Grace Alone

October 13, 2024 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

The word "grace" means "undeserved love." God loves us even though we don't deserve it. Again and again we fail to do what we should. We can never earn a place with God in heaven. However, God still loves us, and Jesus died and rose for us. Because of Jesus, we can leave the past behind and have a new life, starting now. Most people in the world think that they will get to heaven if they are good, and they are never quite sure if



they have been good enough. We Christians, on the other hand, understand that we are <u>not</u> good enough. But God has saved us because of his grace alone – his undeserved love.

In Martin Luther's time, most people in Europe thought about God as a grumpy old guy up in heaven who was angry and quick to punish people if they got out of line. Luther himself despaired because he felt that God was angry with him. He tried to do good to pay for his sins, but he never felt that he measured up to God's high standards. However, as Luther prepared Bible classes at the university, he discovered God's incredible love. He came to understand that God wanted to forgive him through Jesus Christ. This love of God transformed Luther's life and the lives of multitudes of people in the Reformation. This love of God – his grace – can transform us as well.

Prelude

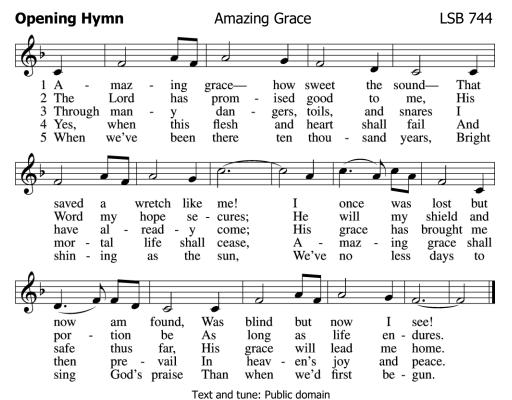
Words of Welcome

Call to Worship Salvation Poem (Choir – Matt and Sherry McPherson)

- 1. Jesus, you died upon a cross, and rose again to save the lost. Forgive me now of all my sin. Come be my Savior, Lord, and Friend.
- 2. Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you. Change my life and make it new, and help me, Lord, to live for you.

Stand

Sharing God's Peace with One Another



Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P We give thanks to the Father for his wonderful works!
- **G** God created us purely out of undeserved love.
- P We give thanks to Jesus, because he died and rose for us!
- **G** God saved us purely out of undeserved love.
- P We give thanks to the Holy Spirit for helping us each day!
- **G** God guides us purely out of undeserved love.
- P Let us praise the Lord for what he has done for us!
- **W**e give him thanks and praise for his love!

Prayer of Confession

The Word of God shows that all of us are sinners, that is, we have disobeyed the Lord in many ways. For this reason, whenever we draw close to God to worship him, we first ask his forgiveness and his help to do better.

Personal confession: We take a few moments for reflection and silent prayer. Afterwards we pray together:

Lord God, before you we acknowledge that we have failed to do your will. You have given us your Word yet all too often we don't listen to it or put it into practice. Even when we try to do what is right, we still fail all too often. Forgive us, Lord, for Jesus' sake. Change our hearts so that we can live more in accordance with your Word. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Song: The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases (Choir – Lam. 3:22-23)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end! They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is your faithfulness, oh Lord! Great is your faithfulness.

Words of Forgiveness

- The Bible says: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions it is by grace you have been saved... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9)
- I have the privilege of announcing to you what God states here in his Word: all of you who trust in Jesus Christ are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

- P Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** Give thanks to the God of gods.
- **C** His love endures forever.
- P Give thanks to the Lord of lords.
- **C** His love endures forever.
- **P** To him who alone does great wonders.
- C His love endures forever.

- **P** Who by his understanding made the heavens.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** Who spread out the earth upon the waters.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** Who made the great lights.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** The sun to govern the day.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- P The moon and the stars to govern the night.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** He remembered us in our low estate.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** And freed us from our enemies.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- **P** He gives food to every creature.
- **G** His love endures forever.
- P Give thanks to the God of heaven.
- **G** His love endures forever.

