

13600 Caspian Lane Clermont, FL 34711 (352) 394-3382



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024 9:30am

Rev. Dennis Schmidt, Pastor Rev. Julie Frank, Guest Pastor Joe Foryan, Worship Coordinator Paul Motto, Organist/Pianist

Email: churchoffice@shephillsclermont.com
websitewww.shephillsclermont.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Mission Statement: "Make Known God's Grace"

Motto: "Blessed to be a Blessing"

WELCOME! WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE YOU WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

Welcome to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. We pray that you will find our worshipping community to be welcoming and a place where you will hear and feel God's grace. If you are new to our church, please stop by the Welcome Table in the entry area where you can get additional information. We trust God's Spirit has led you here and that God will speak to you today.

NEW MEMBERS

If you would like to inquire about membership here at SOTH, please notify the church office for more information.

Hearing Amplification Devices Available

Please see an usher if you would like to use a device to assist in hearing.

In Need of a Bible? A member of our church has graciously donated a supply of Bibles to be given to anyone in need of one. Pick one up from the Welcome Center Table in the back of the church.

Restrooms are located in both the Education and Administrative wings. Baby Changing Station is located in the Restroom in the Education wing.

Holy Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome at our Lord's Table. Please come forward and extend an open hand, palm up, if you wish to receive the bread and wine.

If you are not baptized or are waiting for your first communion, please come forward for a blessing. You may cross your arms across your chest or fold your hands together to indicate you wish to receive a blessing.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you at your seat.

Communion wafers & wine are offered.

Grape juice (instead of wine) and gluten free wafers (non-wheat) are available by request when you come forward to receive communion.

Reference to hymnals are as follows: LBW: Lutheran Book of Worship hymnal (green); WOV: With One Voice (blue); ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

April 28, 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.



PRELUDE
WELCOME
A TIME FOR SILENT MEDITATION
CALL TO WORSHIP
SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM



P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Jaiden Myrick Green, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P: Will you live among God's faithful people, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, seek to know Christ through God's Word, grow in faith and live the Christian life?

Response: I will.

P: People of God, do you promise to support **Jaiden** and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Jaiden Myrick Green, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(At this time all those in the baptismal party will process to the front for the prayers.)

*BAPTISMAL HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LBW 474 v1&2



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

- 1 Chil dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe-ly in his bo-som gath-er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho ly courts they flour ish.
- 3 Nei ther life nor death shall ev er from the Lord his chil-dren sev er;
- 4 Though he giv eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for sak eth;



stjär-nan ej på him-la-fäs-tet, få-geln ej i kän-da näs-tet.
nest-ling bird nor star in heav- en such a ref-uge e'er was giv- en.
From all e-vil things he spares them, in his might-y arms he bears them.
un- to them his grace he show-eth, and their sor-rows all he know-eth.
his the lov-ing pur-pose sole-ly to pre-serve them pure and ho-ly.



*PRAYERS

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

C: Amen.

(The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made the minister says:)

P: **Jaiden**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

(A baptismal candle is then presented to the newly baptized. Baptismal Party then turns and faces the congregation.)

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(All return to their seats as the hymn is sung.)

*BAPTISMAL HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" LBW 474 v3&4

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

L: ²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water,

the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- 26The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
- 31They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

L: ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father

has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (spoken together)

Alleluia.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and
I in them bear much fruit.
Alleluia.

*GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

P: The Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter beginning with the first verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

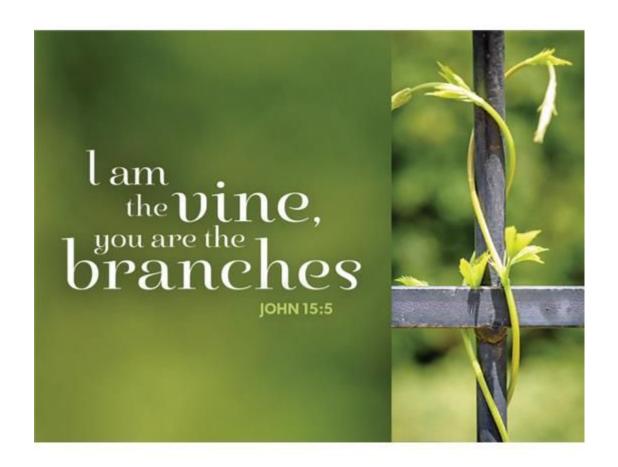
⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

