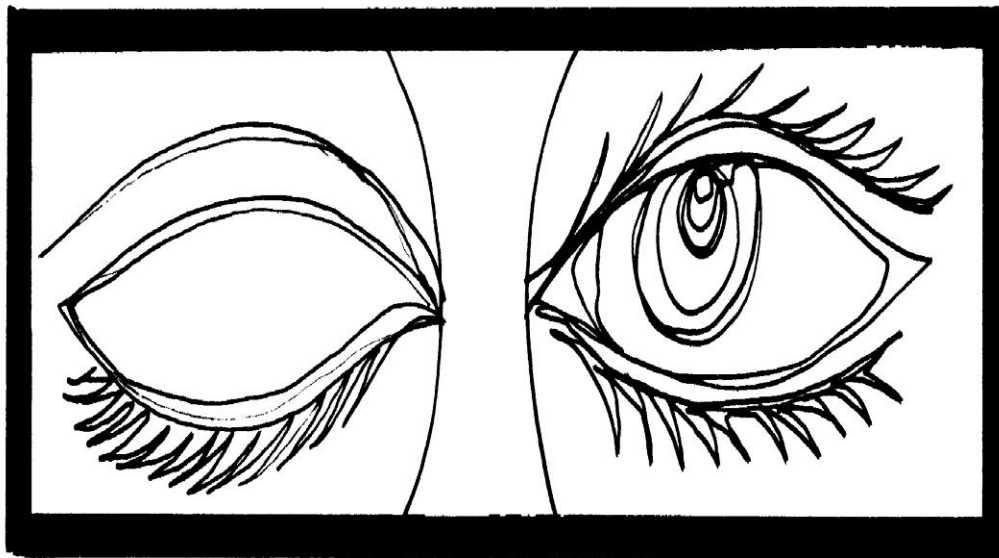


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



"I WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE!"
JOHN 9:25

Lent IV
10:00 a.m.
March 19, 2023

Rev. Dr. Christian F. Just, Pastor
St. Thomas Lutheran Church
9042 S.R. 43, P.O. Box 2247
Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you** everyone for joining us this morning for our worship service. Please join us inside or you can listen to the service on your car radio at 96.9. If you miss the service you can always watch it on our Facebook page. If any problems happen during the service please let Del or Rory know so they can fix the problem immediately. Thank you again!
- **The Vigil Candle** is given in celebration of Tom Beuck, Palagia Hlava and Ian Phillips birthdays and Ken Nicely III's baptism birthday.
- **The Prayer book** is on the music stand by the door.
- **The Lay Reader** list is available for volunteers for the month of January. Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The April-June Portal of Prayers** are on the stand.
- **Our Midweek Lenten** services will be held on the Thursdays in March with soup supper at 6:30 p.m. and the worship service following at 7:30 p.m. A sign up sheet is in the narthex to sign up for soup makers and other items. We would love to see you join us for this fun fellowship hour and worship.
- **Our Lutheran World Relief** Lenten project is to make personal care kits. We are looking for toothbrushes in individual packaging, one sturdy comb, bars of soap, one metal nail clipper and lightweight dark colored towels.
- **The volunteer program** at UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna includes opportunities to serv patients and family members with spiritual car support. Volunteers typically commit 3-4 hours per week or serve on=call a few days per month. If interested please contact UH Portage Medical Center's Pastoral Care Dept. at 330-297-2445.
- **Service Projects...**Lutheran Missions Ministry is always in need of help. Please make your check donation made out to St. Thomas.
- **Let's continue** to remember the Community pantry. Bring food or monetary donations anytime. Thank you.
- **Contact Person:** Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays.

Attendance March 5 21 Adults 0 Youth

Thursday 11 Adults

Towards Budget:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Current Expense | 1607.00 | Building Fund | 35.00 |
| Benevolence | 23.00 | Loose | 5.00 |
| 1 + 1 + 1 | 12.00 | | |
| Total Offering | 1682.00 | Weekly need | 1,288.46 |

Attendance last Sunday 12 Adults 2 Youth

Thursday 8 Adults 2 Youth

Towards Budget

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|----------|
| Current Expense | 470.00 | Building Fund | 10.00 |
| Benevolence | 5.00 | Loose | 0.00 |
| 1 + 1 + 1 | 6.00 | | |
| Total Offering | 491.00 | Weekly need | 1,288.46 |

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: When the time came, I listened to you,” says the Lord;
“and when you needed help, I came to save you.”

C: But we are dust, and to dust we will return.

P: “Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and with weeping and with mourning.”

C: The sacrifice the Lord desires is a broken, contrite heart; it will not be despised.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: O God, we have sinned.

C: In our thinking, in our speaking, in our doing—we have sinned. We have disobeyed Your will, and we have neglected it. We stand condemned. But Jesus Christ stands with us. His Spirit makes it possible for us to plead for mercy. We come with broken, contrite hearts, for we have sinned.

