

# **The Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**Saint John Lutheran Church**

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**March 19, 2023**

# Welcome!

*"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).*

We are thankful you are joining in the worship with the people of God this day. We are glad to assist you at any time.

To better your experience while at St. John:

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, past the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner as you enter the sanctuary.
- If this is your first visit, please sign our Guest Book located in the lobby near the Sanctuary.

## **About the Offering**

An offering is gathered today during the worship service. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts, but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

## **About Holy Communion**

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. In this, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one in the person of Jesus.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior, and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." Thus, the Lord Jesus is truly present for his redeemed people in this holy meal. In this we retain the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup. His many diverse people constitute one body and community of faith.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

*We are imperfect people and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.*

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# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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## + GATHERING +

**Prayer As We Begin** — *Please stand.*

**C** Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

### The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. Then the confession.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Peace and Collect Prayer

**P** The LORD be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing

**obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **+ WORD +**

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 42:14-21*

**L** *The Old Testament Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is from Isaiah, Chapter 42, Verses 14-21. Ironically, God's chosen ones are often deaf and blind to his word and will. He alone grants hearing and sight.*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**L** This is the Word of the LORD.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Choir Anthem**

### **Epistle Reading**

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

**L** *The Epistle is from Ephesians, Chapter Five, Verses 8-14. Those who have received Christ, the Light of the World, walk as children of the light.*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

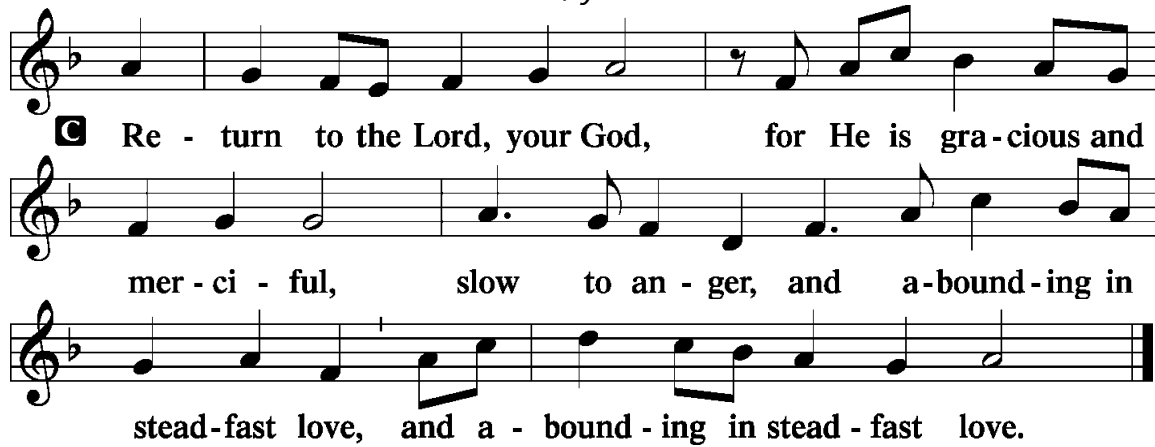
**L** This is the Word of the LORD.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## The Lenten Verse — *Return to the Lord, your God.*

LSB 157



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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Holy Gospel

*John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

### **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

**P** This is the Gospel of the LORD.

### **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

### Catechesis: The Lord's Prayer (Introduction & Conclusion)

*As the head of the family should teach the Lord's Prayer in a simple way to their household.*

*(From the Small Catechism)*

The Introduction – **Our Father who art in heaven.**

What does this mean? – **With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

The Conclusion - **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by





Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 *Stand* Glory to God the Father, Son,  
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
 Be praise now and eternally!

## The Message — Rev. Gary Weier

## The Prayers of the Church — *Please stand*

# + MEAL +

*This is Christ's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared. In this meal we truly receive the body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great and divine mystery! Here we are joined with God and all the saints, and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Young children and those who would prefer to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward.*

*The individual communion cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.*

## The Preface, Hymn of Praise, and Sanctus

**P** The LORD be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** We lift them to the LORD.

**P** Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

**G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

LSB 208



**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored; →

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Our Father

**☞ 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.**

## The Words of Institution and Agnus Dei

LSB 962

Lamb of God, You take a- way the sin of the  
 world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -  
 way the sin of the world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, You take a- way the sin of the world; grant us Your  
 peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

