GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 201-836-0994 THE REV. PEGGY NIEDERER – PASTOR 201-403-4341 KAREN BARTHOLOMEW – GUEST ORGANIST

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 16, 2025 10 AM



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

> VISIT US AT: <u>WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG</u> and on Facebook

Welcome to worship! Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE:

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughn Williams arr. Anna Laura Page

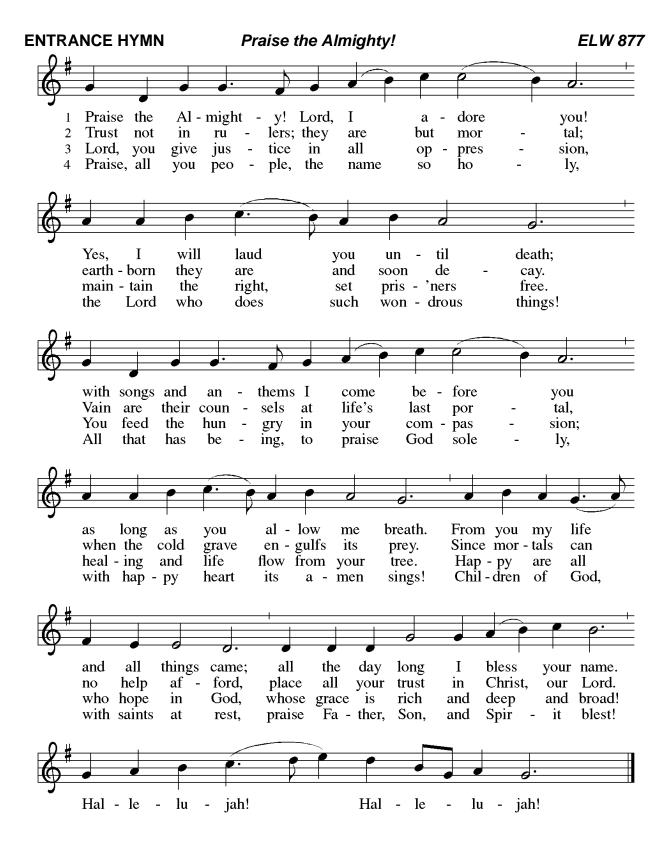
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand and face the baptismal font near the entrance of the church.

- P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: God-with-us,
- **C**: we confess that sometimes we turn away those who seek shelter. claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We sometimes make power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.
- P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.
- C: Amen



Text: Johann D. Herrnschmidt, 1675-1723; tr. hymnal version

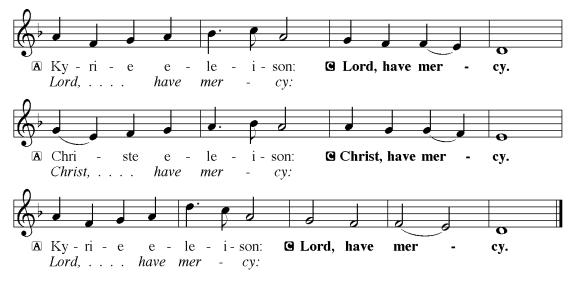
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, O MEINE SEELE, Neuvermehrtes Christlich Seelenharpf, Ansbach, 1665 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

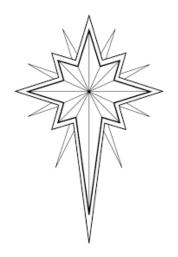
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THE GREETING

- P: Arise, shine, for your light has come. Alleluia, alleluia! 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









PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you,
- P: Let us pray.
- P: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

A: A reading from Jeremiah, the 17th chapter.

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse — who can understand it?

- ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.
- A: The word of God. The Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1 READ RESPONSIVELY

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
 - and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ It is not so with the wicked;
- they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

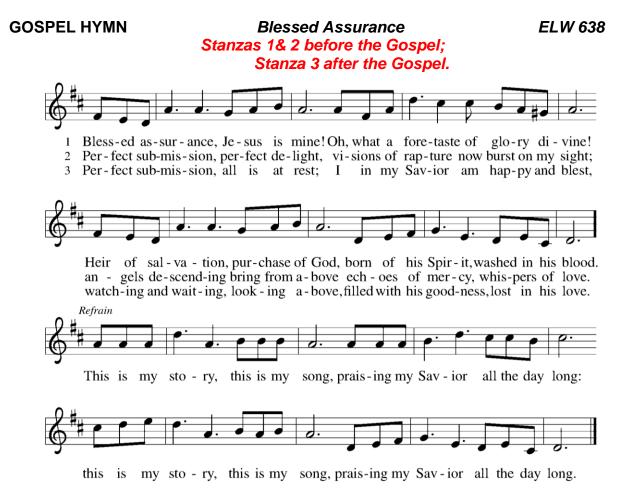
A: A reading from 1st Corinthians, the 15th chapter.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