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (LSB 805)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise him, all creatures here below! Praise him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Hymn of Praise In Christ Alone (Getty and Townend)

- In Christ alone my hope is found,
 He is my light, my strength, my song.
 This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 My Comforter, my all in all,
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.
- In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe. This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied; For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

- 3. There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain.
 Then bursting forth in glorious day,
 Up from the grave He rose again!
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 For I am His and He is mine,
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
- 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me.
 From life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus commands my destiny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand.
 'Til He returns or calls me home,
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Let us pray together:
- Lord Jesus Christ, we do not deserve it but you still love us. Help us to trust in you and to live in your love. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, 43

(God saves his people out of undeserved love.)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

- ³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south...Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
- ¹⁸ They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.
- ²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
- ²² Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy...
- ⁴³ Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD. (NIV)
- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

EpistleRomans 5:6-11

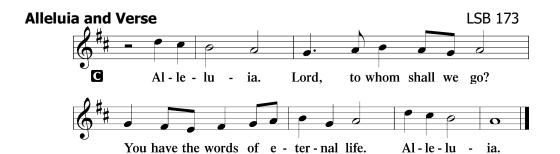
(God shows that he loves us, because Jesus died for us even though we have sinned.)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (NIV)

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

Stand



- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 5th chapter.
- G Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel Luke 5:27-32

(Jesus came to call sinners to turn back to God.)

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

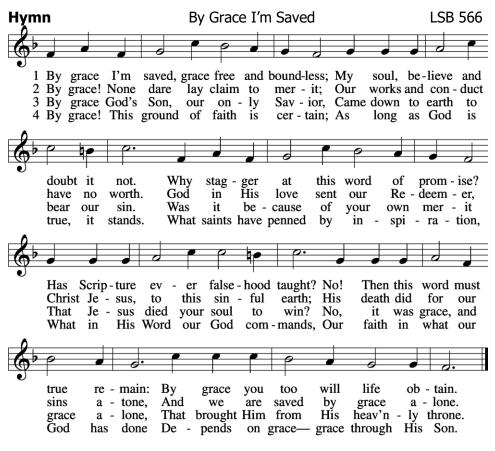
- ³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (NIV)
- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **©** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Song while Children Come to the Front: Jesus Loves Me (LOSP 48, modified)

- Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.
 Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
 Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.
- 2. Jesus loves me, he who died, heaven's gate to open wide, He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

Children's Message



- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
 In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?
- By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Grace Alone

Stand

Apostles' Creed

In response to God's great love, we declare our faith to the world:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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. Amen.

Prayers and Petitions

Knowing that God loves us so much, we put our problems and concerns before him in prayer:

- Almighty God, we thank you for all the things you have done for us. We have done nothing to deserve your goodness. Nevertheless, you have given us your love. You have provided food, clothing, shelter, and so many other things. And most of all, you have given us forgiveness and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thank you for all of your blessings! Lord, in your mercy.
- Hear our prayer!

Lord, you are our King, and you are the rightful ruler over all the world. Watch over our nation. Protect us, that we may live securely in peace and may have freedom to proclaim your message of salvation. Guide the president and everyone in authority so that they may know your will and put it into practice. Watch over our soldiers and police and all who risk their lives in service. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer!

Heavenly Father, please extend peace and justice to our world. Halt injustice and oppression and bring to repentance those who stray from your ways. In particular, we pray that you would bring healing and peace to Israel and the Middle East, and that the Jews as a whole would turn back to Jesus the Messiah; and that the invasion and killing in the Ukraine would come to an end. Lord, in your mercy,

• Hear our prayer!

P Lord God, please give courage to our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering persecution for their faith. Help them to be faithful and to show your love in such a way that their persecutors may repent and be saved. According to your will, alleviate their sufferings. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer!

P Heavenly Father, extend your mercy to all the people of the world who do not have hope in Jesus Christ. Touch their hearts and turn them to you. Raise up faithful pastors and missionaries and teachers and leaders in your church, and use them to equip all of us to share the message of salvation with everyone around us. Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer!

Lord Jesus, you are the great Physician of body and soul. We ask you to hear our prayers for those who are ill, especially <u>(See our prayer list at the end of this order of service)</u>. Comfort them, Lord, and restore them to health according to your will, so that they may praise your name and serve you with all their strength. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer!

P Lord God, we lift up to you all those who are in trouble, or who are lonely, or who have problems at home or at work or in any other place, or who are hungry or without work or need help, especially (See our prayer list at the end of this order of service). We know that you love us and you ask us to place all our needs in your hands. Help us to trust in you and lead us to the solutions and the help that we need. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer!

