### TWENTY-FIFTH AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

#### As We Gather

Genesis Chapter 1 begins by stating that in the beginning "*darkness was over the face of the deep."* The first recorded words spoken by God were, "*Let there be light."* At God's spoken word there was light, light created as part of God's good creation. However, as a result of the fall, there is now another darkness in the world, a darkness we know as sin that separates us from God. But God promised we would not remain in that darkness. He would bring light to the world through Jesus, the Son of God, who says, "*I am the light of the world."* And now, as those who reflect the light of Christ, we have a clear vision of not only this darkened world, but as "children of light" we can look forward to the brightness of a new heaven and a new earth promised by our Lord. The question before us is are we prepared for that day to come. Today in worship Paul exhorts us in his first letter to the Thessalonians that we need to be prepared for that day. Are we?

#### Prelude

#### Words of Welcome

Stand





### Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

### **Confession and Absolution**

- Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- ₽ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### Service of the Word

#### Introit

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

- I ponder the work of your hands.
- I stretch out my hands to you;

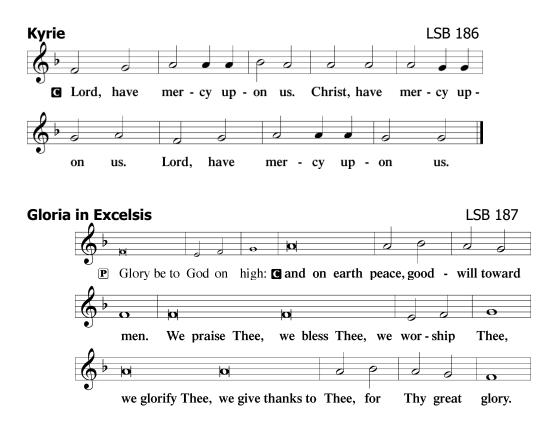
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**G** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen.



O 0 10 6 0 0 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. 0 10 0 O O Lord, the only begotten Son, Christ; Je - sus O O 0 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, ο O O that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us. Θ O  $\sim$ Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer. ο O O Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -0 0 0 0 ο O For Thou only art holy; Thou on us. on - ly art the Lord. ο O O Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho ly Ghost, Ο 0 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

 P Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

Sit

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Zephaniah 1:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his quests. <sup>8</sup>And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. <sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. <sup>10</sup>"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup>Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.
<sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

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

#### Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand



#### **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 25:14-30

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.""

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

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

#### Sit

#### **Children's Message**



5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee. Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

#### "It's All In The Preparation"

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,

1 acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life  $\pm$  of the world to come. Amen.

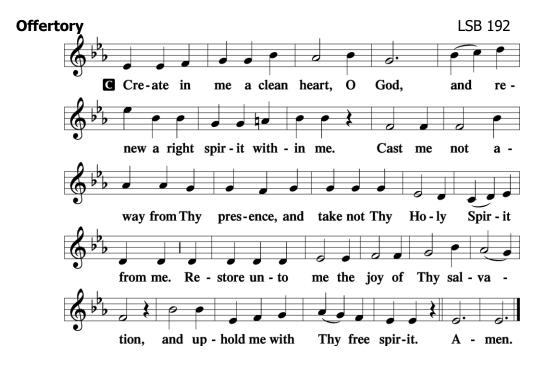
#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor will conclude each petition with "Lord, in Your mercy" and the congregation will respond with "hear our prayer".

Sit

Offering All Good Things arr: Doug Wagner Choir

Stand



### +Service of the Sacrament+

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Here our Heavenly Father promises anew His unconditional love, renews His pledge of forgiveness in Christ, and offers His Holy Spirit as strength for daily faith and life. We practice the custom the church since the time of the apostles that those who are instructed and have confirmed their faith in the common faith with the LCMS and are able to examine themselves about their relationship with God and with fellow believers may commune with us. However, since God reminds us that thoughtless or faithless

reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgement, (1 Corinthians 11:27-32) the Scriptures call those who commune to personally examine themselves and, in their communing, publicly confess;

- Do I believe that I am sinful and without hope of eternal life without God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
- Do I believe that He is personally and truly present in this meal with His Body and Blood?
- Do I intend by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a godly life?

