



**WELCOMES YOU TO
The First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell (FLC), proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at FLC welcome all into the fullness of God's love. We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life. We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the good news, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of FLC, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

THOSE SERVING US IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Presider:	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg
Children's Sermon:	Roger Steinke
Organ/Piano/Choir Director:	Lucy Kay Osborne
Acolyte:	Gavin Baunsgard
Lector:	Susan Berg
Communion Assistants:	Donna Hillard, Andrea Peoples, Jacky Schnarre
Ushers:	Karey Coble and David Osborne
Greeter:	Marilyn Iverson
Worship Technicians:	Linda Chapman & David Shogren
Pew Angel:	Clint Bustin
Bus Driver:	Marcus Hodges

December 28, 2025

First Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE: Go Tell It on the Mountain (P. Manz)

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)



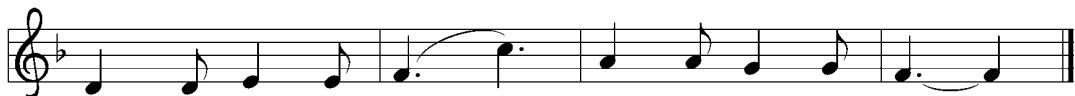
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Glorious God, help us to hear when your chosen voices proclaim the work of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in this world and the next.
Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Psalm 148

- ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
- ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- ³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
- ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
- ⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
- ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Word of God,
word of life.

ANTHEM: Angels We Have Heard on High (M. Hayes)
Lucy Kay Osborne, Piano

GOSPEL: John 1:19-34

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the [Jewish leaders] sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”

²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³ He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal.”

²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

Word of God,
word of life.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For whom do the people pray?

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

CONFESS AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence for self-reflection.

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the

burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY: *The First Nowell (M. Patterson)*

OFFERING: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;
Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION: *We will receive the body of Christ as bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. If you desire a gluten-free option that is available. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

WHO MAY COMMUNE? All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION: Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a pew card.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig - il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has -t'ning on, by proph -ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

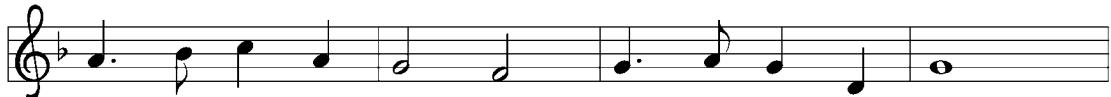


“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

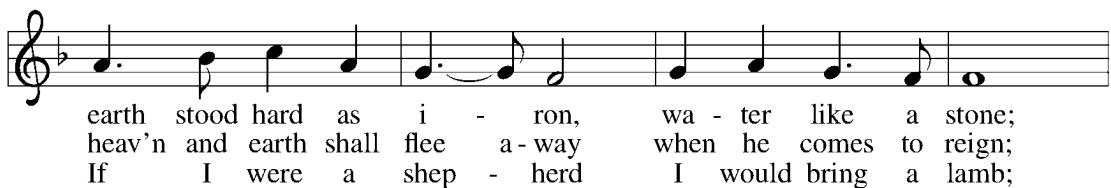


The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

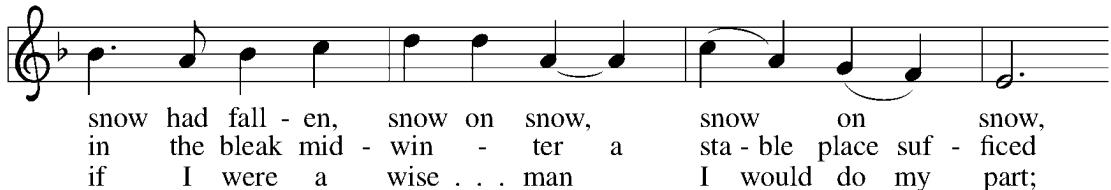
In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)



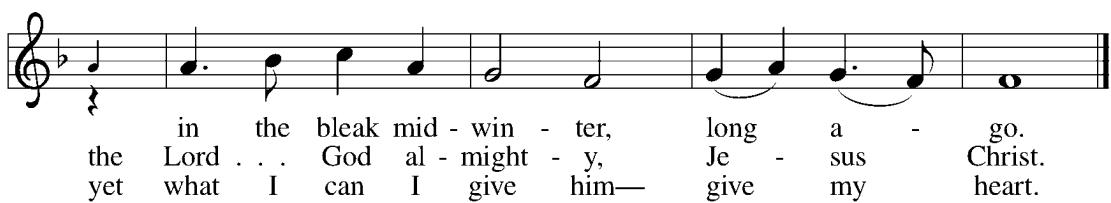
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



the in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter, [☩] bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Cold December Flies Away* (ELW 299) (Next Page)