P Lord God, we trust in you alone. Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Offering

The Bible says this: "Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

In response to God's great love, we set aside a portion of what he has given us, for the mission and ministry at this congregation and throughout the world.

Choir Anthem during the Offering Only Through Faith

- 1. Only through faith can our hearts be made pure. Only through faith is our hope made secure, Faith in God's promises, faith in God's Son, Faith in the cross where redemption is won.
- Only by grace are we wrapped in God's love, Undeserved favor from heaven above.
 Only by grace did God send us his own: Word became flesh that God's love be made known.
- Only the Word can our weary souls feed. God's Word provides us with all that we need. Daily we're strengthened, uplifted, sustained. All things will pass, but the Word shall remain.
- Forward in faith shall our motto now be.
 Death to all death on that life-giving tree!
 Let us lift high our bold anthems of praise,
 Fed by faith's well-spring through all of our days.

Offering Prayer of Dedication

A Lord, these offerings are just a small part of what you have given us. Bless these resources for the mission of your church, and help us to use everything you have given us in faith and love, according to your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory (Song) Glory Be to God the Father (LSB 506, verse 1)

Glory be to God the Father! Glory be to God the Son! Glory be to God the Spirit, great Jehovah, Three in One! Glory, glory, while eternal ages run!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- Heavenly Father, I give you thanks and praise because you have strengthened my faith and because you have forgiven me through Jesus Christ your Son. Help me now to live a life worthy of you, founded on your Word and full of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14)

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- Amen.

Closing Hymn

Praise, Love, Serve (Jean Hansen Kammerer, LWML 2013 – Tune of LSB 361)

- Our God and Father made the earth, and when we went astray Our God, the Son, descended here to take our sins away.
 With his own blood he bought us. He broke the bonds of sin.
 Then God the Spirit came into our hearts to dwell within.
- In gratitude we pledge ourselves to him with all we have.
 Our hands will work; our voices sing; our lips proclaim his love.
 His errands we'll do gladly; his Gospel we'll defend.
 Our silver and our gold we'll use, his kingdom to extend.

Wherever he has need of us, we will his call obey.
 Whenever he calls out to us, we'll answer right away.
 His will is ours that lost souls will turn away from sin
 And come to have eternal life through fellowship with him.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Richard Schlak

Organist: Ruth Ann Ostergren

Elder: Mike Mielke

Acolyte: Phyllis Meraz

Reader: Phyllis Meraz

Ushers: Team 2

Ascension News & Notes

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.

thrivent

Thrivent is matching donations for hurricane Helene victims. Go to Thrivent.com and select <u>Disaster Response | Thrivent</u> to make your donation.

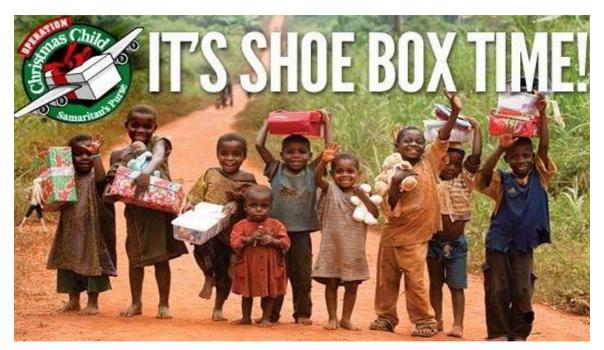
Sunday:School

Sunday: School: God: calls: us: to: encourage: each: other: in: studying: His: Word: and: putting: it: into: practice.: A: great: way: to: do: this: is: to: come: and: join: us: for: Sunday: School: and: Bible: Study: right: before: church: on: Sundays!: We: meet: from: 9:00-10:00: am.

Kids·meet·in·the·Preschool·Library Youth·meet·in·the·Church·Library

Adults·meet·in·the·Fellowship·Hall·(Topic·this·month:·Reformation)

Teachers: 'We'have great teams of teachers at 'Ascension, 'both in the 'Preschool and in the 'Sunday' School and in the weekday Bible Studies! 'Please pray for them each week, that the Lord would guide them and help them in preparing classes and in teaching. Is the Lord calling you to join the team and serve as a Bible class or Sunday School teacher? Do you like to study God's Word? Do you have a gift for teaching? Pray about it and talk to Pastor Rick or one of the teachers.



