

JANUARY 12, 2025

WELCOME

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME. If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK. Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.

We prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Holy Water Cash/CCLI #7136448

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font. Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. *Amen.* We turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sin and asking for God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

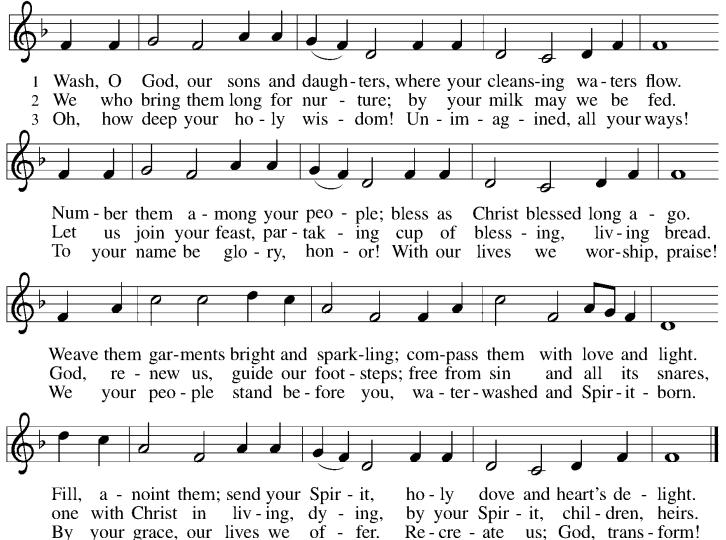
Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, we confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection. Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In **†** Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. *Amen.*

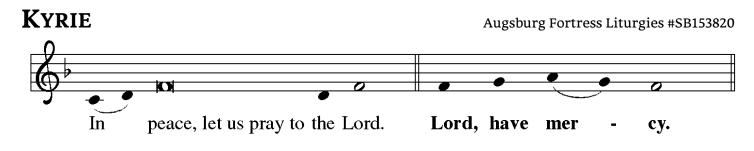
As fully forgiven children of God, turn and face the altar as the cross passes you. **HYMN** Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

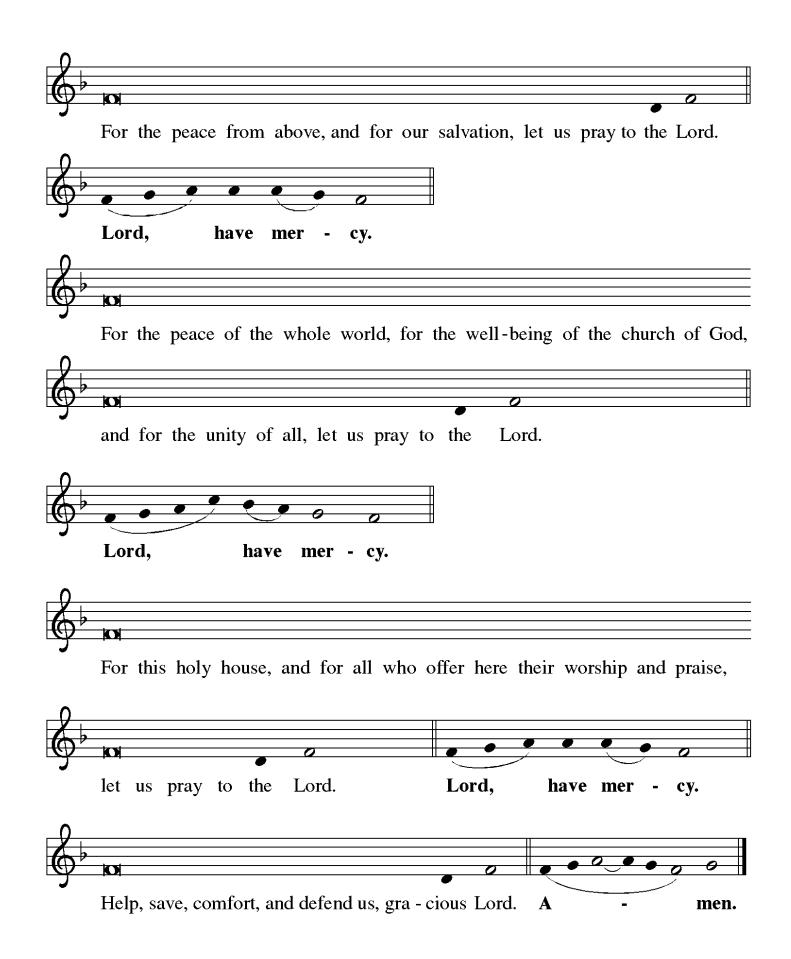
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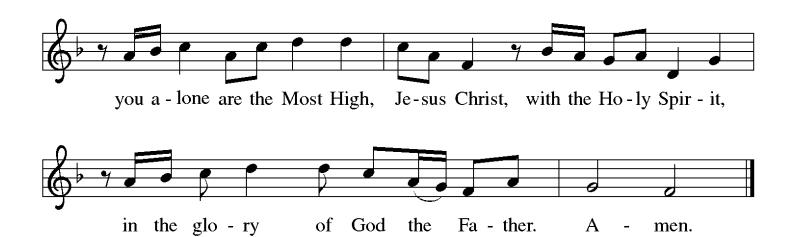
GREETING

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

We pray together.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. We sit.

