

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. *You are welcome here!* We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.



March 10, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

# For Your Prayers -March 11-17, 2024

#### Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Exodus 15:22-27 Hebrews 3:1-6 Psalm 107:1-16

Tuesday: Numbers 20:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:6-13 Psalm 107:1-16

Wednesday: Isaiah 60:15-22 John 8:12-20 Psalm 107:1-16

*Thursday:* Isaiah 30:15-18 Hebrews 4:1-13 Psalm 51:1-12

*Friday* Exodus 30:1-10 Hebrews 4:14—5:4 Psalm 51:1-12

Saturday: Habakkuk 3:2-13 John 12:1-11 Psalm 51:1-12

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 (10) Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Ingrid Brown, Kristin Carter, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Martha Reier, Linda Reuben and Mallory Spencer.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: John, Marty, Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Ginny Mauney Fox, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

#### I. Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** 

Aria from Suite in D

Setting, G.F. Handel

Dr. Randolph Love, Trumpet

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus.

#### Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know,

forgive us, Lord.

#### Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

#### Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** 

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

**ELW 848** 

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#### **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.** 



#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

#### II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."



<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the <sup>|</sup>LORD is good, for God's mercy en- <sup>|</sup>dures forever.

 $^2Let\ the\ redeemed\ of\ the\ ^{|}\ LORD\ proclaim$ 

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in | from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;

through their sins they | were afflicted.

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man- | ner of food and drew near | to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD and you delivered them from | their distress. *Refrain* 

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your | word and healed them and rescued them | from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love and your wonderful works | for all people.

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. *Refrain* 

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁵so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁵For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁶not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹oFor we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

#### **Lenten Acclamation**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



Gospel John 3:14-21

Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

**Sermon** Perspective Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for reflection and prayer.

Hymn of the Day What Wondrous Love Is This ELW 666

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**Prayers** 

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

#### **Offering**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor.

During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

**Anthem** 

God So Loved the World

Dr. Randolph Love, Trumpet

John Helgen

#### **Offertory Prayer**

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen**.

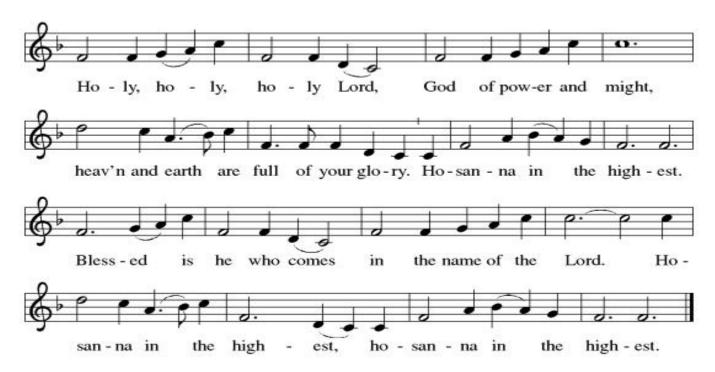
#### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### **Words of Institution**

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.

#### **Holy Communion**

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. The Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



**Communion Music** 

Prelude and Air Aria from Concerto in D Henry Purcell Giuseppe Tartini

**Table Blessing** 

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.** 

IV. Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

**Sending Hymn** 

Amazing Grace

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#### **Blessing**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace. Amen.

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** 

Te Deum

Setting, Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Dr. Randolph Love, Trumpet

We welcome **Dr**. **Randolph Love** as our guest trumpeter today. Dr. Love holds degrees from The Ohio State University (BM, Trumpet Performance) and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (MM, Trumpet Performance, DMA, Composition/Theory). He is Professor Emeritus at Columbia College of SC (37 years) where he founded and directed the CC Wind and CC Chamber Ensembles. He is also Trumpet Emeritus with the SC Philharmonic Orchestra (30 years) and Emeritus Partner with the Palmetto Brass (32 years) in Columbia, SC.

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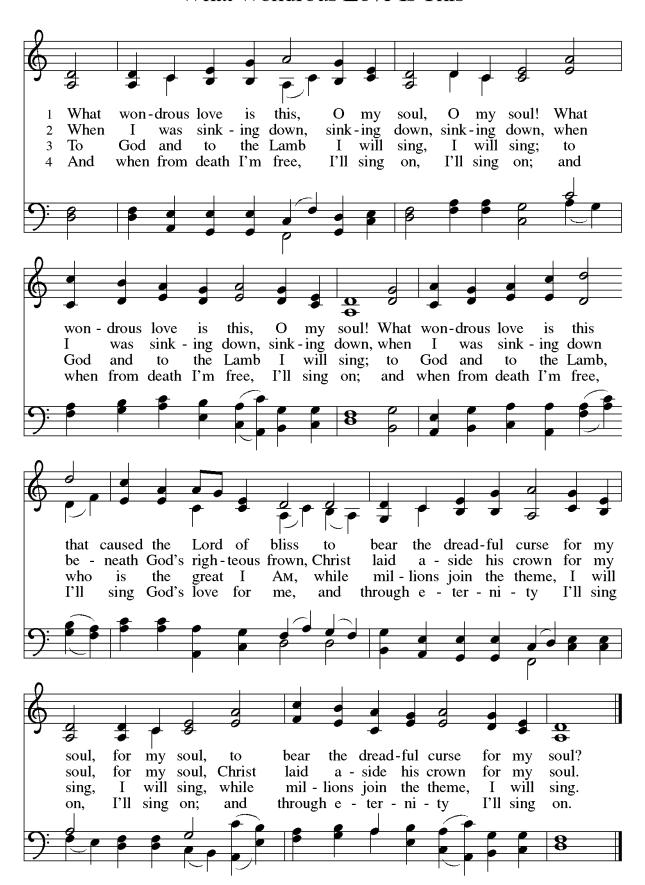
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# Give to Our God Immortal Praise!



