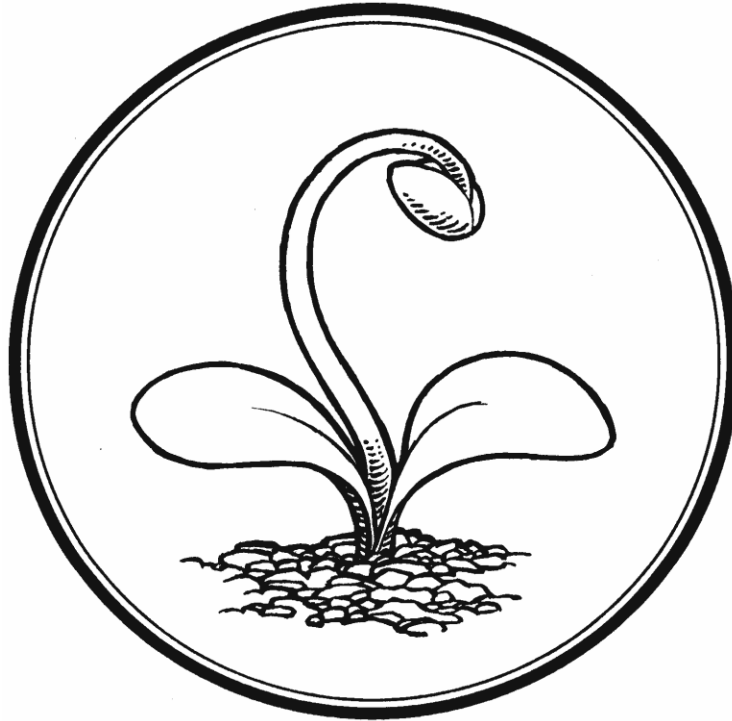


# The Divine Service



*"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground."  
(Mark 4:26)*

4th Sunday after Pentecost



AD 2021, June 20

*Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church  
41415 W. Nine Mile Road  
Novi, Michigan 48375-4306  
(248) 349-0565 [www.GoodShepherdNovi.org](http://www.GoodShepherdNovi.org)  
Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS ([www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net))*

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

*This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

## **HYMN 191 ~ Father Most Holy, Merciful, and Tender**

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/191>

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of a single line of music with the lyrics 'A - men.' printed below. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

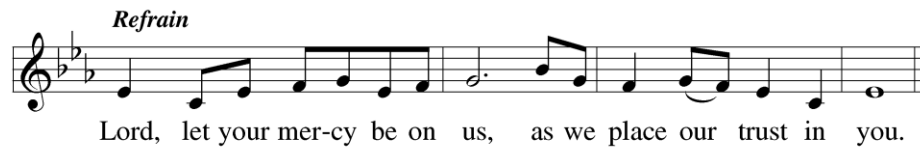
## FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

M: The word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

### Psalm 92



#### *Refrain*

How great are your works, O LORD,\*  
how profound your thoughts!  
The senseless man does not know,\*  
fools do not understand,  
that though the wicked spring up like grass\*  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they will be forever destroyed.\*  
But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

#### *Refrain*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,\*  
they will flourish in the courts of our God.  
They will still bear fruit in old age,\*  
they will stay fresh and green,  
proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;\*  
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

**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.**

#### *Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

M: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia (Psalm 132:9)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.  
M: The Gospel of the Lord.



## HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 188 ~ Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/188>

## SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

**M:** You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

**M:** Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

**M:** Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

## **INTERCESSIONS**

*Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.*

### **In our prayers....**

*While we offer up prayers for specific requests in our services, petitions and intercessions can be offered up throughout the week for continued concerns. Please continue to remember these in your prayers:*

- **For Jon Rumics, son of David & Diane Rumics, who is undergoing chemo treatments again**
- **For the teacher graduates of Martin Luther College who have been assigned to their fields of labor**
- **The graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who have been assigned to serve as pastors at their fields of labor**
- **For Rick Haase, father of Paul Haase, Thanksgiving for successful bypass surgery**
- **For Sherrie Bradley, recovering from surgery**
- **For Bob & Susan Shipe, who are coping with various health concerns**
- **For Harold Boehler, father of Caitlin, Caleb Schroeder's girlfriend, diagnosed with cancer**

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C:** **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.**

### HYMN 186 ~ O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/186>

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*or*

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.





