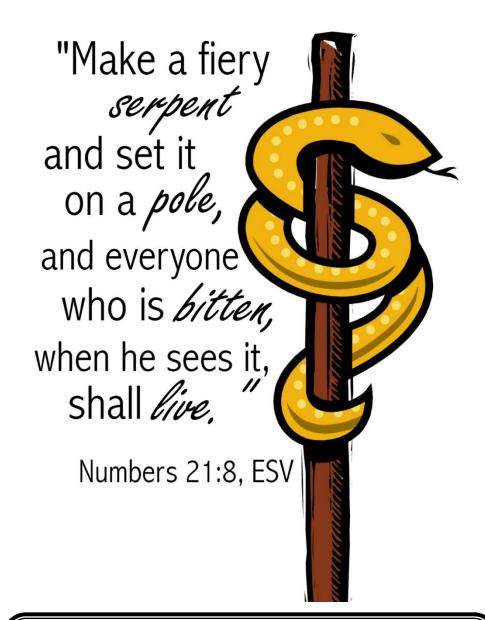
Connecting people to Jesus as we gather, grow, and go.



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 8:00am & 10:45am

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church!

We greet you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. We are glad you are worshiping with our family of faith and rejoice with you as God comes to us through His Word this day to bring His gift of forgiveness and life in Jesus.

If you have any questions, please seek out one of the ushers who will be happy to assist you. **Pastor Schultz & Pastor Ada look forward to meeting you at the end of the service**.

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION Members and visitors, please scan this QR code and register your attendance with us today. Thanks!



HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available. Please talk to an usher.

YOUNG CHILDREN We believe that young children need to be brought to Jesus (Mark 10:14); and what better way than to include them in the regular worship life of the congregation! We **DO NOT** have a staffed nursery during church because we **encourage families to worship together**. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available to help quietly occupy those children too young to listen to the sermon. Please feel free to use the narthex as a cry room when needed. Monitors and speakers will assist in your participation.

EDUCATION HOUR (9:30-10:30am)

Adult Bible Class: During the 6 Sundays in Lent, we will be studying our Lenten Midweek theme based on Psalm 41: "Be Gracious to Me."

Sunday School: Classes are offered for children who have turned 3 by September 1 through high school. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating classrooms.

Nursery: There is a nursery during education hour located in the lower level, Room 118.

HOLY COMMUNION In Holy Communion we celebrate the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ as He gives us His true body and blood in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. In love for God's Word and in love for God's people, we do not want anyone to receive this blessed gift to their spiritual harm (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Therefore, anyone who wishes to commune here for the first time and who is not a member of Beautiful Savior or a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, is asked to speak with Pastor Schultz or Pastor Ada before receiving Holy Communion. Those not communing are still welcome to come receive a blessing.

Order of Service: Divine Service 4

HYMNS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: LSB 744, 571, 580, 837, 544, and 542

PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP

Lord, open now my heart to hear, And through your Word to me draw near; Preserve that Word in purity That I your child and heir may be. LW 197:1

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

PRELUDE

God Loved the World So That He Gave

arr. Hildebrand

PASTORAL GREETING

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

SHARING OF THE LORD'S PEACE

OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace

LSB 744

Stand

→ THE PREPARATION **→**

INVOCATION

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.)

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

BAPTISM

(Please turn to <u>page 17</u> for the Baptism liturgy)

(8:00am) Cole Christopher Vanderpool (10:45am) Avery Hays Lauterbach and Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **Q** who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

 [Luke 18:13]

(A moment of silence to confess our specific sins.)

- **P** Let us together confess our sins to God our Father.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy...and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen. [John 20:19-23]

★ SERVICE OF THE WORD ★

HYMN OF PRAISE

(During the penitential Season of Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

2 Timothy 4:22

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Geschke Intermezzo Ringers

(If you would like to meditate on the words as the piece is played, please turn to LSB 543 in your hymnal)

OLD TESTAMENT Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 107:1-9; antiphon: v. 19



- Then they cried to the LORD in their | trouble,* and he delivered them from | their distress.
- Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,* for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!
- Let the redeemed of the LORD | say so,* whom he has redeemed from | trouble
- and gathered in | from the lands,* from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
- Some wandered in | desert wastes,* finding no way to a city to | dwell in;
- hungry and | thirsty,* their soul fainted with- | in them.
- Then they cried to the LORD in their | trouble,* and he delivered them from | their distress.
- He led them by a | straight way* till they reached a city to | dwell in.
- Let them thank the LORD for his | steadfast love,* for his wondrous works to the chil- | dren of men!
- For he satisfies the | longing soul,* and the hungry soul he fills | with good things.
- A Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- Then they cried to the LORD in their | trouble,* and he delivered them from | their distress.

