

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 10, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Girl Scout Sunday**  
ELW Setting Four

*Welcome to our worship service! If you are visiting with us, please sign our guest book in the Narthex. We are glad you are here, and we hope to see you again soon!*

*Our service is live streamed on our church Facebook page for those unable to be with us in person.*

*Our Nursery area downstairs is available, but please note, it is not staffed. If you are visiting with us today, an usher will direct you.*

**PRELUDE**

*Organist's Improvisation*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kathy Long

*After the announcements, please stand as you are able as the Processional Cross is carried into the Nave.*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

**ELW#660**

*"Lift High the Cross"*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please remain standing as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister continues.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able.  
Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

*The minister continues:*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

*The minister proclaims God's forgiveness.*

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

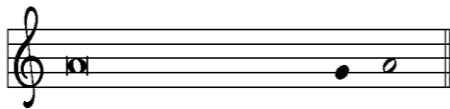
## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*The minister continues; the assembly remains standing for the 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**

*The cantor begins; the assembly sings the bold print.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



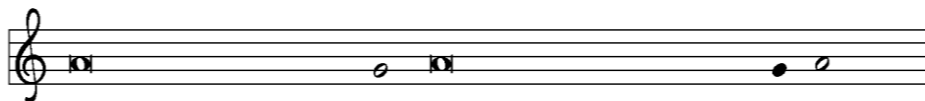
Lord, have mer - cy.



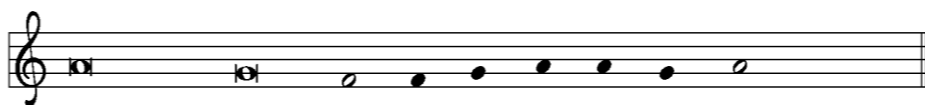
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



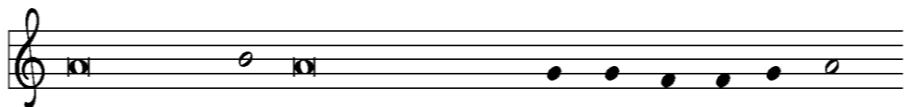
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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

*The minister continues with the prayer of the day.*

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

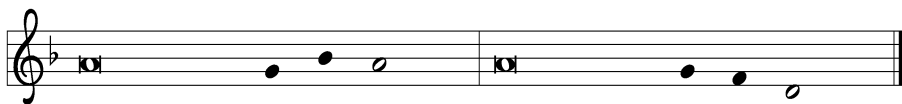
*The reading may be announced:* A reading from Numbers.

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*The reading is concluded:* Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

*The psalm will be sung responsively. The assembly sings the bold print.*



- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD for the | LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim**  
**that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**
- <sup>3</sup>gathering them in | from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from  
the south.
- <sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;**  
**through their sins they | were afflicted.**
- <sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- | ner of food  
and drew near | to death's door.
- <sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD**  
**and you delivered them from | their distress.**
- <sup>20</sup>You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.
- <sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you LORD, for your | steadfast**  
**love; and your wonderful works | for all people.**
- <sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

## SECOND READING: Ephesian 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

*The reading may be announced:* A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*The reading is concluded:* Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT

*The assembly welcomes the gospel singing the Lenten acclamation. Please stand as you are able.*



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.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

*The gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

*The assembly responds: Glory to you, O Lord.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>"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. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

*The reading is concluded: The Gospel of the Lord.*

*The assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*Kathy Long, SALM*

*Following the sermon, please stand as you are able for the hymn of the day.*



*“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”*

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

*The minister announces the Creed. The assembly reads the bold print.*

Let us proclaim our faith in the words of the 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**

*The assembly may be seated.*

*Our service continues with our tithes and offering.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Wondrous Love

**Sanctuary Choir**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*As the offering is brought forward, the assembly stands as able and sings the Offertory Hymn (ELW#884).*

### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It is written for a two-part setting, likely SATB, with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

*After the gifts have been presented, the offering is blessed by the minister. The assembly reads the bold print. Please remain standing as you are able.*

Let us pray..... God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please remain standing as you are able for the prayers. The minister calls the assembly to prayer. The assembly reads the bold print.*

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. *We especially lift up to you those in our congregation facing personal obstacles in their own lives...*

**Our Members:**

Darryl Arner, Carol Hunsberger, Sandy Edwish, Heather Kincaid, Deb Kunkle, Lester Miller, Louise Roth, Pauline Snyder, Herbert Werrner, Joanne Werner and those we name silently before you now...

