GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR 201-403-4341 CAROL WEBER - CANTOR

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT February 18, 2024 10 AM

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. *Mark* 1:12-13



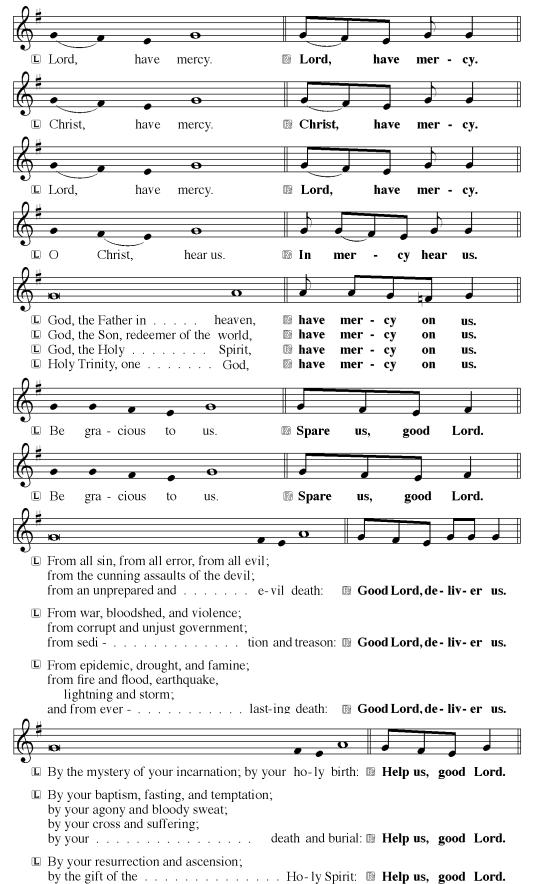
On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

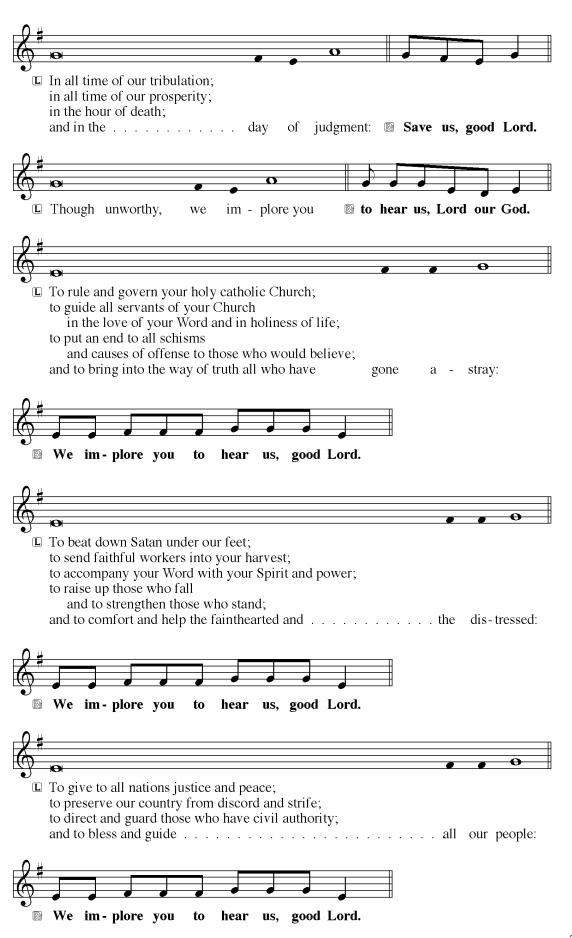
VISIT US AT: WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

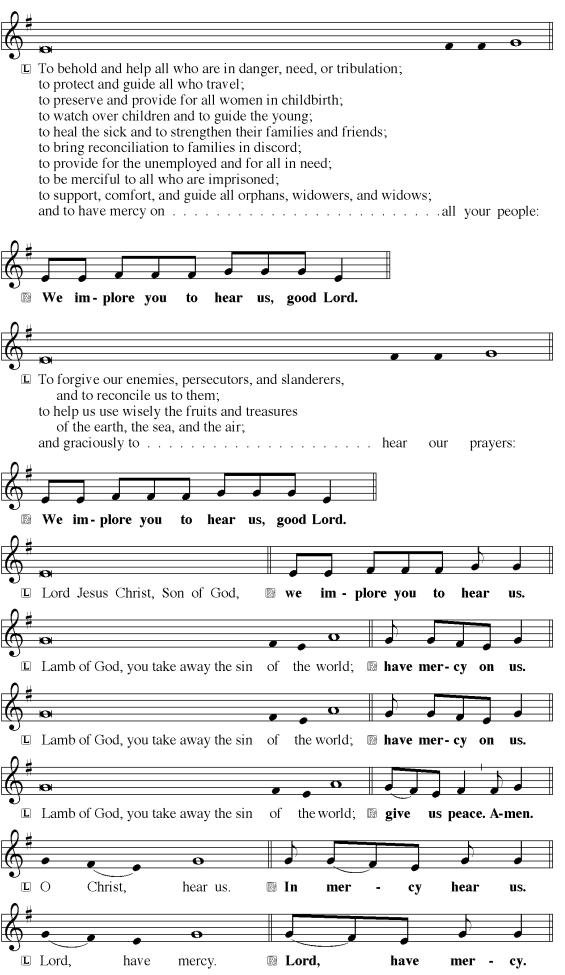
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

