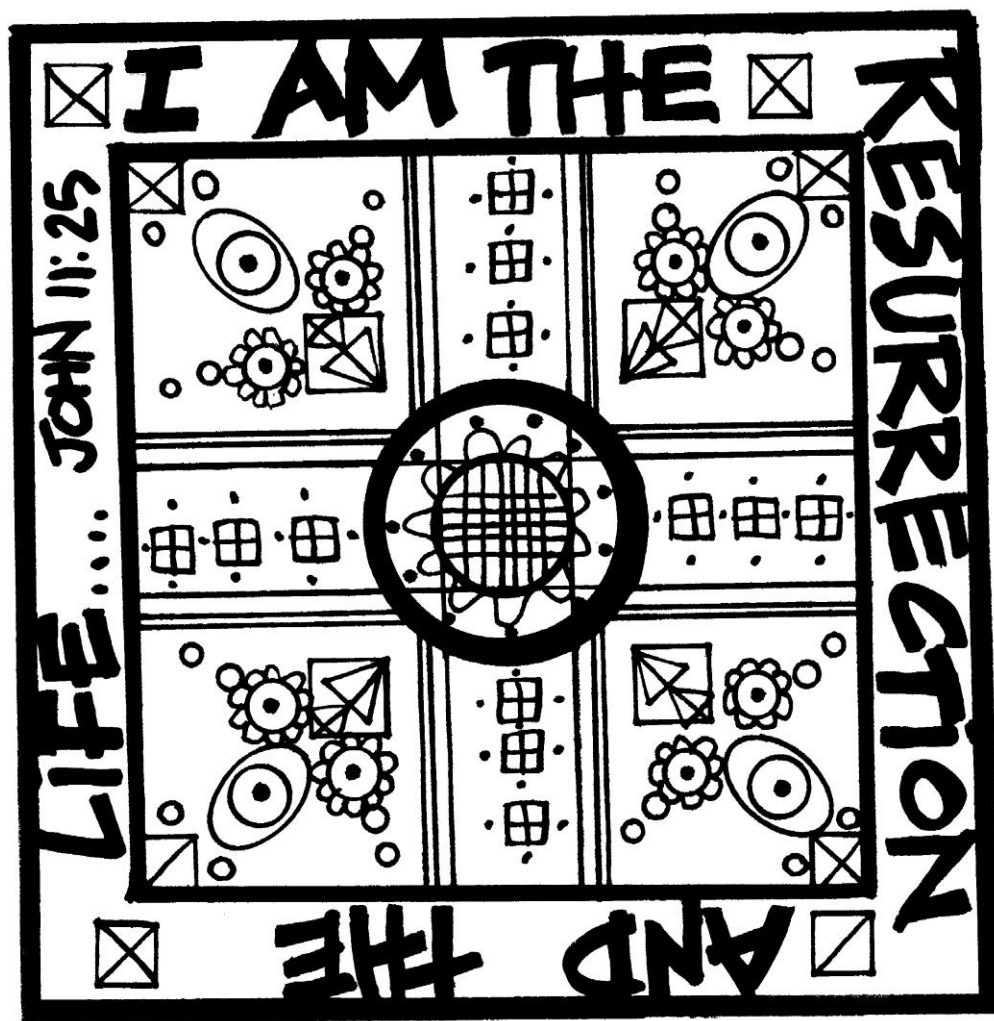


Welcome to St. Thomas Lutheran Church



Lent V
10:00 a.m.
March 26, 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 to the Glory of God.
- **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 sign-up sheet in the Narthex. **Our lay reader today is Marla Manijak.**
- **Usher—Steve Manijak**
- **The April-June Portal of Prayers** are on the stand.
- **Our last Midweek Lenten** services will be held on Thursdays with soup supper at 6:30 p.m. and the worship service following at 7:30 p.m. Soup makers are Deb Wolff and the Ayers family. Bread provided by Robin, pizza by the Ayers and a salad by Marla. 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.
- **Chuck and Ruth Dennison** will be presenting a moving program on Sunday, April 2 at 6:00 pm at the New Testament Baptist Church, 3583 S.R. 59 in Ravenna. Hear Caiaphas, Mary, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene and the grandmother of Jairus' daughter tell their stories about Jesus.
- **The Streetsboro Senior Center** is presenting "A Night of Stories: Seniors on Display: Living History" on Tuesday, April 11 from 5:30pm-7:00 pm at the Streetsboro Annex (formerly the old Middle School) on Annalane. Several seniors will be displaying a sentimental item or experience. RSVP to 330-626-2398 to help them with a count for refreshments or let Marla know.
- **The volunteer program** at UH Portage Medical Center in Ravenna includes opportunities to serve patients and family members with spiritual care 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 last Sunday 20 Adults 2 Youth

Thursday 10 Adults

Confirmation Pastor and 2 students

Towards Budget			
Current Expense	1085.00	Building Fund	20.00
Benevolence	5.00	Loose	15.00
1 + 1 + 1	52.00	Misc.	39.00
Total Offering	1216.00	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: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessed is the one against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P: Today, as every day, we are confronting death—not only physical death, but the death of relationships, the death that is sin, the daily experience others call “life” in this fallen world. Because Jesus has the power to call forth life out of death, we call to him for help. We confess our death, recalling our baptism into Christ, and listen for his life-giving word by which he forgives our sin daily and fills us with faith, hope and love. We join in that confession.

C: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

“Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.” [Ezekiel 37:11] Forgive us our sins. Bring us forth from death and give us your life that is eternal. Amen.

P: “Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your grave, O my people,” [Ezekiel 37:12] Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our 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.

Entrance Hymn “O Christ, Our King, Creator, Lord” No. 101

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: This is a message we need, O God...

C: ...dry bones brought back to life.

P: These are the words we need to hear...

C: ...a dead man called from the grave.

P: For we are nearing Jerusalem.

C: We are approaching the passion and death of our Lord.

P: But, Your words will see us through, O God.

C: For You are the God who calls “life” from death.

P: Breathe Your breath of life into us, O God. Then we will have voices that will shout the wondrous message Your Son has given:

C: “I am the resurrection and the life!”