EPISTLE Ephesians 2:1–10

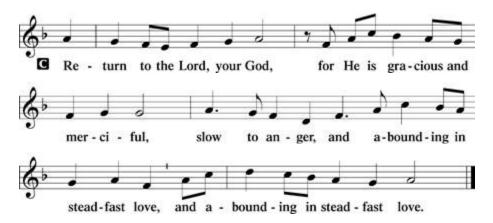
¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁵and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁻so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁶For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁶not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹oFor we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL VERSE

Lent Joel 2:13



HOLY GOSPEL John 3:14–21

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

READING THE FAITH (as drawn from Luther's Small Catechism)

- THE LORD'S PRAYER SECOND PETITION
- **C** Thy Kingdom Come
- **P** What does this mean?
- The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.
- P How does God's Kingdom come?
- God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

- THE LORD'S PRAYER THE THIRD PETITION
- Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- **P** What does this mean?
- The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.
- **P** How is God's will done?
- God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Vicar Nathan Harkins

SERMON HYMN

God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571

SERMON

Look Upon It and Live!
Numbers 21
Vicar Nathan Harkins

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED (located on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- That God would draw us into His light, exposing wherever we, like His people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against Him; and that in repentance we might look to His Son lifted up on the cross and be saved from His righteous wrath, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- For the missionaries of our Church as they go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel, that many may hear of God's love in Christ Jesus and be saved through faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the authorities God has set over us for our good, President Biden and Governor Kelly, that He would bless and sustain them with all they need to govern wisely in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- That the Holy Spirit would teach us to hear in the Old Testament the promises and pictures of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who was lifted up on the cross as Moses once lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who suffer in body, mind or soul, [especially_______,] that they would be hid in the shelter of Christ, our light and salvation; and that God would keep them from falling into faithless fear in their day of trouble, upholding them in His peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P Additional Prayers of Thanksgiving or Intercession, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all who commune, that Christ would satisfy the longing of our hearts with the good things of His body and blood, so that our souls may not faint within us but abide in His eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For us and all Christians, that by the Spirit of God we would not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds, but be His workmanship in Christ Jesus, walking in the good works He has prepared for us, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OFFERING

(Our offerings are collected at the door and brought forward and presented in thanksgiving to the Lord. If you missed this opportunity, your offering can be placed in the plate at the door as you leave.)

OFFERTORY LSB 192



★ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ★

PREFACE

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.

2 Timothy 4:22

[Colossians 3:1]

- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

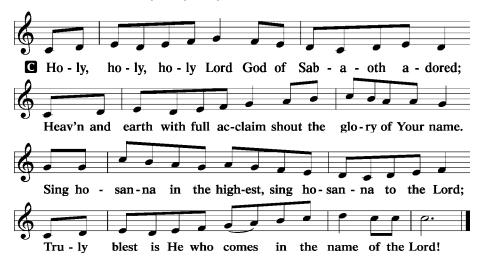
[Psalm 136]

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS~~(Latin: Holy, Holy, Holy)

Isaiah 6:3: Matthew 21:9



LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

- P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI~~(Latin: Peace of the Lord)

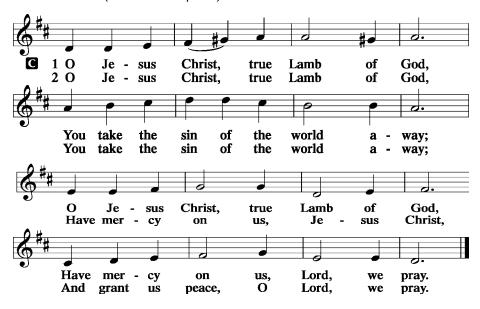
John 20:19

(The pastor here makes a <u>declaration</u> of the peace we have with the Lord through the forgiveness offered in this Sacrament. Therefore, we boldly respond **AMEN!** – which means "Yes, yes, this is so!")

- The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen!

AGNUS DEI~~(Latin: Lamb of God)

John 1:29



INVITATION

P Welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

VISITORS, please read the statement concerning Holy Communion on page 2.

