

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent



SUNDAY, MARCH 05, 2023

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C Amen.**



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.  
 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.  
 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
 Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
 To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.  
 God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.  
 One with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.


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## GREETING


P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion  
 Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

## KYRIE

  
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

  
A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: C Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

  
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: C Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

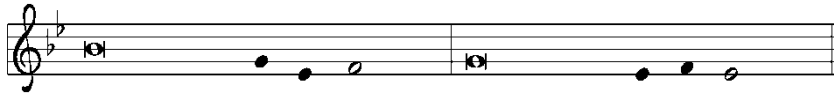
<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C                  Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 121**    *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
               from where is my | help to come?

**C        <sup>2</sup>My help comes | from the LORD,  
               the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

L        <sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
               nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

**C        <sup>4</sup>Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
               will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

L        <sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
               the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

**C**     <sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

L     <sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

**C**     <sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C**     **Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

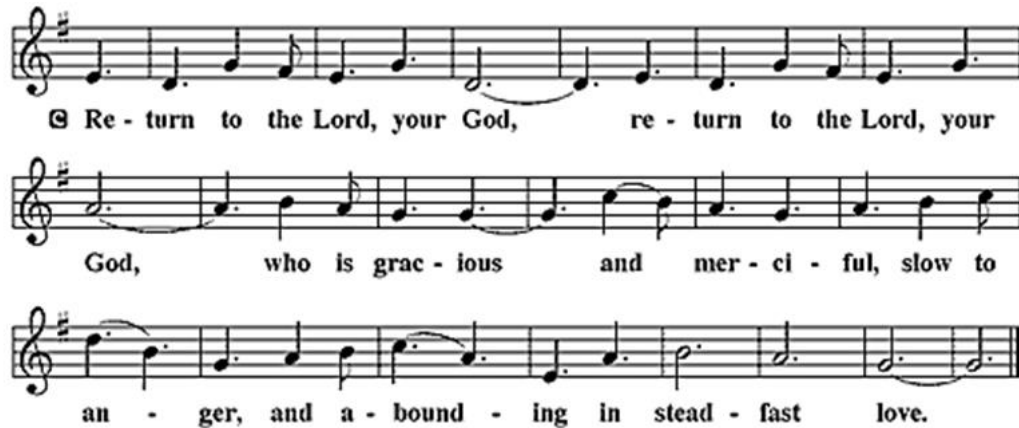
<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader       The word of the Lord.

**C**       **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your  
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to  
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

P The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*





1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap-tized in his death;  
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker  
 Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition ends: Merciful God,*

*Congregational response: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*



+MEAL+

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## **OFFERING HYMN**

*We stand and sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*

## **ANTHEM** "*You Are Strong, You Are Holy*" - Tate

Lord, you lead through sea and desert,  
You lead to promised lands.  
We are your own holy people,  
In your covenant we stand!

(Refrain)

You are strong, you are holy,  
you are mercy and peace.  
You are love, you are justice,  
Your grace and favor never cease!

Lord, you lead to cooling waters,  
You lead to greening fields.  
Lord, you lead to deep'ning valleys  
Where your comfort is revealed!

(Refrain)

So we follow where you lead us,  
Where you walk along the shore,  
Where you suffer in the garden,  
When you rise to die no more!

(Refrain)

## OFFERING HYMN

*We stand and sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## 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.**

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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.

C Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

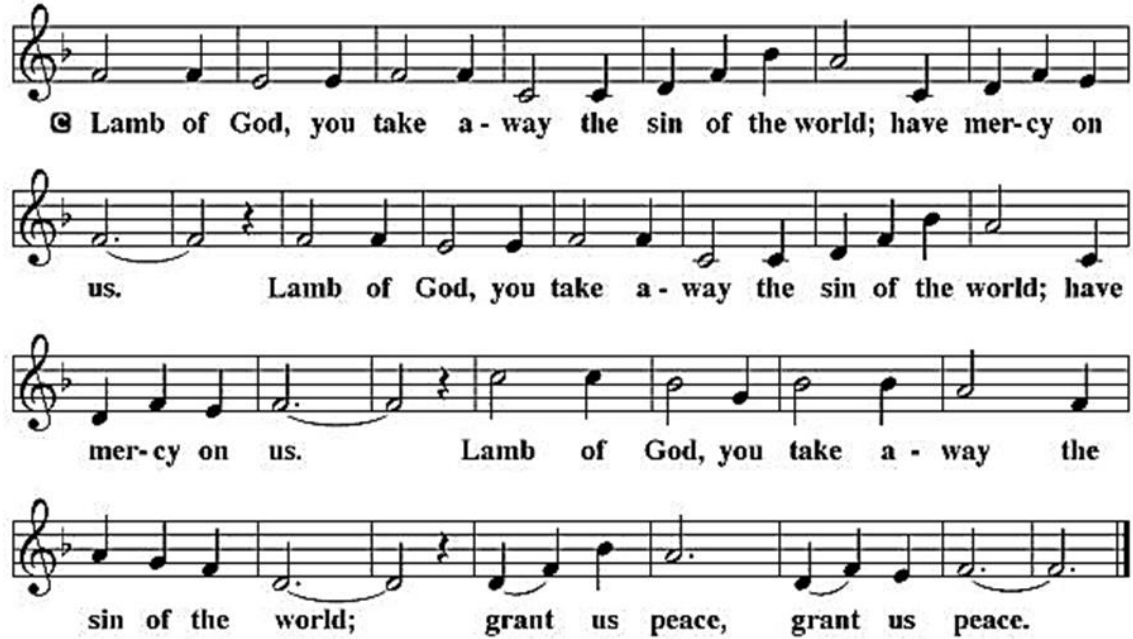
C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



♩ 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, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

735 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

334 *Tree of Life (with Lent 2 verse)*

COMMUNION HYMN 735 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-c. 1413  
Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936  
Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.





1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

**Lent 2**  
 In our call to be a blessing,  
 may we be a blessing true;  
 may we live and die confessing  
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

COMMUNION HYMN 397 *Loving Spirit*

1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—  
2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,  
3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,  
4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:  
5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1987 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*The assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray.

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**C** **Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** God, the giver of love, ✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**

**660** *Lift High the Cross*

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God,  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died,  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbok, 1874-1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60085. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## DISMISSAL

- P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**
- P Go in peace. Serve in love.
- C Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416  
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### Calendar for February 26 – March 5

March	5	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday in Lent
	8	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	12	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Third Sunday in Lent

*\*Lori will be out of the office from March 8-14.*

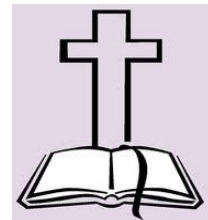
### Next Sunday's Readings, Third Sunday in Lent:

[Exodus 17:1-7](#)

[Psalms 95](#)

[Romans 5:1-11](#)

[John 4:5-42](#)



<b>SERVING TABLE</b>		
<b>Serving</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b>March 12</b>
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	Beth Alexander
<b>Cup Minister</b>		Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Lector</b>	Astrid van der mark	Ron Hartung
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon Erik Robinson	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan
<b>Counters</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy
<b>Announcements</b>	Denise Bookwalter	Denise Bookwalter

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*New concerns:* The family of Suzanne Hartung (sister of Ron Hartung), mourning her passing; Wendy Corriveau (daughter of Jan Harrison), recovering from surgery; Judy Kent (mother of Mike Martinez), in hospice care; Angela Locke (friend of Audrey Post), for patience and strength; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), as she continues to recuperate from a horrific golf cart-truck crash; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing.

*For the sick:* Val Sullivan; Audrey Post; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

*In treatment for cancer:* Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris

Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson.

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2023:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2023 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place it in the offering plate.

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They’re at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.