

## *Peace Lutheran Church*

**“Peace Through Christ”**

Pastor Mike Schultze

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**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 17, 2023

**As We Gather** “Joy to the world!” is an often-echoed refrain in these days of preparation and celebration before Christmas. But where is true joy to be found? It is found in Christ alone. The coming of Christ as the Savior of the world is the ultimate source of joy for our lives, no matter how we might be feeling during the weeks of the holiday season. True joy is not just for one time of year or for one time of our lives. The happiness that we feel in our hearts at any given moment may come and go, but the joy that is found in Jesus lasts for all of our lives and beyond—into the endless celebration in God’s eternal kingdom.

**Attention Visitors** We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. This holy meal is intended for Christians who acknowledge their need of God’s forgiveness in their lives. The Bible teaches that Christ’s body and blood are received with the elements of bread and wine and that Christians need to examine themselves before receiving this holy meal. (1Cor. 10 & 11). This meal further expresses a unity of faith as we gather at one table to receive the assurance of God’s forgiveness through the body and blood of our Lord in the sacrament. We welcome baptized Christians to commune with us, those who believe and confess this same faith and understanding of the sacrament and of the Christian life. Persons who desire to receive grape juice select from the darker glasses. If you have any further questions concerning the sacrament, *please ask to speak* to the Pastor.

**Welcome Children-** A cry room is located near the church entryway.  
Please see an usher for guidance.

**Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available.** If you would like a hearing aid or large print bulletin please see an usher.

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### + PREPARATION +

## OPENING HYMN

### “Hark the Glad Sound”



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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## INVOCATION and OPENING VERSES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I cry to You, O Lord;

**People: in the morning my prayer comes before You.**

*Psalm 88:13*

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.** *Psalm 51:12*

Pastor: My mouth is filled with Your praise,

**People: and with Your glory all the day.** *Psalm 71:8*

Pastor: Every day I will bless You

**People: and praise Your name forever and ever.**

*Psalm 145:2*

Pastor: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness,

**People: O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.** *Psalm 65:5*

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**People: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

*Psalm 103:1*

Pastor: He redeems your life from the pit

**People: and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

*Psalm 103:4*

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**People: let my cry come to You.** *Psalm 102:1*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Forgive us for the poverty of our worship, and our neglect of the Means of Grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, and our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.

**People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

Pastor: Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*



**+THE WORD OF GOD+**

**KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us with Your presence. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and grant us a deep and abiding peace for all of our days. By the working of the Holy Spirit, lead us to share the joy that is ours without hesitation. Keep us in true faith until the coming of Your glorious kingdom, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT** ..... *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*  
 (The prophet is anointed to preach good news.)

*(After the Reading)*

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** ..... *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*  
 (Be joyful and give thanks in all circumstances.)

*(After the Reading)*

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HANDBELL CHOIR** "The Danish Star Carol"



**HOLY GOSPEL** ..... *John 1:6-8, 19-28*  
 (Make straight the way of the Lord.)

Pastor : The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**People: Glory to You, O Lord!**

*(After the Gospel is read.)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord  
**People: Praise to You, O Christ!**

(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”



1 O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
2 Come, heav'n-ly Bride-groom, Light di-vine, And deep with-in  
3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls



own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!  
our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!  
from God a-bove A ray of pur-est plea-sure.



Of Ja-cob's race, King Da-vid's son, Our Lord and mas-s  
In Your one bod-y let us be As liv-ing branch-  
Your Word and Spir-it, flesh and blood Re-fresh our souls



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on-ly!  
es of a tree, Your life our lives sup-ply-ing.  
with heav'n-ly food. You are our dear-est trea-sure!



Low-ly, ho-ly! Great and glo-rious, All vic-to-rious,  
Now, though dai-ly Earth's deep sad-ness May per-plex us  
Let Your mer-cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!



Rich in bless-ing! Rule and might o'er all pos-sess-ing!  
And dis-tress us, Yet with heav'n-ly joy You bless us.  
For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

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## MESSAGE

*Pastor Mike Schultze*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Second Article of the Apostles' Creed*

**Pastor:** In the second article of the Apostles' Creed, our confession is focused on Jesus, whose coming we await. We speak the words of the creed, followed by the “What does this mean?” section from the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther.