Personal Examination Before Communing

1. Do I believe I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?

- 2. Do I believe Christ's true body and blood to be present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins?
- 3. Do I earnestly intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life? (For a longer examination see pages 329-330 of the hymnal. Communion Prayers are located inside the front cover of the hymnal.)

Instructions for Communing

We use <u>continuous kneeling tables</u> for Holy Communion. The congregation will be ushered forward to kneel. You will receive the Body of Jesus from the Pastors and then the Blood of Jesus from the Elder/Vicar. You may receive either from the common cup or the individual cup. When you have sufficiently meditated, stand, reverence the altar, and return to your seat. Those not communing will receive a blessing from the pastor.

Non-alcoholic white wine in located in the center of each tray and should only be used by those with medical conditions prohibiting the use of wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available from the pastor when you come forward.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

LSB 837 Lift High the Cross

LSB 544 O Love, How Deep

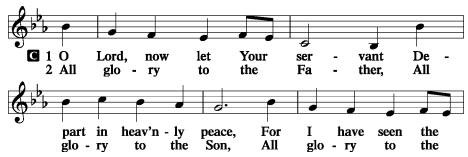
Stand

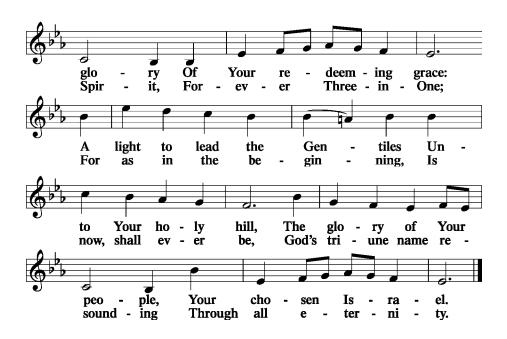
DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis~~(Latin: Now Depart – Song of Simeon)

Luke 2:29-32





BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

- Thanks be to God.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

When I Behold Jesus Christ

LSB 542

POSTLUDE

Oh, Love, How Deep

arr. Sadowski

Before you go: Visitors and Members – please register your attendance.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service Four liturgy from Lutheran Service Book Parts of the catechism reprinted from Luther's Small Catechism

copyright 1986 Concordia Publishing House

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

> CCLI License No. 379819 LSB Liturgy & Hymn License.net Number 100012706



Rev. Joel Schultz, Senior Pastor Rev. Michael Ada, Associate Pastor Vicar Nathan Harkins, Student Pastor

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

13145 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062 Phone: (913) 780-6023 website: www.bslcks.org

SERVING THE LORD AND US TODAY:

Preaching	Vicar Nathan Harkins
Celebrant	Pastor Joel Schultz
Liturgist	Pastor Mike Ada
Organist	Lauran Delancy
Acolytes	(8:00) Blake Hughey & Maya Hughey (10:45) TBD
Ushers(8:00) Scott Bohn	ert, Zach Booth, Debbie Johnson, Mike Johnson, & Mark Zarnstorff
	(10:45) Scott Behrman, Mark Chapin, Brett Clark, & Brad Johnson
Altar Guild	Denise & Scott Behrman, Deb Hodnik, & Mary Jane Rees
Greeters	(8:00) George & Karen Ledgerwood (10:45) Paul Peterson
Nursery	Jason & Alli Bauck (Helping Hands – Andrew & Marissa Lippe)
Counters	Randy & Jeanne Kanoy
Altar Flowers	Jason & Alli Bauck for William's 6 th Birthday



HOLY BAPTISM - Cole Christopher Vanderpool, infant son of Aaron and Stacey Vanderpool, will be baptized this morning in the 8:00am service. Cole's sponsors are Austin and Paige Burau and Garrett and Morgan Schultz. We pray special blessings upon Cole and his family as he becomes a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism.



HOLY BAPTISM - Avery Hays Lauterbach and Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach, daughters of Tyler and Amy Lauterbach, will be baptized this morning in the 10:45am service. Avery and Madisyn's sponsor is Curtis Lauterbach. We pray special blessings upon Avery and Madisyn and their family as they become children of God through the waters of Holy Baptism.

Cole Christopher Vanderpool (8:00am) Avery Hays Lauterbach and Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach (10:45am)

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

ADDRESS TO PARENTS, SPONSORS & CONGREGATION

CONFESSION OF FAITH

- Because **this child/these children** cannot answer for **himself/themselves**, we shall all, together with sponsors, and parents, faithfully speak on **his/their** behalf in testimony of the forgiveness of sins and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.
- **P** Do you renounce the devil?
- Yes, I renounce him.
- P Do you renounce all his works?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty
- Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

- **P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
- Yes, I believe 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.
- **P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life

 → everlasting.