*(We pause in silence.)*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all veterans, that they may receive the gratitude, the care and the support they so need and deserve, and for those separated from family and friends as they serve in the Armed Forces around the world, so we may continue living daily in peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ, especially those we dearly miss and remember in humble gratitude before you now...

*A brief silence is kept.*

We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts through Jesus Christ our Savior, who said that when we pray we should say:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*A solitary bell is rung for each of the seven petitions.*

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**

## **SENDING BLESSING**

*The minister announces God's blessing.*

Beloved, we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✚ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

*The Crucifer leads the recessional.*

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**ELW#779**

*"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"*

*As the lights are dimmed and all kneel or sit as able for a moment of silent prayer, the acolyte extinguishes the candles carrying one solitary flame into the world representing the light of Christ.*

## **DISMISSAL**

*The presiding minister sends the assembly forth.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Organist's Improvisation*

*All are welcome to Luther Hall for fellowship and conversation during our Coffee Fellowship hour.*

*Sunday School and Confirmation students are invited to attend Fellowship Hour after the service but must gather in the Sanctuary promptly at 10:45 in the sanctuary for Opening Worship with Mr. Alex. (Please remember, no food or drinks are permitted in the Sanctuary.)*

*We invite you to check in frequently on our church website & Facebook page for updates.*



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New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



**During the coming week, please pray for the following Friends of Trinity:**

Jeff Biery, Heather Bolton, Chad, David & Sandy Dietz, Ed, Teresa Fowler, Connie Heckman, Jim Hoppel, Michael Kincaid, Dave Matsinko, Missy Neff, Jennifer Nielsen, Melinda Nothstein, Michele Nothstein, Thomas Reidenhour, Susan Rhoads-Procina, Vicki Romascavage, Thomas Roth, Nancy Schappell, Kris Snyder, Vanessa Snyder, Kristie Sticka

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

The following sponsorships have been given to the glory of God:

**BULLETINS** are sponsored by Barbara Koch in memory of Loved Ones. (*all three Sponsorships*)

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are sponsored by The Williams Family in memory of sister Joanne Mooney's Birthday.

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### **SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE .....**

**Bulletins** – **\$10.00 each (3 needed per weekend)**

March 17 (2), April 21 (1), April 28 (3)

**Chancel Flowers** – ***Florist of your choice!***

March 17, April 21, April 28.

If you would like to sponsor any of the above dates, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

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### **TRINITY PANTRY ITEM for March: *TUNA***

The Trinity Pantry is open every Tuesday from 10-3 and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:00 for Lehigh School District residents with a drive thru setting. If you do not have a car, walk ups will also be served. Families may come monthly and meet income guidelines. FMI call 610-377-4303.



***Food and monetary donations are appreciated.  
Please make sure items are not outdated or open.  
Checks are made payable to the Trinity Pantry.***



Please join us at 6:00 p.m. in Luther Hall prior to the 7:00 p.m. worship service on March 13<sup>th</sup> & March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Members are welcome to sign up to bring an item in the narthex if they wish. A committee and/or group will host each week. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

**Committee Hosts:**

March 13 - Finance and Social Ministry Committees

March 20 - Christian Ed Committee and Church Staff

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**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**7pm - Luther Hall**

We will be showing the  
comedy/family film:

**"NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"**

starring Ben Stiller



**FREE ADMISSION**

Popcorn, snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase to benefit projects of the Youth Group.

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**JACK AND JILL PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISERS ...**

- **March 11<sup>th</sup>** – Cindy's Deli Hoagie Tickets - \$5.50 each  
Tickets can be redeemed April thru October.
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>** - Dine & Donate at P.J. Whelihan's. Dine-in or take-out. Just mention Jack & Jill in order for the school to get the profit.

Thanks for your continued support!





