

*My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.  
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.*

## **The Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 23, 2025**

**9:30 a.m.**

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

#### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from Pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise Pastor Ermeling as he comes by during communion.

## As We Gather

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God’s people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

*During Lent the service begins with the Litany and the Collect of the Day.  
This replaces the regular Preparatory Rite, Introit, and Kyrie.*

*Stand*

## ✠ THE LITANY ✠

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,   | <b>C</b> hear us.             |
| <b>P</b> God the Father in Heaven,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Son, Redeemer of the world,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> God the Holy Spirit,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.          |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Spare us, good Lord. |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.  | <b>C</b> Help us, good Lord.  |
| <b>P</b> From all sin, from all error, from all evil;<br>From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;<br>From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;<br>From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death: |                               |
| <b>C</b> Good Lord, deliver us.  |                               |

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;  
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross  
and passion; by Your precious death and burial;  
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the  
Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity;  
In the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You:

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To rule and govern Your Holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of  
Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to  
sustain them in holy living;

To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who  
have erred and are deceived;

To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to  
accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the  
weakhearted and the distressed:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to  
give our country Your protection in every time of need;

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates  
and all our people;

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and  
guide all who travel;

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness  
in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and  
to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and  
preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God:

**C** We implore You to hear us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

## Salutation and Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. We implore You, Almighty God: look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Hymn

My Song Is Love Unknown

430 sts. 1-5

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Psalm 142*

<sup>1</sup>With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. <sup>2</sup>I pour out my complaint before him; tell my trouble before him. <sup>3</sup>When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. <sup>4</sup>Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul. <sup>5</sup>I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." <sup>6</sup>Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me! <sup>7</sup>Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 9:19, 3*

Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail;  
let the nations be judged before You!

**When my enemies turn back,  
they stumble and perish before Your presence.**

## Epistle

*Romans 5:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Tract

*Psalm 123:1–3a*

To You I lift up my eyes,

O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,**

**so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us.**

**Have mercy upon us, O LORD,**

**have mercy upon us.**

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 8:31–38*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>34</sup>And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup>For what can a man give in return for his life? <sup>38</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose Kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

770

**Sermon**

**Offering**



Stand

## Offertory



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition:*

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
- C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Lord's Prayer

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 Our Lord

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."

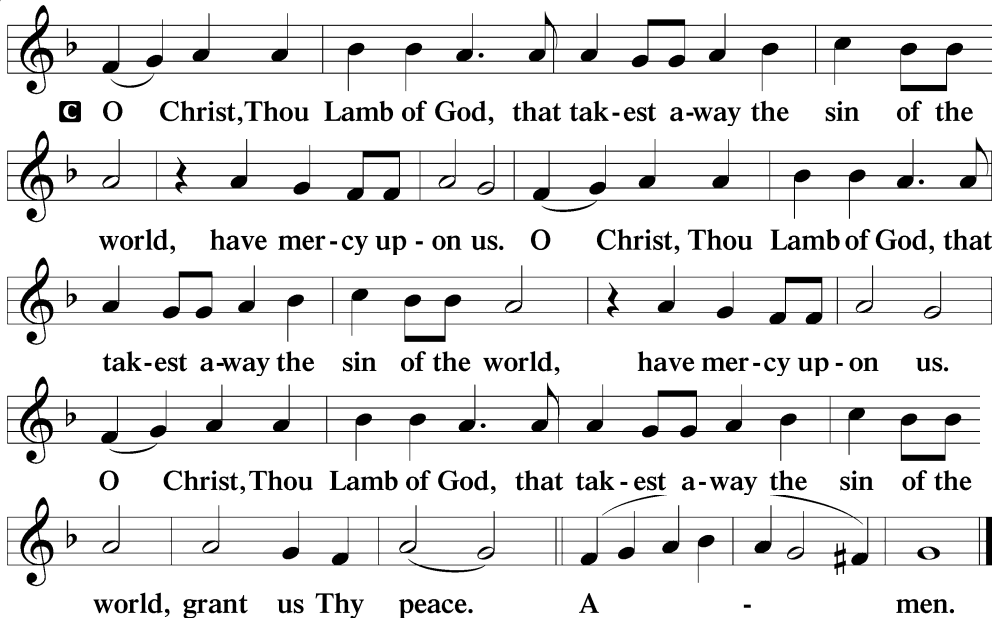
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## Distribution Hymns