The Word

Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.
¹ But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Word of God, teaching us the way. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the Lord

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

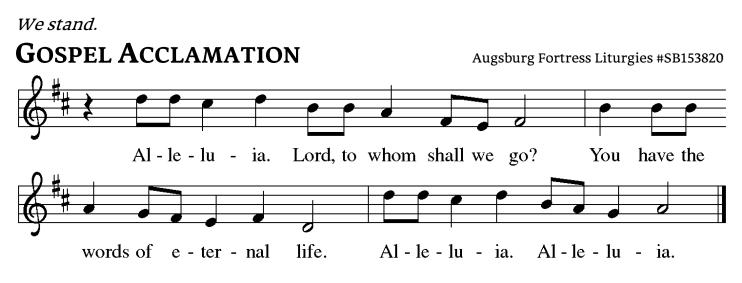
¹¹ O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, teaching us the way. *Thanks be to God.*



Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd chapter. *Glory to you, O Lord.*

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

baptism

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation. Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

Sermon

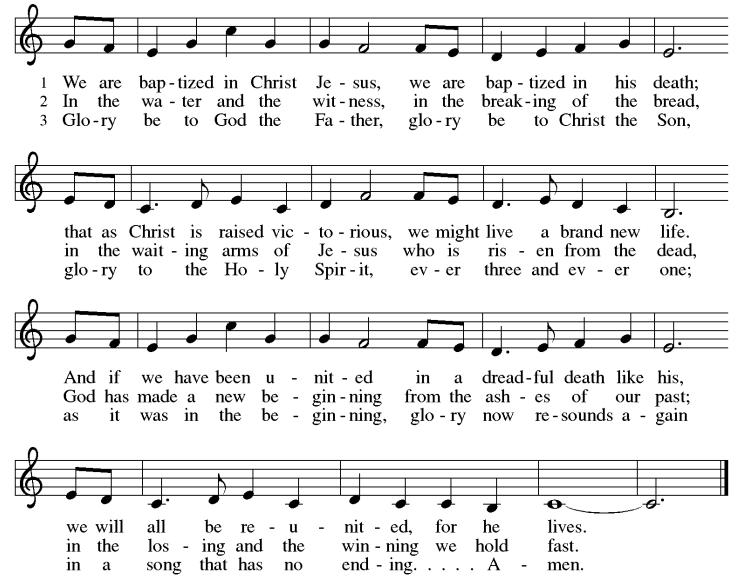
the voice of God

We stand.

ΗγΜΝ

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

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APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the 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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. *Amen.*

PEACE

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

We sit.

OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. **Friendship pads** have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.

ANTHEM

Baptized in Water

Saward/CCLI #2700434

We stand. Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful **O**FFERTORY Hillert/OneLicense #87488 Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be bless-ing. fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all: u nite them with the prayers of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your we a fore-taste of the feast pres-ence, and give us to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

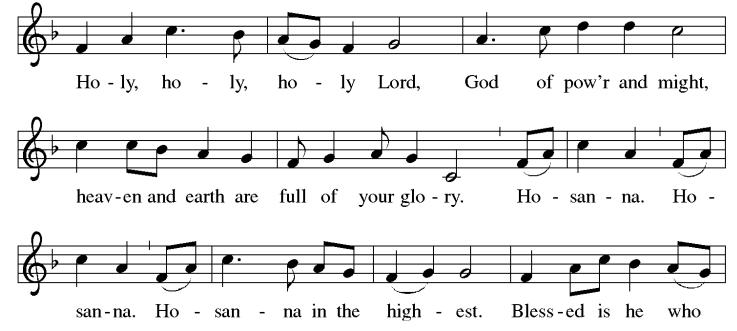
THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places. 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.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, in the miracle of water turned to wine, he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

We proclaim the mystery of faith. *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