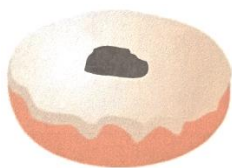
### **CANDY DONATIONS ...**

*The Sunday School staff will be collecting bags of individually wrapped candy for **an OUTDOOR EGG HUNT** following our Palm Sunday Parade on the church lawn on 3/24/24. All candy should be small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. Donations may be dropped in the marked basket located next to "Dominick the Donkey" in front of the bulletin board in the Narthex or the church office. **The deadline for candy donations is Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you in advance for your donations, love and support of Trinity's Sunday School Program!*



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### **ST JOHN'S DONUT SALE**



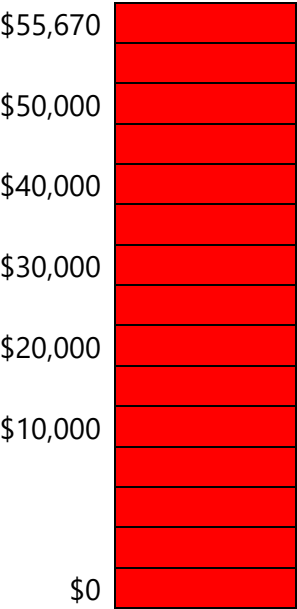
Orders must be received by April 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Delivery to the church office on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
If paying by check, make payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Persians - \$2.00 each  
Iced Long John (pack of 2) - \$4.00  
Coconut Long Johns (pack of 2) - \$4.50

Thank you for supporting St. John's!

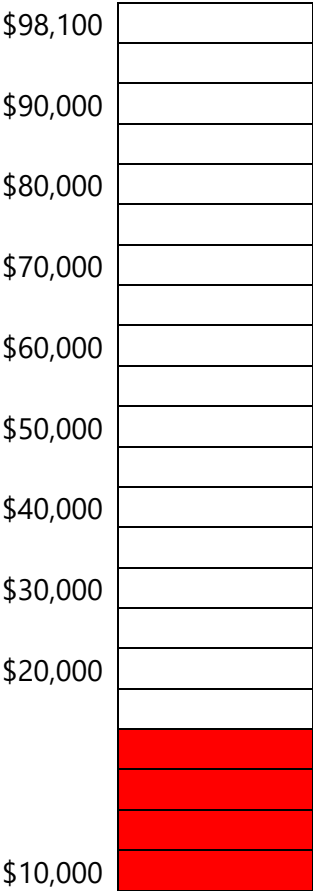
**Luther Hall  
Air  
Conditioning**

Installation:	\$49,850
Electrician:	\$5,820
<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$55,670</b>



**Sanctuary Air Handler  
Installation with the  
help of a \$ 97,000 loan  
with a monthly loan  
payment of \$1,130.73**

Installation:	\$91,800
Electrician:	\$ 6,300
<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>\$98,100</b>



**Total Amount Received as of 2/25/24: \$18,451.**  
 If you are able to help, please use the envelope enclosed with your bulletin. Any amount is appreciated!

## HEAD OF PRAYER AGENTS ....

We are seeking someone to coordinate the prayer agent ministry ....

### ***What does the Head of Prayer Agents do?***

*A prayer request is received by phone to the church office, or the person may fill out a form that is available in the narthex or the literature rack outside the church office.*

*The request is then called through the telephone prayer chain and is placed on either the private or printed list for 30 days unless an update is received. The person making the request must have permission to have the name on the printed list in the bulletin due to HIPPA.*

*Every baptized member is prayed for on a daily basis by a prayer agent. Each agent receives a list of names at a gathering that is held once a year or at the discretion of the head of the prayer agents to distribute the lists.*

*For any additional information or questions, please contact the church office.*

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**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

We have handmade prayer shawls and lap robes available. If you have a friend or relative who is ill and is in need of comfort or healing, please feel free to take one from the buffet in the narthex or call the church office to arrange a time to pick one up. Prayer shawl ministry blesses both the people who receive the shawls in their times of tribulation or celebration and the knitters and crocheters who create them.

# RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



## FROM THE STORE



✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



## FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



## FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Newspaper sleeves

✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



**NexTrex**

[trex.com/recycling](http://trex.com/recycling) 1-800-Buy-Trex

**COLLECTION BINS ARE LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX  
and LUTHER HALL ENTRANCE**