Welcome to Luther Memorial Church of the Erie Lutheran Parish



24 December 2022 The Nativity of Our Lord 6:00 pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD Pastor Emeritus WALT GABER RON KING Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity THE REV. BRIAN MORAN THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL THE REV. KAREN PARSH Pastors in Residence LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN Director of Care & Health Ministries JAN MACINNES BETH KELLER Youth and Family Ministry SARAH PRYLINSKI Youth and Family Ministry BECKY CAREY Interim Academy Administrator



24 DECEMBER 2022 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Holy Communion • ELW – Setting III • 6:00 pm

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage. As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY - "Medley for Christmas"

arr. Sondra Tucker

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

■ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born on this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

G Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

Please turn and reverence the cross of Christ. As the cross passes you, turn and face the cross as it is carried to the chancel.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ELW 283



O, Come, All Ye Faithful



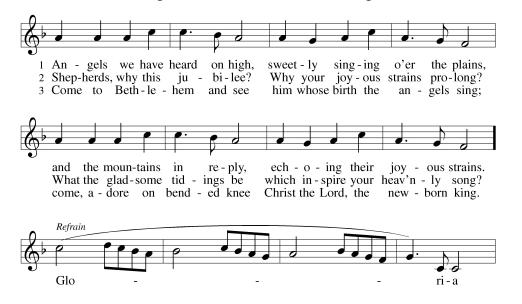
Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

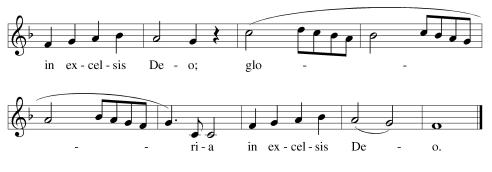
- ▶ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW 289



Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862 Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

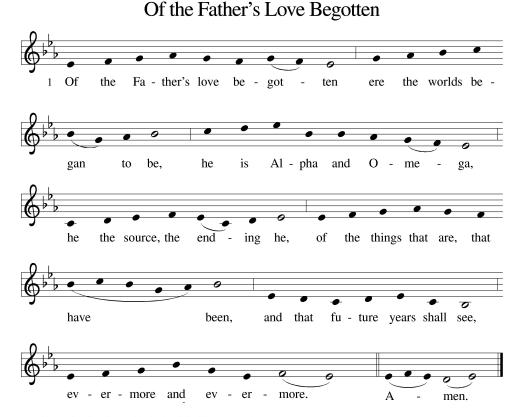
- **P** Let us pray.
- ☑ Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

O God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds,
and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us.
Bless us with your holy presence as we remember those who have no home or place of rest.
Be with us that we might share Christ's love with others, for he is our light and salvation.
Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever!

G Amen.



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.



ELW 295

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY

WORD – "God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song."

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darknesson them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the voke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders. the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne and dominion of David. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

Refrain: (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by **R**.)



¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless his name;

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,

He is more to be feared than all gods. **R**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶Oh the majesty and magnificence of his presence; Oh the power and splendor of his sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

ascribe to the LORD honor and power. ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;

bring offerings and come into his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity." R

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth. R

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴It is Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain: (Sung once by the choir, repeated by the congregation and repeated after the verse.)



I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

▶ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Ceasar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the lodgings.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ. *Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Lundwall

Please stand as you are able.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

NICENE CREED

- A With the whole church let us confess our faith
- **G** We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

A Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

A Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

A You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

A Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving. God of grace,

G hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place, especially Bill Schaal, Sr., Dorothy Overberg and C. Richard Overberg, Mark Lechner, Bev Held and Carolyn Luebke, who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

G Amen.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. G And also with you. You are invited to greet those around you in your pew with a word or a sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL – "God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ."

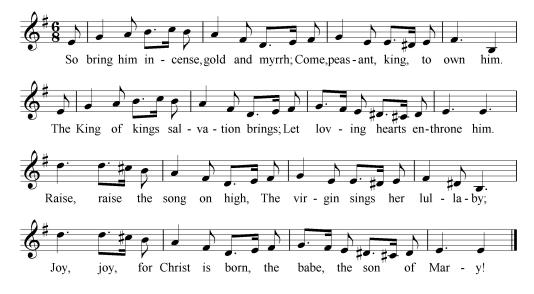
OFFERING IS RECEIVED

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "A Thousand Candles" (Swedish Carol)