## CLOSING HYMN

### HYMN 324 ~ Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/CWLH1993/324>

*Service of the Word* © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

All hymns, music, Psalms, and other parts of the service are reprinted by permission of OneLicense.net, license # A-728797.

All readings are from the English Standard Version



Preacher & Celebrant     The service will be led by one of Good Shepherd's Elders.  
Organist                     Jeanette Schneider

### **Worship Tidbit for the 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

For most of the Sundays after festivals of Epiphany and Pentecost, the paraments on the altar are green. Green causes us to think of things that grow. While we come to God's house to be fed and nourished, it is God who grows the faith that is in us. The Lord has chosen to come to us through the gospel in word and sacraments to create, nourish, and strengthen our faith. By regularly coming to God's house for the Divine Service, by regularly eating and drinking the Lord's Supper, by partaking in Bible study whether in class or in private, et al., we give the Holy Spirit opportunity to grow us in the faith.

### **SUMMER SCHEDULE**

Divine Service is Sundays at 10:00 AM, in person and on Facebook Live.  
Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, and Bible Matters will resume in September.

### **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, Pastor Schroeder's office hours will be a bit more sporadic than usual. To ensure his availability, it is best to make an appointment. He will remain available by phone or text (248-719-5218). You may also email ([welsnovi@aol.com](mailto:welsnovi@aol.com)), but the response may be slower.

### **THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

**Sunday (6/20) Divine Service** – In person and Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

Long-Range Planning Meeting – 11:15 AM

**Sunday (6/27) Divine Service** – In person and Facebook Live at 10:00 AM

### **LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETING**

On Sunday, June 20 after church, we will have our monthly Long-Range Planning meeting. The main focus is to determine a vision for what we want our congregation to look like in three years, five years, and/or ten years. Once we have a goal in mind, we can take the steps necessary to get there. The steps will be delegated to the committees we have. All are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of the Long-Range Planning meeting and the committees that will follow up to see that our plans are put to work. Planning great things only goes so far. We need our members committed to doing them and praying that God will bless them. If you have question about the Long-Range Planning committee, please speak to Rob Skrycki.

### **OUT OF TOWN**

Pastor Schroeder and some of his family will be out of town for vacation from June 13 (after the service, of course) until June 30. Some family will still remain at home. In case you should need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Gregory Gibbons at (734) 968-3523.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK**

A pictorial retrospective of Good Shepherd has been produced and is at church. You are welcome to look through it. While there are many photos, there is also a lot of information about the history of the congregation. So, if you look at it, you will probably not be able to read through all the articles. The copy at church will be placed in Good Shepherd's library, but you may want your own copy. We will contact Shutterfly to see what kind of discounted rate we can get for a bulk order. (Without discounts, the books runs well over \$100.) We will see how many are interested in a copy, understanding that you may change your mind if the cost ends up being too high.

### **CONCERNING PASTORAL CARE**

Besides Facebook Live and YouTube, you can find the pastor's sermons archived on this blog. You can use the search bar to find a particular date, day of the Church Year, or Scripture reference.

Pastor Schroeder will be available for private devotions, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion to members in small groups or to individuals. You may call to set up an appointment at any time. Visits by appointment can be done either at church or at your home.

If you want to ask for intercessions for loved ones, we will certainly remember them in our prayers, too. If your loved one has no pastor, ask if they would like Pastor Schroeder to visit them.

