

Old Testament Reading:
Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶"You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."

Epistle: Romans 8:28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding

for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

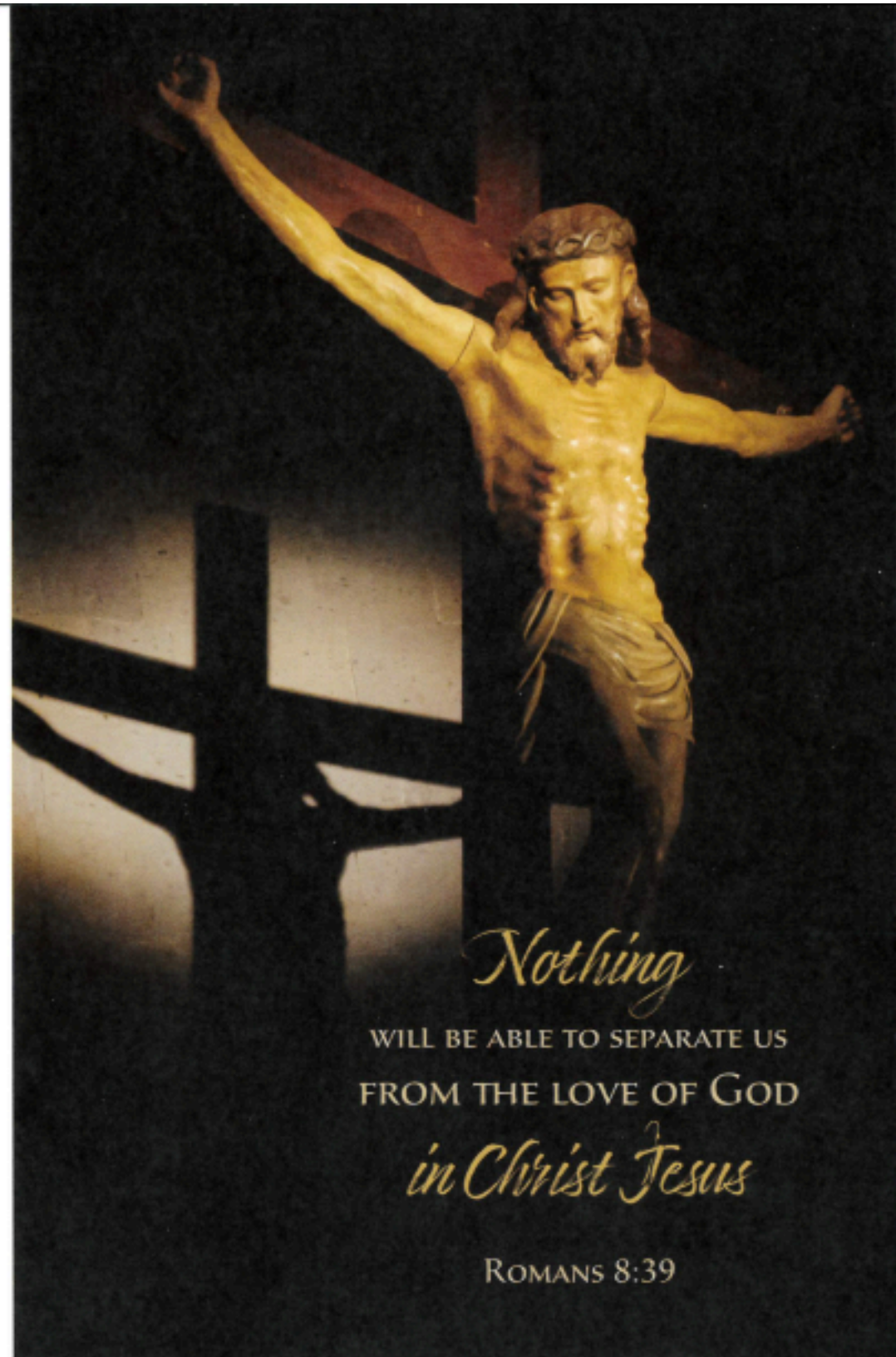
⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."



