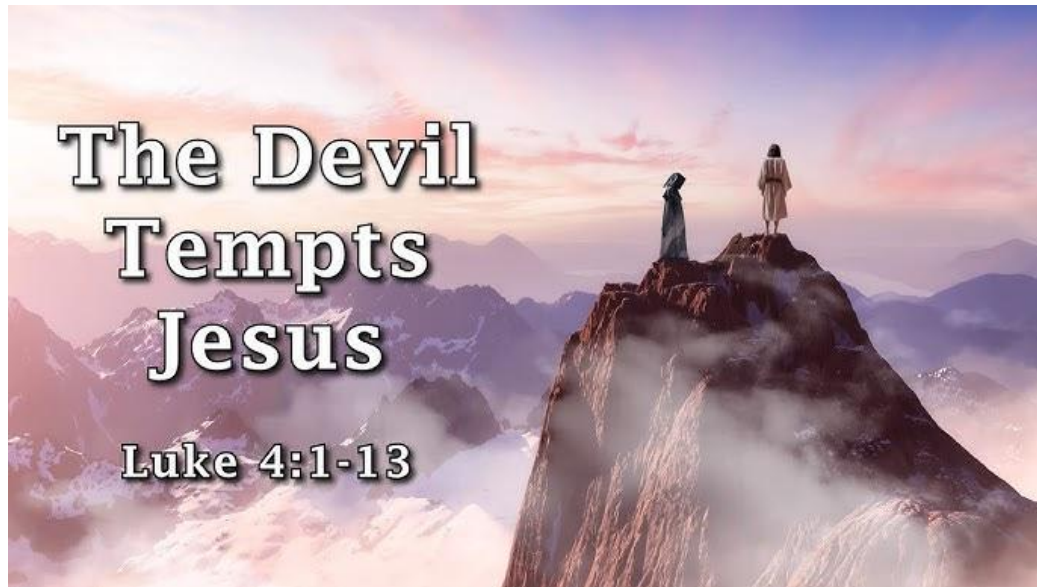


# Saint James Lutheran Church

March 9, 2025  
First Sunday in Lent



## The Rev. John Locke

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Music Director: Mark Tollefsen

Worship Leaders		
	March 9 (Receiving of New Members)	March 16
Assisting Minister	Ruth Ann Crecelius	Jane Boelke
Lectors	Beverly Beale	Glenn Stockwell
Communion Assistant	Tonie Neal	Dave Runkle
Ushers	Sharon VanPelt, Joan Eissinger	Gary & Ruth Ann Crecelius
Greeter	Linda Stockwell	John & Gayle Frinak
Acolyte	Ian Gibson	Henry Orellano
Rover	Todd Burns	Tom Liedig
Worship Nursery	Sue Rink, Kathy Brown	Kevin Hoffmann, Valerie Brewer

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*We Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**    *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*    ELW 611

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

<sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust."**  
<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**  
<sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> **With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

## SECOND READING Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Setting 8)



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

**GOSPEL:** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 4:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *When We Are Tested*    ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

### Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers,  
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,  
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,  
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,  
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

### Profession of Faith

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

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

*Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**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.**

### **Affirmation**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

**Amen.**

On behalf of the congregation, I welcome you into formal membership of St. James Lutheran Church.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(Names are listed in the back of the bulletin)*

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*We sit.*

### **PEACE**

The peace of God be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share this peace as a sign of our baptismal unity as children of God. The “exchange of peace” (also commonly called “sharing the peace” or “passing the peace”) is an act of reconciliation that serves as a transition point between the Word and Meal portions of the liturgy.*

### **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*



Your support of the ministries of St. James, as well as the wider church, is appreciated. You may donate with cash or check (you may use an envelope from the back of the pew). You may also scan the QR code above with your cell phone, and donate digitally. Thank you for your generosity.