### **A LOOK AT THE UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

**JUNE**        *Note: All dates are subject to review.*

20    Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

20    Long-Range Planning Meeting – 11:15 AM

27    Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

**JULY**        *Note: All dates are subject to review.*

4     Divine Service (Rite of Confirmation) – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

7     Chapel at Farmington Hills Inn – 1:30 PM

11    Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

11    Open Forum – 11:15 AM (Voters' Meeting to follow)

14    Chapel at Farmington Hills Inn – 1:30 PM

18    Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

18    Long-Range Planning Meeting – 11:15 AM

19    SE Michigan Conference Planning Meeting – 10:00 Am - Noon

21    Chapel at Farmington Hills Inn – 1:30 PM

25    Divine Service – 10:00 AM (also on Facebook Live)

26-28 Family VBS – 6:30 – 8:00 PM

28    Chapel at Farmington Hills Inn – 1:30 PM

### **FAMILY VBS – July 26-28; 6:30-8:00 PM**

We will be offering a Vacation Bible School for the whole family to partake in. It will be Monday – Wednesday evenings. The children will have their own materials that they will enjoy. Tentatively, the theme will be, “Soaring High.”

Adults will have a different topic. We will work under the theme, “Finding God.” It is designed for all levels of interest in the Bible and religion in general. We will consider how various religions speak about God, how the true God reveals himself, and how to be sure what we know about God is true and helpful. We will consider what is trustworthy and untrustworthy when it comes to knowing God’s will for us.

While our Family VBS will meet in person, we also recognized that many people seemed to prefer a drive-through arrangement of picking up materials for their children and working through them at home. Since it was so well-received, we will try to offer the same thing with our Family VBS. Logistics have yet to be figured out with that. If you are able to help with our VBS this summer, especially in the area of the drive-through event, there will be a planning meeting after church on Sunday, June 13.

### **WINDOWS AND SIDING UPDATE**

Recently our congregation signed a contract with Kerns Brothers to replace the windows and siding on the church. The total cost of the project is about \$62,500, and to date our generous offerings have raised \$29,450 for the project. In the May Council meeting the final \$7,192 in the Alice Laho Trust memorial was added to the Windows & Siding Fund to increase total available funds to \$36,642. That leaves us with \$25,808 needed to completely fund the project. Should it be necessary, we have applied for a loan through Lutheran Association for Church Extension (LACE). Council members are currently weighing the merits of possibly using some of our existing savings in lieu of paying the costs associated with borrowing. Your thoughtful consideration for a gift toward this project is appreciated.

<b>LAST WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD (6/13)</b>	
<b>Attend/Communion</b>	
41/33	
<b>Offerings</b>	
General Fund	\$2,150.00
Missions	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$7.00
Siding/windows	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,207.00</b>

### **NOTES from Huron Valley Lutheran High School (HVL)**

**Join HVL’s Mailing List** - Go to [HVLHS.org](http://HVLHS.org) and click on “Sign up for Newsletter” or call or email the school office at [mail@hvlhs.org](mailto:mail@hvlhs.org) to be added.

### **International Host Families Needed**

HVL’s International Program is a unique ministry that allows us to share Jesus with young people all over the world. We thank our host families this year who have opened their hearts and homes to help with this ministry. We are now placing students with host families for the 2021-2022 school year and need more host families. Host families are asked to provide meals, transportation to/from school, and a room/bed. The international student’s natural family provides for all other needs (spending money, clothes, entertainment, etc.) Host families receive a stipend each year to host an international student. (Amount varies between \$550-\$800/month) Families would host the student from late August 2021 until the beginning of June 2022. If you are interested in hosting a student, or if you would like more information, please contact HVL at your earliest convenience.

### **NEW FACULTY AT HVL**

We welcome Mr. Wade Shult to the HVL family. Mr. Shult graduated from Martin Luther College with a degree in secondary mathematics. He and his wife will be moving out here in July. Mr. Shult will be teaching upper level math as well as having other responsibilities. We look forward to meeting Mr. and Mrs. Shult and welcoming them to the HVL family.

