

# Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.  
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147  
www.grace-salisbury.com



## **4th Sunday of Easter**

April 26, 2026

- + Ministers: The People of Grace +  
+ Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +  
gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +  
graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +  
gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Secretary Terri Brown +  
gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Director of Music Lynn Lippard +
- + Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +  
+ Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +  
+ Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +  
+ Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ *Those who are able please stand.*  
(*Congregation responses are printed in bold type*)

LBW = Green book  
WOV = Blue book

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### + THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### + GATHERING HYMN

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”**

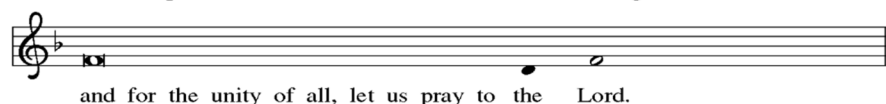
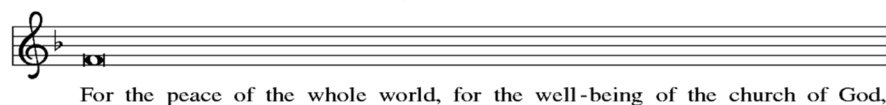
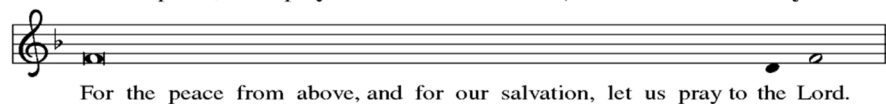
**LBW#144**

#### + 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.**

#### + KYRIE



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

**+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**+ SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together ...

**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. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**"King of Kings and Lord of Lords"**

**Children's Choir**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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

<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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

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

<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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## + GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## + GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Cassie Overcash**

**+ HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“The Lord’s My Shepherd”**

**LBW#451**



1 The Lord’s my shep-herd; I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e’en for his own name’s sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God’s house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e’en for his own name’s sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God’s house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

**+APOSTLE'S 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 INTERCESSION**

Hear us Lord as we lift our voices in common cause.

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

God of love; you know our needs greater than we know them ourselves; hear us and answer us as you have always done and clothe us in your loving grace that we might fully be your son's continuing work in the world; and all this through Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and always.

**Amen.**

**+ SHARING THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**ANTHEM**

**"All the Earth Rejoice"**

**Chancel Choir**

**+ OFFERTORY SONG**

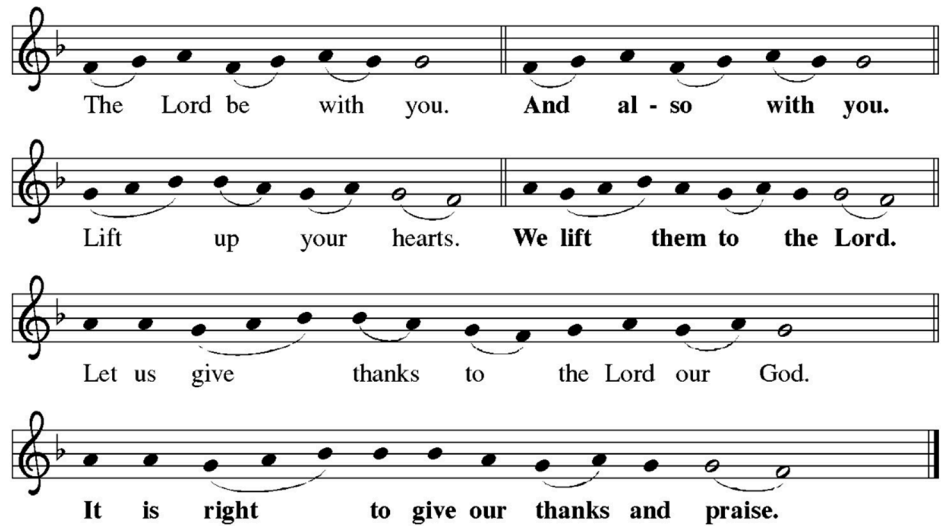
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**+ OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together ...

**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## + GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

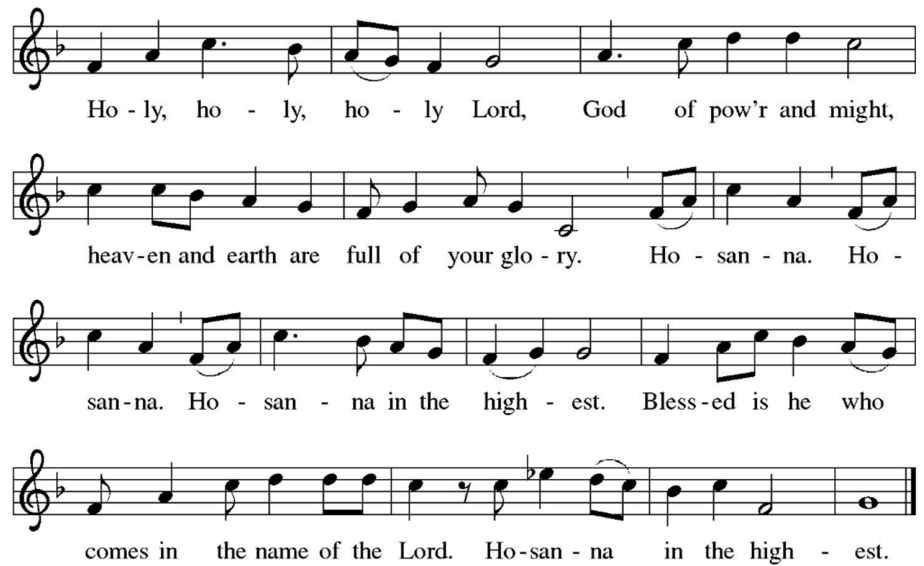
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## + WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### + LORD'S PRAYER