About the Cover: God's love is not found in a mere feeling. God's love is in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's love is in Jesus, through whom all things were made. God's love is in Jesus, who is above all authorities, powers, and creation. God's love is in our Lord, who stretched out His arms on the cross to win us forgiveness. God's love is in Jesus, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. Nothing will be able to separate us from that love.



Nothing
WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE OF GOD
in Christ Jesus

ROMANS 8:39

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

July 26, 2026 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Hymn of Invocation 818 In Thee Is Gladness



1 In Thee is glad-ness A-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus,
2 Since He is ours, We fear no pow-ers, Not of
sun-shine of my heart. By Thee are giv-en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless-es In worst dis-
heav-en, Thou the true Re-deem-er art. Our souls Thou
tress-es; He can change them with a breath. Where-fore the
wak-est, Our bonds Thou break-est; Who trusts Thee sure-ly Has built se-
sto-ry Tell of His glo-ry With hearts and voic-es; All heav'n re-
cure-ly; He stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
joic-es In Him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for
pin-ing To see Thy shin-ing, Dy-ing or liv-ing
glad-ness, Tri-umph o'er sad-ness, Love Him and praise Him
To Thee are cleav-ing; Naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Opening Versicles

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; C
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C Teach me Your paths.

P Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for
ever. Amen.

Psalms 125 *(in place of Old Testament Cantic)* ¹Those who trust in the Lord are
like Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

²As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted
to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do
wrong.

⁴Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⁵But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens. C
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place
where Your glory dwells.

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it. C
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place
where Your glory dwells.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place
where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Augsburg Confession Chief Articles of Faith

Article XX Good Works (§ 19-26)

Until now consciences were plagued with the doctrine of works. They did not hear consolation from the Gospel. Some people were driven by conscience into the desert and into monasteries, hoping to merit grace by a monastic life. Some people came up with other works to merit grace and make satisfaction for sins. That is why the need was so great for teaching and renewing the doctrine of faith in Christ, so that anxious consciences would not be without consolation but would know that grace, forgiveness of sins, and justification are received by faith in Christ.

People are also warned that the term faith does not mean simply a knowledge of a history, such as the ungodly and devil have. Rather, it means a faith that believes, not merely history, but also the effect of the history. In other words, it believes this article: the forgiveness of sins. We have grace, righteousness, and forgiveness of sins through Christ.

The person who knows that he has a Father who is gracious to him through Christ truly knows God. He also knows that God cares for him, and he calls upon God. In a word, he is not without God, as are the heathen. For devils and the ungodly are not able to believe this article: the forgiveness of sins. Hence, they hate God as an enemy and do not call Him and expect no good from Him. Augustine also warns his readers about the word faith and teaches that the term is used in the Scriptures, not for the knowledge that is in the ungodly, but for the confidence that consoles and encourages the terrified mind.

Sermon



Office Hymn 713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.
In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.
I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.
His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

5 Praise God with acclamation
And in His gifts rejoice.
Each day finds its vocation
Responding to His voice.
Soon years on earth are past;
But time we spend expressing
The love of God brings blessing
That will forever last!

6 Yet even though I suffer
The world's unpleasantness,
And though the days grow rougher
And bring me great distress,
That day of bliss divine,

Which knows no end or measure,
And Christ, who is my pleasure,
Forever shall be mine.

Δ 7 For thus the Father willed it,
Who fashioned us from clay;
And His own Son fulfilled it
And brought eternal day.
The Spirit now has come,
To us true faith has given;
He leads us home to heaven.
O praise the Three in One!

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and
the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing, Nev-er a-lone.
2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Clos-er to Me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy-ful and free. Here My
I the Lord will smile up-on you And give you peace: I the

love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you Mine for-ev-er.
heard My dear Son's sto-ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo-ry.
Spir-it's pow-er filled you; Here His ten-der com-fort stilled you.
Lord will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and Broth-er.