**People:** **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.**

**Pastor:** What does this mean?

**People:** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.  
This is most certainly true.**

## OFFERING

*(Please sign and fill out the fellowship book and pass it down your pew.  
The ushers will pick it up after the service.)*

## VOLUNTARY

## OFFERTORY

### “We Give Thee But Thine Own”



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "I We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee."

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

## + SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION +

### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

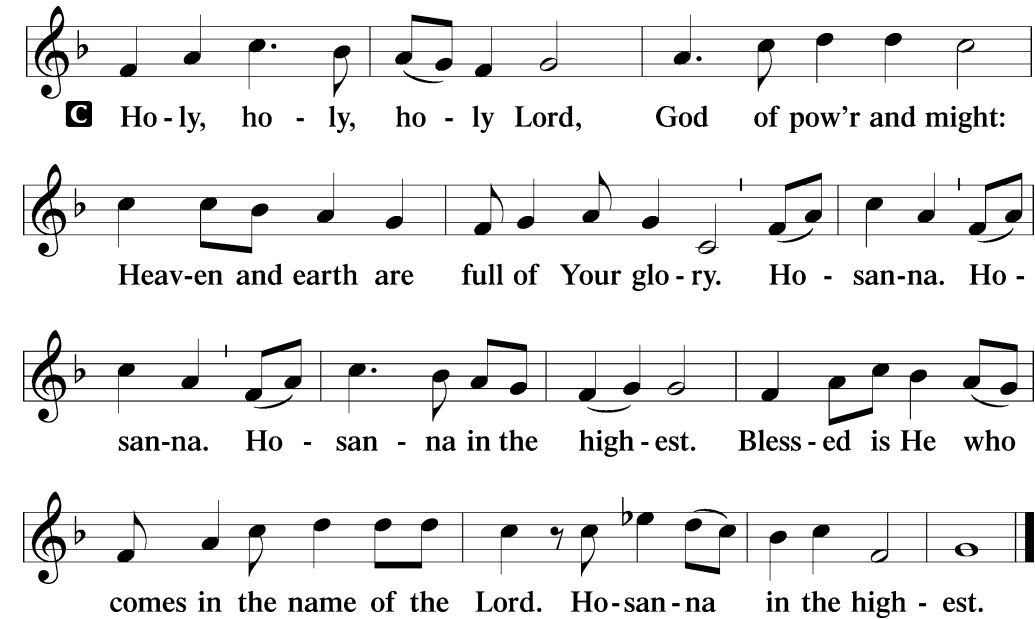
**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You call us to be Your people who acknowledge our sin and who find our hope of salvation in You alone. Direct our lives in ways of faithfulness, and keep us constant in prayer. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord here given as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

“Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

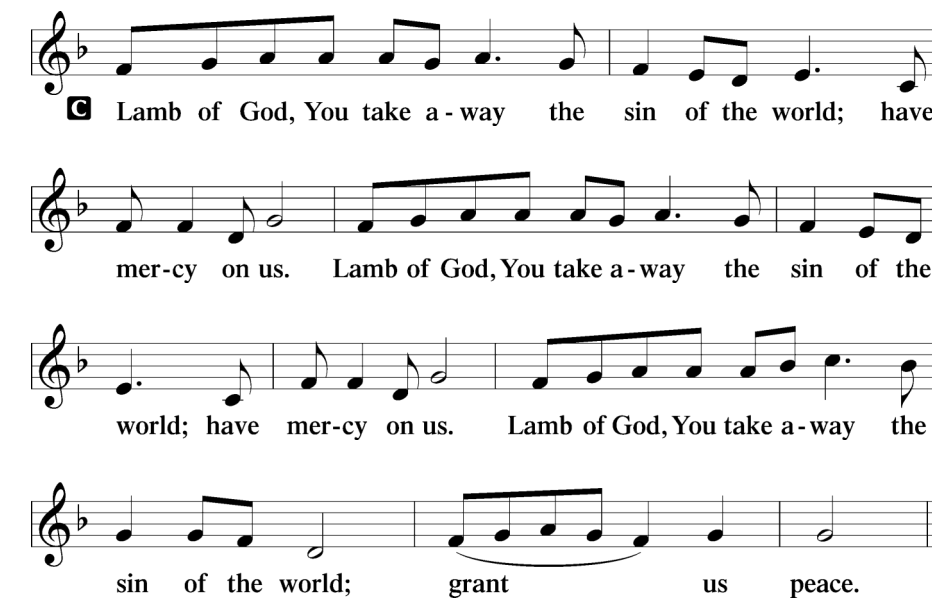
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

## AGNUS DEI



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 peace.

