




**The Playmates Quartet**  
 Flutist Pamela Whitman  
 Pianist Scott Breiner  
 Bassist Rich Kurtz  
 Drummer Jason Koenig



**Eugene Magalif**  
 Featured Composer



**"Lish" Lindsey**  
 Flutist



**PLAYMATES' BIG  
 FLUTE ADVENTURE**  
 winter concert

Sunday, March 5th  
 2 PM

The Ocean City Free Public Library  
 1735 Simpson Ave in Ocean City, New Jersey.  
**Admission: FREE**





Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners through the Cape May County Division of Culture & Heritage.

**March 5, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent**



## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
 Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
 red hymnal found in the pews.*

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## GATHERING

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Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!

### Introduction

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

### WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

### PRELUDE

*Pie Jesus* from Gabriel Faure's "Requiem"  
*Clarinetist: Andrew Ehrhardt*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge our need to turn back to God and for God's mercy and grace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we hurt your creation instead of being good stewards; we struggle with consequences and pain and you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion or empathy. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. **Amen.**

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This is God's promise for you! God embraces you with

## HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

March 5, 2023—March 12, 2023

### Second Sunday of Lent 3/5/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional  
Worship with Children's  
Sunday School  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### MONDAY 3/6/23

7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### TUESDAY 3/7/23

6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### WEDNESDAY 3/8/23

9:00-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Financial Support Meeting  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### THURSDAY 3/9/23

5:00PM Choir Rehearsal  
**6:00PM Soup Supper/Video &  
Discussion**  
7:00PM Al-Anon  
7:00PM Antique Collector's Club

### FRIDAY 3/10/23

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

### SATURDAY 3/11/23

*No events*

### Third Sunday of Lent 3/12/23

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship  
with Children's Sunday School  
BAPTISM-William Goff  
FELLOWSHIP HOUR  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous



## We are thankful for our new

### 2023 Council members:

**President:** Stephen Gring

**Vice President:** Mary Goodman

**Secretary:** Kevin Thomas

**Treasurer:** Heidi Toth

### Representatives:



Dale Kredatus     Jane Thompson

Robin Johnson     Gay Blohm

Chris Dennis     Jorge Perez

### Workshop in Somerville

Pastor Althea would like to invite anyone to attend a workshop at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Somerville, NJ on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 10:00 AM-3:30 PM. The workshop is lead by Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert who is a Lutheran pastor and retired professor from the seminary in Philadelphia.

divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and refreshes you in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN

*This Is The Spirit's Entry Now*

ELW #448

### 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.**

### GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to greet someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate, no need to feel pressured to touch or shake hands.*

### KYRIE

*front of the red ELW hymnal on pages 138-139*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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### WORD

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### FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you

a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 121**



<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?  
<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,**  
**the maker of heav- | en and earth.**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.  
<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**  
**will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**  
<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;  
<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,**  
**nor the | moon by night.**  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**  
**from this time forth for- | evermore.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has

Please keep in prayer the family and friends of Eileen Rumble. Eileen joined our Lord in the church triumphant on February 14, 2023.



**PRAYER LIST**

*Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:*

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P., Carol F., & Carole T.

**Our family and friends:** Donna, Freddy, Family and friends of Kurt (*Pastor*), Eileen (*Ruth T.*), Stephanie B. (*Roberta B.*), Marilyn (*Ruth B.*), Max S. (*Clare B.*), Bob & Kim (*Jim F.*), Annmarie (*June J.*), Shirley & Carl (*Debbie K.*), Bob & Lou (*Dale K.*), Lindsey, Jim, Vicki (*Meg L.*), Janice & Keyara (*Diana M.*), Bernadette, Lou, Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, Donny, Carol (*Renee P.*), Catherine, Sal & Ana, Mark (*Corinne R.*), Karen (*Sue R.*), Bob & Donna (*Brenda T.*), Bill, Sally, & Harry (*Jill W.*)

**Those serving our country:** Mike Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner 3<sup>rd</sup> USN

**Our members at home:** Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Lois Rear-don, Barbara Johnson

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

**Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

# BABY SHOWER

## for Shore Memorial NICU

will be at Grace Lutheran Church

**Friday, May 19 at  
12:00 PM**

Lunch will be served for Shore  
Medical nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),  
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets

Deadline for donations: Friday, May 12



### March Worship Assistants:

3/12 Ruth Bowden

3/19 Kevin Thomas

3/26 Mary Ann Gring

### April Worship Assistants:

4/2 Corinne Rhodes

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MON-WED 10:00AM-2:00PM

FRI 10:00AM-12:00PM

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

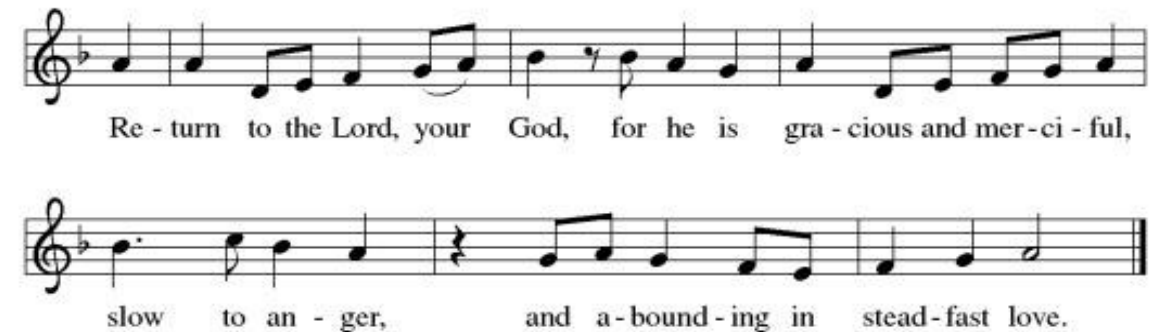
MON-THURS 10:00AM-3:00PM

something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: John 3: 1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And 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.”

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*The children are dismissed after the Pastor’s message for Sunday School and they will return for communion.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*God Loved The World*

ELW #323

VERSE 1, 3 & 5 ALL, VERSE 2 MEN, VERSE 4 WOMEN

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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**May the peace of the Lord be with you always! We are glad for your presence today. We hope you come again soon!**

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**We thank all those serving in worship today:**  
**Reader:** Edna Cordery  
**Altar Guild:** Brenda, Clare, Marleigh, and Ruth

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***WELCOME VISITORS!***

**If you are a visitor please fill out a VISITOR CARD in the pews if you are new to our church. Pastor Althea would love to meet you and get in touch with you.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come, all are welcome at the table of the Lord. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**            *Lamb of God*            *ELW page 146*

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are unable to come to the altar, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of mercy, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and to go out and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

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SENDING

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**SENDING BLESSING**

May God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**            *All Who Believe and Are Baptized*            *ELW #442*

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music  
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**    *God So Loved the World*    from John Stainer’s “Crucifixion”

**THE APOSTLES’ 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.****

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    *Go Not Far From Me, O God*    by Nicola Antonio Zingarelli

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**    *Create in me a Clean Heart*    *WOV page 732*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, our source of eternal life. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

A: O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress especially all those whom we name now or in our hearts... *(Take a moment to name people on your heart aloud.)* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

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**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*ELW hymnal page 144*

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *ELW hymnal page 144*

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(sung)* *Celebration Hymnal p.631*

**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.**