

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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WEB ADDRESS: www.graceoflilylake.org

Sunday, December 7th, 2025 * 9:30 AM * INPERSON and ONLINE



2nd Sunday of Advent

Introduction

TODAY'S THEME: At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.

Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.

We hope all people find it easy to follow along.

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE

Now Sing We and Rejoice

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are found on our website

Second Sunday of Advent – Light of Peace

Responsive Litany

L: Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

C: Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

L: Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

C: Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

L: Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

C: Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

L: Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

C: Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

L: Today we light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through God's grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread that peace out into the world.

Closing prayer (Second Sunday)

God of light, we thank you for the sacrifice you made in sending your Son, and we pray today that you will fill us with a deep sense of peace. Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on your love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we remember that we are your instruments of peace and help us to spread that peace to the world around us. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

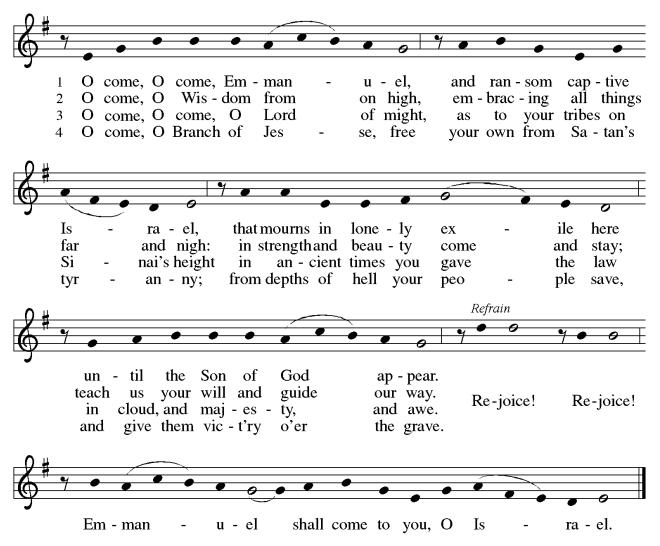
P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257 v. 1-4/Red Hymnal

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And you also.

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.)

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

ALL: Glory to you O Lord

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing

floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

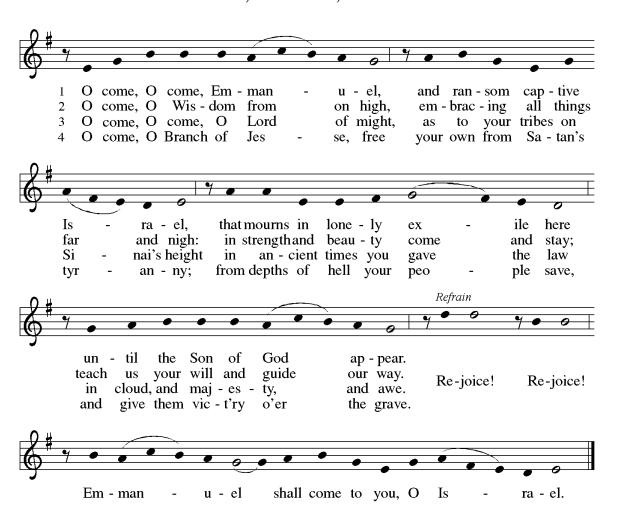
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord **ALL: Praise to You O Christ!**

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mercurio

SONG OF DAY O Come, O Come Emmanuel ELW 257 v. 5-7/Red Hymnal

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 \otimes 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 power of 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.

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Music

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.



Please respond accordingly

P: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and renewal, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.
P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

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

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ALL: 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

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Hymns:

O Lord, We Praise You

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 499/Red Hymnal

ELW 254/Red Hymnal

ELW 250/Red Hymnal

O Lord, We Praise You



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is -rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart. by thine all-suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmonv, 1835

Blessed Be the God of Israel



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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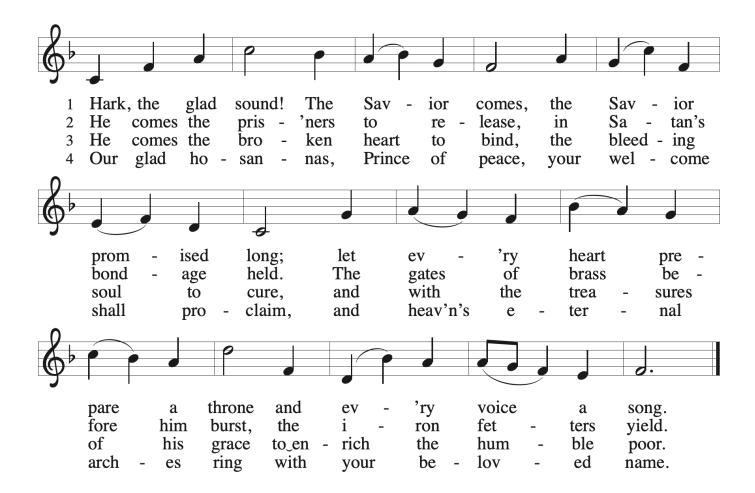
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING SONG Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239/Red Hymnal



