



Lent

OUR SAVIOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**First Sunday in Lent**  
Sunday, February 21, 2021



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027  
425-392-4169

## SERVICE OF THE WORD: SUNDAYS IN LENT

### GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

**PRELUDE** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* — William H. Doane, 1832-1915      Scott Hafso

**WELCOME**      Pastor Jim Kruse

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, and whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

PM: Holy God,

**C: We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow your way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the resources of the earth and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone.**

**Amen.**

PM: Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are forgiven. We are called to be a beloved community, living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**      *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*      Cantor

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;  
So teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

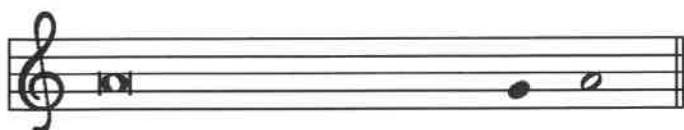
For when that final Easter dawns, we'll join in heaven's praise!

#### GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

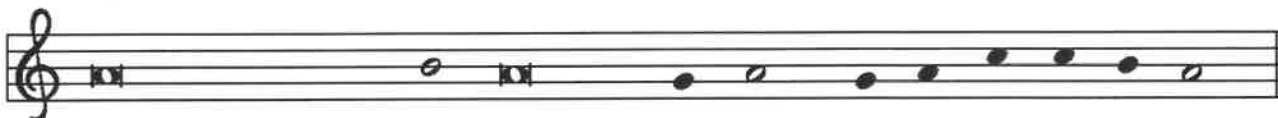
# KYRIE



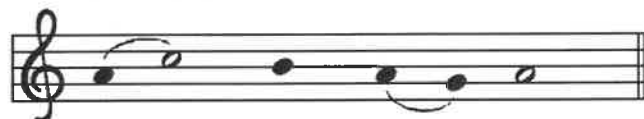
AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



AM: For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



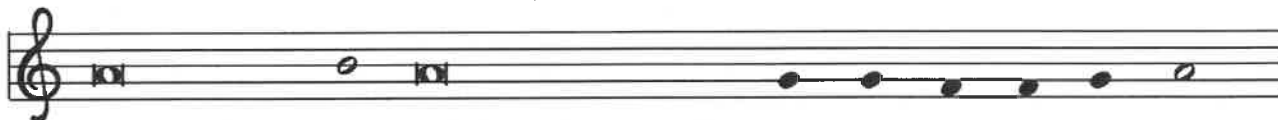
AM: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



AM: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord have mer - cy.



AM: Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. C: A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father,

**C: in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Return to God*

Cantor

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and  
mer - cy: Come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark

1:9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

*We Are Threatened with Resurrection*

Pastor Jim Kruse

The first time I ever felt threatened with judgment happened when I was in the second grade. My twin brother, Wayne, who was also in the Second Grade, but in a different classroom, had come up with a plan to have some fun during our lunch hour.

University Hills Elementary School in Boulder, Colorado had two buildings. Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade classes were held in a smaller, single-story, newer building. Third through Sixth graders went to class in the older, larger, three-story building on the other side of the playground. But there was only one cafeteria. So every day at noon, those who had permission to go home for lunch were dismissed, and those who had brought what we called, "cold lunch," from home sat together in the All-Purpose Room and opened their lunch boxes. Then the rest of us would line up by in the hallway. And then, like ducklings in a row, we would follow as mother duck lead us out of the building, across the playground, into the back door of the big school, while another teacher acted as the caboose, bringing up the rear. Once inside the building, it was up one flight of stairs, and into the cafeteria, where we joined the serving line for "hot lunch" already in progress.

My brother, Wayne, had observed that there was not always a teacher bringing up the rear of the line. Some days there was, but not always. So, as the Second-Grade classes put their line together in the hallway, and as the rest of the kids pushed and shoved each other to be at the head of the line, the two of us would drift back to the end of the line. Then we would drag our feet on the way out the door, slowly falling back, finally slipping into the bushes as the row of ducklings cleared the building and were exposed to all on the playground. It was never quite clear to me what we would be doing once there was no one around and we could get away from the building. But I knew that we were to return to school mixed in with the other kids who had gone home for lunch and had walked back for the afternoon.