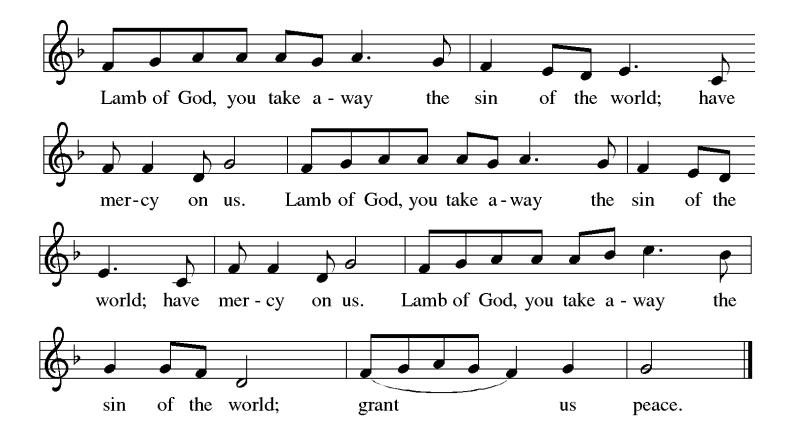
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.



We sit.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the center aisle to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second challis of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the outside aisles. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation.

MUSIC

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. *Amen.*

Hymn

Wade in the Water

African American/Public Domain



As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary. SENDING The Blessing

Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtick/CCLI #7147007



SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world. We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of my Dad, David Moyer, by Diane Boulware.



2025 **Altar Flower** sign-up sheet is in the breezeway.

If you live alone, join the Care Team's **Care Connection**! It's as simple as a quick text in the morning to say hi, send an emoji, or whatever you prefer to be sure your "Care Connection Partner" is safe and well. If you are interested in participating in this daily check in, please contact Sheila Starkey



at starkey.sheila@gmail.com or text 803-315-2990.





2025 Weekend Retreat Isle of Palms will be filled with energy as we reflect on 2024 ministries, and also dreamed of what 2025 might look like. We need you!

Time and Talent sheets will be distributed at the beginning of Lent. As you reflect and redirect your lives during Lent, we ask you to reflect and commit to being part of the ministry of your passions. The teams are Care, Support, Outreach, Teach, and Worship & Music. We need you to be part of a team and serve God together as we "make a difference in the world." See your newsletter for schedules of meetings and contact persons for the team.

TEAM STRUCTURE

SUPPORT TEAM

- Finance
 - o Treasurer
 - **Financial Secretary** 0
 - Tabulators 0
 - Budget Preparation
 - Personnel Team
 - Employee
 - Contractors
 - Mutual Ministry
 - Building Team (Property Committee)
 - IT Team 0
 - Safety Team 0
 - Keys Team
 - o Repairs and Maintenance
 - Cemetery Team
 - Fellowship Hall Rental and Usage
- Parsonage Task Force
- **Constitution Committee**

OUTREACH TEAM (Outreach and Evangelism)

- Outreach
 - Angel Tree
 - o Garage Sale
 - Food Pantry

TEACH TEAM (Christian Education)

- **Christian Education**
- Adult Sunday School
- **Evening Bible Study**
- VBS
 - Children's Ministry
 - Nursery (during SS hour)
 - o Children's Christmas Pageant
 - Easter Egg Hunt
- Youth Ministry

WORSHIP TEAM

- Choirs **Chancel Choir** Handbells
 - Musicians
- Altar Guild
- Ushers
- Acolytes / Crucifers
 - Sanctuary Décor
 - Christmas
 - **Christmon Trees**
 - **Candle Light Service**
 - Poinsettias
 - Ordering
 - Watering
 - Clean-up

 - Stripping of Altar
 - Crosses for worship Easter Lilies
 - Ordering
 - Watering
 - Clean-up
 - Funds for the Arts
 - Wedding Policy
 - Special Concerts
 - Nursery during worship

CARE TEAM

- Member Care
- **Records and Archives Community Life**
 - Reformation Cruise
 - Spring Picnic
 - **Travel Team**
- **Bereavement Committee**
- Meals Lent / Advent / Epiphany
- Stewardship
- CFF Coffee Food Fellowship

- - Easter

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

12/24/2024-Christmas Eve

7:00pm Worship: In Person 104 + Live Stream Worship 219 = 323 4:00 Worship: In Person 59

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$2,738.00
Building Fund	Received	n/a
Building Improvement	Received	n/a

12/29/2024

In Person 72 + Live Stream Worship 221 = 293

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$4,712.28
Building Fund	Received	\$1,665.00
Building Improvement	Received	n/a

Honorariums and Memorials:

• In memory of **Cecil J. Huggins** by Jayne Huggins

1/5/2025 In Person 92 + Live Stream Worship 135 = 227

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$15,262.18
Building Fund	Received	\$4,220.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$925.00