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Now Sing We and Rejoice

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Liturgy-Sundays and Seasons May 31, 2026

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ADDITIONAL WEEKLY LECTIONARY LESSON

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

Romans 15:4-13

Live in harmony, welcoming one another



THE STORY OF ST. LUCIA

Santa Lucia holds an exceptional place in the hearts of the people of Sweden. She represents charity and love for all men, along with beautiful and shining light during a very long, cold dark winter. During the darkest time of the year, Lucia comes as a symbol of light and hope. Today more than ever, the world needs that message of light and hope.

Santa Lucia appears only once each year, on December 13th, to usher in the Christmas season. The Legend of Lucia goes back to the year 304 AD in Syracuse, Italy. There was the beautiful Lucia, a highborn maiden who lived with her parents, and it is also in that city that Lucia suffered a martyr's death for becoming a Christian.

In the early days of Christian persecution, she was a courageous woman who brought food to her fellow Christians, who were hiding in the catacombs from the pagan persecutors. Lucia put the candles in her hair to light her way so she could carry her offerings with both hands. Lucia administered to the poor, bringing them food and also hope.

The legend tells us the maiden Lucia became a saint. Among the Scandinavian countries, Sweden is perhaps the country where the Lucia celebration has its deepest roots. Tales of Lucia's courage were carried to the Northern Scandinavian countries by missionaries.

12/7/25 ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u> are donated today by Tricia Painter in gratitude of my church family here at Grace.

COFFEE HOUR is today after worship in Fellowship Hall. Join us for treats, coffee, juice and fellowship.

<u>LINE DANCING</u> takes place on Thursdays from 6-7pm through December 11th in Fellowship Hall. All ages and abilities welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL takes place today and continues on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:30am.

GIVING TREE The giving tree is located in the gathering area and has cards with a child's name, age and something they are hoping to receive this Christmas. *Please return giving tree presents by Sunday, December 14th.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE "NOON" PARTY will be held here at Grace in Fellowship Hall from 10:30am – 1pm. Please see sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All are welcome!

SHOE BOX COLLECTION in lower level outside of Fellowship Hall. Please help!

<u>LECTORS ARE NEEDED</u> for readings during our service. Please look for the clipboard. Thank you for your assistance in our service.

<u>COOKIE INGREDIENTS</u> Some cookie ingredients/staples are available for any of the bakers making items for our cookie sale - please see Linda as a couple of items (eggs and butters) are refrigerated. Also, please pick up an aluminum container(s) to bring your items. **Cookie drop off will be Friday, Dec. 12th from 10am-1:30 & 5pm-8pm ** Sale is Saturday, Dec. 13th 9am-1pm. ** we look forward to seeing you there.

KITCHEN RE-PAINTING The Rebecca Circle is having our kitchen re-painted, which includes the metal cabinet doors - therefore the kitchen is closed for any use until the end of December to allow for curing time on the paint. This also allows the committee to go through items and to put the kitchen back to working order.

<u>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY</u> Nancy Corbige continues to collect email addresses for the Pottawatomie Partnership email distribution list. We currently have a house in-build in St. Charles. (Questions, you may call or text Nancy at 847-212-0237.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Are you looking for ways to be a little more involved in our church each week? We have a variety of tasks that take place before and during each Sunday worship service, such as preparing communion and altar, reading our announcements and Bible reading, ushering, running the PowerPoint during the service. A variety of ways to be a part of our worship behind the scenes or up front. Please see Pastor for more information.

TECHNOLOGY HELP Are you familiar with IT/computer technology/livestreaming? We are seeking several people to assist in preparation and recording our church services (during the week +/or during worship service). Please contact Pastor or Tricia Painter ~ please consider!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL takes place every Monday and/or Wednesday from 9:15am – 1:15pm. There are still a few spots remaining on Wednesdays. If you know of anyone with a child ages 3-5, please let them know of this engaging Christian preschool program. More info can be found on our website, www.graceoflilylake.org/preschool or you can contact Janice Muncie at 630-854-1066.