arr. Dan Miller

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN

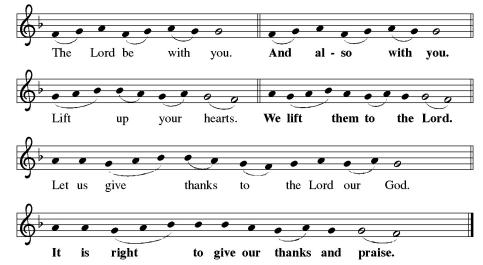


OFFERTORY PRAYER

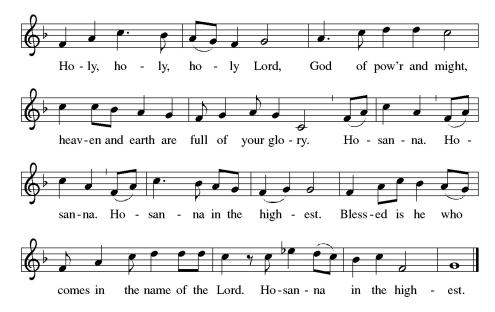
A God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



▶ 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In 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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

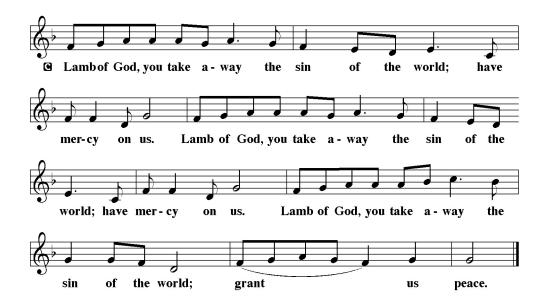
- By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.
- Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

G Amen.

- 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.

AGNUS DEI



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C Amen.

P Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

The congregation is seated.

This evening's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

> Please come forward by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are located in the tray on the stand in front of the baptismal font. Gluten-free wafers are also on the stand in the dish on top of the tray. Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM – "A Virgin Most Pure"

A virgin most pure, as the Prophets do tell, Hath brought forth a baby, as it hath befell, To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin, Which Adam's transgression hath wrapped us all in.

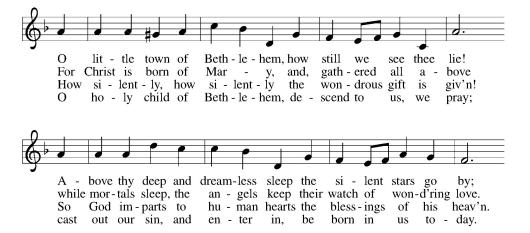
Then God sent an Angel from heaven so high, To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie, And bid them no longer in sorrow to stay, Because that our Savior was born on this day.

Then presently after, the Shepherds did spy A number of Angels appear in the sky; Who joyfully talked and sweetly did sing, "To God be all glory our Heavenly King".

To teach us humility all this was done, And learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun; A manger His cradle who came from above, The great God of mercy, of peace, and of love.

HYMNS FOR DISTRIBUTION

O Little Town of Bethlehem



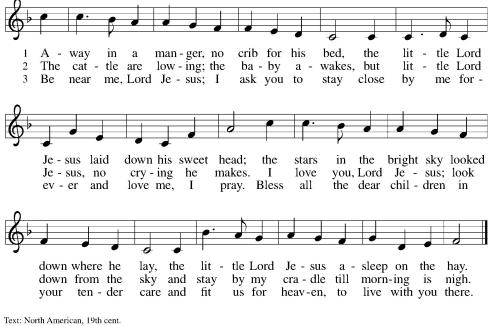
arr. Crawford R. Thoburn

ELW 279



Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Away in a Manger



Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

 God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ELW 277

CANDLE LIGHTING

The usher will light the candle of the first person on each aisle in each pew. Each person, in turn, will pass the Light to their neighbor. The unlit candle will always be the one that is tipped. When all the candles are lit, we will join in the singing of "Silent Night."

CANDLE LIGHTING ANTHEM - "Peace, Peace"

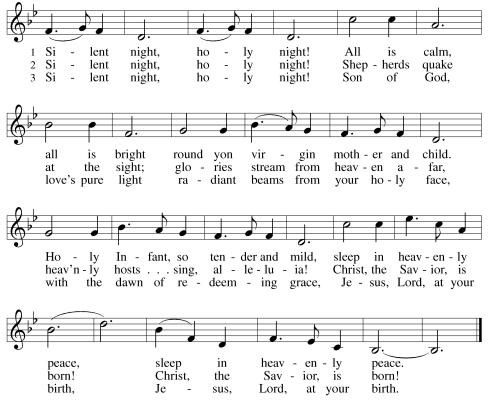
Rick & Sylvia Powell

LBW 65

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all. This is a time for joy, this is a time for love. Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

At the conclusion of "Silent Night," the congregation will extinguish their candles. You may take the candle as your remembrance of this celebration.

SENDING – "God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world."

BLESSING

■ God bless you and keep you,

G Amen.