- A: The word of God. The Word of life.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

²⁵Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

ELW 725



2 Cuando_alguno sufre_y logra su consuelo, cuando_espera_y no se cansa de_esperar, cuando_amamos, aunque_el odio nos rodee: Estribillo

3 Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda, cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad, cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos: Estribillo

4 Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares, cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz, cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño: Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951 Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934 Text and music © 1971, 1998 J.A. Olivar, Miguel Manzano, and San Pablo Internacional—SSP, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



NICENE CREED

- A: Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.
- C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the New Jersey Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian community, our friends from the Light & Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere. Help them live out their callings to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that they lead with compassion, understanding, and wisdom and delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

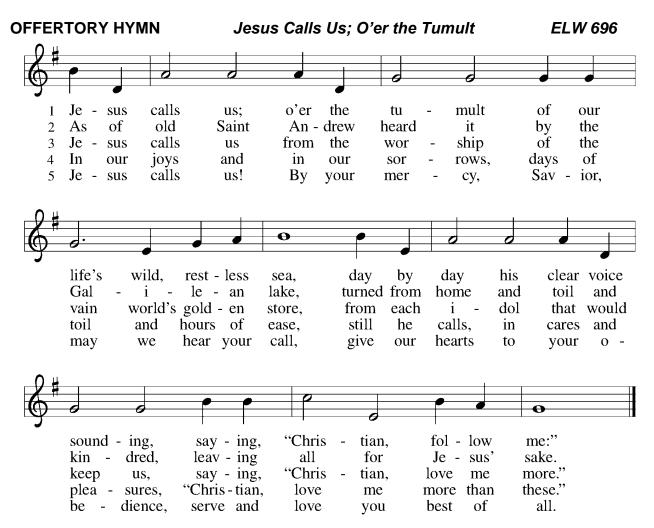
- P. We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- C: Amen.

PEACE <u>Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.</u>

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.*

Please be seated.



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen.

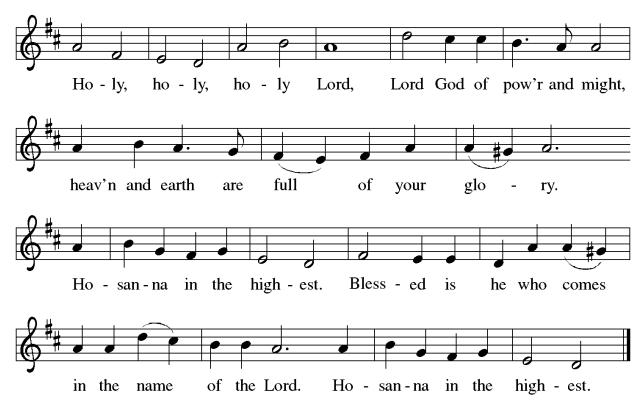
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you,
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or sit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

> In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.
- P: May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:
- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

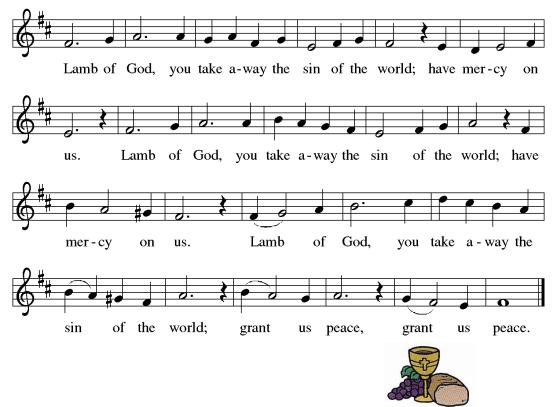
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness. Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion, beginning with those in the back pews, alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you. Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section. The center contains purple grape juice. White wine is in the remainder of the tray.

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in Christ's grace.
- C: Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Nourishing God,

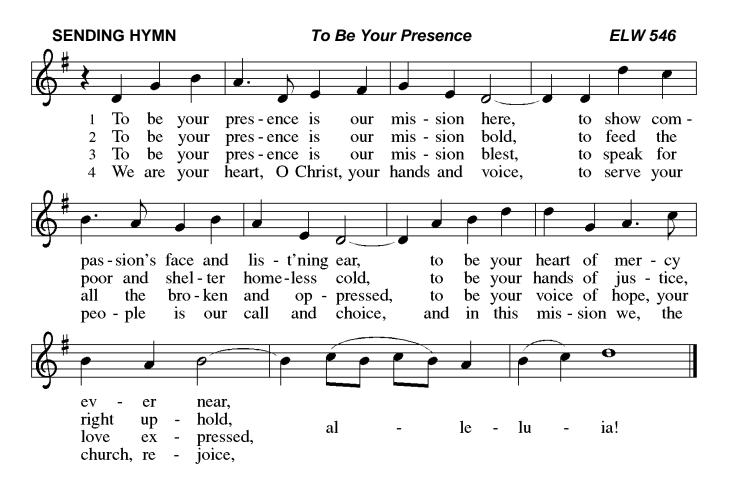
at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