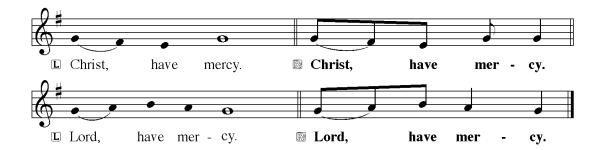
Please stand.

The Great Litany LBW p.168









THE GREETING

- P 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.



FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

A A reading from Genesis, chapter 9.

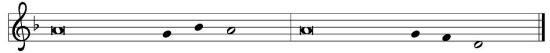
⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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



PSALM 25:1-10

The Psalm Verses are sung responsively to the following tone.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹To I you, O LORD, I lift I up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be ^I put to shame; rather let those be put to shame ^I who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your I truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all I the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ^I my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- ^I ness, O LORD.

8You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹You lead the low- I ly in justice and teach the low- I ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

A A reading from First Peter, chapter 3.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Please stand.

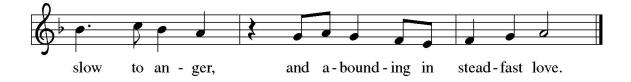
LENTEN ACCLAMATION

SUNG BY ALL

ELW Setting 4



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

- P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter 1.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON: Pastor Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days **LBW 99**



- 1 0
- 2 You
- hun gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a bove; 3 Though parched and
- us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in so teach us to de - ny our-selves that God's e - ter - nal word. de - ny our-selves that we may know God's love. that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav-en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930 Music: CAITHNESS, Psalter, Edinburgh, 1635

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress





NICENE CREED

- Α 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Zulema Suarez

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.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people (especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today). Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

God our inspiration and guide, you know the needs of your people. We pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian community, our friends from the Light & Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere. as they live out their callings to serve, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weaknesses. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation and protect the innocent. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Be with the Christians who are being persecuted for their faith and the hostages held in Gaza and in other places in the world. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling, especially those we pray for in silence or aloud (pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

- P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

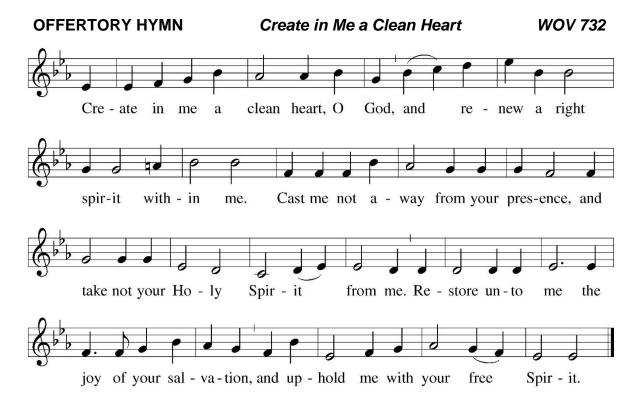
PEACE Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.

- 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: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C Amen.

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.
- 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 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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.

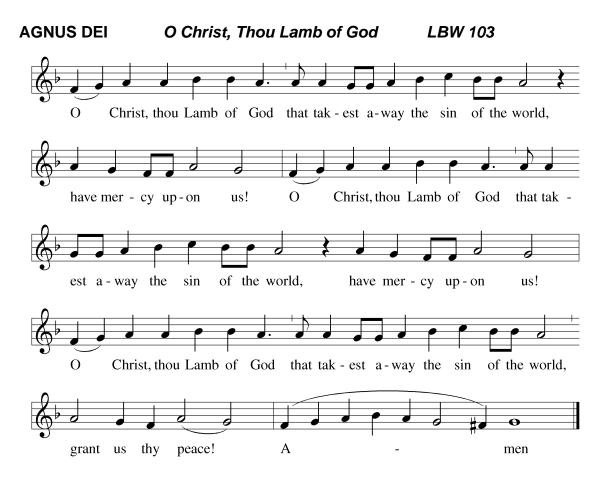
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Come to the table where all are welcome.