**ANTHEM**     *A Lenten Meditation*     by Douglas Wagner

*We stand.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

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.**



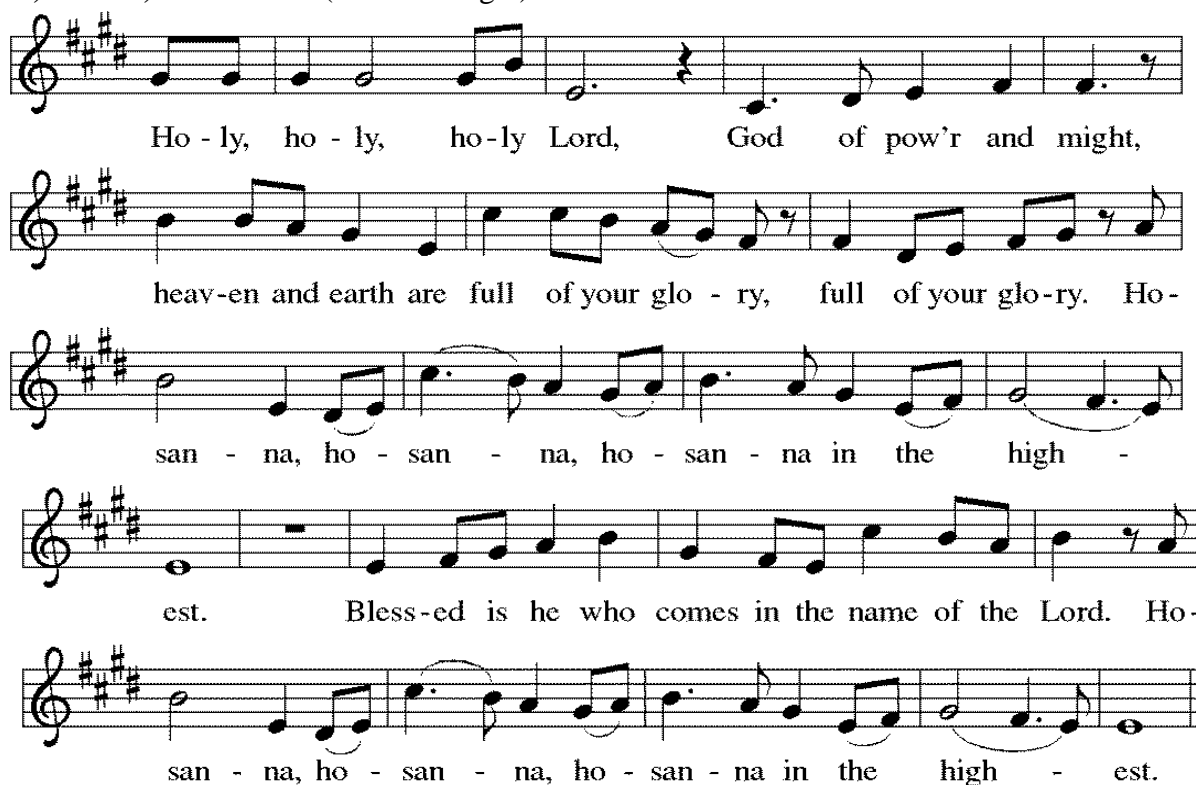
## PREFACE

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW setting 8)



