, it is based on the author's experience over two summers volunteering in Athens at a refugee center.



On March 2nd Clint Hughes, and sous chef Jessica Hughes, lead this group through a full day of bread making! Fun and delicious!



### Wildfire Planning Committee updates

16 people, members of the Wildfire Planning Committee, met on March 29th at FLW to discuss ways to develop activities that the Wildfire Churches could engage in together. Led by Nick Tangen, Director of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices, the team broke out into groups to brainstorm ideas for fun and service, focusing on building relationships. Several great ideas surfaced and the committee voted to choose our top two events to focus on this summer. One will be a baseball game....batter up! This group will meet again in April to flesh out the details and commit to tasks that will make these events happen. Once a date and details have been determined, they will be announced.

### WELCA Updates

WELCA women met for dinner and conversation on March 7th. The group spent time mapping out the year of events, including those traditionally scheduled at FLW, and considering what the Wildfire Churches have and will be planning. The first WELCA event in April will be to attend the Designer Purse Bingo in Eden Prairie, then later in the month visit our congregants that are homebound.

All women are invited and very welcome! Please consider joining the group as we are focusing on fun together!

**Designer Purse Bingo**  
WIN a COACH PURSE or CASH PRIZE!

**FIRST THURSDAY of EACH MONTH at 7:00 PM**  
Jan 4 / Feb 1 / Mar 7 / Apr 4

**PAY AT THE DOOR**  
starting at 6:15 PM

**ALL GAMES CASH ONLY**  
ATM on site

**MUST BE 18 TO PLAY**  
ID required

**PLAY 10 GAMES for \$25**  
Play SIX cards in each game!  
(Coverall game is not included.)

**ADD-ONS:**  
\$2 for one additional game sheet adds 3 additional cards to one game in your packet.

**COVERALL GAME only \$5 MORE**  
Last game of the evening PAYS OUT AT 70%!  
You need at least one of these sheets to play the coverall game.

**FUNDRAISER**

**FAT PANTS BREWING CO.**  
8335 Crystal View Rd,  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**Hops & Spot BREW HALL**

**A FUNDRAISER SPONSORED BY WOMEN OF SONG**  
Visit our website at <https://www.womenofsongcholl.com> 18 or older and want to sing with us? Contact Patty Connors at [pconnors54@gmail.com](mailto:pconnors54@gmail.com)

**WOMEN of Song**



**Caritas VOCAL ENSEMBLE**  
GIVING THROUGH SONG

*It Lights the whole Sky*

**2024 Concert Season**  
Part 2: Sing, my soul  
Love in heaven and with the spirit

**Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 pm**  
Valley of Peace Lutheran  
4735 Bassett Creek Drive  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
Beneficiary: Cherish All Children



Caritas presents two concerts reflecting on love, each exploring different aspects of the classic theme.

For more information:  
• Visit <http://www.caritasvocalensemble.org>  
• Email [caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com](mailto:caritasvocalensemble@gmail.com)

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Lenten Soup Suppers!

**Bingo at Robbins Way**  
Thursday, April 11  
4:00-5:00pm  
Community Room  
Come meet our neighbors!



We apologize if your name is missing. Please call the office, we are probably missing your birthday in our system.

Name	April
Laura Rosenberg	4
Alfonso Villagomez	6
Emily Wood	7
Janet Osmundson	10
Carla Morton	15
Connie Wagener	15
Laney Hanneman	18
Devante Davis	23
Brenda Tiber	26
Debra Reutiman	28
Madison Anderson	30

**FLW Staff**

- Pastor Pamela Stalheim Lane
- Vicar Karen Peterson
- Ann Skoglund-Anderson, Music Director
- Sue Ferkingstad, Admn. Asst./Communications
- Mark Overman, Janitor