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

#### What Wondrous Love Is This



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.
Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



#### As We Gather

#### **Parents!** Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- ❖ Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space ask an usher for assistance.

#### Assistance is Available for You:

- ❖ An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- **Large print** worship materials are available ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- **If someone should need emergency medical assistance,** CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

**Health Update:** We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

#### What's Happening Today

Flowers are given by Nelia Lamoureux to the glory of god.

Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Please consider donating to the coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

#### Wednesday evenings in Lent, March, 13, and 20th at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM** Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
  - o **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
  - o **7:00 PM**: Holden Evening Prayer.

#### **Upcoming**

<u>Support: RIP Medical Debt.</u> Once again our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support <u>RIP Medical Debt</u> during this season of Lent. If you would like to help relieve medical debt you can send a donation to the church marked "RIP Medical Debt." Last Lent we raised a little over \$5,000 which led to the forgiveness of ~\$500,000 in medical debt. Can we beat our previous fundraising total?

<u>Communal Life: Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers.</u> Look for a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space soon for Lenten Soup Suppers. We look for 2-3 crocks of soup and bread/rolls prior to our Lenten Wednesday services we only have 2 left!

<u>Education</u>: Bible Study. We have our weekly Bible Study on **Mondays** at **1:30 PM** in the Library/Conference Room. You are welcome to join us as we look ahead at the upcoming Sunday's appointed texts.

**SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ST. STEPHEN** Mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat events and worship.

- Evening social Friday, September 27, 2024
- Day retreat Saturday, September 28, 2024

<u>Communal Life & Education:</u> Iftar Dinner. RUMI Friendship Association & Historic Area Religions Together invite you to join us for an Iftar dinner on **March 14, 2024, 6:00 PM** @ St. Stephen Lutheran Church. You must **RSVP** as we have limited seating: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/2vm4vp5y">http://tinyurl.com/2vm4vp5y</a>

#### Yoga Class

We are interested in offering a yoga class. We are looking at Wednesdays at 3pm in the fellowship hall. The cost will be \$10 per class with some bundles to be offered once we see if there is interest. If you think you would be interested, please sign up on the insert in the bulletin.

<u>Easter Potluck Breakfast</u> We will again be having a potluck Easter breakfast between services on Easter Sunday. Bring a dish or baked good to share. Coffee, tea and juices will be provided.

#### St. Stephen Calendar: March 10-17, 2024

## **SUNDAY, March 10** ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

#### 8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Life Story (Preschool Room)

11:00 AM Worship - Holy Communion

#### MONDAY, March 11

9am-12pm Preschool Open House

10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Office)

1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

1:30 PM Social Planning Committee (Fellowship Hall)

3:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

6:00 PM Directory Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

#### **TUESDAY, March 12**

#### 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

1:30 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

7:00 PM Council (Library/Conference Room)

#### WEDNESDAY, March 13

## 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

6:00 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

## THURSDAY, March 14

10:30 AM Womens Retreat Planning Committee (Library/Conference Room)

12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)

6:00 PM IFTAR Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

### FRIDAY, March 15

## **SATURDAY, March 16**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/ Conference Room)

#### SUNDAY, March 17 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

#### 8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: lesson (Preschool Room)

#### 11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

## **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

	(11:00) Sonja Cave(8:30) Diane McCurry and Rita Kristiansen
	(11:00) Nancy Egloff and Karen Arledge
	(8:30) Nancy Carter (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker	Paula Agor
Cantors	(8:30) Karen Shoberg (11:00) Christina Nelson
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Tom and Sandy Peterkin
	(11:00) Lori Harms and Nancy Egloff
Flower Delivery	Rosemary Stimson
	(8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Alison Carney
	(8:30) Thom Recktenwald (11:00) Keith Egloff
Preacher	
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen
Ushers	(8:30) John McCurry and Tom Witt (11:00) Art Nelsen

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

#### Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

**Pastor Jon Nelson** (320-295-8861)

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)

**Karen Ives** – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

**Diana Tiller-Dichtel** – Parish Nurse (232-5924)

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

**Holly Ready** – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Doing Ministry in the World Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net Office@saintstephenlutheran.net Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

# Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

# Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

March 10, 2024

For guests and members w					
For guests and members with changes:					
Address (Home)					
City/State	Zip				
Telephone #	_				
E-Mail Address					
Guests Only: I belong to					
Church Address					
Please check as many as per					
Please check as many as per Member					
Please check as many as per Member First time guest					
Please check as many as per Member First time guest Regular guest					
Please check as many as per  Member First time guest Regular guest Guest (out of town)	tain:				
Please check as many as per  Member First time guest Regular guest Guest (out of town) Student at William & 1	tain:				
Please check as many as per  Member First time guest Regular guest Guest (out of town) Student at William & I Looking for a church h	tain: Mary nome				
	Mary nome astor				

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

# **Prayer Requests**

(ple	ease <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> : ease note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for eone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)
Na	me:
Ple	ease <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:
Na	me:
	_ I need a name tag
	I/We are interested in participating in a yoga class on Wednesdays for \$10 per