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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.” This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Hymn: “Out of the Depths I Cry to You” (Psalm 130) No. 295

Second Lesson Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 11:1-45

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “*This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.*” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “*Let us go to Judea again.*” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “*Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.*” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “*Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.*” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “*Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us*

go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “*Your brother will rise again.*” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “*Where have you laid him?*” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “*Take away the stone.*” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “*Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?*” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “*Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.*” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “*Lazarus, come out!*” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “*Unbind him, and let him go.*”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon “*We Weep...Like Jesus*”

Hymn for the Day “*Christ, the Life of all the Living*” No. 97

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: In our baptisms we have been called to rise from the dead and to live with Christ in the Spirit of God. Bonded to the whole people of God in baptism, let us pray for the church and for all people in their need.

(After each petition)

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, in the waters of baptism You rescue our lives from death and make us Your children. Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus 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: You are the giver of life, O God.

C: And You are the giver of NEW life—resurrected life.

P: Accept these gifts—

C: for they are evidence of the new life You have given us.

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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. This is a meal we need, O Christ...

C: ...the gift of grace for us sinners.

P: This is a meal we require...

C: ...a meal that looks ahead in hope.

P: Assure us of the forgiveness You offer in this meal.

**C: And give us eyes to see that this meal is a foretaste of
the great feast to come.**

P: We bless You now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending

P: Go now and walk in the light of Christ.

Trust in the one who is resurrection and life.

Stand firm before the forces of death

And speak words of life.

God raise you up and give life to your bodies;

Christ Jesus dwell in you in righteousness;

the Holy Spirit be the life + in your every breath.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Now Is Eternal Life" Insert

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

Bill Crile—aneurism and blood clot

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

Ben Wolff—healing of repaired rotator cuff

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

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, difficult 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

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

Chris Zimmerman—recovering from sepsis—friend of the Wolff's

Ukraine refugees

All natural disasters victims

COVID 19 virus patients