## **Equipping Members for Personal Witness**

Personal witnessing has always been important. But in our increasingly unchurched culture, it is more important than ever. In his book, *You Found Me*, author Rick Richardson reports that when unchurched people were asked “How effective would invitations to church be through the following methods?” 51% said an invite from friends would be very effective. Compare this to just 29% for an online video invite and 18% from a Facebook ad. In a survey conducted by the Barna Group in 2019, unchurched people were asked how they would like to explore faith. 30% said a casual one-on-one conversation was preferred—the highest percentage of any method. Compare this to just 5% who would prefer a tract and 7% who would prefer to explore faith via video. These findings only confirm what we likely already know by intuition and experience—personal witnessing is the most important form of evangelism we need to be doing.

The WELS Commission on Evangelism is dedicated to helping WELS members be more active and prepared to be personal witnesses of Jesus Christ.

To this end, the Commission is releasing two new resources—Everyone Outreach and Let’s Go.

Everyone Outreach is a culture-shaping program designed to help congregations build cultures of outreach so that it isn’t just something the pastor or evangelism committee does. It is what every member and every ministry is doing. The program consists of a two-day workshop hosted by the congregation where members discover how their current thought habits may be keeping them from participating in outreach. Following the workshop, resources are provided to assist members in creating new thought habits that will result in more outreach efforts.

Let’s Go provides video-based personal witness training. It consists of seven lessons in which Christians are taught a simple, three-part process for sharing their faith—*Love* the unchurched people God has brought into their lives; *Listen* carefully to their cares, concerns, and questions; and *Lead* them to the gospel so that the Holy Spirit can change their hearts and lives. The lessons can be used in a large- or small-group Bible study setting or by an individual Christian.

In other words, the goal of Everyone Outreach is to create an *aspiration* for personal witnessing and the goal of Let’s Go is to create an *affinity* for personal witnessing.

You can learn more about Everyone Outreach at [everyoneoutreach.com](http://everyoneoutreach.com).

You can find the Let’s Go resources at [welscongregationalservices.net/lets-go/](http://welscongregationalservices.net/lets-go/).

**WELS RADIO HOUR** broadcasts 10:30-11:30 AM, Sundays, out of Lola Park Evangelical Lutheran Church of Redford. It airs on WLQV, AM 1500 and 92.7 FM. It is also simulcast on [faithtalkdetroit.com](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) and can be heard on the [faithtalkdetroit](http://faithtalkdetroit.com) phone app.

**WELS CHURCH LOCATOR** - If you are traveling out of town or on vacation, you can visit [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net) and click **Find a Church/School** at the top of the page, to find a WELS Church near you.

We encourage our members to utilize opportunities for Christian education, grounded in the Evangelical-Lutheran faith. While we do not own and operate a school on our property, we are able to enroll our children at the following schools.

### **St. Peter Lutheran School**

(Pre-K only)  
1343 Penniman Avenue  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 421-9022  
[www.splp.org](http://www.splp.org)  
Becky Lohrmann, teacher

### **St. Paul Lutheran School**

(Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
17810 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(734) 453-0460  
[www.stpaulslivonia.org](http://www.stpaulslivonia.org)  
Mr. Paul Leifer, principal

### **Huron Valley Lutheran High School**

(9<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade)  
33740 Cowan Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 525-0160  
[www.hvlhs.org](http://www.hvlhs.org)  
Mr. Matt Foley, principal

**SHUT-INS** - *Please remember our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.*

**Sylvia Campbell**

1745 Wickhamm

Royal Oak, MI 48073

**Jim Hobley**

6950 Farmington Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

**Margaretha Lester**

935 Union Lake Road Apt. 218

White Lake Twp., MI 48386

**Elaine Patton**

42600 Cherry Hill Road, Rm. 115

Canton, MI 48188

**Mary Zuehlke**

29451 Halsted Road Apt. 118

Farmington Hills, MI 48331