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

*The assembly may be seated.*

### **COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS**

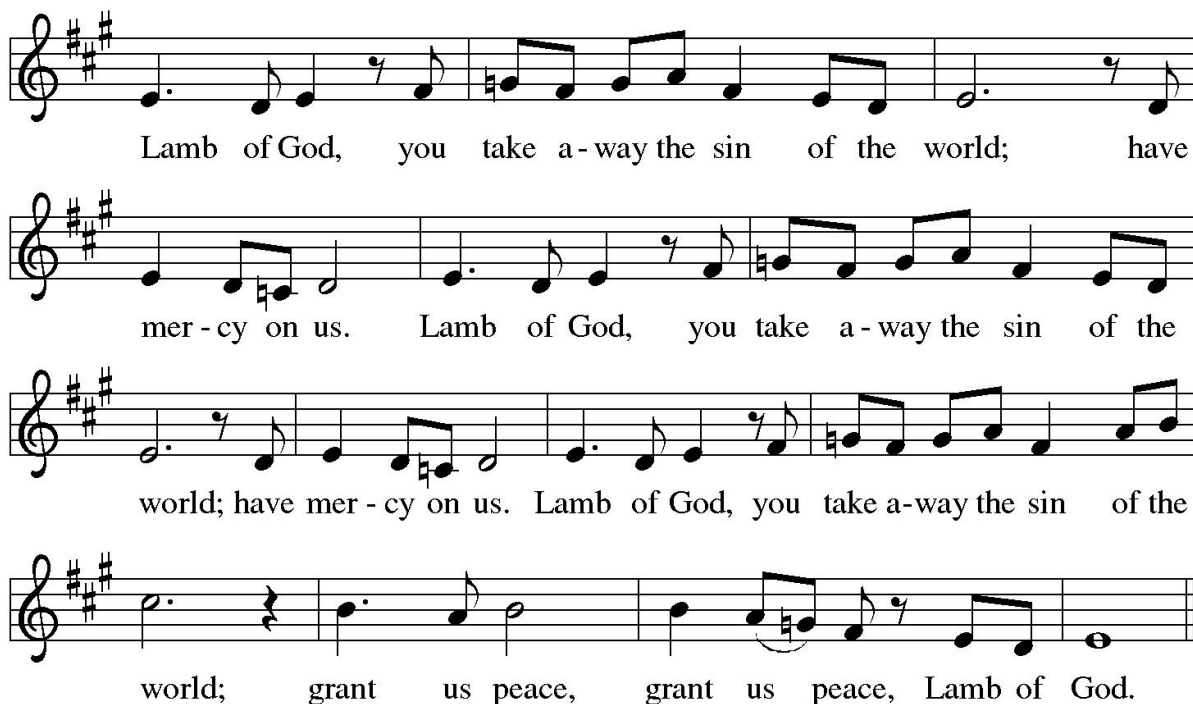
*All are welcome at Holy Communion. Lutherans believe that Jesus' real presence is in, under, and through the bread and wine. The sacrament is effective in either bread or wine, so if you have an issue with either bread or wine, you may commune with one element. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available for those who prefer. We will distribute bread and wine by individual cup. Children and others not communing may fold arms across their chest, and they will receive a blessing from the communion minister.*

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Lamb of God (Setting 8)*



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, Lamb of God.

*Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*  
*As the Deer Runs to the River*

ELW 321  
ELW 331

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *We remain seated.*

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*We stand.*

### BLESSING

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* ELW 326

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE



### Congregational Prayer Concerns

The list in the weekly bulletin is intended to be for persons in immediate crisis. Generally, those names will be moved to the newsletter after 3 weeks. The newsletter has our long-term prayer list which is updated as you tell us.

**Members** · Joe Lehner · Beth Sessoms · Stella San Miguel · Gary Eissinger · Linda Schlenker  
· Bill Vittoe · Joan Eissinger · Jordan Slaymaker

#### Friends & Family

· James Peterson, Jr. · Claudia Joyner · Simone Ryan · Kathleen Daughy · William Franklin  
Diane Stultz · Nancy Ferris · Mina Silveira · Abbey Boring · William "Fuzz" Killinger

#### People at Home or in Care facilities (restricted mobility)

· Charlotte Davis · Claudia Doyle · Brenda Killett · Carolyn Uchtorff

#### Our military members (\*deployed)

· Earl Stockham · Jessie Hewins · Rob Whitt · David Oliver · Tristan Bonde · Dan Gibson  
· Jacob Rea · Zach Turner · Joshua Trogdon · Bella Fish · Hochang Min\*



#### We welcome the following new members:

Jake & Jacob Smalley; Jacky Hummel, Rick & Jennifer Black