It was a brilliant plan, and it would have worked perfectly. Except that my brother had recruited the wrong accomplice to share in his adventure. I'm not sure how it happened. It may have been I was just too nervous and was shaking the bushes in fear. Or it may have been that I poked my head up too soon to see if the coast was clear. In either case, the principal of the school spotted us. And instead of running free throughout the neighborhood for the next hour, my brother and I were given a high-profile escort across the playground and

into the cafeteria, where we choked down, as best we could, a cold but still nutritious “hot lunch.” All this under the dire threat that our parents would be told what we did. It was that threat that frightened me the most. Even today it makes my knees wobble to think about it. I never wanted to feel so afraid again in my life.

We are threatened with many things during the course of our lives. We might be threatened with bodily harm, we might be threatened with financial loss, our reputation might be threatened and our public presence irretrievably altered. But perhaps most frightening of them all is the treat of being exposed to the truth and being judged before others for who we really are. Yet this is the threat that is placed before us each year as we begin the season of Lent. This past Wednesday, a few days ago in our Ash Wednesday worship, heard again the truth about our own existence, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return.” That kind of truth-telling, when it is taken seriously, can be quite threatening.

And so it can be helpful to us, as we are beginning another season of Lent, to hear in the Gospel reading, that Jesus experienced serious threats right at the very beginning of his public ministry. One of the versions of the temptations of Jesus is always read on the First Sunday in Lent. Matthew and in Luke make a big deal about the various ways that Satan tries to tempt Jesus into abandoning his call and give into the ways of the world. But Mark is the only one who talks about Jesus living among “the wild beasts” during his 40 days in the wilderness.

In a way, we too live among the wild beasts all the time that threaten to expose us for who we really are and face the judgment for it. We live with the wild beasts when we feel the heaviness, the burden, of past mistakes; times when we mess up, times when we could have done better, times when we were less than we knew we could have been. We live with the wild beasts when we interpret the illnesses and tragedies of our lives and those around us as though they are the just desserts for misguided behavior; when we say, “I’m just getting paid back for what I have done.” We live with the wild beasts when we set our broken hearts in stone; when the tough things that happen to us in life shape us into leading a tough life, or a life of sadness or despair. We live among the wild beasts when we come to believe that the judgment of God has more power over us than God’s love.

Noah and his family must have come out of the ark feeling this way. During their forty days of living cooped up with two of every kind of wild beast they had just experienced the worst kind of judgment God had ever dished out. Their whole world, their homes, their families, their resources for food, their sense of security, and their hope for any kind of future had all been wiped out, drowned under a six weeks of unrelenting rain. There was too much destruction. Too much tragedy. Too much sadness.

And today’s Old Testament reading tells us God recognized that it was too much. God had gone too far. “Never again.” “Never again will I destroy all flesh,” God says. “I promise.” And just to be sure that all human beings and all the creatures of the earth, including (by the way) all of the wild beasts, remember the promise, God makes the rainbows of the sky that can be seen whenever there is the threat of rain. Never again should creation be terrified to think that God’s capacity to punish is greater than God’s capacity to forgive.

It was because of the protection from the wild beasts that Jesus was afforded in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry, that he was able to accept the suffering of crucifixion and death that comes at the end of his ministry. Jesus entered the ultimate wilderness of the grave under the ancient promise of God, "Never again." And in the resurrection of Jesus, the promise seen in the rainbow is made clear in all of its power, and a new threat emerges. We are threatened with resurrection.

After I choked down my cold "hot lunch," I never heard another word about the day I got caught hiding in the bushes with my twin brother. Wayne never spoke about it again. But it was also the last time he ever asked me along on one of his capers. I did not have the gift for it. The risk of getting caught was too great. But more importantly, my mother never said anything about it either. For the better part of two weeks I came home from school slinking into the house, sure that today was judgment day and I was going to get it now. But judgment day never came. It may have been that the principal never called the house to tell on us. Or perhaps the principal saw the remorse in our demeanor and decided to let it go. Or maybe she just got busy and forgot to follow up.

But it was just as likely that the principal had called the house and it was Mom who had decided to let it go. She knew her boys. She knew I would have learned my lesson already. And she knew that there would be other days to try to straighten Wayne out. I prefer to believe that that is what happened. It would have been a great gift to a scared little boy. And it would have been like her to do that.

"They have threatened us with resurrection," writes Julia Esquivel, a Guatemalan poet and theologian talking about the faithfulness of those who suffer from oppression in her homeland in the 1980s. "What keeps us from sleeping is that we are threatened us with Resurrection. Accompany us then on this vigil," Esquivel says, "and you will know how marvelous it is to live threatened with resurrection."