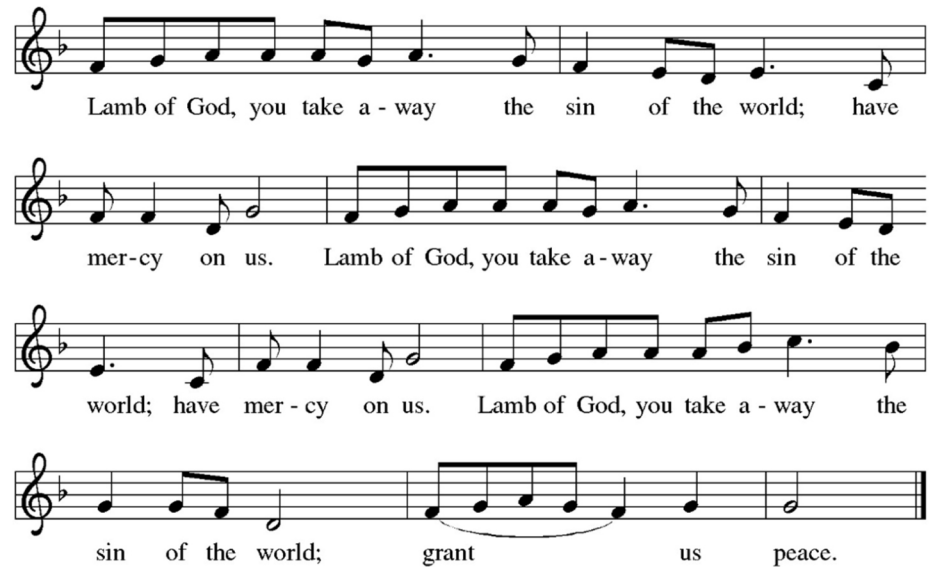
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

**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.

**DISTRIBUTION** – All of God’s children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

**+ TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

**Amen.**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together....

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**+ BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+SENDING HYMN**

**“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

**+ DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Setting 3 ELW

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<u>Serving 4/26/2026</u>		<u>Serving 5/3/2026</u>	
<b>Organist</b>	Teresa Yost	<b>Organist</b>	Teresa Yost
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Lynn Lippard	<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Myra Sechler
<b>Lector</b>	Megan Bame	<b>Lector</b>	S. Tim Sloop
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Greta Elmore, Chris Sloop	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Sarah Nolan, Sheila Basinger
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jemma Nolan	<b>Acolyte</b>	Annalyn Kluttz
<b>Security Team</b>	Bobby Roberson, Mike Stout	<b>Security Team</b>	Tony Sechler, Lynn Aldridge
<b>Sound System</b>	Eric Storey	<b>Sound System</b>	Jamey Basinger
<b>Teller Team</b>	Dan Roseman, Helen Correll, Gene Stirewalt	<b>Teller Team</b>	Duane Nolan, Tara Mills, Mary Sloop
<b>Ushers</b>	Barbara Schenk, Cruz Beers, Terry Aldridge, Myra Sechler	<b>Ushers</b>	Scottie & Monica Basinger, Connor & Baker

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Hoyt and Ann Heilig by their children and grandchildren.

**WELCOME** to Pastor Cassie Overcash who will lead us in worship today. Pastor Cassie is on the staff of Bishop Emily Hartner.

**SAVE THE DATE OF JUNE 13** for the Myles Davis Pope Memorial 5K to help fund swim lessons. Please see Morgan or Sonny Pope for more details.

**GRADUATES** If you have a high school or college graduate this year, Please let the church office know by today.

**VBS HELPERS NEEDED** Please let Sarah know if you are willing to help with Vacation Bible School June 19 or 20th. Needs include: a leader for games and shepherds to walk kids to each rotation. Thank you!

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** will be May 17. A covered dish meal will be served in their honor following the worship service. We have 8 confirmands, our largest group in many years!

**QUILTING** on Tuesday at 10:00am.

This Week's Giving 04/19/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
<b>Attendance 143</b>			
Current	\$ 6,449.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 58)	\$ 45.50		
Property Fund	\$ 50.00		
Altar Flowers	\$ 75.00		
Benevolence	\$ 225.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Total Current:	\$ 6,894.50	\$ 8,251.00	\$ (1,356.50)
Kent Houghton Memorial	\$ 100.00		
Laura Reynolds Love Offering	\$ 100.00		
Lewis Moose Endowment Fund	\$ 1,269.62		
Myles for Mission 5k	\$ 100.00		
Cruise In	\$ 3,562.00		
Southside Community Outreach	\$ 25.00		
Lutheridge/Kids to Camp	\$ 225.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 200.00		
Kids of Grace	\$ 100.00		
Total Deposit:	\$ 12,576.12		

Scan here for  
online giving.



### Prayer List

#### Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen, David Linker, James Miller

#### Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Linda Linker (*David Linker*), Pastor David Drysdale (*Pastor Josh*), Lynn Potter (*Emily Copeland*), Daylin Cline age 11 (*son of James & Glenda Bibbins Cline*)

#### Comfort:

Family & friends of Seleta Spry

#### Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Ray Baker

#### Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families; Rowan Salisbury Schools, teachers, staff and administrators