*(Please be seated)*

**HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION**

**“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”**



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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### “Lamb of God”



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

#### *Refrain*



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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### “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

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## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

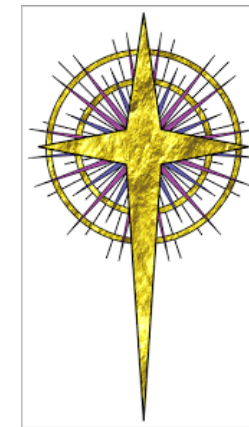
Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious onto You. The Lord look upon You with His favor and + give you peace.

**People: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

### “Lord of All Hopefulness”



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

**Attendance 12/10/23:** 10:00 AM -

Saturday 12/9/23: 5:00PM -

## **THIS WEEK AT PEACE December 17, 2023**

Sunday: 10:00 am Traditional Communion Service

10:20 am Sunday School

1:30 pm New Life Christian Fellowship

4:00 pm Boy Scouts (FH)

Monday: Office closed

Tuesday: ++++++

Wednesday: 10:00 am Luther's Attic Volunteers

**6:00 pm Advent Soup Supper**

6:30 pm A.C.A. Women's Support Group (PH)

**7:00 pm Advent Worship Service (Pastor Mai)**

Thursday: 5:45 pm Handbell rehearsal

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

Friday: 6:30 pm Girl Scouts

Saturday: 10:00 am Rehearsal for "Sharing Our Gifts from God"

## **THOSE WHO SERVE US TODAY, December 17, 2023**

### **10:00 am ONE SERVICE**

**Elder:** Al Bosman

**Greeter:** Jim & Kerry DeVries

**Reader:** Roy Poehler

**Acolyte:** Michelle Ullerick

**Ushers:** Gary Taylor

Karen Taylor

Bill Young

**Altar Care:** Linda Young

**Cookie & Coffee Service:** S. McCracken, C. Klittich, V. Alamillo

**Organist:** Karen Foote

**Handbell Director:** Linda La Jeunesse

**Note:** Kindly refrain from bringing food or beverages (other than water) into Worship.

THOSE WHO SERVE US NEXT SUNDAY December 24, 2023

10:00 am SERVICE

**Elder:** Al Bosman

**Greeter:** Andy & Pam Klittich

**Reader:** Dave Schmidt

**Acolyte:** Marshall Denninger

**Ushers:** Scott Klittich  
Steve Rusch

**Altar Care:** Linda Young

**Cookie & Coffee Service:** S. McCracken, C. Klittich, V. Alamillo

**Organist:** Karen Foote



**PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:** Edith Anderson, Ashley (Sandi Stepp's niece), Brandee Brand, Brian Derozer, Michael Draper, Beverly Gandy, Helen (friend of Carol Yung), Damon Hermann (friend of Greg Olewiler), Vicki Hutter, Karen Johnson, Susan Klein, Carol Marker, Pat Massey, Ryan Scott Morrison, Norma Regalia, Sarah Stepp (granddaughter of Al & Cindy Fox), Tim Schmidt, Don Schultz, David Stafford, Leslie Stenke, Ashley Stephen, Lara Tate, Bev Toro, Dusty Urban, Sandy Williamson, Lisa (Cassidy) Wright, Carol Yung, Sue Zinger and Ele Zorkocy.

***Pray for all military men, women and their families:*** Jared Bautista, Jacob Chiles, Andrew Geib, Daniel Gross, Michael Hanson, Brian Miller, Kevin Schleicher, Stephen Volpei, Lucas Wentland, Henry Andermann, Avery Chapman and Adam Volpei.