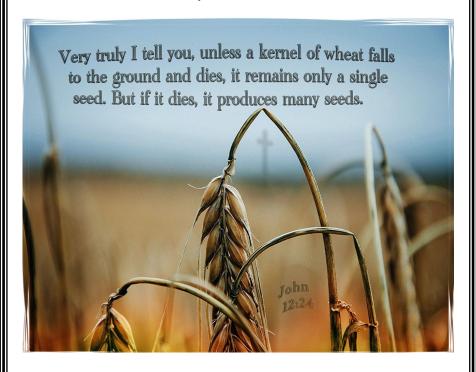
First Evangelical Lutheran Church Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM



Our Identity

- We are a diverse, welcoming, loving, grace-filled community.
- We are a safe place of acceptance and forgiveness.
- It feels good to be here.

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller, Pastor

320 South State Street , PO Box 308 Lexington, NC 27292 336-248-6018 — Phone www.flclex.org

Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE!

+ + GATHERING + +

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "What Wondrous Love Is This" John Purifoy
Celie Lough, Flute

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- Amen.
- P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(We pause for reflection.)

- P Holy God,
- we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.
- P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through

 → Jesus Christ.
- Amen.

We turn to face the cross and follow it as the procession approaches the Altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

HYMN: (Bulletin, pg. 14) "There Is a Balm in Gilead" Balm in Gilead
African American Spiritual

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

SERVICE OF HEALING

P Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

(Silence for reflection.)

- Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety. In your great mercy,
- hear us, O God.
- A Mighty God, mercifully grant strength to the weak and comfort to those who suffer, that their sickness and pain may be turned into health. In your great mercy,
- hear us, O God.
- A God of peace and reconciliation, bring an end to the sickness of the world, especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes. In your great mercy,
- e hear us, O God.
- A Holy God, Holy One, your Son prayed that your people may be one. May the gift of baptism be a power for healing the church's brokenness, and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity. In your great mercy,
- hear us, O God.
- A Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world. In your great mercy,
- hear us, O God.
- A Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed. Heal the pain of all who grieve. In your great mercy,
- hear us, O God.
- P O God, we bring these intercessions before you, knowing that you will hear us as you have promised, and will answer according to the mercy shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

(The congregation is invited to come forward at this time.)

- P Let us pray.
- P Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

CHILDRENS SERMON

+ + WORD + +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

■ The word of the Lord.
■ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 51:1-12(read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Page 5

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

- P The holy gospel according to St. John the twelfth chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON

The Rev. Matthew L. Miller

A BRIEF MOMENT OF REFLECTION

HYMN: (Bulletin, pg. 15) "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" Good Soil Handt Hanson

APOSTLES' CREED

- P God has made us his people through our baptism in Christ. Living together in trust and hope let us confess our faith.
- **☑** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

(after each petition)....... Hear us, O God.

- **Q** Your mercy is great.
- P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

PEACE

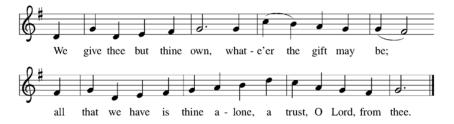
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- And also with you.

OFFERING

"A Lenten Walk"
Chancel Choir — Celie Lough, Flute

arr. Hal Hopson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
- **B**less these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

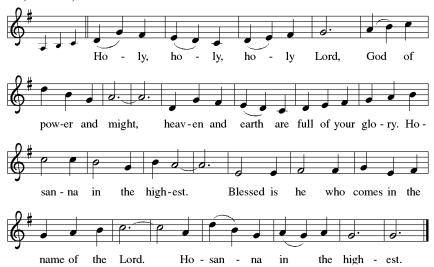
+ + MEAL + +

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times, and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

- Amen.
- P Remember us in your kingdom, O God, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

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 Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
- **□** Thanks be to God.

All are welcome to the table to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to receive communion at the Altar, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

Please refrain from conversation during the distribution of Holy Communion in respect for those who may be in prayer.

If you prefer to receive a **gluten-free** communion wafer, please tell the minister or assisting minister as you are served. White grape juice is also available at each wine station in the center ring.

LAMB OF GOD

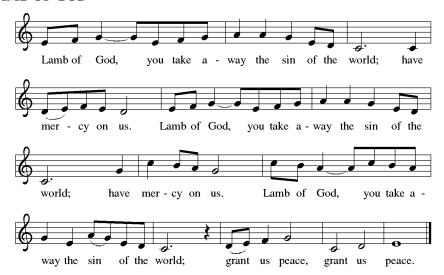
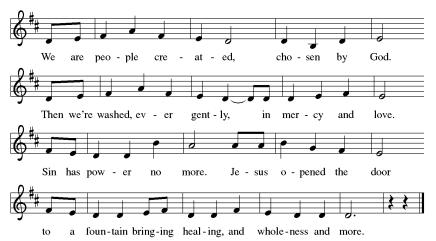


TABLE BLESSING

- P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.
- C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- **A** Generous God,
- at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

- A Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are unable to be with us today. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- G Amen.