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

435

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

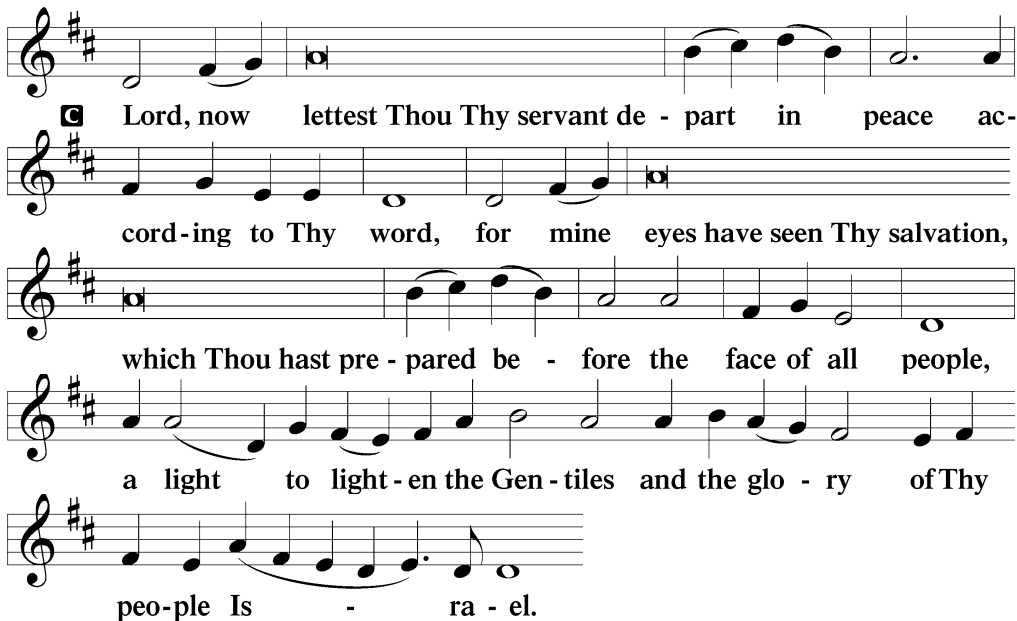
743

Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode

714

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo-ple Is - ra - el.

## Thanksgiving

**P** O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.

**C** And His mercy endureth forever.

**P** Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your Only-Begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

## Were You There

456

### Acknowledgments

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## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, March 23	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
Wednesday, March 26	7:00pm	Midweek Lenten Divine Service	Sanctuary

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

03/30 – Charles Cook

## DONATION REPORT – SUPPORT FOR LWML

*Date of Report: March 18, 2025*

On March 18, 2025, I wrote a check in the amount of \$326.26, representing the total of LWML donations collected over the past six months. This contribution reflects our collective commitment to supporting the church's vital mission work.

Below is a breakdown of the donations received from October 2024 to March 2025:

- October 2024: \$46.02
- November 2024: \$43.53
- December 2024: \$41.71
- January 2025: \$32.00
- February 2025: \$124.00
- March 2025: \$39.00

Total: \$326.26

These funds will aid Lutheran Women in Mission's ongoing mission initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity! — Brenda Parker

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to serve on Sundays as Ushers or Sunday school teachers. If you are able to serve in any of these positions or if you have further questions, please speak with Taryn Wininger.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY – CANNED FOOD DONATIONS**

We have been collecting canned food for the past several months. Please continue to place your canned foods on the Social Ministry cart in the Narthex. These donations will be taken to the West Valley Community Food Pantry housed at St. John's Lutheran Church, 7205 N. 51st Ave, Glendale.

## **TIME TO RENEW ANNUAL LUTHERAN WITNESS**

*Lutheran Witness* renewal for the new subscription year is July 2025. The price is \$27.65 for 11 issues (June/July is a combined edition). They are delivered to your home address. If you are interested in receiving the *Lutheran Witness* Magazine, please contact the church office at 623-846-2228 or email, [info@stpaulslutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaulslutheran-az.com). For payment, please use the pew envelopes, designated for *Lutheran Witness*. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church (please write *Lutheran Witness* on the memo line) and place it in the offering collection plate on Sunday. **The deadline to subscribe is April 27.**

## **BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES BIBLE STUDY**

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon recently started a study on the Book of Ecclesiastes. You can listen on-demand at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

## **LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE**

<b>March 12 – April 9</b> , Wednesdays Divine Services	7:00 PM
<b>April 13</b> – Palm Sunday	9:30 AM
<b>April 17</b> – Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM
<b>April 18</b> – Good Friday	7:00 PM
<b>April 20</b> – Easter Sunday	9:30 AM

“...He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:12

# LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. *For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaulutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaulutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.*

## IMMEDIATE CONCERN:

Mary Howard, recovering a recent fall; after Mary will undergo physical therapy.

## ON-GOING CONCERNS:

Suzi Riley-Malsack, undergoing physical therapy after a fall.

Charlie Cook – exp. procedure to heal bladder

Kevin Stamm – health issues

Nigel Proctor – suffering from severe digestive issues

Jorge Jimenez – fighting cancer

Wayne Bartels – ongoing health issues

Rose Tressler – ongoing health issues

Nicholas Jimenez, Linda Rossow, Jim Rucker, Pat Haas

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Darlene Hulteen (sister of Vickie Hulteen) is traveling back to Georgia April 22-24.

Rei Irmer (sister of Louise Ahrens) prayers for continued healing.

David Wies (cousin of Vickie Hulteen) diagnosed with leukemia and will be undergoing treatment.

Sharon Wies (wife of Cliff Wies, cousin of Vickie Hulteen) diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer.

Nick Koontz (husband of Mary Howard's stepdaughter) diagnosed with leukemia.

## MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan, serving in Japan.

PSWD Missions

## PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Substitute Pastors and their families

The Rev. Jeff Proctor and family

Sunday School teachers & children

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (*members, friends, or relatives*): Jackson Buffington, Lucas Butterfass, Nathanael Dyjak, Juan Garcia, Robert Gilmore, Tiffany Gilmore, Robert Majewski, Mike Nguyen, Ethan Peterman, Andy Smiley, Jacob Wilson

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Anne Smith