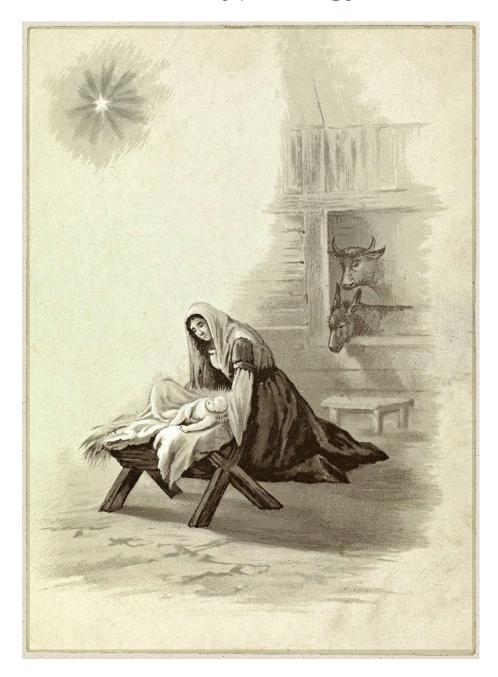
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500

Reverend James Heckman, Bridge Pastor 267-664-3160/ bridgepastor.ELD@gmail.com



DECEMBER 24, 2022, 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

You can find the live stream at the following locations: www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Introduction to Worship

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.

Preparatory Music - Organist/Pianist

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Opening Hymn – Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful 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

Christmas Dialog and Greeting-

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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!

L: The first lesson is from the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

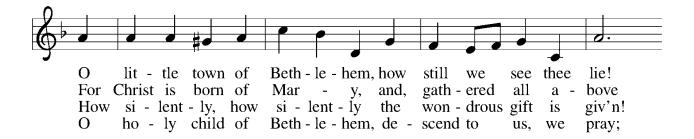
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

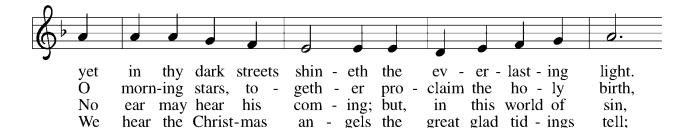
HYMN: O Little Town of BethlehemELW #279

O Little Town of Bethlehem





A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im-parts to bless - ings hu - man hearts the of his heav'n. out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us





hopes and fears of all the years are met in The thee to - night. prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth! and where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in. oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

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

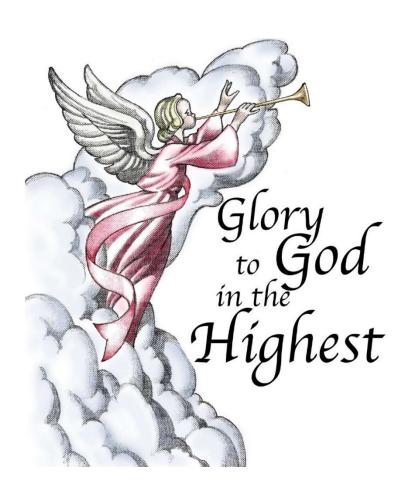
Second Reading - Titus 2:11-14

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.

L: The second reading is from the 2nd chapter of Titus

¹¹The 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. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might 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.



Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on HighELW #289

Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

Third Reading - Luke 2:1-7

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 inn.

Hymn: Away in a Manger.....ELW #278



Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921



Fourth Reading - Luke 2:8-20

P: The Gospel continues.

⁸In that 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. ¹⁹But 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, as it had been told them.

Sermon

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



- 1 It came up on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gra-cious king."

A - bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an sing. ba - bel sounds the and ev - er o'er its bless - ed an - gels sing. wea - ry road and hear the an oh, be - side the sing! rest the world give back the song which now the an and all sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Prayer of the Church

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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 (*especially*). Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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 (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place 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.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory Choir Anthem - On Christmas Night - Paul Mantz/David Cherwein

Presentation of the Gifts



Offertory Hymn: What Child Is ThisELW #296

What Child Is This



- What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



bring him laud, Mar - y! haste, haste to the babe, the son of hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y! joy, joy,

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

 $Music: GREENSLEEVES, English \ ballad, \ 16th \ cent.$

Offertory Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

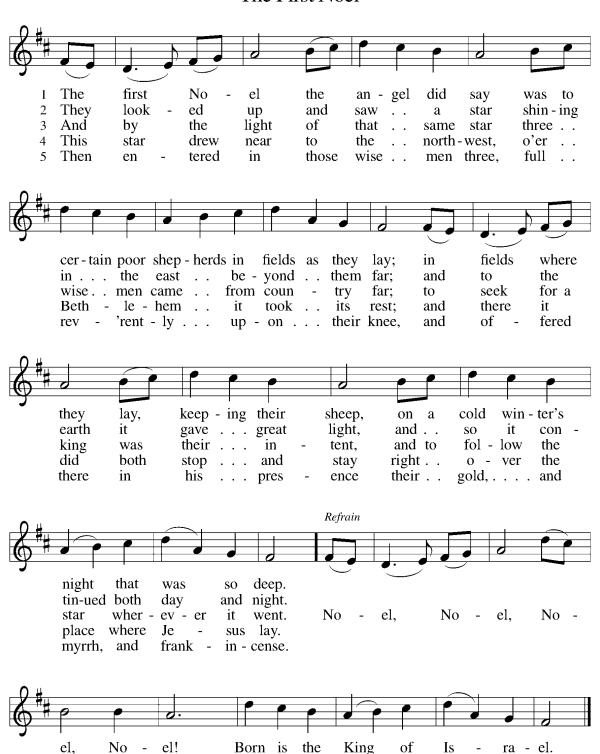
P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C: Amen.

Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)

Hymn during Distribution- The First Noel ELW #300

The First Noel



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

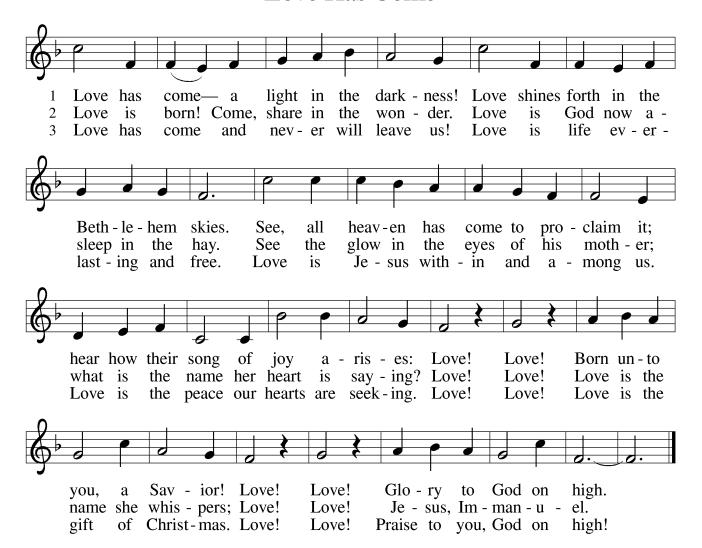
Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

Hymn – Love Has Come – (Carefully light candles during hymn) ELW 292

Love Has Come



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The Gospel of the Incarnation - John 1:1-14

P: The Gospel of the Lord:

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Prayers

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

P: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Hymn of Light: Silent Night, Holy Night!ELW #281

Silent Night, Holy Night! Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



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

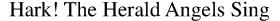
Blessing

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

Departure Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ELW #270





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Dismissal:

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman		
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams		
Acolyte	Landon Helfrich		
Altar	Barb Naska & Nancy Moskella		
Lector	Tom Gaun		
Greeters	Lois & Jim Altemose		
Communion Usher	Ben Naska		
Council Counting Team	Cathy Mueller & Kathy Hlavaty		
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson		
Custodian	Dianna Streletz		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 TH	10:30 AM	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS DAY - Service of Lessons and Carols
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023	10:30 AM	THE NAME OF JESUS - Service of Lessons and Carols

NOTE: There will be no Wednesday Bible study this week Bible study will resume on January 4.2023

<u>UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</u> OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS.

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS
29	Leo Grzelkowski	28	Jayne & Jim Miller (54)	29	Matthew Mueller
30	George Kreitz	30	Laura & Dave Helfrich (16)		



DECEMBER "OUTREACH OFFERINGS" are designated for the *Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter*. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for Food Basket donations. You can either buy the supplies for the basket or Helen Dungan can shop for you.



Reverse Calendar Challenge!

Its not too late to join our Reverse Advent Calendar challenge. (Instead of taking something OUT of the calendar each day, we're putting a nonperishable food item IN a box each day!)

The challenge ends on January 8 when we find out which church in the Palisades Area Lutheran Ministry Group has collected the most boxes. The winning church will enjoy a free dinner cooked and served by the other churches in the group. A list of items for each box is available on the table in the Narthex (Lobby)



Thanks to the dozens of folks from the Palisades area Lutheran Ministries who made the Living Nativity event a great success. We had between 150 and 200 guests between the two showings!

Please lift up in prayer the following:



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; Linda Sauter; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family: Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie

Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Alyse Mesko Hales; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Jane Litzenberger; Chelsea Marley; Lenny Marin; Jim McAnally; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Jennifer Phelps; Dr. Larry Rakowski; Tom Ross; Connie Rugen; Linda Sauter; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Saxton Vargo: Nancy Vetter; Linda Wilson, and Henry Wong.

For those who are Homebound: Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

For the grieving: Wanda Altemose; Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Donald Seipt; Jeffrey Tapler

Christmas Flowers 2022

Thank you to the people listed below, who participated in the purchase of the beautiful Poinsettias for Christmas. You have helped to make our church look very festive for this holy Christmas Season. Please remember to *take the plants home with* you after the service this evening.

Member	In Memory Of	In Honor Of	
Lois and Jim Altemose	Our Loved Ones		
Helen Dungan	William and Mary Dungan, Don Seipt		
Kathy and Joe Hlavaty	Mother, Geraldine H. Seipt and Father, Donald V. Seipt		
	Mother and Father, Wanda and Joseph Hlavaty		
Dot Peterman	Husband, Ron Peterman		
	Parents, Ruth and Charles Eliassen		
Barb and Ben Naska	Loved Ones	Our Children and Grandchildren, To the Glory of God	
Becky Praster	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Praster		
	Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Harman		
Ed Xander	Nancy Jean Xander		
Pat Zion	Clara and Benjamin Patten		
Miriam Anderson		To the Glory of God	