+ + SENDING + +

BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ⊕ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN: (Bulletin, pg. 16) "To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold"

Wonders
Susan R. Briehl

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

++++++

Stewardship and Attendance March 10, 2024	
Attendance	73
Current	\$3,881.44
Youth	\$10.00
Memorial	\$50.00
Mortgage	\$100.00
Clothing Closet	\$75.00
Discretionary Fund	\$1,000.00
Lenten Meals	\$47.00
Easter Lilies	\$57.00
TOTAL	\$5,220.44

+ + ANNOUNCEMENTS + +

SERVING DURING WORSHIP — March 10, 2024

Assisting Minister: Darrell Parks

Communion Stewards: Amy Whalen, Pat Richardson **Communion Preparation:** Don and Debi Henderson

Acolyte: Sydney England Crucifer: Tim Conrad Lector: Carol Leonard

Ushers: Allen Mabry, Patti Grant Sound System: Lee Conrad

SERVING DURING WORSHIP — March 17, 2024

Assisting Minister: Darrell Parks

Communion Stewards: Amy Whalen, Debra Kitzman **Communion Preparation:** Don and Debi Henderson

Acolyte: Sydney England Crucifer: Tim Conrad Lector: Carol Leonard

Ushers: Allen Mabry, Patti Grant **Sound System:** John Conrad

IMPORTANT NOTE

Moving forward, please be sure to use <u>office@flclex.org</u> for any email communication with the church office. While Amanda's former email account will remain active, it will not be reviewed with regularity.

ALTAR GREENERY

The greenery at the Altar is given by Rebecca Moretz to the glory of almighty God.

SCRIPTURES - March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

EASTER LILIES — Today is the last day to order.

It's that time of year! You'll find order forms for Easter Lilies at the center-aisle end of each pew. The cost is \$19.00 per plant.

PRAYER LIST

Please take a moment to carefully review the prayer list. If there are changes or updates that may be made, please notify the church office.

INREACH TEAM

The Inreach Team will meet on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 4:00 PM

PERICOPE

Pericope will meet at Southern Lunch at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, March 19. All are welcome to join in this time of Bible Study.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE

Join us at First United Methodist Church for a Community Lenten Service at Noon on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. This service is hosted by the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association.

CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

- The Handbell Choir will rehearse on Sunday, March 24, at 9:15 AM.
- The Chancel Choir will rehearse following the Lenten service on Wednesday, March 20.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES — Supper at 6:00 PM

Join us for our mid-week Lenten service on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:00 PM in the Nave. **Supper will be served at 6:00 PM** each week in the Fellowship Hall. We will be using our beloved "Holden Evening Prayer" service.

PASTORS PANTRY

We are collection **canned**, **heat and serve**, **pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti-os etc.)** during the month of March. Please place your donations on the rack on the Chapel hallway off the Narthex. We recently learned that in 2023, FLC donated 981 pounds of food to Pastor's Pantry!!!! This is quite an accomplishment! Thank you for your dedication!

WEDNESDAY DEVOTION

Join Pastor Matt each Wednesday for devotions on Facebook Live at 10:00 AM. Join the devotion here: http://www.facebook.com/flclex

AGAPE CIRCLE

The Agape Circle will not meet in April. The next meeting will be on May 6, 2024. Details to follow.

LOOKING AHEAD

• Prayer Shawl Ministry — March 28, 7:00 PM



EASTER PROJECT

Please return these by this coming Wednesday, March 20

We, as a congregation, will be making an Easter Project for the nursing home again this year. Our children will deliver these gifts on Palm Sunday.

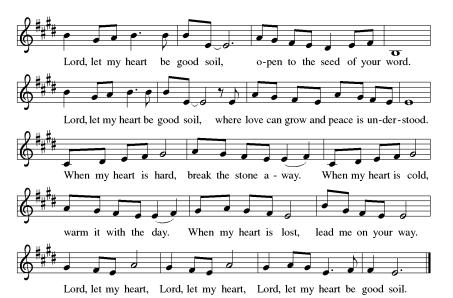
There Is a Balm in Gilead



Text: African American spiritual Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

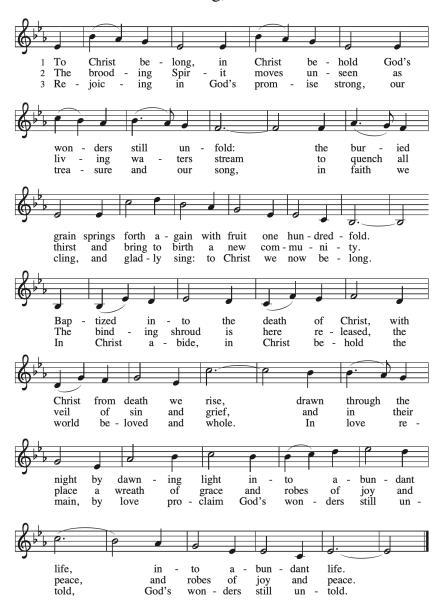
(We will sing this twice.)



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.