P: Christ never sinned! But God treated Him as a sinner, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God. By the working of the Holy Spirit, may God in His mercy grant you true repentance and sincere faith so that, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, you may have treasure in heaven.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn “Lord, Have Mercy” Insert

Opening Dialog

P: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.

P: Seek the Lord while He may be found.

C: Call upon Him while He is near.

P: Let the wicked abandon their ways.

C: and the unrighteous their thoughts.

P: Let them turn to the Lord for mercy,

C: to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

P: All you who are thirsty, come to the water. You who

have no money, come, receive bread, and eat. Come,
without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

**C: Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

[The song of praise is omitted during Lent.]

Prayer for the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Almighty God, we ask for one more thing...

**C: Should we ask? Dare we request MORE from a God
so rich in blessings?**

P: Grant us, O God, our hearts' desire...

**C: For this is a God whose mercies are new every
morning—a God who provides for our souls'
wants...our bodies' needs. Should we ask? Dare we?**

P: Pour out Your Holy Spirit, O God, into our hearts.

C: Yes! For that is YOUR desire.

P: Then our hearts will be Yours, indeed!

C: Then our voices will shout Your praise!

P: Then our hands will reach out to serve!

C: "Pour out Your Holy Spirit, O God, into our hearts!"

P: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

C: and forever. Amen.

All readings are from the New Revised Standard Version

The First Lesson 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any

of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Shepherd of My Heart” (Psalm 23) Insert

Second Lesson Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,⁹ for the fruit of the light^[a] is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly,¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Verse Pg. 63

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel John 9:1-41

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “*Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.* ⁴*We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.* ⁵*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,⁷ saying to him, “*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam*” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”

And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “*Do you believe in the Son of Man?*” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “*You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.*” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “*I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.*” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “*If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.*” This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “*A Prophet...Like Jesus*”

Hymn for the Day “*We Have This Ministry*” Insert

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**Creator of all that is and shall be,
Redeemer of all that is less than it could be,
Sustainer of our living, our loving our being.**

We believe in the cross of Christ,

**drenched in hatred and cruelty,
yet overflowing with God’s unquenchable love.**

**We believe in the bread of life:
broken and shared,
it opens our eyes to the presence of Christ.
and strengthens us for the journey.**

**We believe that, in the pain suffered by Christ,
all our hurts, torments and betrayals
are magnified in the purity of love,
and embraced that we might be free.**

**We believe in the joy of the Holy Spirit,
poured into the hearts of those
who with courage and resolve
refuse to trade integrity for popularity.**

**We believe in the Gospel,
Good News offered to us in Jesus,
despised by the world
but leading us in the way of life.**

**We believe in love:
the nature of God,
a gift unsurpassed,
but a mystery only fulfilled
when all else is relinquished.**

**We believe in light shining from darkness
in mercy vanquishing bitterness,
in life bursting free where death reigned.**

Prayers of the Church

P: God has consecrated us in baptism's gracious waters to be a holy people. That we may be ever anointed with gladness, let us turn to our God in prayer.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We praise you, God of our hope, for all the children of light who have gone before us and now stand in your radiant countenance. Give us the light of Christ, that we may leap up in our darkness and rise from death at the last, into the life of gladness in Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: and also with you.

All those present greet one another with a word or gesture of peace.

Offering and Offering Music pg 67

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vow to the Lord now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering Prayer

P: Thank you, Lord, for sending us Your light.

C: Help us to live as people of the light, and to show your light and love to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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 Him Thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all time 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 all 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:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies.

C: We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

P: Blessed are You, gracious Lord, and blessed is Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, who feeds us with His own flesh and blood that we may evermore dwell in Him and He is us. Consuming Him and consumed by Him we are thus strengthened to walk in His footsteps, even knowing that to do so will inflame the fury of hell. We bless You for Christ, who has gone on before us, enduring the cross and disregarding its shame, to open a new trail for all to

follow, a trail of justice and liberating peace, which presses on through suffering and beyond, all the way to the banqueting room of heaven.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; who, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

*“This is My body, which is for you.
Do this to remember Me.”*

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

*“This cup is the new covenant in My blood,
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember Me.”*

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of our faith;

C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, here in this place, we celebrate the life that was born at Bethlehem, the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now.

Made one with Him, and thus one with each other, we lay before You these gifts of bread and wine, in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, for here we offer and present to You ourselves, our bodies, minds and spirits, to be a holy and continuous sacrifice to You.

Come, now, O Spirit of Christ. Brood over these bodily things, this Bread and this wine.

C: May they be for us Your body and blood, vibrant with life, healing, renewing and making us whole.

P: And embrace us with Your life-giving power, that as bread and wine are made one with us, we may become one with You:

C: Bone of Your bone, flesh of Your flesh, living our prayer and praying our life until love and fidelity embrace, peace and justice kiss, and all are free as Christ is free.

