

# Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am - Spoken Service & 10:15 am - Liturgical Service Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright
Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner
Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

# <sup>2</sup> Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: <a href="mailto:pastoralthea3@gmail.com">pastoralthea3@gmail.com</a> or by phone 484-345-0399.

# Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to belong to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who believe as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

## Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Corinne Rhodes

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

# In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., Ruth T., Debbie K., Marlene D., Joyce B.

<u>Family and friends:</u> Donna, Gage, Donna, Virginia, Carol (*Pastor Althea*);

Payton (Joyce Bianco), Deb, Glen, Peggy, Jeanne (Bowdens); Baby Stella (Clare Brick);

Annmarie, Kathy (Marlene Doer); Phyllis, Shawn (Carol Fry); Jody (Grings);

Michael Ann, Rod (June Jordan); Shirley & Carl (Debbie Kleuser); Jim, Vicki, (Meg LaSpina),

Bernadette, Lou; Ron, Berl, Cindy, Eric, (Renee Pugliese); Karen (Sue Robinson);

Dotte Currie, (Deborah Walker), Anyah, Cecilia, Edward, Lauren, Marlando, Pauline, and Richard (Welfields); Eileen, Marie, Beverlee, Darlene

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN;

Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme,

Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

**Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

### WITH ONE VOICE

# Bread of Life - Setting 5 Congregation responses in bold print.

# **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE Canto By Lani Smith

Please stand as you are able

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, 

→ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.

We have turned our faces away from your glory

when it did not appear as we expected.

We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. Amen.

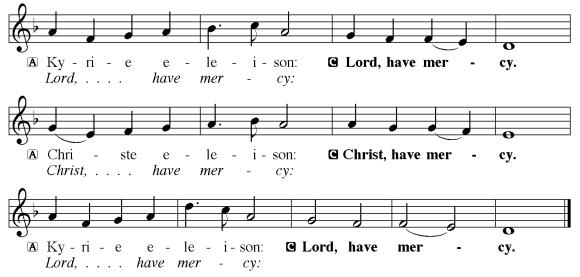




### **GREETING**

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.** 





# GLORY TO GOD





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

# WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



### PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by evildoers; / do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>For they shall soon wither | like the grass, / and like the green grass | fade away.

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD and do good; / dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD, / who shall give you your heart's desire.

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, / and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; / do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos-sess the land.

<sup>10</sup>In a little while the wicked shall be no more;

even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall pos- sess the land; / they will delight in abun- dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup>But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

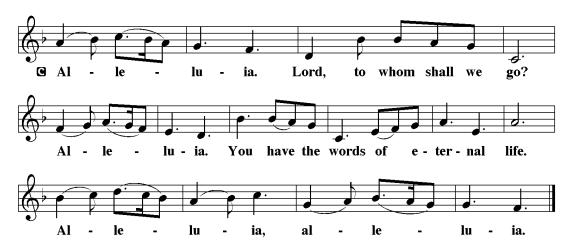
In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Please stand as you are able

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the sixth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

#### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-38**

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you. O Christ.

#### CHILDRENS MESSAGE

as



#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

### JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING Grace Stitchers

Monthly special offering for a designated local, national and international ministry. Our Third-Sunday usher team takes a few extra minutes before our regular weekly offering to collect this special offering of coin donations.

#### WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

#### **OFFERTORY**

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

By Bradley Ellingboe

Please stand as you are able

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we have many blessings to be thankful for in our lives. You have changed our lives forever with your Word made flesh. Grant us courage to change the lives of others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us; so let us be bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Leader: You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to be leaders in the world with your kind of love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Leader: Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace.

Protect all whose lives are endangered by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Pastor: Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled, especially all those we name now or in our hearts... God of grace, hear our prayer.

Leader: We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom, and we pray for all of our loved ones who have gone before us. Sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.** 

# **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

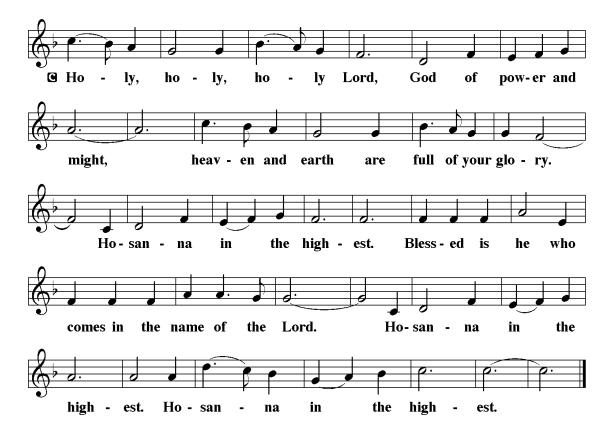
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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.