**FLW Council & Committees**

- Larry Kuder, President & Property
- Dave Fernelius, Vice President & Congregational Life
- Sue Ferkingstad, Secretary, WELCA & Community Connections
- Paula Lindgren, Treasurer
- Jeananne Aenerud, Worship
- Clint Hughes, Community Connections
- Grant Galarneau-Becker, Stewardship
- Natasha Rice, Community Connections
- Lydia Foster, Youth

**Interested in Serving on the Worship Committee?**

Do you love worship? Do you have ideas about how we worship at FLW? Do you wish we did something in worship that we aren't? Do you want to see worship change? Stay the same? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please see Pastor Pam or Jeananne Aanerud, the liaison to the Church council for the worship committee. We are looking for a few interested people to serve on a committee that meets 3 time per year (once in April to help plan Summer worship; once in the summer for fall planning and once in the fall for giving input for worship for the new year.

## Misson of the Month: Small Sums

7

Who Small Sums is:

Since opening its doors in 2005, Small Sums has outfitted thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness with the work gear, tools, training, and transportation they need to start a new job. We are innovative in our simplicity. We help folks get licenses, training, transportation, and other necessary items to get to their first and next paycheck. Our ripple effect extends beyond our day-to-day work to growing the Minnesota workforce and strengthening the economy.

Small Sums' work is

- Simple:** We believe employment is a key factor in helping individuals experiencing homelessness become housed.
- Practical:** We know it doesn't take much to remove obstacles that can prevent a worker experiencing homelessness from taking a job. Something as practical as work clothes, shoes, and a bus pass is often all that is needed.
- Powerful:** We provide workers experiencing homelessness with what they need to begin working. Access to financial independence and security is a powerful catalyst for change.

When facing poverty and homelessness, securing commonly required gear, tools, and transportation to get to work can be an insurmountable barrier to starting employment. Small Sums' mission is to remove these barriers by providing required work items, a way to get to work, and additional services to help clients retain employment and achieve long-term economic and housing stability. When workers reach us, they have already found a verifiable job, a testament to their resilience and determination under daunting circumstances. Gainful employment is critical to stable living, and we encourage workers on this path!

Last year, Small Sums outfitted 1,178 workers with the work gear, tools, training, and transportation they needed to start and retain employment. This marks a noteworthy 30% increase from 2022 and nearly doubles the number of individuals served compared to 2021. With your help, we expect to serve even more this year. Please consider investing in our mission by making a donation today. Your support will help us eliminate barriers for workers experiencing homelessness as they take the next step toward stability.

To learn more about our work, visit [www.smallsums.org](http://www.smallsums.org).

To read success stories from workers we've outfitted, visit [www.smallsums.org/worker-stories](http://www.smallsums.org/worker-stories)

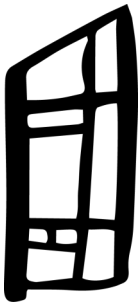
Consider hosting a donation drive to ensure workers have everything they need to start a new job. (Graphics Attached)

Best Foot Forward: Boot & Shoe Drive. Visit our wishlist at <https://a.co/0c9zqxI>

Dressed & Ready: Accessory Drive. Visit our wishlist at <https://a.co/gJ7Cu82>

Seats & Feets: Sock and Underwear Drive. Visit our wishlist at <https://a.co/b8GkU5L>





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April 2024 Banner of Faith

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ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
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Twin Cities MN  
Permit NO. 1589

**Calling All Animals and Pet Lovers!**

**Join us for Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, April 21st!**

**All God’s critters have a place in the choir—some sing low, some sing high and some sing out loud sitting on the telephone wire, and some just clap their hands or paws or anything they’ve got now!**

**As we enter into Spring and celebrate Earth Day in April, we are giving thanks for all of God’s creatures, especially our furry family members and pets! On Sunday, April 21st at 9:30 AM we will have a special service of blessing for animals. All caged or leashed pets are welcome! You can also bring a picture of your pet if you would prefer. It is sure to be a fun day!**

