

21st Sunday after Pentecost — October 18, 2026

Stewardship Sunday

Prelude

Praise God in the Morning

arr. by Laura E. Wasson

Tune: "Praise God in the Morning", traditional, in Public Domain

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Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **People: Amen**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **People: Amen**

Leader: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Compassionate God,

All: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen

L: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **People: Amen**

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn

Oh, Sing to the Lord

ELW 822

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, 1923-2016, Spanish and English

Tune: Brazilian folk tune "Cantad Al Señor" in Public Domain

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Apostolic Greeting

WOV Pg. 28

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

Gloria

WOV Pg. 29

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also, with you

L: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 96:1-9 *chanted responsively*

¹ Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation

WOV Pg. 31

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: Glory to you, O Lord

Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 22nd Chapter.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things

that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

Text by Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Tune: Gaelic tune "Buinessan" in Public Domain; arr. hymnal version

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Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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 the People:

L: We pray to God, to whom we all belong. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

AM: For the whole beloved people of God, that we all remember that we live by God's generosity, and that our generous spirits bear witness to divine love, Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

AM: For the wider human community, that they too may sense that God has created us for mutual dependance that fosters generous hearts, Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

AM: For ourselves, that we do not see the physical world as something to be possessed, but something to be treasured, tended, and shared, Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

AM: For all children, especially those in conditions of danger, loss, trauma, destruction, or neglect, that relief and rescue may come to them, Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

AM: For any needs you now raise to God.....Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

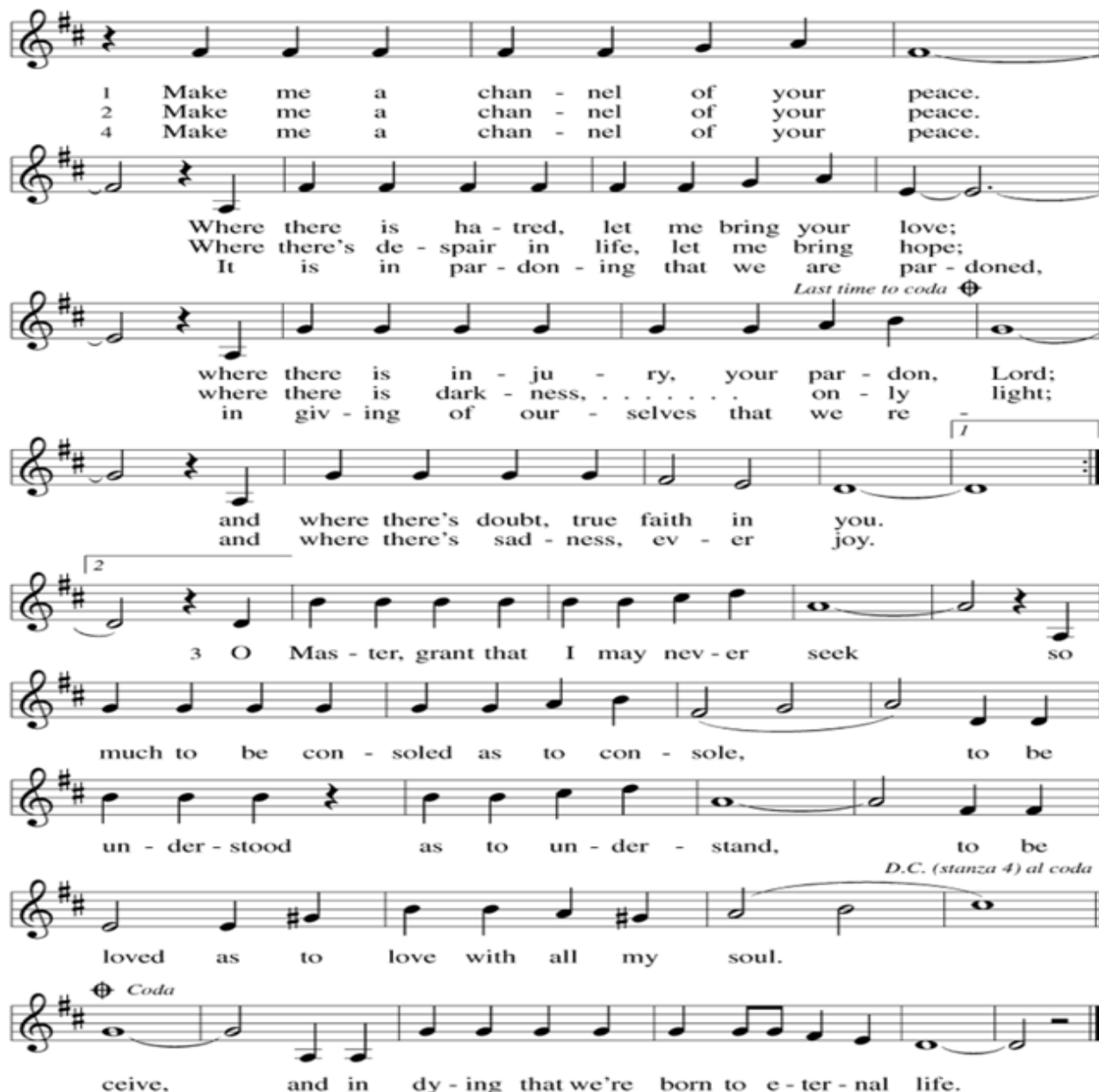
L: For all else you see that we need, Lord, as we joyfully entrust all our lives to you,,
Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer. Amen