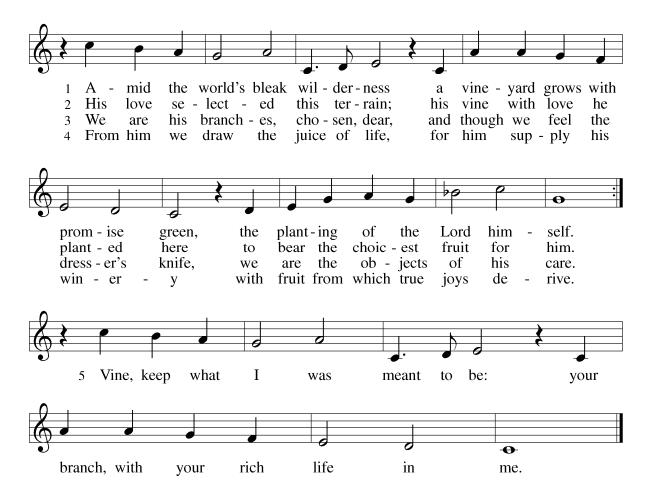
MESSAGE

Rev. Julie Frank, Guest Pastor





"Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness" LBW 378 v. 1,2,4,5



*THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(sung before and after prayers)

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

(Response after each petition:)

A: God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

^{*}indicates to please stand as you are able

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also, with you.

P: We share God's peace with one another.

MEAL

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

*DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

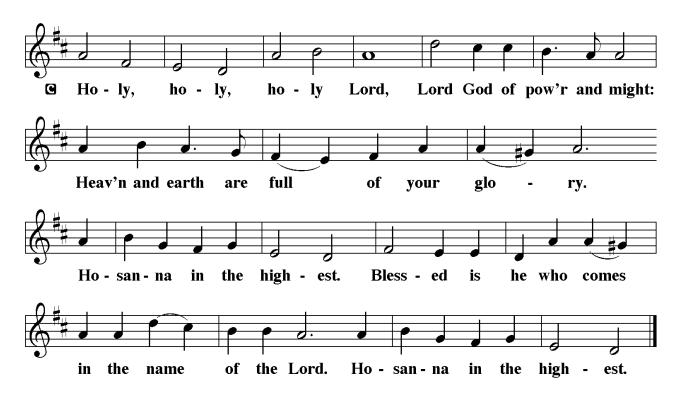
P: Lift up your hearts.

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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*THE 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

THE DISTRIBUTION

All Baptized Christians are welcome at our Lord's Table. Please come forward and extend an open hand, palm up, if you wish to receive the bread and wine.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

"Let us Break Bread Together"

Reflective Music

Tune: Amazing Grace

LBW 126 v1-4

ELW 471 v1-3

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ + strengthen and preserve you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Awesome God"

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r, and love our God is an awesome God! (repeat)

Our God is an awesome God! Our God is an awesome God!

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray: Shepherding God, You have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

COMMUNITY SHARING

*BENEDICTION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope \clubsuit bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*SENDING

"We Are All One in Christ"

ELW 643 x2



*DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



^{*}indicates to please stand as you are able

Communion Hymns:

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

LBW 126 v1-4



- 1 Where char i ty and love pre vail, there God is ev er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho ly fear, God's char i ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re-call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a mong us be un known; let all con ten tions cease. 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth-er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound. with heart and soul now love God in re - turn. mind and let us as mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one. glo - ry seek; be his our on - ly that we Be God's the may love each well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness. that oth - er

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 471 v1-3



2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;







SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY 4/28/2024

LAY MINISTER Noah Gooding
LECTOR Sylvia Quayle
COMM. ASSISTANTS Barbara Lentz

POWERPOINT ??
USHERS ??

SERVING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY 5/5/2024

LAY MINISTER Rita Schmidt

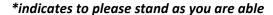
LECTOR ??

COMM. ASSISTANTS Jayla Gooding

POWERPOINT ??

USHERS Terry Brown

If you would like to volunteer to help in worship as a lay minister, lector, communion assistant, power point operator, broadcast engineer or usher, please sign up at the volunteer table in the back of the church or on the church website: shephillsclermont.org.





Announcements:





Altar Flowers

Flowers on the Altar on Sunday, April 28 are given by Lukas and Lindy Gooding in celebration of their daughter, Jayla's 16th birthday.



This Week at Our Church

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|-----------|-------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday | 4/28 | 9:30am | Sunday Worship/Sunday School |
| | | 10:30am | Church Brunch Fellowship Meeting |
| Tuesday | 4/30 | 8:00am | Pastor's Prayer Breakfast |
| | | 10:00am | Women's Circle |
| Wednesday | / 5/1 | 6:00pm | Choir |
| Thursday | 5/2 | 2:30pm | Chimes |
| Saturday | 5/4 | 4:00pm | Youth Taco/Raffle Night |
| | | | |



Birthdays April 28 – May 5

| April 28 | Feda O'Brien |
|----------|-----------------|
| April 28 | Jayla Gooding |
| April 30 | Jim Johnson |
| May 3 | Stella Halbert |
| May 4 | Marie Johnson |
| May 5 | Ellen Rasmussen |



Fellowship Team



The Fellowship Team will be meeting this Sunday, April 28th and the following Sunday, May 5th at 10:30 after the service. This meeting will continue monthly on the first Sunday of each month.







NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A SINGLE PRAYER

Our Prayer Group we will be meeting every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Choir Room for a time of prayer to help us through our time of transition. All are welcome. Feel free to come one time or every Wednesday. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer table in the back of the church.



Come and join us each Tuesday morning at 8:00am at iHop (Highway 27) for breakfast. We have some lively discussions and it is a great way to start your day!





In light of Pastor's and Rita's retirement, the Council has determined that it would be appropriate that we present them with a retirement honorarium. Pastor has given our church 8 wonderful and often trying years. He has weathered a hurricane blowing the roof off our building, holding service in at least 4 temporary venues and of course getting through the Covid years. He has been a rock and a guiding light for our congregation. In appreciation for all they have done, we are asking that you generously give a monetary gift which will be presented to them upon their retirement. You can give either cash or check and place it in the offering basket or drop off at the church office. Please place your donation in an envelope and mark it retirement or Pastor gift. Thank you.



Youth News

The youth would like to ask you to prayerfully consider making a direct contribution to them to assist in covering costs for the ELCA Youth Gathering Trip.

Also, if you could mark your calendars for Saturday May 4th. The youth will be having a Taco Night and a raffle at the church at 4:00.







Amazing gift baskets have been created to be raffled off for the youth. Each basket has its own jar for tickets. Tickets are \$5 each or \$5 for 20. Winner to be drawn at Taco night, May 4th. Please see Stella, Lindy or any of our wonderful youth to get your tickets.



Sign up . .



If you would like to join our membership here, we would invite you to pick up a membership form at the Volunteer table.

If you have any questions please talk to an usher. They will be in the back of the church to help answer your questions.



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Benjamin Andreachi, grandson of Darlene Andreachi
Darlene Andreachi
John Andreachi, son of Darlene Andreachi
Marquis Beagle, dear friend of Kathy Oberg
Barbara Blaisdell, mother of Tina Blaisdell
William Blaisdell, brother of Tina Blaisdell
Gloria Bork, sister of Linda Cummings
Kelly Carpenter
Robin Carroll, daughter of Darlene Andreachi
Kelli Colarusso, friend of Diane Bursey
Kevin Corcoran, brother-in-law of Sue Meier
Barbara Daniels
Gwen Doyle, daughter of Dorothy Derrick

Gwen Doyle, daughter of Dorothy Derrick **Kimberly and Jayson Eddins,** daughter & son-in-law of Linda Cummings

Duane Fry, son of Nancy Fry

Nancy Fry

Carroll Fulmer

Craig Gennrich, son of Jeanie Gennrich

Kristi Genopolos, daughter of George Lentz

The Habeck Family, friends of Joe Foryan

Virginia Hart, friend of Diane Bursey

Chettina Hodges

Sandy & Denny Horazak, sister and brother-in-law of Pat Rach

Daniel & Kasper, nephews of Mindy Longenbach

Bobby McGee, son-in-law of Marge Zuelke

The Melnikoff Family, relatives of Joe Foryan

Caity Mitchell, cousin of Joe Foryan

Joe Montfort

Madelyn Nackashi, friend of Jim & Marie Johnson

Kathy Oberg

Rakesh Premdass, son of Chandra Premdass

Arie Ruvinsky, cousin of Diane Cowitt

Charles Sheerin

Jay Shipbaugh, grandson of Marge Zuehlke

Ed Simone, Joe Foryan's son

Rita Schmidt

Lee Ann Sebring

Jordyn Smith, daughter of Robert & Linda Smith

Kathy Thorby

Jim & Emma Vallaire, daughter-in-law passed suddenly

Linda Wasley

Harlan Wick, brother of Dennis Wick

Henry Wong

Arthur Wrobel, brother of Marion Dielman

Deeana, friend of Joe Foryan

Emma, friend of Joe Foryan

Melissa

^{*}indicates to please stand as you are able

OUR MILITARY FAMILY

Michael Reid, US Marines, Darlene Andreachi's nephew's son
Capt. USAF Griffith Hiss, Thomas and Cheryl Stutesman's son-in-law
Capt. USAF Kat Hiss, Thomas and Cheryl Stutesman's daughter
SPC Thomas and 2nd LT Justin Leugers, US Army, Jim Kern's nephew's son
Tech Sgt Joe and Staff Sgt Travis Leugers, USAF, Jim Kern's nephew's son
Capt. Neils Seim USAF, grandson of Rocky & Maria Lafaro
Lt. Justin Seim US Army, grandson of Rocky & Maria Lafaro
Staff Sgt. William Silva, US Army, close friend of Tina Blaisdell
SGT USAF Andrew Stutesman, Thomas and Cheryl Stutesman's son