



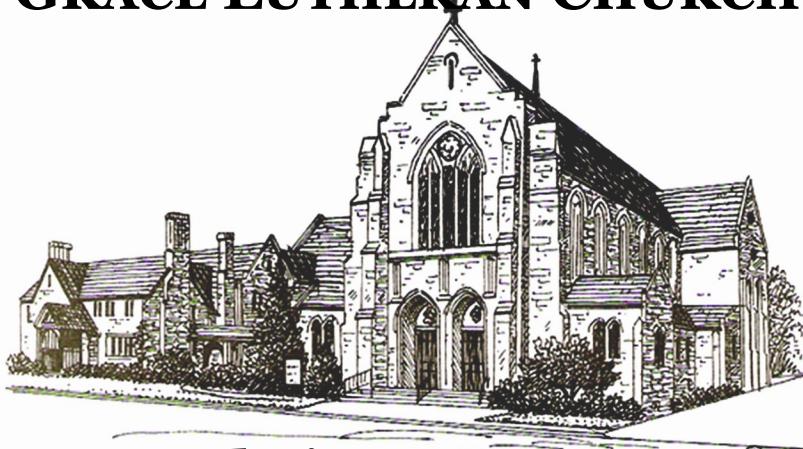
HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...

THE
Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6



Welcome to GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve THE CHRIST MASS

As WE GATHER THIS EVENING:

Tonight, the mystery and wonder of God's love is fully revealed for all to see as we gaze into the manger. As we take in the light and life of our new born king we know that Jesus came to us as the Star of Creation, a Star of Hope, a Star of Unity, and a Star of Joy. Tonight we celebrate his birth and remember that it is his Light alone that enlightens our lives.

IN THE PEW RACK:

You will find Fellowship Cards. Please take the time to fill one out and deposit it in the Offering Plate. You will also find giving envelops, should you want to make a contribution to the ministry we share here in this place.

RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED:

For those unfamiliar with Grace, bathrooms are located under the balcony on the Courtyard side of the building.

EXTENDED CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

(The list does not necessarily reflect the order in which pieces will be played.)

Mary Did You Know?

Arr. Carol Tornquist

Still, Still, Still/Away in a Manger

Arr. Jay Rouse

Cindy Scranton, Pianist

Reflections of the Nativity Medley

Arr. Scott Staidle

Helen Biddinger and Barbara Ziebold, Violins

And the Glory of the Lord

G. F. Handel

Grace Lutheran Choir

O Holy Night

Arr. N. Leonard

Nate Leonard, Pianist

Ring the Bells

by Harry Bollbach

Mary Nossaman, Vocalist and Karen Svanoe, Harp

Every Valley

G. F. Handel

Spencer Wilhelm, Baritone

Christmas Selections

Karen Svanoe, Harp

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi

Grace Lutheran Choir

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

P: Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;

A: Long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

P: Twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

A: Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom;

P: Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; One thousand years from the anointing of David as king,

A: In fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; While the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, was born in Bethlehem of Judea to the Virgin Mary.

P: Tonight, we celebrate the nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Please stand and face the Processional Cross.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #289

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE 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. All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, for he 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

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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

On Christmas Night

arr. Hal Hopson

Wendy Bailey, Bells

SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14

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.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come, we, now to wor-ship the Lord, heav'n-ly King by all a-dored,
hum - ble off - spring of a vir - gin, star of the an - cient skies.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with ro-yal beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

READING OF THE GOSPEL LUKE 2:1-20

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

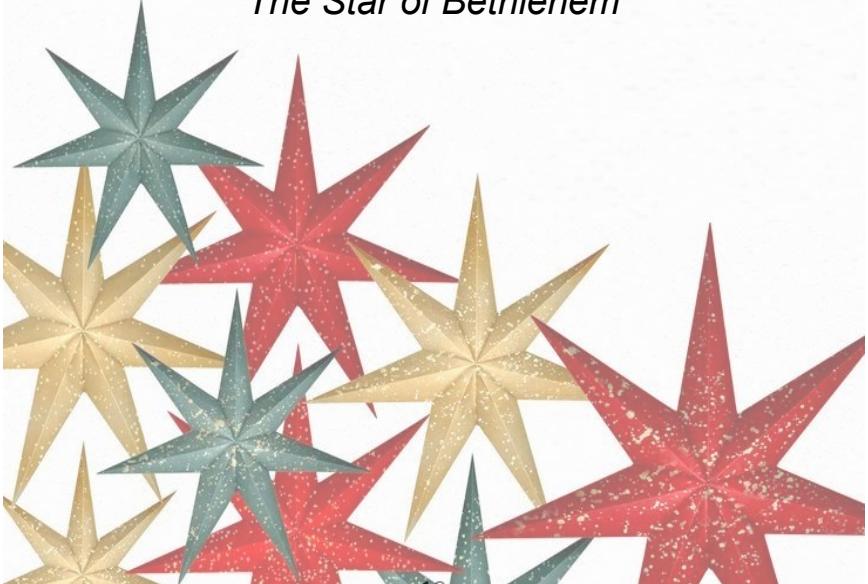
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise we now our glo-ri-ous King. All - le - lu - ias let us sing.
To our Sav - ior, reign - ing ev - er, Born for us all to save.
O star of won-der, star of night, star with ro-yal beau-ty bright,
West-ward lead-ing, still pro-ceed-ing, guide us to thy per-fect light.

