

## Sunday, April 26, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the*

*world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshipping.** Today’s service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion.** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood “in, with, and under” the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

**Coffee Hour.** We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

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ST. STEPHEN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801  
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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF THE BELL

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

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. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE* (ELW 522)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedes en Contradansen*, 1710

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## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

**FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>42</sup> The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

...The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

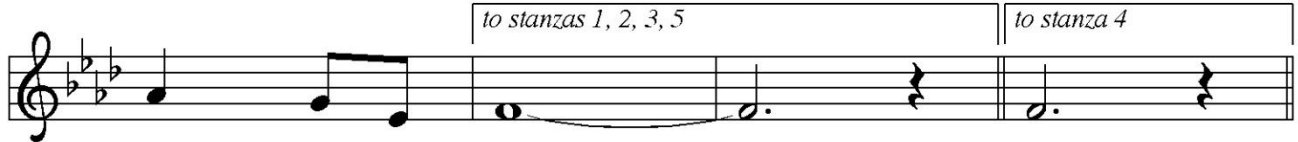
PSALM: SHEPARD ME, O GOD (ELW 780)

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I  
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
 lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my  
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Refrain



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Refrain

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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## SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God.

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

...The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *CELTIC ALLELUIA* (ELW 174)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

**P** The holy gospel according to John.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

...The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: *THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS* (ELW 502)



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877  
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

## APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *RAIN DOWN* BY JAIME CORTEZ

Refrain

Rain down, rain down, rain down your  
love on your peo - ple. love, God of life.

Verses

1. Faith - ful and true is the word of our God. All of God's  
2. We who re - vere and find hope in our God live in the  
3. God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the  
1. works are so wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the  
2. kind - ness and joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from  
3. wa - ter of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your  
1. just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.  
2. dark - ness and death; God will not leave us to starve.  
3. peace touch our hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

to Refrain

Text: Based on Psalm 33. Text and music © 1991, Jaime Cortez. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

**P** Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**C Amen.**

**P** Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**C Amen.**

**P** Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

# LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C 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 Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**SONG DURING COMMUNION: *MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG* (ELW 763)**



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

**BLESSING**

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

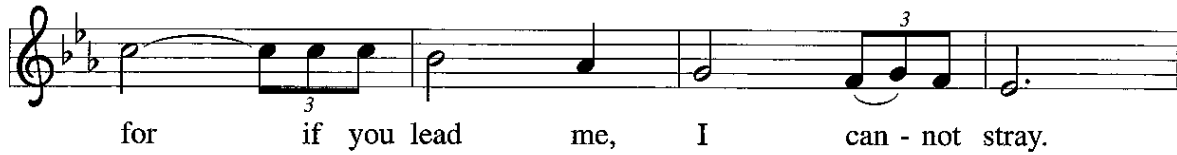
**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

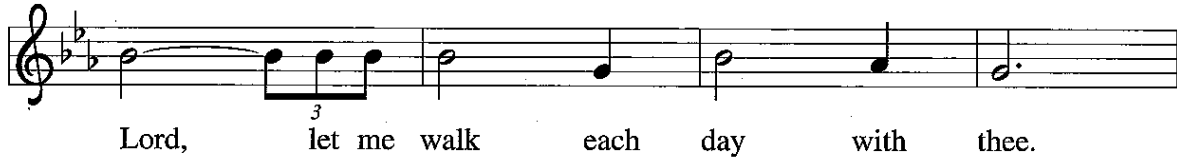
SENDING SONG: *LEAD ME, GUIDE ME* (ELW 768)

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



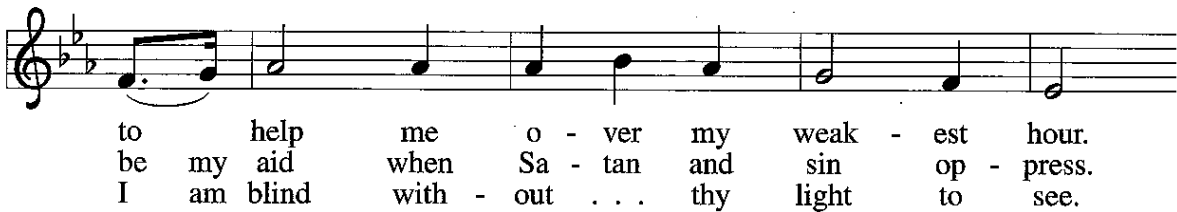
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Remember the poor. C **Thanks be to God.**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

### **Philip and James, Apostles**

**Friday, May 1, 2026**

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

### **Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

**Announcements for the week of**  
*April 26, 2026*

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*Sanctuary Lamp Candle for April is given to the glory of God and  
in Loving Memory of Deacon Fred von Voigt and Fran von Voigt by The  
Muller/Shurman Family*

*~~ & ~~*

*in Loving Memory of Elaine Lehe by her sister Maureen O'Brien*

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*Christel & Donald LaVorgna - 4/28*

**♥ From Cans to Care: Helping every heart beat on.**

We are raising funds to purchase a new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to keep our congregation safe. Please consider a "gift from the heart". Donation envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex, and can be placed in the offering plate on any upcoming Sunday.

**🏰 See the Story. Share the Conversation.**



“The Chosen” takes an intimate look at the real and authentic lives of Jesus and all those around him through this historical drama. “The Chosen” brings the Bible to life. At each meeting we’ll present one episode followed by a discussion about the scripture that inspired that episode.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm.***

**🏰 Come and See...**

...a Pilgrimage to the Garden Tomb here at St. Stephen's. Save all the expense and trouble of traveling to The Holy Land and walk the path to The Garden Tomb here at St. Stephen's. Hear the words of the first witnesses of the Resurrection and Rejoice with us. Today is the final tour. Come join us! "CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA".



## **Parish Prayer List**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

### **Pray For Our Congregation**

Bill Artus

Lauren Artus

Barbara Barcavage

Dottie Eberhardt

Richard Engert

John Feeney

John Langbehn

Annika Mosebach

Jan Mosebach

Ilona Riggers

Ilse Zeeck

### **Pray For Our Families**

Richard Agarenzo (brother of Anthony Agarenzo)

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)

Scott Berman (cousin of Laureen Aiello)

Lynn Cawley (cousin of Muller/Shurman Family)

Peter Denning (son-in-law of Lois Angstadt)

James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)

Mrs. Feeney (Mother of John Feeney)

Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)

Andrew Ojeda (son of Pastor Moira Ahearne)

Bernd Pfeiffer (brother of Christel LaVorgna)

Laura Panaro (mother of Laureen Aiello)

Linda Pisano (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)

Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)

Steve Scala (cousin of Laureen Aiello)

## **For Our Friends**

Jennifer Amiruddin (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Alice Brahs (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Carol (friend of Lois Angstadt)

Ellen Grace (high school friend of Joan Hagner)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Mark Kravitz (friend of John Langbehn)

Jenn Logan and her Mother (friends of Janet Muller)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Rod (friend of the Maurer Family)

Bill Schlatter (friend of the Hesse Family)

Liz Weiser (friend of Barbara Barcavage)