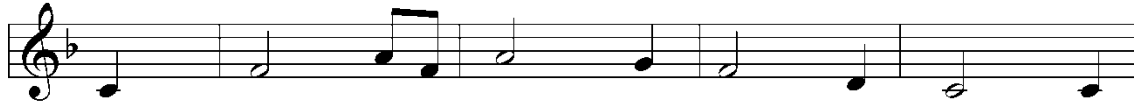
*Please be seated.*



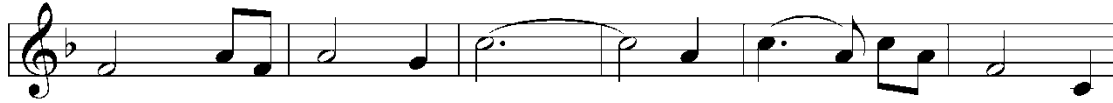
## Distribution Hymns

### Amazing Grace

LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed-ing thou-sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

*Please stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 182



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

**+ SENDING +**

**Dismissal, Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus, and Blessing**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us bless the LORD.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**L** We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE  
fill you with all JOY and PEACE  
as you TRUST in him,  
so that YOU may overflow with HOPE  
by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

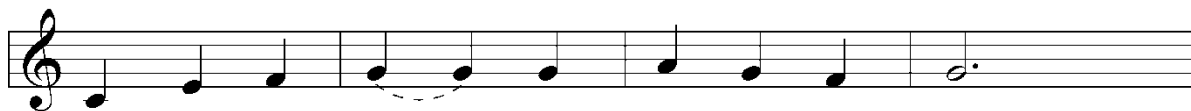
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

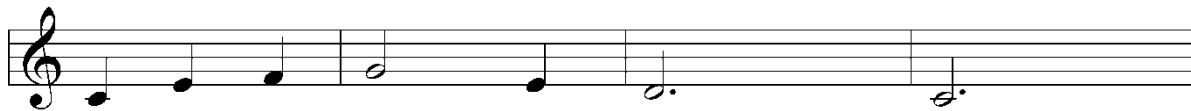
**C** **Amen**

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



*Refrain*  
In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.  
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

THIS WEEK						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
9:15am Sunday School			10am Avenues Study Group			10am AA
10:30am Worship	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA 4pm Spayghetti Dinner	12pm AA	



# Take Home Announcements — Sunday, March 19, 2023

## Serving the Lord Today

**Pastor** Rev. Gary Weier  
228.256.2791  
[garyweier@yahoo.com](mailto:garyweier@yahoo.com)  
**Organist** Jason Sims  
**Altar Guild** Debbie Frederick &  
Diana Rymarz  
**Lector** Patrice Lovdahl

### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday: 8:00am-12:00pm

### **Altar Flowers:**

### **Eternal Candle:**

### **Scriptures Next Sunday:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Romans 8:1-11  
John 11:1-45

## Today's Theme

*People endure debilitating disabilities— blindness, deafness—and these ailments are not punishment for sin. Without intervention, people in darkness and utter silence remain isolated. Jesus attends wholeheartedly to those who live in darkness and silence. He illuminates minds and hearts with faith, so that people would confess Him as Lord. He heals the blind so that people would see who He is! Christ's amazing miracles confound the arrogant and enlighten the repentant.*

### Birthdays

Renee Elledge 3/20

### Wedding Anniversaries

Warner & Darlene Boortz, 41yrs 3/20

**Live Streaming of Worship Services** — [www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com](http://www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com).

**Avenues Study Group** — Meets March 22 at 10:00am

**Altar Flowers & Eternal Candle** — Sponsors needed!

**Spayghetti Dinner** — This dine-in or take-out fundraiser on **March 23rd** is hosted by the Southern Pines Healthy Pet Clinic. Won't you help to make a difference for our fur babies and community?

Time: 4:00-6:00pm

Location: St. John Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Meal options: \$11.00/plate with meat, \$9.00/plate without meat

\$31.00 Family Meal with meat - feeds 4

\$26.00 Family Meal without meat - feeds 4



<b>Prayers Needed</b>			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	11/25
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	3/24/21
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	1/26/22
Faye Hill	Health and Strength	Mother of Chris Keiper	10/19/22
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	4/20/22
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20
Caregivers	Strength, Support, Encouragement	All those in need	7/26/20
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	6/29/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	9/11/22
Ian VanWinkle	Started infusions/Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	10/9/22
Keri Allen	Stage four liver cancer	Niece of Dennis & Lillian Smith	12/20/22
Pete Harris	Cancer	Friend of Susan Perkins	1/3/23
Lynne Longman	Expecting: health/strength for mother and baby	Wife of Christopher Longman	1/3/23
Geraldine Wheeler	Health and strength	Member	2/12/23
Family of Bob Schneider	Died in the Lord	Member	2/12/23
Family of Marsha Rogers	Died in the Lord	Close friend of Shirley Thone	3/14//23
Doris Schneider	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	2/22/23
Cheyenne Thiel	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	3/3/23
Julie Radavich	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	3/13/23
Peter Vasselais	Recently died unexpectedly	Nephew of Elaine Kersh	3/14/23