P: Because You are one with us, O Christ, make us one with You as we pray the prayer You taught us:

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.

Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may honor His sacrifice by continuing His mission in the world.

Post-Communion Canticle pg 63

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory 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.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Here we experience the richness of Your giving, O Christ.

C: for at this table You give Yourself to us.

P: Having nourished us with this heavenly food, guide us to a true appreciation of Your gifts—

C: appreciation that makes itself known in everything we do.

P: You are the Lord forevermore!

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now and live as children of the light.

Seek what is pleasing to the Lord.

Expose the unfruitful works of darkness,

and commit yourselves to the works of God who sends you.

The Lord be your shepherd and be all that you need;

Christ Jesus open your eyes and guide you along sure paths;

the Holy Spirit revive your spirits

and tend you with goodness and love every day of + your life.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" No. 448

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Worship is Ended— Now Our Service Begins!

Please remember these members in your prayers

Kathy Braesher—vertigo

Jim Doerfler—on the passing of Jeannette

Del Groff—heart surgery recovery—doing well

Palagia Hlava—complications from MS

Robin Hoffman—back injury and toxic neuropathy

Jill Earle—broken ankle/foot, healing—niece of Bob and Carol

Lorene Kozar—strength and peace

Becky Larkins—successful adoption of Rowan

Carol & Heather Poston—strength and healing from MS

Our College Students— Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Grace Rohaley, Jacob Zimmerman, Jenna Zimmerman

Our military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

Remember in prayer these friends of the congregation

For our Bishop, Jamison Hardy, and the congregations and pastors of the
English District and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Patty Abramovich—metastatic lung cancer—friend of Deb Wolff

Alexa—swollen spleen—granddaughter of Joyce

Ally—Marriage struggles—friend of Joyce

Diane Altier & family—bone issues after surgery—cousin of Bob Earle

Barb Basmagy—possible pneumonia—doing well--wife of Dusty

Paul Berry—internal bleeding—friend of Joyce

Archer Bradshaw—fighting leukemia-3 year old family friend of Joyce

Donna Bureau—pancreatic cancer on hospice—aunt of Marla

Russ & Lana Carnes—need assisted living—the Wolff's

Christine—knee replacement surgery—teacher friend of Joyce

Jeff—double knee surgery, healing—friend of Bob and Carol

John Cowling—leukemia—brother-in-law of Amy

Evelyn French—macular degeneration—Carol's mom

Dennis Fuldauer—on the wrong path—son of Kathy Brashear

Daniel Gump—stroke—friend of Pastor Just

Mary Hardesty—metastatic colon cancer—co-worker of Deb

Heather Hendrix—acute onset leukemia—family friend of Amy

Bob Hudson—successful open heart surgery-continued healing—co-worker of Deb

Jaylah—lost her mother to overdose—single parent home—bus student of Joyce

Naomi Just—fell and broke hip—Pastor's sister

Linda Kuzniakowski—brain cancer—co-worker of Deb Earle

Lance—dementia—friend of Joyce

Laurance Jeanblanc—withstand malignant tumor, anemia and weight loss—brother of Guy

Adalyn—diagnosed with cancer—great-granddaughter of Mary Lott

Steve Mamber—continued improvement after bone marrow transplant—brother-in-law of Amy—next month crucial

Sam Mamber—son who donated bone marrow to dad

Frank Manijak—failing health—Steve's Dad

Mike Menhart—under hospice care—Epiphany member

Amanda Nicely—strength and peace—Trudy's sister-in-law

Delilah Nicely—recovery from pneumonia—granddaughter of Joyce

Paul—had stroke—came through now hoping on rehab bed—friend of Joyce

Karen Power—family searching for care facility, she keeps falling—aunt of Carol Earle
Barb & Dan, Carl & Linda, Pat—elderly health issues, difficulty moving around—neighbors of the Earle's
Larry & Sally Powell—failing health—friends of the Wolffs
Joan Rupp—suffering pain from gallstones—good friend of Amy
Leslie Slanina—healing—Gilbert's mom
Mary Lou Snider—health issues—friend of the Wolffs
John Szabo—multiple myeloma—family friend of Amy
Deacon Robert Szalai—born prematurely—home may have brain issues—grandnephew of Steve Hlava
Tyler—dealing with depression—14 year old grandson of Joyce's friend
Bennie Wegener—pancreatic cancer—friend of the Wolff's
Kim Weiggart—bacterial endocarditis—co-worker of Deb
Kathy & Greg Wolf—looking for new home in Findley—friend of the Earle's
Darcy Wood—lymphoma diagnosis—cousin of Joyce
Donny Wood—healing from cancer—friend of Joyce

Ukraine refugees

All natural disasters victims

COVID 19 virus patients