



Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate. *Hymns can be found in the back of this bulletin.*

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: 516-931-0710 (*email ststephenoffice@msn.com*)

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

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Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection

P Most merciful God, **C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

ENTER IN SILENCE

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.**

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

The psalm for the day is read responsively

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶**when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸**My whole being^l clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

P The holy gospel according to Luke. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

...The gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* (ELW 659)



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we 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

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A brief silence.

A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.
God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.
God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended . May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Ruiz (3/23); Lynn Browning (3/24)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you (2x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

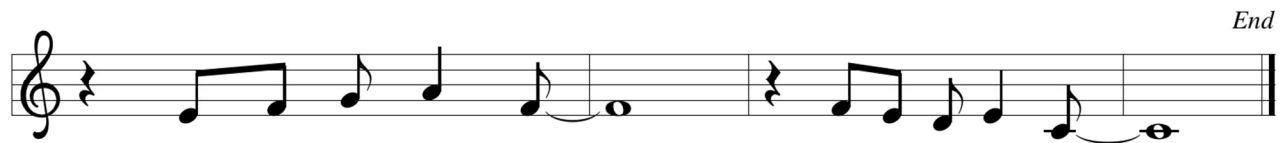
+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING: *Change My Heart, O God* (ELW 801)



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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, Lamb of God.

SONG DURING COMMUNION:

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat (ELW 484)

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C Amen.**

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

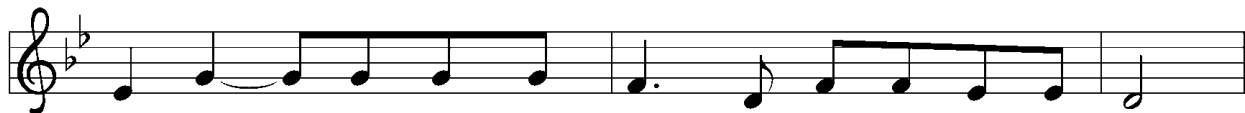
SENDING SONG: *How Great Thou Art* (ELW 856)



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

The Lord showed himself more glorious in my sight than I had ever seen him before, and I saw that nothing stood in my way but sin. I saw that this is generally true of all of us. It seemed to me that if sin had not existed, we would all have been pure, like our Lord, as our Lord made us. Thus I often wondered why, by the great foreseeing wisdom of God, the beginning of sin had not been prevented, for then, I thought, all would have been well. But Jesus, who in this vision informed me of all I needed to know, answered in these words, saying, “Sin is necessary, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

—*Julian of Norwich*

Upcoming Commemorations

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

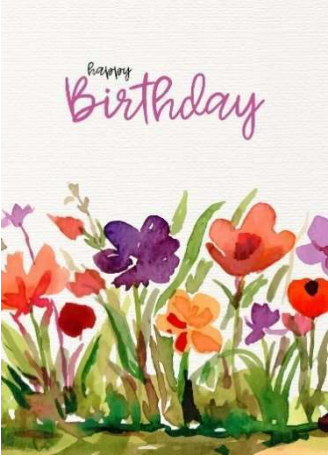

Annunciation of Our Lord

Friday, March 25, 2022

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Announcements for the week of
March 23, 2025

The Sanctuary Candle for March is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rudy Eberhardt by the Eberhardt family and in loving memory of her brother Frank O'Brien by Maureen O'Brien.

	<p>Tanya Mauer 3/3 Vicki Maxey 3/12 Lori Schiliro 3/19 Ryan Back 3/21 Neil Tingwall 3/22 Jennifer Ruiz 3/23 Lynn Browning 3/24 Brenda Back 3/31</p>	<p>Susan & Paul Portz 3/8</p> 
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~Reminder - In March we continue to collect **diapers** to be donated to Lutheran Social Services. Sizes 3, 4 and 5 are most needed. They also accept donations of adult diapers. Our goal is to be able to fill the back of Paul's pickup truck!

~ The Gardening Group is planning to attend the flower show at Hicks Nursery on Monday, March 24th at 2:00. Let Lauren or Barbara know if you'd like to join us.

~ Our March newsletter has been delayed. Please send your submissions to Tanya Maurer (tmaurer145@aol.com) as soon as possible.

~ Lutheran Bible Study – Significant Themes of the Lenten Season
Mondays beginning March 10th through April 7th at 7pm

Join zoom meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976673296?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976673296?pwd=liImhFtFMUnTUPBo3b8YFZjDtidkUp.1)
pwd=liImhFtFMUnTUPBo3b8YFZjDtidkUp.1
Meeting ID: 819 7667 3296
Passcode: 779639

~Lutheran Social Services has once again invited us to provide **Easter Food Baskets** to their New Life Center. A list of requested food items can be found on the shelf in the Narthex.

~ Easter Plant Offering and Dedications ~ it's once again time to get your Easter plant offering and dedications in. Forms with complete instructions can be found on the shelf in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 516/931-0710. Deadline: Sunday, April 6th.

~ Afternoon at the movies: Sunday, March 23rd at 12:00 following coffee hour. Featuring John Wayne in *The Quiet Man* in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Green bagels and refreshments will be served. Call Maureen with any questions - 516-938-7706.

~ From the Altar Guild:

Our numbers are few; and the Guild would welcome your assistance. We are a small assembly dedicated to arranging the sanctuary for the Sunday services of Holy Communion, festive worship services, and the Services of Word and Light. Don't feel overwhelmed with what you see as our worship space changes with each season or with the task to be done. The work is done as a team of two or with the entire Altar Guild when necessary, and on occasion with assistance from the Property Committee. It is a labor of love and service to the Lord, a small but important charge.

If you are interested, even if you just have questions, you can speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

~Boy Scout Troop 291 will be holding their **Family Pasta Night** on April 27th at 4:00. Ticket / reservation forms can be found on the shelf in the narthex.

~ Please join us for the coffee hour in the lobby after worship.

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (March 23rd - March 29th)

Today	Third Sunday in Lent
	9:30am Holy Communion
	10:00am H.S.S. Yoga
	12:00pm <i>The Quiet Man</i>
Monday	2:00pm Hicks Flower Show
Tuesday	7:00 pm Back to Basics
Wednesday	7:00 pm N.A.
Next Sunday	Fourth Sunday in Lent
	9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:30 am

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Barbara Engert
LECTOR:	Jaclyn Shurman
ACOLYTE:	Grant Goetzger
USHERS:	Rich Humann
ACCOMPANIST	Mason Griffin
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Beth Feeney & Jane Ebersberger

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Vinny Aiello
Bill Artus
Lauren Artus
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
Roger Engert
Pastor Ron Klose
Claire and John Parrett
Ilona Riggers

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)
Vicki Maurer (daughter-in-law of Nan and Bob Maurer)
John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)
Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz)
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)
William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)
Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family)
Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)
John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)