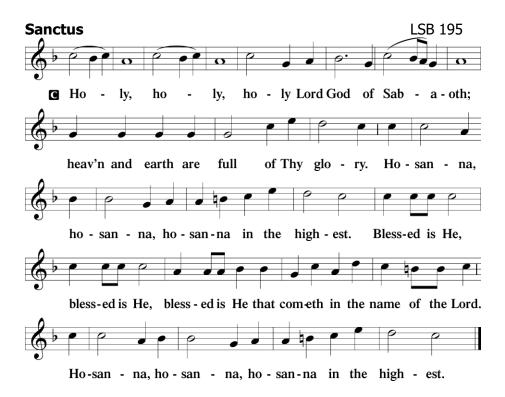
If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper to your pew. Please sit close to any one of the three aisles in the church. Our Savior's wish is that all Christians receive His Body and Blood often. Ascension offers gluten-free communion wafers for those who are protein/gluten intolerant or who may have a wheat allergy. Simply notify Pastor during communion if you desire the gluten-free wafer.

PrefaceLSB 194▶ The Lord be with you.CC And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.C We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
It is meet and right so to do.

 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. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



#### Lord's Prayer

- **P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and each 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

P 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 LSB 197 P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen. **Agnus Dei** LSB 198 Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the 0 sin of the Christ, Thou Lamb of God. that world. have mer-cy up - on us. O sin of the world, tak-est a-way the have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the 0 world, grant us Thy Α peace. men.

Sit

#### LSB 197

#### Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
- G Amen.



5 The captive to release,

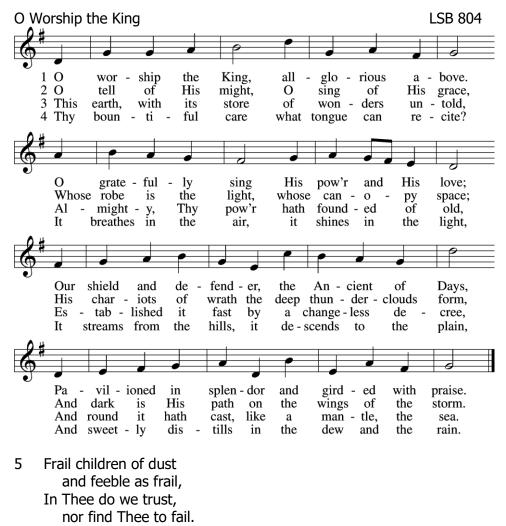
To God the lost to bring, To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:

#### Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,

We do it unto Thee.

Text: Public domain



- Thy mercies, how tender,
- how firm to the end,
- Our maker, defender,
  - redeemer, and friend!

- While angels delight to hymn Thee above, Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays, With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise. Text and tune: Public domain O God, Our Help in Ages Past LSB 733 10 past, Our God, our help in a - ges hope for years to come, of Thy throne Thy 2 Un - der the shad - ow saints have dwelt se - cure; 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re-ceived her frame, a - ges in Thy sight Are like 4 A thou-sand an eve - ning gone, Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home: de - fense is Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our sure. From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end-less years the same. Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun. 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
- We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home! Text and tune: Public domain

O measureless Might,

ineffable Love,

6

Stand



#### Thanksgiving

LSB 200

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, **G** and His mercy endureth forever.

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** and with thy spirit.

#### Benedicamus

LSB 202

**P** Bless we the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

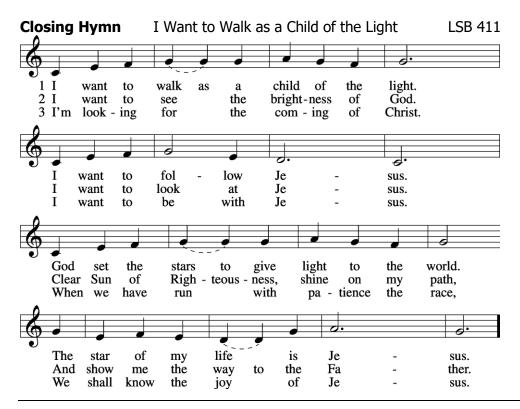
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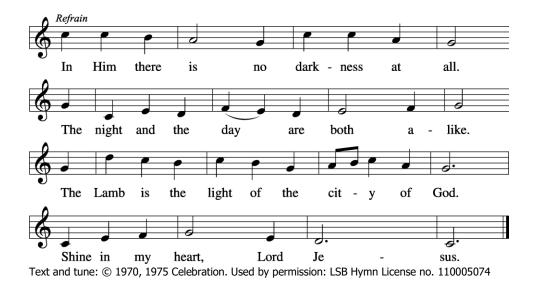
Benediction

#### LSB 202

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{P}}$  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.