We stay awake, we remind one another of our dusty origins, we work to improve our lives during the season of Lent, not because we are afraid of judgement, but because we are excited to be part of what God is doing in the world through us. We want to be prepared. We do not want to get in our own way. We want to give it our best. It is all too much.

How marvelous it is to live threatened with resurrection! Yes it is!

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Cantor

Text & Music: African American spiritual

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trial, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

## **OFFERING**

During the season of Lent, we see and hear most clearly the fullness of God's love, as Jesus accepts the journey to the cross, where he suffers death on our behalf. The mission of the church is to continue to carry this good news to all people across the years. Please make a special effort this Lent to support this work at Our Savior Lutheran Church with your financial gifts.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

PM: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in our journey as we pass over death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 THE PEOPLE**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*[A brief silence.]*

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, especially Leslie, Evy and her family, the Smith & Taylor families, James, Joan and Stephanie, Betty, Brandi, Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the Kowal and the Zazueta families, Roger, Carol, Weatherly Inn residents and staff, Les, Mayah, Ron, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in our community and around the world, comfort the families of those who have died, heal the bodies of those who are suffering, sustain those who provide care, encourage those whose livelihood has been affected, and hasten the distribution of medical vaccines. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died, especially JD, Dave, Del, John, Alec, Beverly, and Gail, trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

PM: Lord, remember us in your love as you teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

Cantor

Text & Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

### **BLESSING**

PM: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**C: Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Meditation on "Arlington" (Am I a Soldier of the Cross) - Robert J. Hughes*

Jiyoung Lee

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**Serving in Worship:**

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Debby Beck
Cantors:	Alice Lewis, Marc Montague
Organist:	Jiyoung Lee
Pianist:	Scott Hafso
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

**Readings for next Sunday:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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**Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff**

Rev. James R. Kruse, <i>Transition Pastor (on leave)</i>	Scott Hafso, <i>Director of Worship &amp; Music</i>
Shari Lundberg, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	Kate Gagnon, <i>Lay Visitation Minister</i>
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, <i>Parish Organist</i>	



***Additional worship resources:***

Reading: Psalm 25: 1-10

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

*Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslmissaquaah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.*

**Leslie Lapp** hit by a car and recovering from injuries, wife to a pastor in California. (Mary Ann Hult)  
**Evy Sneva and her family** as they grieve the loss of her son.

**The Smith and Taylor families, James Murphy** recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)  
**Joan Perry** admitted to the hospital for COVID 19, and her daughter, **Stephanie**. (Cheryl Neeb)  
**Betty Anderson**-healing of intestinal issues. (mother of Shelley Howe)

**Brandi Kowal**-peace and strength after a miscarriage. (niece of Shelley Howe)

**Katia & Rahul, Willie & Mary, Donna, Bruni, the The Kowal & Zazueta families** recovering from COVID (Shelley & Mark Howe)

**Roger Stanley** strength and healing. (Alice Lewis)

**Carol Harbolt** peace and healing. (Ray Harbolt)

**Weatherly Inn** residents and staff (Ray Harbolt)

**Les Gagnon** peace and healing. (Kate Gagnon)

**Mayah** healing. (Connie Fletcher)

**Ron Gerde** healing for recent medical issues.

(Brother to Bob Gerde)

**Safety and peace for communities** being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

**Dave Carlson** continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

**Guests of the Community Meals Program** safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

**Sonja** 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

**Nicole DeCamp** healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

**Josee Jordan** peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

**Jeannie Lindquist** continued healing and strength.

**Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson** (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist; Marian James; Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers;**

**John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

**Undergoing cancer treatment: Carol Howe** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Tom Killoran** (Shelley Howe); **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

**Living with cancer: Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

**Expectant Mothers: Karen** (daughter of Bob & Patty Gerde); **Marian Martin** (Stacy Smith); **Alyssa Saavedra** (Cheryl Neeb); **Shawna McIntyre** (Cheryl Neeb)

**Mourning the death of loved ones:** For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **JD Golick** (nephew to Patty Gerde); **Dave McMurray** (father of Shannon Dickens); **Del Elliott** (Kate Gagnon); **John Sneva** (Evy Sneva's son); **Alec Wright** (Shelley & Mark Howe); **Beverly** (sister of Ashley Saunders); **Gail** (sister of Sandy Aldworth)

**Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

**Global Missions and Missionaries:** The Autism Rehabilitation Center in Qingdao. Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.