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,
Last time to coda

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, ... that on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so
much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be
un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be
loved as to love with all my soul.
D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

Coda
ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple

Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple

Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

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L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

P: And also, with you

Please share a sign of God's peace.

The offering is received



Anthem

Creation Hymn in Classic Style

Words: Isaac Watts and Music: Heather Sorenson

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I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey. I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food. He formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where ere I turn my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky! There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known. And clouds arise, and tempests blow by order from thy throne. While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, are present there! And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there. And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there! To God we sing!

Offertory Hymn

WOV Pg. 35

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving –

L: The Lord be with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: And also with you.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

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

The Proper Preface is spoken

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

Agnus Dei

WOV Pg. 39

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music

Offertory on "Buinessan"

arr. by Edward Broughton

Tune "Buinessan" in Public Domain

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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

WOV Pg. 41

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

P: Amen

Closing Hymn

Earth and All Stars

ELW 731

Text by Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009

Tune: "Earth and All Stars" by David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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Dismissal

WOV Pg. 41

AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.

P: Thanks be to God

Postlude

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

arr. by Robert J. Hughes

Tune "Wir Pfluegen" in Public Domain

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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

Happenings Around the Church

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am \$12

CT Yankee Chorale Rehearsals – 7-8:30 pm

Bible Study

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm

In person Bible Study Wednesdays

10:00 am

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am

Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Event	Date	Time
NW Hills Exchange Club Meeting	Mon. 10/19	8:00 am
Men's & Women's Breakfast	Wed. 10/21	8:30 am
HillTop Halloween Magic Show	Fri. 10/23	1:30-3:00 pm
Last Concert of the Season	Sat. 10/24	5:30-7pm
St. Paul's Women Apple Cook/Bake Off	Mon. 10/26	7:00 pm
St. Paul's Trunk or Treat	Sat. 10/31	2-4:00 pm
St. Paul's Holiday Fair	Sat. 11/7	9am-3pm

Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly

\$6,290

- Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.
- **GET OUT TO VOTE – EARLY VOTING STARTS OCTOBER 19TH!**



The Pumpkin Patch is **OPEN** and thank you to all that have volunteered or signed up to help at the sale table. We are open daily from 11AM – 7PM, come visit and support your church!

There are still ways to help:

Fill in any spot that is open – there are a few.

After church or during the month, you can buy a pumpkin for you or donate it to someone. We really would appreciate **ALL** members supporting this cause.

Share the church social media page.

Take a picture of yourself in the patch and share it on your social media – send it to the church to use too.

Children involved in outside groups such as scouts, sports, etc.? Have them come by for a photo opportunity and buy a pumpkin too!

See Kathy or Lisa if you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer for a few hours. Thanks!



REFORMATION FOOD DRIVE

Help us reach our goal of
509 ITEMS!

CURRENTLY
HAVE
170
ITEMS

STILL NEED
339
ITEMS



WE NEED BAGS
TO HOLD THE FOOD!

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31

The collection bin is in the narthex.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

CANDY FAMILY FRIENDLY COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31ST
2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
837 Charles Street
Torrington, Connecticut

WE'LL BE SERVING:

- A CAULDRON OF SPOOKY MAC AND CHEESE
- MUMMIFIED HOT DOGS
- FRESH VEGGIE SKELETON AND DIP
- FRITO PIE
- CHIPS AND MORE!

Purchase a pumpkin at the door to decorate at our family friendly celebration!

DONATIONS ARE REQUESTED!
Families are asked to bring one or more of the following items:

- Candy
- Ready-to-eat raw veggies
- Individual bags of assorted chips

Your donations help make this event a treat for everyone in our community!

St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH

837 Charles Street
Torrington, Connecticut

Holiday FALL FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

- HANDMADE CRAFTS
- ARTISAN MARKET
- SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH
- BAKE SALE
- THEME BASKETS
- PRIZES GALORE!

For more information, CALL 860-482-3555

Warm Neighbors Brighter Tomorrows

WINTER COAT DRIVE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH FISH of Torrington, Connecticut

OCTOBER 5 - NOVEMBER 9

COAT DRIVE COLLECTION ONLY IS BEING HELD AT:
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
837 Charles Street, Torrington, Connecticut

Coats and jackets of all kinds are being collected for all ages — infant through seniors.

