

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147
www.grace-salisbury.com



3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, who created us, who was born to be with us, who guides us still.

Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God knows our hearts, the guilt we carry, the heartache that keeps us awake, the burdens we bear. God knows that “happy are they who are forgiven,” and so we confess in confidence of God’s forgiveness.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Good and gracious God,

We have sinned and fallen short of the good you desire for us and for all creation. We have seen the earth as resources to extract and forgotten to marvel at its beauty. We have doubted your ability to provide and hoarded more than we need. We have ignored the needs of the vulnerable, and when you called us to follow you to greater wonders, we remained where we were and clung to control. Forgive our sin and our selfishness. Draw us out of ourselves, more deeply into your love, and more fully into a world in need.

God knows our sin before we do and meets every confession with abundant grace. In Christ we are alive and completely forgiven. God’s goodness has the final word. May this gift renew our faith and lighten our load so that we are prepared to care for the world God so loves.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“Ask the Complicated Questions”



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

+ GREETING

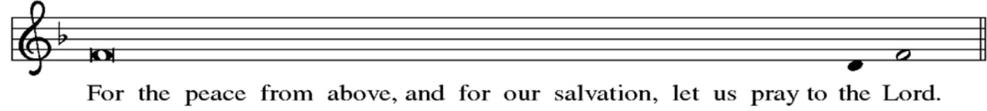
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ KYRIE



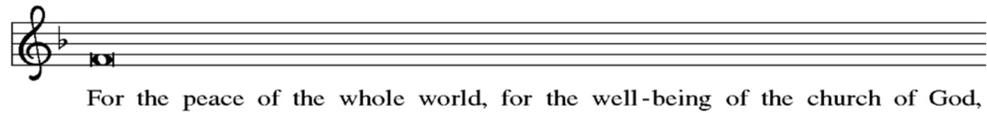
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



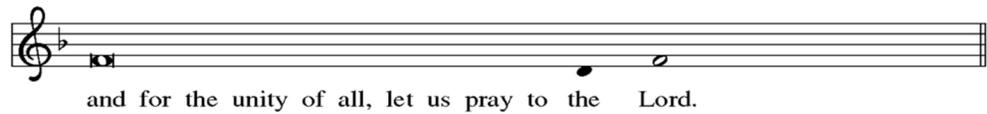
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



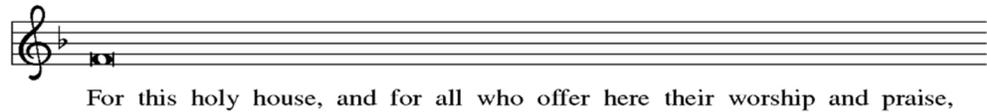
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



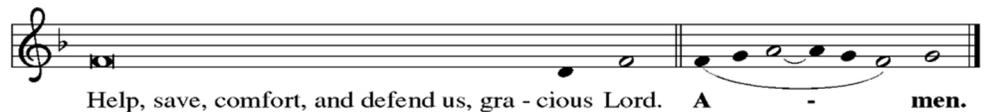
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



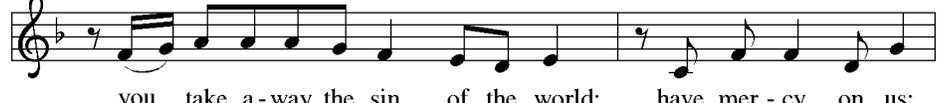
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

Awesome God, cultivate a deep sense of wonder in our hearts. When we have questions, give us even greater curiosity. When we feel ashamed to ask, give us courage. When we come before something too beautiful or too complex to understand, kindle in us a song of praise. May all of our wondering and wandering draw us deeper into relationship with you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸ **"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

+ GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"All In for Wonder"

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Great Thou Art”

LBW#532

+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

God, our maker, healer, and friend, You are all in for us and all creation. You have given us a beautiful universe to explore. You have called each one of us by name. You never cease to offer life and forgiveness. There is no detail of life in this world that has escaped you. We pray now, trusting in your goodness and mercy.

God of all,

Meet us here.

God of all, we pray, trusting in your abundant grace. In your Holy name we pray.

Amen.

+ SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY SONG "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

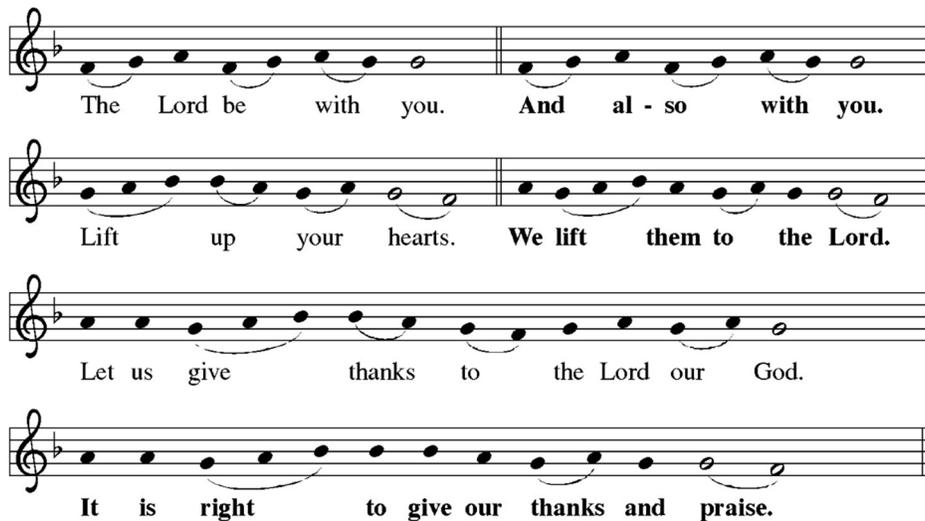
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a tribute far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all!