Text: German, 1528, based on the Agnus Dei; tr. unknown Music: CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES, *Kirchenordnung*, Braunschweig, 1528



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion following the Cantor/Choir, beginning with those in the back pews, from 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 May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in Christ's grace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray:

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

Help us be one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, who is the Bread of life.

C Amen.

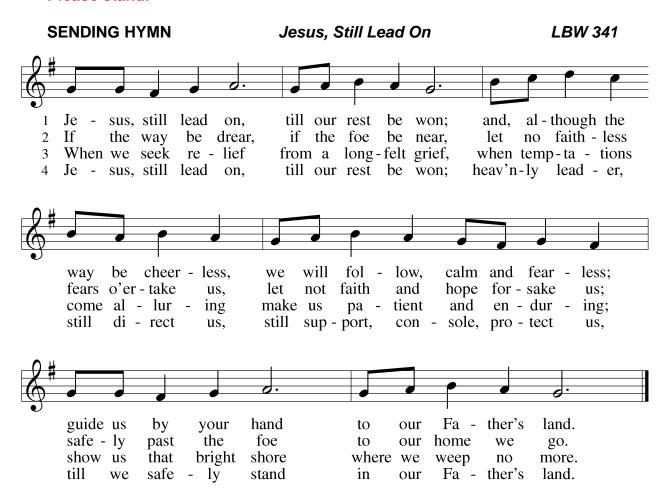
BLESSING:

- P 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.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Serve in love.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Jesus, Still Lead On David Cherwien

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

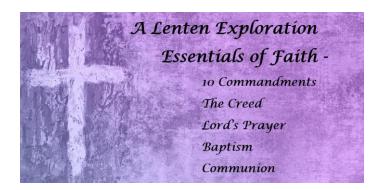
Kaitlin Shinholster, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Zulema Suarez, Prayers of Intercession
Janet Thalmann & Julie Buckingham, Altar Guild



Coffee & Conversation Following Mass Today

In the Memorial Room

Lent Devotional Booklets are available on the bulletin table.



Shared Weekly Worship at Noon Wednesdays February 21st - March 20th

Trinity Lutheran Church 167 Palisade Avenue Bogota, NJ



Tuesday, February 20th, at 7:30 PM

Connection link will be emailed



At Grace in Memorial Room Wednesday, February 21st, at 1:30 PM



Via Zoom Thursday, February 22nd, at Noon

ELCA World Hunger Lent Study Guide: 40 Days of Giving Connection link will be emailed



All are welcome! No Reservation Required.

ELCA NJ Synod

District Meetings & De-escalation Conversation Sunday, March 2^{nd} , at 10 AM - 2 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ

Included during the day:

an introduction to mental health de-escalation conversation, election for synod council & churchwide assembly voting members. **Lunch provided at no charge.**



Carol Weber; Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe (Carol's cousin with vision issues); Darla Lambson (Carol's sister's sister-in-law, suffering from an aggressive form of leukemia); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom); Rose Davis (Surella's friend with cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's children); Leslyn Cooke; Melanie M. (Julie's friend); The cousin-in-law of Julie's coworker, undergoing rehab for injuries sustained in an automobile accident; Laurie Wahner (Lynn's sister with several health concerns); Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion Soohoo (Will's Mother-inlaw recovering from surgery); Paul Dahlke (Lynn's friend's cousin with cancer); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with health issues); Carol Mulvaney (Sue's friend with breast cancer); Edward Foley (back surgery, father of Nancy who does the payroll for Grace); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Beverly Philip (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law with severe dementia); Kathy O'Brien (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Bert Maltz (a friend of Janet's sister-in-law. Several health concerns); Michele Rusciano (a friend of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Dominick Capalba (Mary Ellen's 6 year old friend with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (Mary Ellen's sister with terminal lung cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Walter Byrne (friend of the congregation with cancer); Doris Feirer (a friend of the congregation); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Charlie and Mary Lewis (Fred's brother and sister-in-law with health concerns); Donna Maxwell with health concerns; James Mingo (Donna's grandson with health concerns); Arouss Darpinian (friend of the congregation with health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns); US citizens imprisoned in Russia: Paul Whelan (in prison for over six years) and Evan Gershkovich (a Wall Street Journalist detained for about 3 or 4 months); 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; organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers, national and regional relief officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

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



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 Sunday, February 18, 2024

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.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156 Friday, February 23, 2024

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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Days