Infants ♥ Children ♥ Teens ♥ Adults ♥ Seniors

Please leave donations in the gray covered bin outside the church doors.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF:
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
OR
On Sundays before church service.

All donations must be clean and in good repair.
No missing buttons. No broken zippers.

Watch for more details as to where and when the coat drive giveaway will take place!

Comfort of Psalms Quilt Drawing

Wrap yourself in warmth, beauty, and inspiration with our stunning *Comfort of Psalms Quilt*.

Featuring soothing shades of blue and cream this beautiful quilt is sure to bring comfort and charm to any home.

Drawing Tickets **\$10** each

Drawing **December 1**

Proceeds will go to St. Paul's.

Available for sale in the Narthex after worship



Gift Cards
for sale!

AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY!

CAN ALSO ORDER!
Can't find what you need?
We can order it for you!

CHURCH GETS A PERCENTAGE!
Your purchase helps support our church.

YOU PAY *the value* OF THE CARD.

amazon \$25

Walmart

TARGET

STARBUCKS

VISA \$50

CASH | **CHECKS** | **CREDIT CARDS**

We take

Thank you for supporting our church!

Cards for restaurants, department stores, discount stores and outlet stores, electronics, entertainment, fast food, gas and auto, grocery, home improvement, sporting goods and even universal prepaid cards! Don't see one on the list that's available – just ask.

If you are thinking “ahead of the holidays”, put your list together and see the people at the gift card table. You not only save yourself time going shopping but the church also gets a % of your sales.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a list of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott	Charlotte Madia	Justin Wade & Family	Kyle W.
Casaundra Abeling	Audrey Marquard	The Videtto Family	Rowan
Roberta Alteri	Abigail Marine	Eveyln Walters	Stefan Nikola J
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens	Eric Marine	Sue Watkins	Janet E.
Michelle Ahrens	Richard Marine	James Weber	Wendy Fedor
Coni Aparo	Janis Martin	Diane Wright	Laurie Otis
Charlie Blakeslee	Gil & Marilyn Martin	Bruce Yauney	John Fleming
Kathy Ann Campbell	Michael Meyers	Clayton Young	Ethan Troy Danner
Angelo & Nicole Capasso	Brigitte Mueller	Clarence & Priscilla	Fred Rakyta & family
Vinni Carey	Bob Murphy	Ed	Ryan English
Bridget Deemer	Barbara Nalette	Jaiden	Mae Johnson
Emma Cortina	Karen Ness	Steve	Jackie Fleming
Emily Decker	Tom O'Brien	Lou W.	Kiley Lombardo
Irene Douglas	Karen Pagano	Todd	Christine & Fran Gaffney
Judy Elliott	Maria Payne	Robert K.	Patricia & Richard Sawitzke
Diane Engle	Melissa Pilbin	Hagbard	Shannon Hilton
Jan Eucalitto	Lisa & Dennis Polzun	Peanut	Deb & Jon Sterling
Weston Faith	Ed & Susan Regner	Diane L.	David Little
Amy Falls	Baerbel Roehl	Sandie Harper	Carol Vrlík
Bruce & Liz Falls	Charlotte	Pam Ewing	Terry
Rosemarie Foth	Vincent Scarrozzo	Michelle	Ruth Ann Stone
Steven Fosbrook	Jean Schlapfer	Marci	Joyce Young & family
Bob Frantz	Sarah Seelye	Diane Tanner	The family & friends of
John Lewis	Lucille Videtto	Baby Olive Pressler	Cecile Scheidel
Danise Hall	Paul Smith	Carol DeLeppo	The family of Howard
Marge Kiernan	Marilyn Killingbeck	Tom Sterling Sr.	Kreidwise
Renate Higgins	Sigrid Smitley	Margaret Miller	Shaelynn Holmgren
Rusty Judd	Patricia Switzer	Patrick Friday	Bob Hauser
Kathleen Hilton	Lori Sola	Shay Cronin	The Marold family
Helenna Hauser	George Gray	Leigh Martin	Lori Sola
Gloria Thibault	Roger Jensen	Linda Martin	Sharon Okraska
Ed & Anne Grening	Rich Zarcone	Shirley Moore	Kenny Bentley

OUR NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Francine Ahrens	Mae Fay
Dee Gammon	Betty Hilton
Walter Joray	Midge Rosenbeck

OUR MILITARY FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn
Eric Beuis
Dominic Boscarino
Ethan & his Marine Unit

Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Fr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson

Ben Speaker
Noah Braatz
Christian Braatz
Aiden Avenia
Sydney Craig & her Army unit