Please be seated.

TONIGHT'S REFLECTION *REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY*

The Star of Bethlehem



Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 275

“ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

THE PRAYERS

P: Empowered by the good news of Christ's birth, let us boldly pray for the church, all of creation, and all who are in need as we respond to each prayer petition "shine your light on us." Let us pray . . .

A brief silence.

A: Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

A: Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

A: Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn our swords into plowshares. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

A: Shepherding God, you lead us to see you in the faces of our neighbor. Send us into the

world to find your Word made flesh in one another. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

A: Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

A: Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. O Bright Star of Bethlehem,

C: Shine your light on us.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated for the offering.

THE OFFERING AND CHOIR ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 276

“INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing

Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the child is Lord of all!

Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.

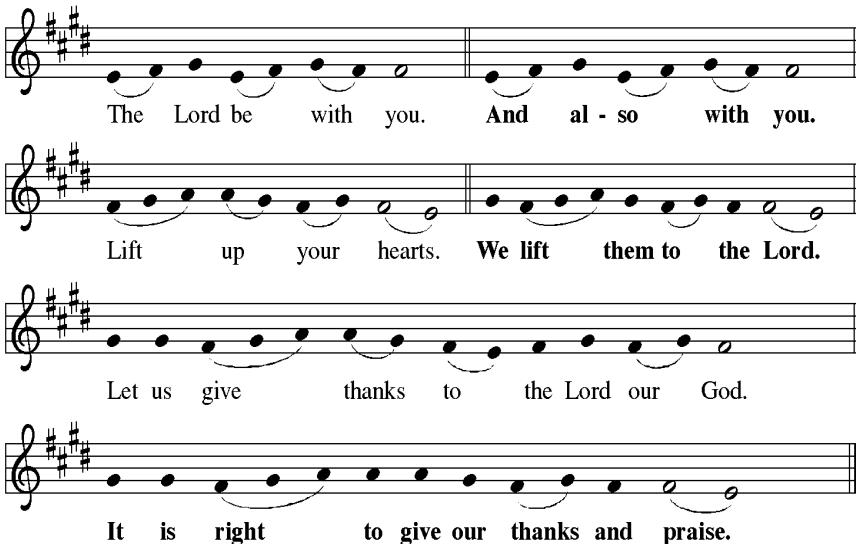
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Your light and life are all round us. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each staff containing a line of text corresponding to the melody. The lyrics are:

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; In the wonder and mystery of the Wed made flees 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, the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold 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.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 300

“THE FIRST NOEL”

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 292

“Love Has Come”

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
 what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
 Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
 Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

After all have communed, you will be invited to stand, as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

A LITANY FOR CANDLE LIGHTING

As we share in the Litany, the light will dim throughout our Worship Space. During this time the Organ will quietly play while Pastor and the Worship Assistants begin to light your individual candles.

P: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of creation, all that you have made is good. Open our eyes to the wonder and beauty of your creation.

C: May we shine with the brightness of your light!

A: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of hope, your light and life scatters the darkness of our doubt and gloom. Fill us with hope and vanquish our despair.

C: May we shine with the brightness of your light!

P: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of unity, with one voice, may all the earth know your compassion, grace, and love. May your light bring unity over division to heal our war torn world.

C: May we shine with the brightness of your light!

A: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of joy, fill our spirits. Enliven our lives. Fill us with your light, that we may forever sing the joys of your eternal praise.

C: May we shine with the brightness of your light!