THE BAPTISM

- P Cole Christopher Vanderpool/Avery Hays Lauterbach/Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach, do you desire to be baptized?
- (Parents) Yes, I Do
- P Cole Christopher Vanderpool/Avery Hays Lauterbach/Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE RECEIVING OF THE BAPTISM CANDLE

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Cole Christopher Vanderpool/Avery Hays Lauterbach and Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member/them members of Your

Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and **an heir/heirs** of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as **he has now become Your child/they have now become Your children**, You would keep **him in his baptismal grace/them in their baptismal grace**, that according to Your good pleasure **he/they** may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

- In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven.
- We welcome you into the Lord's family and receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous Light. Amen.

Baptismal Party may return to their seats.

PRAYERS REQUESTED THIS WEEK

For **Cole Christopher Vanderpool**, infant son of Aaron and Stacey Vanderpool, who will be baptized into the faith at the 8:00am service.

For **Avery Hays Lauterbach and Madisyn Bonnie Lauterbach**, daughters of Tyler and Amy Lauterbach, who will be baptized into the faith at the 10:45am service.

For **Steve Kerns**, a prayer of thanksgiving for his safe return from deployment

For Charlotte Hundley, who is waiting for scan and biopsy results so that she may start radiation treatments.

For Jane Dieckhoff, who is hospitalized and recovering from several strokes.

For Barb Farmer, Tom Bremer's sister, who is hospitalized from a fall that fractured a vertebra.

For Lauren Kindt, Kim Burdett's niece who is suffering from a rare form of cancer and has begun chemotherapy.

For Lawayne and Jennifer DeForest, as they deal with their disabilities.

For **Lee Kresin**, who is recovering at home from the flu and pneumonia.

For God to bring about peace in the war between Israel and Palestine.

For God to bring about peace in the war between Ukraine and Russia.

For **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine**, our LCMS partner church, for their safety and love as they care for the people still caught in the conflict.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

For **Greg and Tamara Morin**, as they celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary.

For Wanda Freeman, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

For Pat Circle, who is healing from back and sciatica issues.

For Margaret Wolpers, who is recovering from a stroke at St. Luke's and doing physical therapy.

For **Dale Brandt**, who is home recovering and trying to build strength.

For **Karen Kuhn**, who is having chemotherapy for stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

For our expectant mothers: Elise Christensen, Michelle Giangrosso, Marissa Lippe, Cassie Nichols, Lexi Obermueller, Amy Oestmann, Hannah Schultz, and Sarah Walsh for their unborn children, and for those who long for God's gift of children.

For those undergoing cancer treatment: Mandy Bender, Dale Brandt, Dani Chapin, Mary Lou Denny, Jordan Ebach, Karen Feldes, Brad Gellerstedt, Garth Gonseth, Charlotte Hundley, John Huss, Brian Jenkins, Lauren Kindt, Linda Knight, Mikaela Koch, Karen Kuhn, Judy Landall, Jessica Luck, John Mahnken, Bonnie Malloch, Lorette Marsh, Milroy Moses, Susan Mountain, Melissa Nesemeier, Bert Potter, Lori Russel, Lisa Schaefer, Randy Schlueter, Tyler Smith, Eydie Taylor, Kathy Woods, and Neal Wurth.

For **our partner church in Zacapa, Guatemala:** Pray that God would bless this congregation with church members and the community that they would be strengthened and encouraged in His faith.

For **all those who are unemployed or under-employed**, that the Lord would provide for all their needs and lead them to jobs soon. For those who have secured jobs, we offer prayers of thanksgiving.

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS PRAYER REQUEST

Pray for Christians Following Coup - Niger

Armed terrorists, often connected to the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS), have ravaged parts of Niger, particularly in the west near its borders with Mali and Burkina Faso. Much of the country's small Christian population has been displaced in the violence: "Many have seen their parents or family members shot and killed," a front-line worker said. Additionally, after Niger's president was overthrown by military officers in a July 2023 coup, the Islamic Council of Niger has been pushing to change the country from a secular democracy into an Islamic republic governed by sharia law. The front-line worker asks that people pray for Nigerien Christians to experience God's protection during this turbulent time.