Lord

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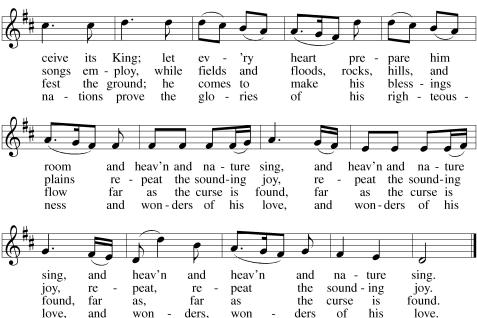
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Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Music: ANTIOCH, George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

to

to

more let

rules the world

Joy

1 2 Joy

3 No

4 He the world,

the earth,

sin

A Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

С Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "Grand Choeur on Two French Carols"

César Franck (1822 - 1890)

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– SERVING THIS EVENING –

GREETERS – Sally & Phil McAfee ACOLYTES – Cecilia & Noah Montroy TORCH BEARERS - Cecilia & Noah Montroy CRUCIFER - Mary Daniels ASSISTING MINISTER – Mark Howell LECTOR – Lois Smith COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Mary Daniels, Sally McAfee USHERS - Sally & Phil McAfee, Elvin Montero, Gina Snider ALTAR GUILD - Cathie Dugan LUTHER MEMORIAL CHOIR AND HANDBELL CHOIR





Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Carol Schaal.

Columbarium flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Carol Schaal.

Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of C. Richard and Dorothy Overberg by their family.

The Lord is with us at all times; in our joys and our sadness we turn to Him for strength and comfort. As you look upon the star shining in our church tonight know that He is always with you. We thank our Luther Memorial family for their gift of this star for Christmas Eve.

Thank You to our choir members for their leadership in our worship services throughout the past year.

<u>Choir</u>		Handbells	
Patricia Boyd	Cathie Dugan	Christy Adams	Pat Bellingham
Jonathan Gaber	Molly Gaber	Patricia Boyd	Cathie Dugan
Kay Gudgeon	Mary Laver	Les Fobes	Jeanne Gaber
Otto "Skip" Meyn	Rose-Marie Rose	Jonathan Gaber	Molly Gaber
Matt Royek	Kathy Sahlmann	Lynnette Gustafson	Mary Laver
Pat Young	-	Lena Martin	Barb Moore
C		KaraPartusch	Matt Royek
		Kathy Sahlmann	

Church Offices will be closed December 26 and 30 and January 2.

Learning Academy students and staff return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Members who have donated poinsettias may take their flowers following the 10:30pm service this evening.

Volunteers to assist with delivery of poinsettias to our homebound are appreciated. We welcome you to stop by the church beginning Tuesday, December 27 to pick up poinsettias. Thank you.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 Christmas Day

Pastor Karen Lundwall will preach at the **single worship service at 10:30am** in the main church. The service is live streamed; <u>https://www.youtube.com/@luthermemorialonline/streams</u>.

The recorded service is also available on Luther Memorial Church's website at <u>www.luthermemorialonline.org</u> by clicking on the tabs of "Resources & Online Worship" and "Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study".

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 THE NAME OF JESUS

Pastor Brian Moran will preach at the 8:15 and 10:30am services in the main church. The service is live streamed; <u>https://www.youtube.com/@luthermemorialonline/streams</u>. The recorded service is also available on Luther Memorial Church's website at <u>www.luthermemorialonline.org</u> by clicking on the tabs of "Resources & Online Worship" and "Sunday Morning Worship, Daily Prayer and Bible Study".

	PLEASE REMEMBER IN YO		
Jan & Skip MacInnes	Our Members C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	John Downey
Dave Parsh	Mark Howell	Mike Daniels	John Downey
Dave Parsh			
	Friends and Fam	nily:	
Elise VanDamia	Marie Checkley	Tammy Fuller	Linda F.
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Sue O'Mahony
Edie Jackman	Melissa Geiser	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Brittani H.	Tom McGrail	Meghan Kessler
Susan Brooks	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Brian Nicewonger	Elayne Morphy	Carolyn Luebka	
	Grief:		
Henry Gilbert family	Kaitlyn Farley family	Mark Lechner family	Bev Held family
Pastor Ralph Storm family	Phyllis Goldhart family	Carol Luebke family	
	Our Military Service Mer	n & Women:	
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

MY COMMITMENT TO GOD THROUGH THE MINISTRY **OF LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH - YEAR 2023**

I/we commit my/our entire life in service to Jesus Christ, and therefore will offer a portion my/our annual income. I promise, with God helping me, to give to Luther Memorial's ministry during the coming year, as follows:

§_____ () Weekly () Monthly

Name_____

Address

(Please detach from bulletin and add to offering plate)