Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Smithtown, New York 11787

Info@standrewsofsmithtown.org Nicholas Suminski, Organist and Music Director

> Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion December 24, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The assembly stands as they are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

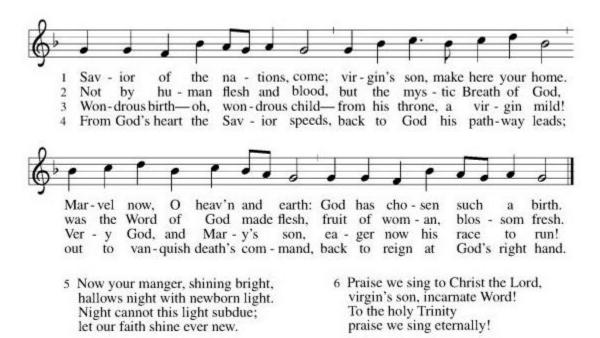
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

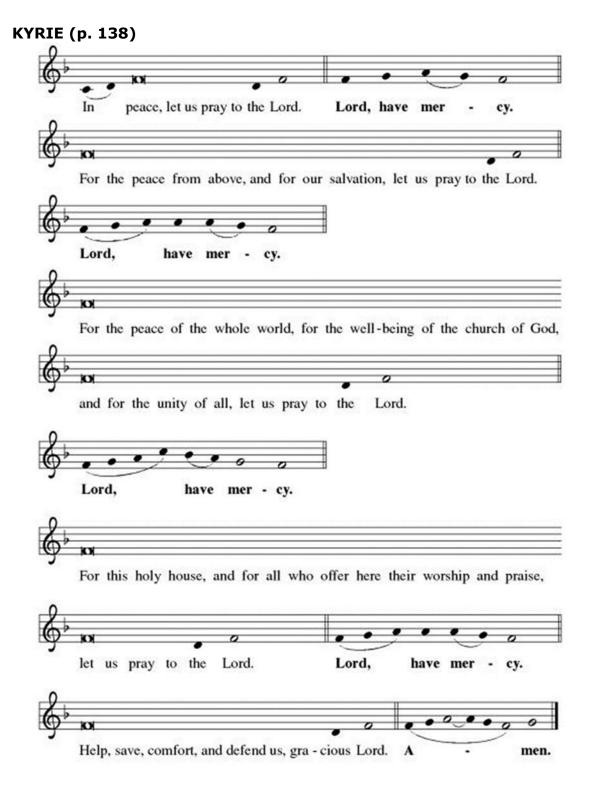
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG #263 Savior of the Nations, Come

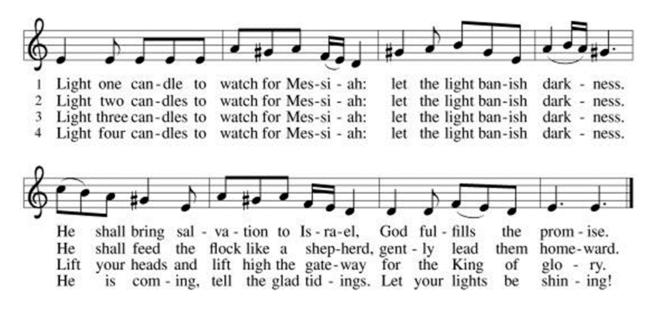


GREETING

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.**



HYMN# 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 4 only)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you! And also with you!

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM (CHOIR)

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from Samuel.

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.





^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ¹ of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in I God my Savior, ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ¹ lowly servant. From this day all generations will | call me blessed: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ¹ things for me and holy I is your name. ⁵⁰You have mercy on ¹ those who fear you, from generation to | generation. ⁵¹You have shown strength ^I with your arm and scattered the proud in I their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty ¹ from their thrones and lifting | up the lowly. ⁵³You have filled the hungry ¹ with good things and sent the rich I away empty. ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your ¹ servant Israel, to remember the prom- ¹ ise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made ¹ to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil- I dren forever.

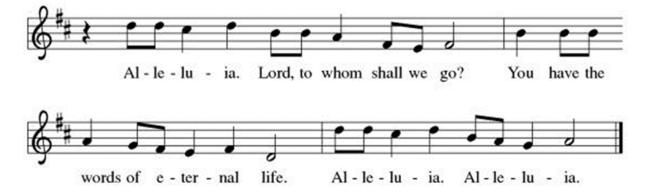
SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from Romans.