October 13-27, 2024



Ascension's · Operation · Christmas · Child · Shoebox · Collection · is

October 13-27, 2024

Boxes are available in the narthex.

Due·to·damage·from·Hurricane·Helene·in·Boone,·NC,·
the·website·for·<u>Build·a·Shoebox·Online</u>·
is·not·operational·<u>at·this·time</u>.·When·it·is·up·and·running,·
we·will·post·Ascension's·link.

Points of Contact: Melanie Gallagher and Charlene Radach





THE WORSHIP ACTION TEAM WILL BE HAVING A MEETING ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 AT 3:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY. PLEASE JOIN US! PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE.



Joint:Reformation:Festival

Join us on November 2 at 'Crosspoint Church as Lutheran 'Churches of El Paso, Las Cruces, and Alamogordo all get together to celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation! Our choir will be there, along with musicians from different churches and a special Reformation skit. Some finger food will be shared afterwards. Here is the information:

Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: Crosspoint Church (LCMS)

11995:Montwood:Drive

El·Paso,·TX·79936



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2024

FAITH ALONE GRACE ALONE SCRIPTURE ALONE CHRIST ALONE

ALL NOVEMBER 3, 2024 SAINTS SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is on November 3, 2024. If you would like to honor those individuals that have passed away during the year of November 2023 to October 2024, please email the church with their full name, the date of passing, and a picture. This will be used for the power point during the service. Please send in your information no later than October 19, 2024 to alc6520@swbell.net We need to have an exact count for us to have enough flowers.





This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (October 13)

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study

10:00 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship

11:45 AM Confirmation

Monday (October 14) Church Office Closed Preschool Resumes



12:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting (FH)

6:45 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (FH)

Wednesday (October 16)

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel 11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH) 5:00 PM Board of Elders (FH)

Thursday (October 17)

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)

3:00 PM November Newsletter due in office.

6:00 PM Choir (S)

Friday (October 18)

12:30-2:30 PM Preschool (FH)

Saturday (October 19) 10:00 AM LWML (FH)



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 oveja6925@aol.com.

The passing of **Tony Sullivan** (pray for peace and comfort for the Sullivan Family).

Illness and Recovery:

Bruce Andersen (brother of Jan Schlak and for friend Elsie Shirley recovery from hurricane Helene and now hurricane Milton); Richard **Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); Abigail Kailukatis(friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for correct diagnosis and effective treatment); **Dorothy Lenz**(correct diagnosis and effective treatment); Lupita Burke(Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); Merle **DeMartelaere**(father of David DeMartelaere correct diagnosis and treatment for for Edema and AFib); Marcy LaFramboise (friend of Connie Swinney recovery from Multiple Myeloma); David Kwiatakowski (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); Gilbert Provencio (for healing and correct diagnosis); Jacob & Rahel Meraz (recovery from Pneumonia); Donna Tuchenhagen (spouse of David recovery from surgery); Mary Lou Provencio (pray for peace and guidance); Bob Brock (brother-in-law of Mike Mielke recovery from heart issues); Ruby Lugo (sister of Jessica Acosta and co-worker of Sally Benitez and Kristal Wade for recovery from heart issues); Troy Wade (brother of Kristal Wade who lost his home in the Ruidoso Fire); Maria **Sotero** (mother of Leticia Behl diagnosed with uterine cancer and blood clots); **Jim** Werner (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); Tom Wade (father of Kristal Wade for recovery from surgery and a broken neck); Brian Stickney (recovery from cracked ribs); Rebekah Livesay (For healing and correct diagnosis); Barb Spott (For recovery); Susanne Warren (former member of Ascension recovery from surgery for a broken femur); **Joe Karl** (recovery from ACL surgery); **Dick** Seiders (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Jesus Rivera** (friend of Elliott Werner diagnosed with non-Hodgkins Lymphoma stage 4); Mary Spott (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues); Jacob Meraz (pray for Jacob and family); Ann Perdue (relief from Osteoarthritis); Amanda Bowser (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); Donna Welch (sister of Candice Gebler heart issues); Sherri Pfeifer Wilson (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); Patty Jones, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); Robert and Karin Gaudet,

(restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Eunice Goldsmith**, (ongoing medical issues); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, continued cancer recovery); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (recovery from brain aneurysm); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission), **John Bearman**, (bone marrow transplant), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Linda Seiders**.

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.