Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Sunday, December 10, 2023—9:30 AM Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

2 minutes of silence to center our hearts for worship. Our time will conclude after the centering music.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together. We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another. (*Pause as people get in position.*) Now repeat these phrases after me: Welcome to worship.
- C Welcome to worship.

- Р I am glad you're here.
- I am glad you're here. С
- Р Surely God is in this space.
- С Surely God is in this space.
- Р I see God in your face.
- С I see God in your face.
- Р Let us worship together.
- С Let us worship together.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

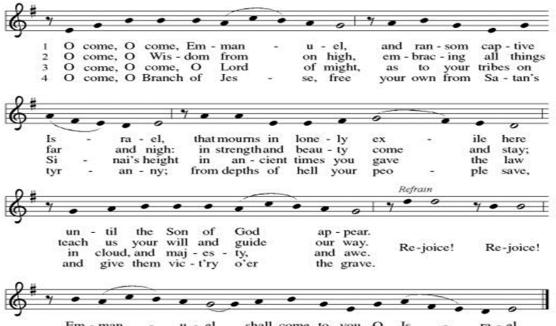
- How does a weary world practice peace? Ρ
- С By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.
- By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and Ρ forgiving seventy times seven.
- By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other. С
- Р There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.
- With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen. С

HYMN

(verses 3 & 4)

ELW #257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



u - cl shall come to you, O Em - man Is ra - el.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.
- C We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.
- P Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.
- C We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.
- P Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.
- C Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Faith family,

I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; *believe this:* You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that.

C Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART



On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUNINATION

P Holy God, We know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in— into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk

down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude we pray.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and crv to her that she has served her term. that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it: surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (read responsively)

¹You have been gracious to your [|] land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- [|] tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity [|] of your people and blotted out [|] all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD [|] God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their [|] hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear you, that your glory may dwell ¹ in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have [|] met together; righteousness and peace have [|] kissed each other.

- ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up [|] from the earth, and righteousness shall look [|] down from heaven.
- ¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³Righteousness shall go be-[|] fore the LORD and shall prepare for [|] God a pathway.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Luke 1:24-45

P The holy gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



BAPTISM OF LUCA LINDEN MOLLEY

INTRODUCTION

P Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (*Matt. 28:19*)

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. (Acts 2:38-39)

The Ethiopian said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being

baptized?".... Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the Ethiopian saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:36, 38-39)

- C We obey our Lord's command and trust in his promise as we baptize into his name. (Acts 10:47-8; 19:5)
- P Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:5)
- C What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

Sponsors: Before the God of our ancestors and on behalf of this congregation, we present Luca Linden Molley to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

COMMITMENT AND PROMISE

P In Holy Baptism God graciously delivers us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through water and the word the Holy Spirit calls us to walk a new life in God. In this new life we are joined across time and space to our ancestors who have lived and died trustingly and to the whole Christian community on earth. Their witness supports our Christian journey.

Nourished by the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers, our brother will be empowered to live in the fullness of his baptism and to join all of God's reborn people in serving the community with their gifts.

By presenting this child for Holy Baptism, you commit yourselves to providing for his growth in the knowledge and fear of the Lord. As Apollos was instructed in the way of the Lord, you join this community's teachers and elders in handing over the Holy Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Do you intend to act in this way for your child and for the sake of Jesus? **Parents: We do.**

THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over Ρ the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy us and all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the devil?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce the devil.

P Do you renounce all the devil's empty promises? Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C 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

BAPTISM

- P Luca Linden Molley, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
- C Amen

LAYING ON OF HANDS

- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Luca: 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.
- C Amen

SIGN OF THE CROSS

P Luca Linden Molley, receive the sign of the holy cross upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

IMAGES OF BAPTISM

P Receive this burning light. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

COMMISSION AND WELCOME

- P Through baptism God has added your name to the roll of all our ancestors in faith. You are a part of the priesthood we share in Christ Jesus. You have not been called in vain. Therefore, take up your cross and follow Jesus through the prairies and grasslands, in the desert wilderness, along the freeways and back alleys of suburb and city. You belong now to God, sent to witness for Christ before all the world.
- C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you with great joy to live with us in the body of Christ, to share with us in God's new creation, to work with us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P God of today and God of tomorrow,

We come to you this morning to thank you for the way that joy binds us together. Thank you for contagious laughter, for inside jokes, for stories around dinner tables that can make us laugh until we cry. Thank you for comedy shows, for the familiar sound of a loved one's chuckle, and for the universality of smile lines. What a gift you have given us. Our text today reminds us that joy is better when shared, so today we thank you in particular for the Elizabeths and the Marys in our lives. Thank you for the people who spark joy in us. Thank you for the people who pull us out of our shells, who teach us how to dance and show us how to laugh. Thank you for those who declare, "Blessed are you." In a moment of gratitude, we silently lift their names to you now.