#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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#### **Worship Leaders**

| Pastor:   | Rev. Thomas Albertson |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Organist: | Ruth Ann Ostergren    |
| Elder:    | Russ De Witt          |
| Acolyte:  | Thomas Karl           |
| Reader:   | Lori Duff             |

**Ascension News & Notes** 

# Flowers are donated by Ordella Uhde in Memory of Jerry.

### Ronald McDonald House



Please save the aluminum pull tabs from canned drinks and bring them to the kitchen area or the church office. They are used by the Ronald McDonald House

to provide a home away from home for hundreds of families with seriously ill children.



### **IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!**

## WE NEED ALL HANDS-ON DECK TO HELP IN DECORATING THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 2, 2023 @9:00 AM



THE WORSHIP ACTION TEAM WILL BE HAVING A MEETING ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2023, AT 6:30 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS AND 2024.



THE ADVENT MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPER IS SET TO BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6, 2023, FROM 6:00 PM-7:00 PM AND THEN WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM. WATCH FOR THE SIGN UP SHEETS! THE SOUP SUPPER DATES ARE 12/6, 12/13, AND 12/20.



All Women of Ascension Lutheran Church

are cordially invited to the LWML Christmas Party Saturday, December 9, 2023

10 a.m. to Noon

At the home of Marjy Brady 608 La Chapa Phone 915-799-7898

#### Ornament Exchange

Wrapped Please! (Bring something you would like to receive)



Please bring a plate of your favorite brunch goodies to share with everyone





Congregation Meeting following the Worship Service on Sunday December 3 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

# COMING UP ON SATURDAY JANUARY 6, 2024 IS PART III OF MISSION & VISION WORKSHOP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

#### This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (November 19)9:00 AMBible Study10:30 AMWorship w/Holy Communion

**Monday** (November 20) Church Office Closed HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Tuesday**(November 21)6:45 PMBoy Scouts

Wednesday (November 22)
11:00 AM The Sewing Group (FH)
7:00 PM Worship w/Holy Communion-Thanksgiving Eve

Thursday (November 23) Thanksgiving-Office Closed

Friday (November 24) Thanksgiving-Office Closed

#### **Prayer Ministry**

Philippians 4:6-7

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at <u>oveja6925@aol.com</u>.

#### **Illness and Recovery:**

Elizabeth Gonzalez (granddaughter of Rick Barber complicated pregnancy); Friends of Becca Brady (daughter of Marjy Brady were involved in an accident in Argentina); Sherri Pfeifer Wilson (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); Jack Albertson (brother of Pastor Tom continued recovery from heart attack/successful further treatment); Russ DeWitt (recovery heart related medical issues); Janine Rudnick (former member of Ascension breast cancer); Bill Gebler (heart related medical issues); Patty Jones, (sister of Martha Neal-



stage 4 breast cancer); April (cousin of Diana Holguin-stroke recovery); Abe Hasbun, (heart related medical issues); Robert Gaudet, (restoring relationships); Dana Pople, (heart surgery); Sharon Fulbright, (continued healing), Donna Welch, (illness), Sean Sweeney, (brain tumor), Leo Melendez, (recovery from surgery), Eunice Goldsmith, (recovery after fall), Laurie Sterling, (colon cancer), Bruce Walker, (correct diagnosis), Coby Clark and family, continued cancer recovery), Tom Eifert, (cancer), Dave Pople, (recovery from illness), Elizabeth Hinson, (recovery from brain aneurysm), Rev. Richard Schlak, (prostate cancer), Al Diaz, (eye surgery), Ryan Walker, (cancer), John Bearman, (bone marrow transplant), Mariella Kraus, (cancer), Richard Goldsmith, (heart problems), Kathy Kiphart, Martha & Richard Neal, John Weiske, Bob Gallagher, Tony & Olga Sullivan, Linda Seiders.