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

God who provides, we return to you a portion of all that you have given us. Bless and use these gifts, our hands, our hearts, our ministry, to care for the world you so love. Now prepare us to receive you at this table and again in the world beyond our doors. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

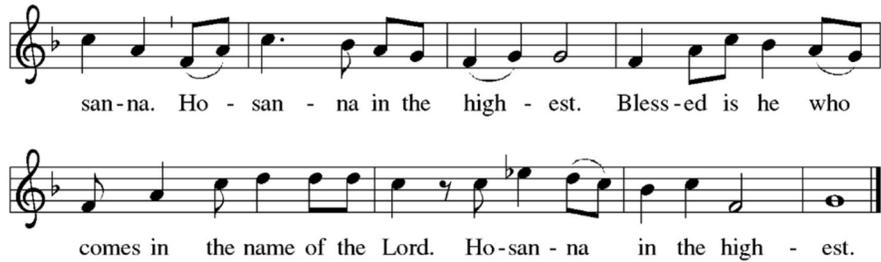
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ PREFACE

We have to praise you, we have to thank you, God, because the whole universe is filled with your wonders. On this very day you overcome the powers of death and destruction forever, and so, in thankfulness, we join the song of the angels:



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 -



+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we remind each other and the world:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us, your gathered people, and on this meal, your gifts of bread and cup. **Through a holy mystery, let this become for us the body and blood of Christ. Let it remind us of the unending feast for which we are bound. Let it strengthen us, that we will become the body of Christ for the world you so love.**

Amen.

+ 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



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....

God, you have revealed yourself to us again in the holy mystery of bread and cup. Strengthen us by your presence, draw us closer to one another as the Body of Christ, and send us to reveal you in our all our words and ways. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

As you have met God in this place, go now to meet God beyond this place. As you have received the love of Jesus, go now to give the love of Jesus. As the Creator has been all in for you, go now and be all in for the sake of the world. Gracious God, Parent, Sibling, and Spirit, bless you as you go. **Amen.**

+SENDING HYMN “Before the Waters Nourished Earth”



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Setting 3 ELW
Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723066

<u>Serving 3/8/2026</u>		<u>Serving 3/15/2026</u>	
Organist	Teresa Yost	Organist	Becky Lippard
Children's Sermon	Patsy Parnell	Children's Sermon	Randy Basinger
Lector	Chris Sloop	Lector	Greta Elmore
Communion Assistant	Dan Roseman, Megan Bame	Communion Assistant	Dan Roseman, Pam Roseman
Acolyte	Bayley Carter	Acolyte	Clara Linker
Security Team	Jacob Stirewalt, Zach Moore	Security Team	Michael Miller, Matt Sechler
Sound System	Hudson Sechler	Sound System	Brody Linker
Teller Team	Sarah Nolan, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout	Teller Team	Sarah Nolan, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout
Ushers	Ted Lotti, Kathryn Lotti & Bame Family	Ushers	Ted Lotti, Kathryn Lotti & Bame Family

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God.

SAVE THE DATE OF JUNE 13TH for the Myles Davis Pope Memorial 5K to help fund swim lessons. We are looking for volunteers and sponsors. Please see Morgan or Sonny Pope for more details.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS that are eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars need to direct those dollars before March 31. You can do that at www.thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-Thrivent (847-4836). If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Lynn Lippard, Marcus Reynolds, or David Linker.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY. Each week in Lent, bring a canned food item to be donated to Rowan Helping Ministries at the end of Lent. How many food items can we donate and be all in for God.

CRUISE-IN T SHIRTS available for preorder, outside after church, at a cost of \$20 each.

MID WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE on Wednesday with the meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm and worship at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP will begin in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm with the meal prepared by the Quilters of Grace. It will conclude in the Sanctuary with the stripping of the altar.

This Week's Giving 03/01/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 169			
Current	\$ 8,744.00		
Property Fund	\$ 250.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 68)	\$ 149.50		
Envelopes	\$ 6.00		
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	\$ 25.00		
Funeral Meal Fund	\$ 25.00		
Altar Flowers	\$ 145.00		
Rowan Helping Ministries	\$ 75.00		
Benevolence	\$ 1,035.00		
Totala Current	\$ 10,454.50	\$ 8,251.00	\$ 2,203.50
Tori Overcash Memorial (Fish Fry)	\$ 300.00		
Cory Safriet Memoria (Organ Fund)	\$ 25.00		
Myles for Mission 5k	\$ 600.00		
Cruise In Sponsorship	\$ 1,850.00		
Van Fund	\$ 50.00		
Kids to Camp Endowment	\$ 825.00		
Building Fund	\$ 400.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 150.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 20.00		
Kids of Grace	\$ 70.00		
Total Deposit	\$ 14,744.50		

Scan here for online giving.



Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington

Community Concerns:

Scout & Skylar Harmon (*Fish Fry Recipients*), Kassana Alexander, Sandy Whitaker, Christine Whitaker (*Pastor Josh*), Kent Houghton (*Callie Miller*), Craig Honbarger (*Irene Miller*), David Stirewalt (*Gene Stirewalt*)

Comfort:

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, Irene Miller

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families