To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold



Let us remember in prayer:

CHURCH FAMILY:

Christopher Bartholomew

Lorraine Carlson

Jean Conrad Darstein

Craven Ford

Phil Foster

Norma Heath

Matt Hogrefe

Dan Huber

Steve Ketner

Debra Kitzman

Katie Lemly

Lewis McMillan

Tracy Miller

Frank Mills

Willie Ruth Pless **Bob Redwine**

Barbara Carlson Romaine

Joe Romaine

Ron Sink Gracie Shepherd

Jody Shepherd

Dan Smith

Debbie and Terry Triplett

Laura Turlington

Deborah Wertman

Pr. Bob Young

LOVED ONES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:

Tonya Adams (Friend of David Smith)

Larry and Donna B. (friends of John and Sabrina Conrad)

Richard and Toni Berish (Brother and sister-in-law of the Wertman family)

Brad, Melody, and Erick Bizzell (Son and family of Susan Bizzell)

Mary Brink (Niece of Pauletta Conrad)

Anne Burkhart (friend of Pam Mabry)

Mike Byrd (Friend of Bob Sink)

Eula Carroll (Joe Carroll's mother)

Elaine Childress (friend of Sabrina Conrad)

Paul and Dawn Cohen (friends of the Wertmans) Paul and Carolina Conrad (Larry Conrad's aunt

and uncle)

Don and Jackie Craft (parents of Rebecca Moretz) Margie Coggins (friend of Kelly Newsome and FLC) Amy and Wes Cups

Greg D'Ambrosio (friend of John Conrad)

Robert Dasch (Father of Keith Dasch)

Connie Dillard (friend of the Wertman family)

Marina Dunaway& family (friends of Karen Riggs)

Juan Escobedo (cousin of Amanda Hathcock)

Danny Fine (Lynn Smith's brother)

John Fisher (Bleasha Carroll's uncle)

Abby Fobes (friend of Bing Grubb)

Kay Fortner (friend of Dalane Kitzman) Marc Frye (friend of Craig and Robin Deal)

The Greer Family (friends of Karen Riggs)

Mike and Sharon Heffner (friends of John and

Sabrina Conrad)

Marion Hibbett (Rebecca Moretz' aunt)

Kenny Hirsch (friend of Rick Grubb)

Capt. Matthew Honevcutt (friend of the Carroll and Scott Family)

Scott Hummel (friend of the Turlingtons)

Betty Jordan (friend of the Carlsons)

Larry Kerns (Tim Welther's husband)

Bob and Karen Kernstine (friends of Sabrina Conrad)

Mandy Kiser and son, Sammy Jones (friends of Patti Grant)

Thomas and Toni L. (friends of John and Sabrina Conrad)

Larry Leonard (John Leonard's brother)

Franklin Mabry

Mandy Marshall (Debbie Triplett's daughter) Billy McGuinn (friend of Lewis and Connie

Donna Miller (friend of Kelsev Lambert)

Sarah Montross (friend of the Turlingtons)

Matthew and Faith Moretz (nephew and wife of Rebecca Moretz)

Dermont Morris (friend of Ken Clodfelter)

Todd Morris (father of Michael Gauldin)

Becky Osborne (friend of Karen Riggs)

Linda Owings (friend of John and Sabrina Conrad)

Hap Palmer (Pauletta Conrad's brother-in-law) Mickey Persinger (Tracy Miller's cousin)

Brenda Safrit (Beth Huber's cousin)

Kim Schlueter (Trisha Reichard's mother)

Robin Schuster (friend of FLC)

Doug Sink (Bob Sink's brother)

Peggy Sipe (mother of Pr. Ray Sipe)

Mark Sives (Bleasha Carroll's cousin)

Aubrev Smith (Dan Smith's dad) David Smith (Nephew of Bob Sink)

Marilee Strasser (friend of Bill and Patsie Baker)

Johnny and Pat Straughn (friends of Sylvia Sink) Denny Swimley (brother-in-law of Scott and Deborah

Wertman) Jackie Taylor (Lorraine Carlson's sister) Juliet Teachev (great-granddaughter of Jon and

Celie Lough)

Stephen Thompson (Danny Thompson's father) Mary and Doug Walser (friends of Sylvia Sink)

Charlie Ward (friend of Kim Odum)

Jennifer Way (Sylvia Sink's niece) Jon Whalen (Denny Whalen's brother)

Mary Louise Wilkerson (Friend of FLC) Devone Wohl (Dalane Kitzman's sister)

Nathaniel Wohl (Dalane Kitzman's nephew)

Ken Woisin (Lorraine Carlson's brother)

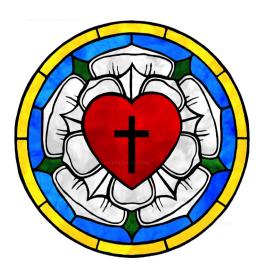
The families of those who have passed to life eternal:

Ronnie Moretz

Lacy Belcher (friend of the Wertmans)

Expectant Parents:

Kathleen Lockwood and Munashe Magarira Jeb and Hailee (Moretz) Smith



Liturgy and music from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22602.

Livestreaming under permission under One License #A-711697. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.