Honorariums and Memorials:

n/a

1/6/2025 Epiphany In Person 52 + Live Stream Worship 101 = 153

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	TodayNext Sunday			
	Today			
Ushers:	Aaron Kinard	Frank Bouknight		
	Tom Stahl	Frankie Jackson		
Crucifer:	Walker Kinard	Mackenzie Burns		
Acolyte:	Quentin Kinard	Jacqueline Hawlik		
Lector:	Elyse Kinard	Frank Bouknight		
Communion Assts:	Walker Kinard	Mackenzie Burns		
	Quentin Kinard	Jerry Price		
	Elyse Kinard	Frank Bouknight		
	Aaron Kinard	Denise Thurman		
	Susan Busby	Daryl Leigh Anthony		
Audio:	Ryan Corley	Blake Allen		
Video:	Rick Duval	Breanna Metze		
Nursery:	Leah Rawl	Melanie Jackson		
	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson		
Flowers:	Diane Boulware	Wynne & Mary Price		

SERVING IN JANUARY

COUNCIL REP: Marion Leaphart ALTAR GUILD: Jennifer Price, Angie Hydrick TABULATORS: Larry Amick, Angie Hydrick USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Susan Busby, Dennis Thurman Copyright o 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB153820. New Revised Standard Version Bible.

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms* Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place* Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home* Georgianna Gray, *home* James Hallman, *Lakeside Place* Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care* Gloria Mathias, *home* Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living* Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place* Cyndi Thurman, *Sedgewood* Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Bonnie Bouknight Debbie Duval Joye Haygood Chris Carroll Mary Frances Sease Randy Clark Jim Whitaker

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, friend of Danny Scott Stetson Cooper, grandson of Dan Cooper. Paula Miller, friend of Brittany Allen Dawn McIlwain-Merck, friend of Robin Ellisor John Catoe, family of the Ellisors Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),

friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart Iris Wellborn, sister of Earl Sease Mrs. Cruz, teacher of Abbey Carroll Phil Dennis, brother of Lavonne Roof Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,

friends of Debra & Dave Butts Sandra Watson, aunt of Courtney Bucknam Sarah Harmon, friend of Courtney Bucknam Quentin Oswalt, Angie Hydrick's nephew (Iraq) Jaimie Womack, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price Cynthia Rabon, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price Blase Rhine,

grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight Cynthia Mallard,

friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan

Jeslyn, friend of Scarlett Bryant Tom Shaul, friend of the Kinard Family Debbe Dearman, neighbor of Kathy Cooper Bryce McKelvey, friend of Regan Gross Max Schronce,

friend of the David & Scottie Marsh Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts* Hayes Wingard,

grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper Robbie Rector, friend Jennifer Miller Bill Geddings, father of Allison Swygert Jane Baxley, cousin of Michelle Gantt Mark King, coworker of Michelle Gantt Joyce Davis, grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik Will & Summer Satcher,

friend of Courtney Bucknam Dorothy Collins, friend of Ryan Price Lauren Addy, friend of Kathy Cooper and Metzes Jodi Harper, friend of Erin Rose Sam Lockridge, friend of Scottie Marsh Mary Duffie, mother of Alyson Price

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 19th

- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:30 am Sunday School
- 11:30 am CR: Teach Team
- 3:00 pm Confirmation
- 5:00 pm FH: Youth Meeting
- 5:00 pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Monday, January 20th

6:00 pm CR: Outreach Team

Tuesday, January 21st

6:00 pm	CR: Finance Team
6:00 pm	GR: Grief Group
6:30 pm	Life Group at The Jacksons

Wednesday, January 22nd

Meals on Wheels: Parker & Diane Boulware9:00 amFood Pantry (David & Debra Butts, Mary Price)

- 12:05 pm FH: OneBody Worship
- 6:00 pm Handbells
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 24th through Sunday, January 26th Council Retreat at Isle of Palms

Saturday, January 25th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Kinards)



www.WeAreMtHermon.com 3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, Pastor803.951.3784Svetlana Royal, Director of MusicRoberta Smith, Administrative Asst803.240.3143 cell

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Music@WeAreMtHermon.com Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, *President* Sheila Eargle, *Secretary* Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary* *Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President* Frank Bouknight*, Treasurer* Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert*, Sextons*

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 12th

9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Executive Team

Monday, January 13th

6:30 pm FH: Lutheran Men & Women

Wednesday, January 8th

Meals on Wheels: Jamie & Nancy Addison

- 9:00 am Food Pantry (Fran Bouknight, Angie Hydrick, Sherwood Garrett)
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm Handbells
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 18th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Al & Laura Stevens)