- P: The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
- C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

- A: Go in peace. Live in hope.
- C: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE:

Praeludium und Fuge in F-Dur (Prelude and Fugue in F-major) Johann Sebastian Bach

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY

Karen Bartholomew, Guest Organist Janet Thalmann - Greeter Jack Martinez – Crucifer Julie Buckingham – Liturgical Cantor Sue Papera, Liturgist & Reader Fred Lewis, Prayers of Intercession Janet Thalmann and Julie Buckingham, Altar Guild



We Welcome Autumn Mae Shinholster To our church family!

She weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces 20 inches

PROUD PARENTS: Kaitlin & Nick PROUD GRANDMA: Jackie PROUD AUNT: Lindsay

CARDS CAN BE MAILED TO: Mr. & Mrs. Shinholster (Kaitlin & Nick) 1480 Route 46 West Apt. 83B Parsippany Troy Hills, NJ 07054

Costello Family (Jackie & Lindsay) 869 East Lawn Drive Teaneck, NJ 07666



After Mass Today Refreshments available in the Memorial Room.



Flowers at the Altar

were given, to the glory of God, by the Rev. Amandus Derr and Carole Derr on the 50th anniversary of his February 9th installation as pastor of Grace. Pastor Derr was ordained on January 25, 1975, and served as Grace's pastor from 1975 to 1997.



Souper Bowl of Caring Food & Monies collected will be given to Christ Church Food Pantry. Collection receptacles are available near the baptismal font.

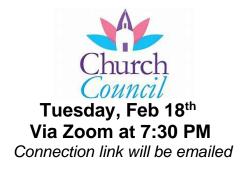


How to Help Victims of Natural Disasters

Sharing God's hope, healing, and renewal...

Contributions can be made online or check mailed to: Lutheran Disaster Response PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

<u>With check</u>: enclose form located on the table where you picked up your bulletin this morning.





Wednesday, Feb 19th 1:30 PM In Grace's Memorial Room



Thursday, Feb 20th at Noon Via Zoom

Connection link will be emailed A Study on the Readings for Sunday. Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers. Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (*Ps. 37:11*) <u>1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</u>

The mystery of the resurrection of the body.

Luke 6:27-38

Love your enemies.



NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING Saturday, March 8th 10 AM – 2 PM

St. John Lutheran Church 587 Springfield Avenue Summit, NJ 07901 Lunch will be provided.

All are welcome! Meet people from other congregations. Learn about what is happening in our synod and across the church.

In care of God's creation:

We invite you to take your bulletin home for meditation and to remember those on our prayer list. If you choose not to, please place the bulletin on the table at the back of the church or place it in the large plastic bin on the floor near the mailboxes after Mass. All cardboard and paper are recycled from those locations. A recycle receptacle for plastic and glass is in the Memorial / Coffee Room.



SEARCH COMMITTEE: ORGANIST

Your help is needed. Let Lynn or Pastor know if you would be willing to serve on this important committee as we strive to continue the music ministries and traditions of our congregation.



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); Doris Baumann, Dale Lambson, and Family as they grieve the loss of Carol; Darla Lambson (leukemia); Brad Gohmann (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: Donald Lazlear and his family, Katie and Surella Borowski; Rose Davis (cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: Arlene Rizzo (cancer) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (health concerns); Caleb (mental health issues); Jenny L. (health issues); Carol Mulvaney (breast cancer); Michael Mulvaney (prostate cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: Jason and Paul Thalmann; Beverly Philip (severe dementia), Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz (health concerns), Michele Rusciano; AI & Mark Crovatto; Anita & Harold Bontekoe (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever; Dominick Capalba (6 year old with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents - memory care); John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); **Tammy** (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); Judy Letwink (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: Kevin (cancer), Arouss Darpinian (health concerns); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Nancy Barbee (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); Donna Maxwell, James Mingo (Donna's grandson - health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); Mary Sue Kaplow (health concerns); (baby) Hannah Muñiz (a hospice patient where Jack works); Chris (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & Bob Wheeler: (Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, and Alsu Kurmasheva (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees: front line workers, medical researchers: health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Newly arrived: We give thanks for the safe arrival of Autumn Mae Shinholster and ask for prayers and God's blessing upon her and her family. Mom and Dad (and Grandma and Aunt) are doing fine.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

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