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38 The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Bring peace to Ukraine, the Middle East, and all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill especially Laura, Jennifer, Lucy, Rachel, and Mary Ellen; those serving in the military, all on the prayer list; all people affected by COVID-19, for the victims of the ongoing violence in Ukraine and the Middle East, and those we name before you now (pause). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

(Pastor) Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of Saint Andrew's, you may give in person, by mail or by visiting our website for online giving. Donations: <u>standrewsofsmithtown.org/donate</u>



***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

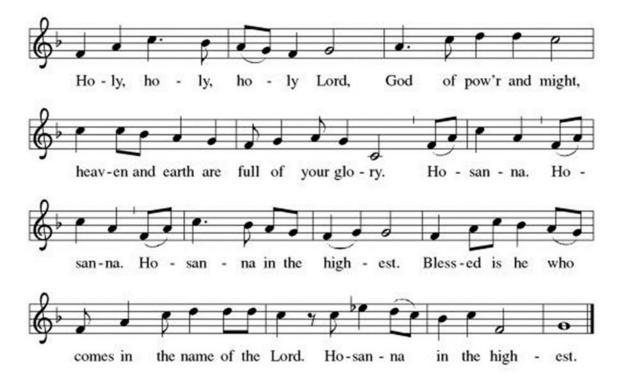
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Amen.**

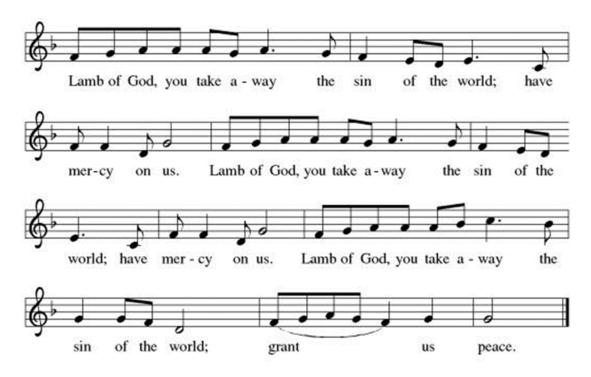
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

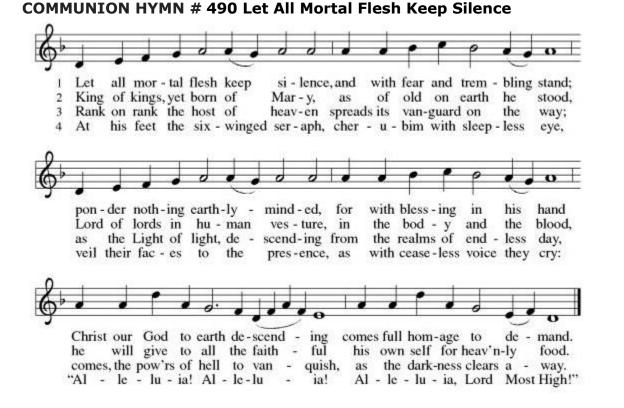
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

LAMB OF GOD



Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you.



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # # 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

This morning we welcome Pastor Bruce Kaifler

Christmas Services

December 24th St. Andrew's Lutheran Church 4:30 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 pm The Christ Mass with Holy Communion

December 25th

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Services

December 31st St Thomas of Canterbury, Smithtown 9:00 am New Year's Eve Service

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Port Jefferson Station

8:30 am, 10:30 am & 7:30 pm New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion

*Please note there will be no services on Sunday, 12/31 at St. Andrew's.

December is St. Andrews month for volunteering at the Smithtown Food

Pantry! Volunteers are needed Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am-12:30pm. Please contact Julie Francis at 303-898-2511 with any questions. *COVID vaccinations are required to volunteer.

The food pantry is currently in need of basic non-perishable foods, such as:

Laundry detergent, cereal, peanut butter, mac and cheese, tomato sauce, tuna fish, canned chicken. We thank you for any donations.

Community Outreach and Ministry St. Andrew's is collecting the following items to support Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandanch:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, small hard candy (ex. Jolly Ranchers), travel size lotion, sanitizer, maxi pads individually wrapped tampons, travel size shaving cream, razors wrapped, men and women deodorant, bandaids, lip balm, packs of tissues. Please bring these items to the office or to the collection box located in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations!

Pastor Paul Downing of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Port Jefferson Station serves as our coverage pastor. He can be reached anytime for pastoral care and emergencies at cell# 347-423-3623. If he is unable to answer, please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible. He can also be reached by email at <u>pastorpauldowning@yahoo.com</u>. Questions about meetings and day to day activities at St. Andrew's should still be directed to the office at 631.265.2288 or info@standrewsofsmithtown.org.

Pastor Paul Downing invites you to join him and the St. Paul's community for weekly Bible Study and/or Prayer Group.