Moment of silence for the naming of our joy-bearers.

Holy God, although we know that joy is better when shared, there are days when that is easier said than done. Like Elizabeth, who stayed in isolation for months after receiving her good news, we too have a tendency to choose fear over joy. Without the help of someone at our door, we can often keep our joy to ourselves. So gracious God, when those days come, when the waters of fear rise, when isolation steals our joy, comfort us. Comfort us like a shepherd with their flock. Gather us into your arms and carry us to safer ground that we might experience joy in the ways you have in store for us. And until that promised day, like Mary and Elizabeth, we will do our best to keep finding one another. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we will do our best to open the door to one another, to you, and to the joy that connection brings. Together we unite our voices in hope, praying the words your son taught us to pray, saying together: THE LORD'S PRAYER 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.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY SONG

"We Are an Offering"

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

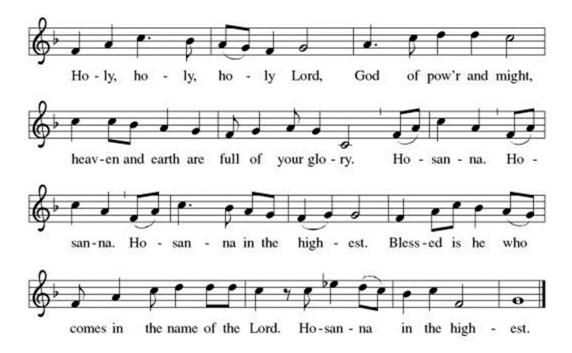
ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them up to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.

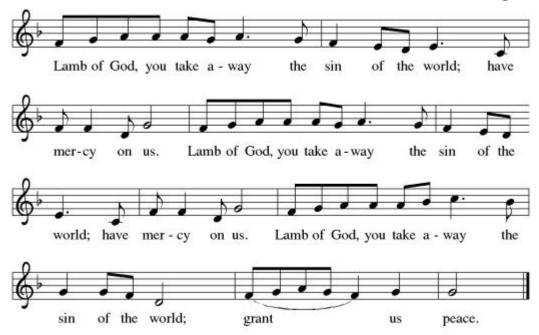


TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

BLESSING

- P The God of glory,
 + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

STATING OUR MISSION

P Resurrection, what is our mission?

C Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings!

BENEDICTION

P Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world— so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing. The world needs it.

C Amen

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, December 11

12:00 pmFood Pantry & Clothing Closet6:00 pmCouncil Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

Wednesday, December 13

Midweek Service
Bible Study
Choir Rehearsal
Evening Service

Thursday, December 14 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 15 Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17 9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion

Online services are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live), YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp or search for "Resurrection Lutheran Franklin Park YouTube") and Twitch.

Bible Study can be accessed via Zoom online (bit.ly/rlcfp-zoom) or by phone (312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 230 167 8868, Password: 9777). You can also watch without participating on YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp).



The flowers today are from Linda in celebration of her husband Michael's birthday.



The month of December will are asking for donations of **pasta**, but any and all donations are always very much appreciated!



The clothing closet is in need of the following items: men's causal shirts, jeans, sweatpants and shoes. Also, coats for men and women.



The Outreach Committee will again be donating \$250.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) foster care and family Christmas program. This programs provides gifts to a child who may otherwise go without. We are inviting members to join us as well.

If you are interested, donations can be put in the collection plate, mailed, or sent to us electronically if that is how you normally send in your offering. Checks should be made payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church. Please mark your donations "LSSI Christmas" in the memo area. Thank you!



Today is the last day to order poinsettias.

Our Advent supplemental study series from A Sanctified Art is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? An Advent Series in Luke's Gospel". It's a thoughtful and beautiful way to deepen your spiritual experience during this season. Donations are being gratefully accepted to pay for the use of these materials and printing as this cost is not in the church's budget. There is a donation jar on the small table by the entrance of the sanctuary for this collection as well as a signup sheet if you would like a copy of the booklet.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4th Sunday of Advent service at 9:30 AM 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Concert followed by service at 11:00 PM



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Russ S, Janet C, Lindsay, Valentina, Virginia S, June K and family, Dolores B, Janet G, Irwin K, Marvin K, and Donna T.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: Leena, Jacque, Diane L, Marilyn R, Ed, Emily F, Lori, Michelle S, Ayla, Ryan & Samantha, Curtis, Allen, Pastor Tim, Nancy, Susan, Victor, Richard, Sarah, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Sophia, Marina, Luisa, Nathan, Cyndy W, John B, Feodore, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K, Lynn, Stan and Darlene M, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Elaine R, Lamone C, Linda B and Scott B.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Josiah G and Mike B.

If there is someone on the prayer list that no longer is in need of prayers, please call or email the office to let us know. Thank you.