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* (W. Held)

Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



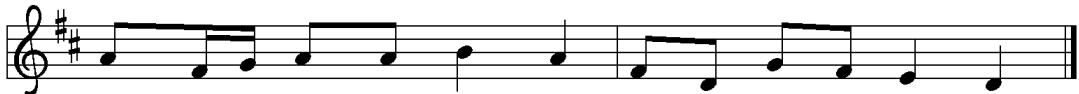
A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - gnance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol
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INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK!

Sunday, December 28 First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

NO LECTICONARY CLASS

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1 Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed!

Friday, January 2

Church Office Closed!

Saturday, January 3

9:00 am Garden Guild
Altar Guild

Sunday, January 4 Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 4, 2025 Second Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 62:1-5 John 2:1-11 Wedding at Canna

Weekly Financial Report for December 21, 2025

Attendance in Person: 203 General Offerings: \$5,186	Online: 15 Capital Improvement: \$400
General Offerings Needed Each Week: \$10,770	

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Those living with cancer:

Juanita (Bonnie Ahlstedt's sister-in-law), Jen & Dave (Baker family friend), Sue & Lee (Beth Bowers' cousins), Mark (Dick Boyce's son), Lisa (Steve Coble's sister), Alexis (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), Tryvge Enger (member), Tracee (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), Norma (Kristin Smith's friend), Mary Hatlen (member), Steve (Mark Hatlen's cousin), Jessica Hockstedler (member), Jeanne (Justin LaFord's mother), John (Susan Berg's brother), Nancy McGee (member), Ted (Sue Toyoda's friend), Kip (Paul Desilet's uncle), Jim (Hendricks' family friend), Joanne (Carolyn Becker's sister-in-law), Diane Mackey (frequent visitor), Brandis (Renee & Mike Markert's friend), Jo (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), Marin (Beth & Gordy Phelps' friend), Roy (Kristin Smith's cousin), Deborah (Vicki Shanks' cousin), Fern (Surya Skjonsby's friend), Joe (Barb Thieme's brother), August (Karey Coble's friend), Melanie Veazey (member), Jim (Haley Neff-LaFord's friend).

Those who are ill, have an injury or who are recovering from surgery:

Lupe (Jose Alcaraz' aunt), Sylvia (Alcaraz family member), Carolyn Becker (member), Dick Boyce (member), Doug (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), Susan (Bob Berg's cousin), John (Linda Chapman's brother-in-law), Richard (Susan & Ross Cook's brother), Leanne (Krista Daniels' sister), Nancy Davis (member), Karen (Paula Glandon's sister), John Godek (member), Teresa (friend of the Bakers) Zach (Trevor Coble's friend), Mitch (Miriam Nack's friend), Bill (Sandy & Dan Hendricks' friend), Jennifer (Dan Hendricks' niece), Jim (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), Liz (Marlis Pehling's friend), Karen Johnson (member), Phillip (Karen Johnson's brother), Marlo (Leona Keltner's friend), Kathy Koneczka (member), Richard Koneczka (Kathy Koneczka's husband), Doug (Justin LaFord's father), Ridley (Nancy & Neil McGee's grandson), Ollie Polonsky (member), Andy (Vickie Shanks' friend), Dennis (Dave Shogren's brother), Mona Shogren (member), Donnabel (Derrick StaRosa's sister), Ron (Beth Phelps' brother), Sandy Sailand (member), Alan (Siebert family friend), Jennifer (Irene Cloud's friend), Kayden (Karey Coble's nephew), Harriett (Roger Steinke's friend), Kathy Telford-Luiz (member), Ron Tuck (member), Jackie Williams (Donna Benfield's brother), Paul (Baker family friend).

Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), Bonnie Ahlstedt (member), Diane (Rene & Rob Baker's friend), Sherrill & Larry Baker (members), Audrey Fisher (member), Lawrence (Leon Romaniuk's father), Roger Wolter (member).

Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: Jake Peoples (Andrea & Eric Peoples' son) and Erin Siebert (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

NAVY: Christopher Whipple (Carolyn Whipple's son)

COAST GUARD: Gage McIntyre (Tamara McIntyre's son)

We are honored to be able to pray for your family members in need. Our policy is to publish immediate concerns for 2 weeks, unless we hear from you that an illness or situation is ongoing.