<u>SECURITY FOR PRESCHOOL</u> Please be reminded that our Preschool policies are that all entry doors remain locked during preschool hours. If you need to come into church, we ask that you lock the door behind you, and of course ensure it is locked when you depart. And this is a good time for another request for anyone in and out of church or the last one here at church, please check all exit doors on both levels to ensure they are locked.

<u>BRIDGE TO LIFE DONATIONS</u> The Bridge to Life Group continues to collect donations for the Elgin homeless. For details see the newsletter or Cathy Whiteside. *Thank you for your generous donations!*

<u>DECEMBER NEWSLETTER</u> is available on-line at www.graceoflilylake.org (please note the new website address ends in a ".org" rather than a ".com")

NOISY OFFERING We collect your loose change as the coins add up, and do help to offset unexpected expenditures - the latest of which was replacing the pressure tank for our well system!

<u>OFFERINGS & FAITHFUL GIVING FOR THE MINISTRIES AT GRACE</u> We are thankful for your offerings and donations to Grace. Offerings received the last Sunday in November: \$1,465 (weekly goal is ~\$4,000).

~ Blessings upon Grace in our 131st year of ministry ~

VISIT OUR Website: www.graceoflilylake.org (.ORG not .COM)

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SERVICES

Get ALL the news you NEED there – including our weekly services

Our FACEBOOK PAGE for activities and posts of interest:

https://www.facebook.com/GraceOfLilyLake/630-365-6751

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

- * God's Church in all time and place, that God be seen and heard.
- * As we face these times both together and while apart, keep us from fear, suffering and death.
- * Ministries of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod, especially Bishop Yehiel Curry.
- * Efforts of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Disaster Relief

FOR THE WORLD

- * For every living person facing the threat of coronavirus it affects us all, our loved ones and our worldwide neighbors together.
- * For the healing of the divisions in our Nation.

FOR OUR CONGREGATION

- * For God's Spirit to guide the Vision Team, and whole congregation as we face transition and change.
- * As we plan regarding the future of our congregation.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, relatives, and friends of members of our congregation)

- * Nathan Sajdak, grandson of Bill and Lori U'Ren
- * William Delmer, grandson of Kirk and Kathy Hooey
- * David Brazee, Grandson of Steve and Cathy Lindquist

(If you know of someone currently serving our country, please share their information with the Church office.)

FOR ALL

- * The continued support of our members
- * For all members of healthcare around the world
- * For those serving as first responders and in the military
- * For our Nation, to extend peace in all things.

FOR THOSE SICK IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT... For our "Grace Family" members:

Betty Boor, Craig Bradley, Dan Burtnette, Lillian Carlson, Nancy Corbige, Ken Deutschmann, Alexa Diehl, Natalia Diehl, Jan Docherty, Suzanne Girsch, Rich Jackson, Manfred Kaufmann, Paul Kinsel, Katie Kozeva, Pastor Dave & Carol Langseth, Tom and Lois Larkin, Ray Larsen, Larry Linden, Pat & Chili Lindgren, Steve Lindquist, Joan Mortensen, Jan Myers, Carol Nelson, Ed Nordwind, Nancy & John Schaefer, Bud and Marilyn Wise, Norm Turner, Wayne Whiteside, **For our Families and Friends:** Howard, Jim, Scott, Fred Alstadt, Barb Asher, Kathy Barton (mother of Tom Barton), Howard and Christine Baumert, Viola Bradshaw, Cindy Carlson, Joanie Chernick, David Diehl, Rebecca Eagen, Ted Ellingsen, Pat Eineke, Joyce Helander, Andrew Kinsel, Bob

Koehling, Sally Kruthoff (daughter of Nancy Schnaitman), Karl Kruthoff, Gay Leslie, Janelle McDonald, Linda Mowers, Ray Navarro, Oksana & Maria, Donald Overby, Emily Peters, Marc Pluskowski (dear friend of Heidi Anderson), John Schnaitman, Kelly Wilken, Ron Wilken, Greg & Val Williams, and Barbara Zegiel.

If you have requested that anyone (including yourself) be put on Grace's prayer list, thank you for your faith in our work of prayer! In order to keep our list current and accurate, we would like to hear from you regarding the need for continued prayer, praises and new requests. You may place these in a note in the offering plate, send them on-line via our prayer card on our website, leave them on the answering machine at church (630-365-6751) or speak with Pastor or Kathy Hooey. Aren't we blessed to have a God who listens and cares!

ALSO - Do you know someone who could use a reminder of our prayers and God's constant love? We have lovely **prayer shawls** all ready for delivery. Just call or see Twyla Strom for prayer shawl needs.