Go, My chil-dren, with My bless-ing— You are My own.
Go, My chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, At peace and pure.
Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, Joy-ful and free.
Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Acknowledgements

Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

Hymn 818, Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631;

tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Hymn 713, Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; (sts. 1–2, 6): tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–
2001, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5): tr. Gregory J. Wis-
mar, 1946; (st. 7): tr. Joseph Herl, 1959

Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, 1557, Lyons, alt.

Text (sts. 1–2, 6): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; (sts. 3–5, 7): © 2006
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**** ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS**

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HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE

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Elder: Mike Dahl

Greeter: Janet Bertson

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Eternal and omnipotent God, who at the creation of the world
made order out of chaos, by Your Holy Spirit teach us to know and trust Your
promises, for if we are left to our own devices, we will surely lose our way to
the mansions; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit
are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our
Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down
from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of
prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please
ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich
spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our
risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri Monday—Friday, please call ahead Pastor Tuesday— Friday please call
ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on
the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org or

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsLutheranChurchGeneseoIL>

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$2,050.00 Weekly Budget for 2026 \$4,379.13

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study 10:00 am Outdoor
Divine Worship

11:00 am Quarterly Voters' meeting

Next Sunday 10:00 am Divine Worship/Holy Communion 5:30 pm VBS
Week (Sun.—Thursday)

ALTAR FLOWERS have been given in memory of Pete Raschke. May Pete's faithful life while on this earth be a strong example to us all as we too walk in the true faith of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

THE PASTORAL CARE FUND needs replenishment. Help us out with a donation. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' ASSEMBLY will be after the worship service **TO DAY**. This will include our first discussion of updates the Constitution Committee are proposing.



**COME JOIN us for VBS at St. John's Lutheran
August 2nd - 6th!**

All ages welcome (0-100)! We will have bible study, games, crafts and songs. A light meal will be provided to all participants at 5:30pm and all activities will conclude by 7:30 pm. Please register through the QR code at the



right by August 24th.

Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to join us in digging into the 23rd Psalm.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP? —St. John's will be hosting a district presentation 'Exploring God's Mission Here', to our circuit congregations Saturday, August 8th from 9am—3:30 pm. All Pastors, congregational leaders **and laity** are encouraged to attend. Complete details are in the July Newsletter. See you this Saturday!

Building Healthy Families: What percent of people in your congregation are adopted? If you guessed anything less than 100 percent, you're wrong. "But when the fullness of time had come, God



sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Gal. 4:4-5) In today's culture, adoption is often seen as a last resort for infertile couples; a way to find a child for the couple. A Biblical view of adoption is child –

not couple – focused. LFS' adoption ministry exists to find loving, Christian married moms and dads who will provide a stable home and life-long relationship of love based on Christ's example for every child who needs one. Is God calling you or someone you know to such a loving plan? Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's work in Lutheran schools as you pray:

MISSION—Pray that God would bless and guide the work of all students involved in mission work and volunteer opportunities both at home and abroad. Pray that this time would be a blessing to them and others.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants: **Linda Aper Paula Chapa Joyce DeFauw John Erdman Betty Firch Marcia Helke Jessica Johnson Rosalie Jorgensen Linda Lundquist Mary Jayne Nash Aaron Raschke Drew Schillinger Dave Schmidt Carolyn Werner Denice Winchell Carolyn Wildermuth Larry Kane Marilyn Woods**

Jon/Anita Clausung (missionaries in Kenya)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)
Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)
Lyall Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)
Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)
Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)
Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)
Ralph Boney (uncle of Larry Hock)
Ken Mirocha (brother-in-law of Terri Hock)

MILITARY—Pray for our military and their families:

Luke Thompson (son of John/Kindra Thompson)
Karl & Hannah Flynn (son/daughter-in-law of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)
Chase Werling (nephew of Joel Werling)
Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

"Even with all our sins, and even our rejection of Him, God is patiently loving

us and calling us back to Him through the Holy Spirit. That's your story, friends. Go out in your God-given identity as a king or a queen and a priest. Don't go in fear and trembling, because when He calls you, He'll be with you!" *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*
• lutheransforlife.org