Bible Study : 9:30am Wednesday mornings on Zoom (meeting ID 977-887-967) Bible Study : 10:30am Wednesday mornings In Person at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Jefferson Station

Prayer Group: 10:30am Friday mornings In Person and via Zoom (meeting ID 800-555-016) at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Poínsettía Flowers Many thanks to all who contríbuted poínsettías to beautífy our altar for Chrístmas

In thanksgiving of our children by Art & Helen Fortin In thanksgiving of our grandchildren by Art & Helen Fortin In memory of our parents by Art & Helen Fortin In memory of Marion & Carl Schwabe by Priscilla & Don Schwabe In memory of Mary & Kenneth Cooke by Priscilla & Don Schwabe In celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary by Priscilla & Don Schwabe In memory of Mildred Gustavsen by Grant and Gary Jr. Gustavsen In memory of Gus Gustavsen by Grant & Gary Jr. Gustavsen In memory of Emma Doxsee by Gary & Laura Gustavsen In honor of our grandchildren Henry, Camryn and Kyra, Lorelei and Crosby by Gary & Laura Gustavsen In memory of Caroline & Richard Mengert by Carolyn & Ken Gableman In memory of the Acker and Mathieson Families by Leslee & Steve Mathieson In memory of Hermann Hahn by Martha Hahn & family In memory of Chris, Sal & Marguerite Raineri by the Raineri family In memory of Jack Schoen by the Raineri family In memory of Herbert Ahrens by the Raineri family In celebration of our grandchildren, Leah, Johnny and Callen by John and Lynn Hewitt In memory of Ethel & Herbert Hendrickson by Ronald Hendrickson In memory of our dear friend Herbert Ahrens by Joyce & George Rilke In memory of Oma & Opa Keil by the Ahrens family In memory of my husband, Herbert Ahrens by Anita Ahrens In memory of Elsie & Walter Dorer, Mom & Dad by Viola Giovinco In memory of Mom & Dad Deluca, Dad G, Nanny & Poppop by Liz, Al & Brian In memory of all our departed relatives By Lydia & Bill Moser In thanksgiving for our sons Adam & Eric, our daughter in law Holly, grandchildren Megan, Bridget & Tommy by Dotty & Jim Clavell In memory of our parents Celia & Tony Clavell, Elizabeth & Gottlieb Arthofer by Dotty & Jim Clavell In memory of Anna & Mary Gross by Dotty & Jim Clavell In memory of Joann Drew Johnson, Archie & Thelma Drew, Tim Council by Dotty & Jim Clavell In memory of my cousin Agnes Tessitore and Robert Arthofer by Dotty Clavell In memory of Anita Grube, Hildegarde Henning, Hermann Hahn and Leslie Budke by Dotty & Jim Clavell In memory of my husband Roland and loved ones by Violet Lahann In memory of our parents Archie & Thelma Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families In memory of our sisters & brother Karin Elizabeth, Joanne (nee Drew) Johnson & Kenneth Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families In memory of our grandparents, William & Margaret Cooper and Archer & Ada Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families In memory of our brother & sister-in-law Charles (Tim) Council & Maria Drew by the Drew, McKittrick & Council families In celebration of our family by Grete Kraus & Jane Samuelsen In memory of Penny Kraus by Grete Kraus & Jane Samuelsen In memory of Leo Fisco Jr. by Stephanie Roehrig

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Pat Gasparo [requested by Meystrik family] Mary Ellen Tiffany, John Grube, Richard Klouda, Teresa Caliguiri [requested by the Klouda Family] Eddie Hope [requested by Jane and Paul DeRosa] Noam Gilbert Lieberman [requested by Eve Overton] Jeff Taylor [requested by Fred Swanson] Richard Angelo, Rocky Cinque [requested by Marianne Spagna] Lucy Harris and her family, Sara Larson [requested by the Francis family] Jeff Hanson, Jennifer Meisenkothen, Rachel Boccio Chris Kelly, John Sullivan [requested by Dorothy & Jim Clavell1 Carolyn Bennett [requested Jill Spage] Arthur Schaeffler [requested by the Poulos Family] Mary Ellen Sconzo [requested by Grabrielle Sconzo] Pam Provetto [requested by Joe & Margie Costello] Brett D, Bill Michalski, father in law of Jessica Davis Michalski [requested by Cindy Davis] Robert & Pat Richards [requested by Mary Fjellstad] Bob Blagriff, Bill Davey [requested by Tom & Pat Pernice] Barbara McCanlis, Patty DeGoveia [requested by Jill Breimann] Ellen Bell [requested by Dorothy Graf] Gavin Lahann [requested by Grandmother Violet Lahann] Emilie Diehl [requested by daughters Cyndie & Kathy] Laura Hicks, Andrew Madarasz, Gerard Tuohy [requested by Leslee & Steve Mathieson]

Alex Hegarty, Bob Widmer, Carmine Colasanto, Richard & George Mengert [requested by Carolyn Gabelman] Tracey Parisi, Margo Naranjo, John Hochuli [requested by Barbara English] Marilyn Havighorst [requested by Martha Hahn] Kerri Swanson [requested by Linda & Jud Taylor] Andy Hazin & the Hazin family, Ilse Gunther [requested by the Hoffman family] David Travis [requested by Richard Travis] The family of Elaine Robinson [requested by Deborah Cella] Viola Giovinco [requested by Liz DeLuca]

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:

Sgt Eric Hodosky Major Lenore Livingston [daughter of Helen & Art Fortin] Corporal August Detting Major William Fortin

(Please advise the office of any updates in your prayer requests.)