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

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

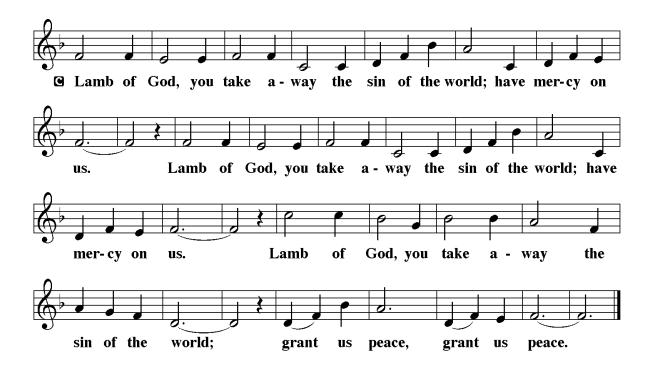
#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**



### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

#### IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. **Amen.** 

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... Most High God, you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

# **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.

Pastor: May God bless you and hold you close.

May Christ's presence guide you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and + give you everlasting hope. **Amen.** 

SENDING HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken Verses 1, 3, &5, All; Verse 2, Women; Verse 4, Men

### Music is located on page 21

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

**POSTLUDE** 

Trumpet Tune in G Major

By David N. Johnson

**ELW # 603** 

#### DISMISSAL

Leader: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

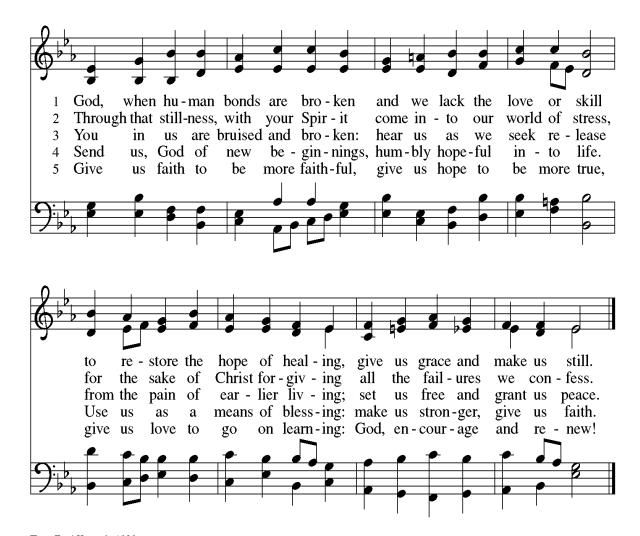
Thanks be to God.

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N God, When Human Bonds Are Broken Verses 1, 3, &5, All; Verse 2, Women; Verse 4, Men ELW # 603



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Monday 10:30am-1:00pm Tuesday 1:00pm-3:00pm Thursday 1:00pm-3:00pm



Pastor Althea is always available by phone, text, or email, and also by appointment.

# New opportunities to improve well-being.

**Survey forms**, for the two groups below, are located on the table in the Narthex/Lobby. Please return your form to Pastor Althea or bring to the Church Office.

### FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

I know of several people in our congregation who are either wishing to be able to move more or already make an effort to get in daily exercise. I would like to try forming a small group or maybe two small groups to help one



another move more and stay active. I would provide a short meditation, quote, Bible verse, or thought for the day, and then we would walk in the gymnasium together doing laps.

Once the weather improves, we could move outside and walk around the neighborhood. If two different groups of people express interest then we will try two different times or days, etc. Our community, neighbors, friends, and family would be more than welcome to join us.

## **LOSSES AND SCARS**

We all go through many things in our lives. More recently, some of us have lost family members, friends, and we have undergone other difficult changes. Pastor Althea hopes to facilitate additional sharing of grief and other thoughts in a group setting. We will have some quiet time to pray and sit with one another in support.

## **Sunday 2/20**

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Grace Friends Sunday School

Jourful Noise Offering—Grace Stitchers

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

## Monday 2/21

9—11:30 am - Food Pantry

7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

## Tuesday 2/22

9—11:30 am - Food Pantry

6:30 pm - NA

## Wednesday 2/23

9—11:30 am - Food Pantry

11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

## Thursday 2/24

9-11:30 am - Food Pantry

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Facilities Team Meeting

7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

## Friday 2/25

10:00 am - Grace Stitchers

7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

# Saturday 2/26

## **Sunday 2/27**

# Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Grace Friends Sunday School 4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm - Catechism Class

2 Reformation

# **Dedications**



# SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Loving Memory of Ron Given by Mary Goodman

# SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Celebration of Jeffrey Blohm's 40th Birthday. Given by Gay Blohm

#### **BULLETINS**

In Honor of Grandson Breiten Sundra's 21st Birthday.

Given by

Brenda and Bob Traa