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

ELW # 281

“SILENT NIGHT”

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BENEDICTION

P: Go now to shine like stars in the sky, bringing the light of Christ to the world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

“*Go TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN*”

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

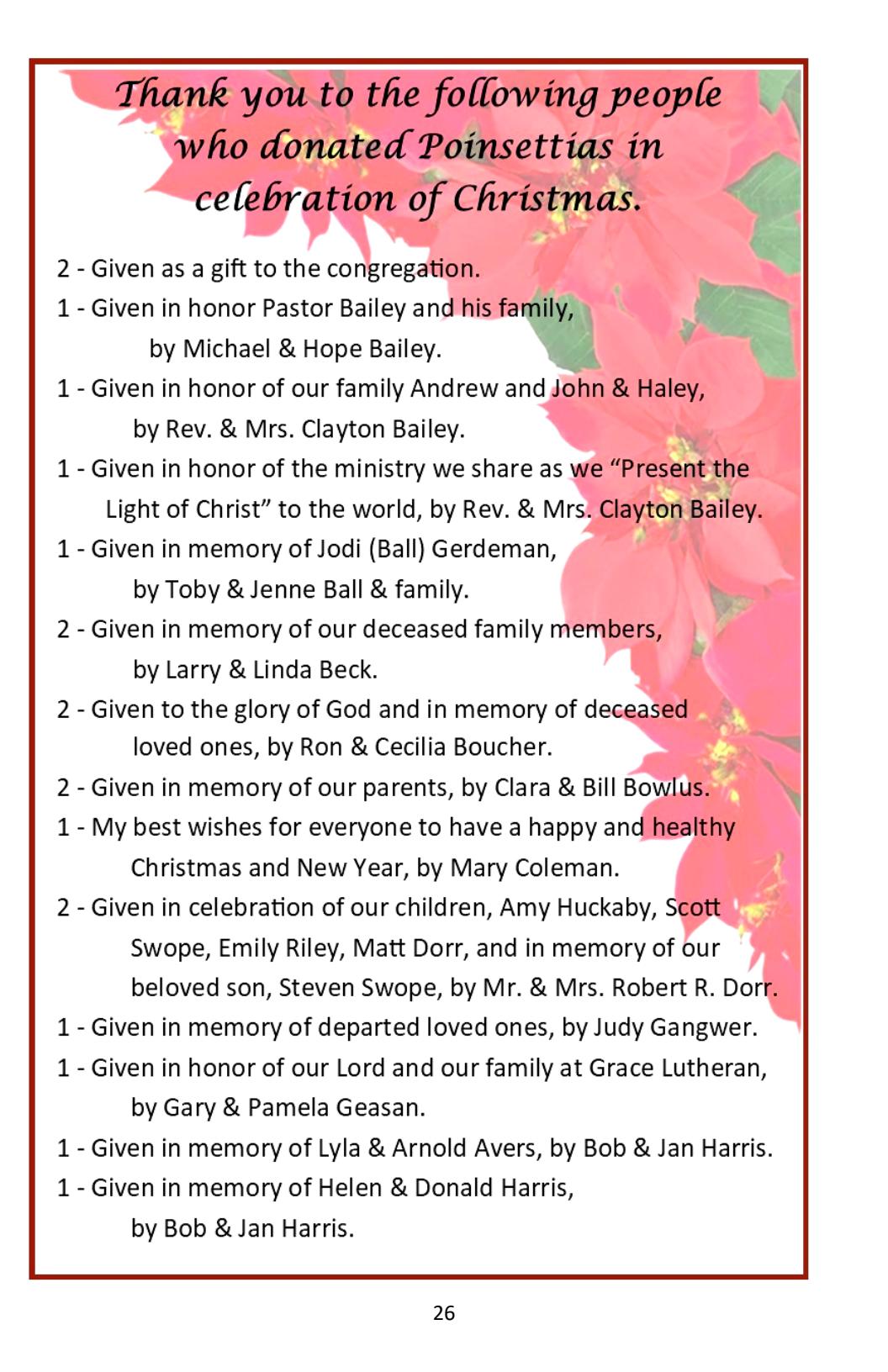
**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

DISMISSAL

A: Filled with the joy of Christ's Birth,
P: Go in peace and let our light shine forever!
C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN	WORSHIP
ACOLYTE	Brenden Fisher
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Henry & Becky Seibert
GREETER: BAKER ST.	Cecilia Boucher
DEACONS	Cecilia Boucher Jerry Letzring



Thank you to the following people who donated Poinsettias in celebration of Christmas.

2 - Given as a gift to the congregation.

1 - Given in honor Pastor Bailey and his family,
by Michael & Hope Bailey.

1 - Given in honor of our family Andrew and John & Haley,
by Rev. & Mrs. Clayton Bailey.

1 - Given in honor of the ministry we share as we "Present the
Light of Christ" to the world, by Rev. & Mrs. Clayton Bailey.

1 - Given in memory of Jodi (Ball) Gerdeman,
by Toby & Jenne Ball & family.

2 - Given in memory of our deceased family members,
by Larry & Linda Beck.

2 - Given to the glory of God and in memory of deceased
loved ones, by Ron & Cecilia Boucher.

2 - Given in memory of our parents, by Clara & Bill Bowlus.

1 - My best wishes for everyone to have a happy and healthy
Christmas and New Year, by Mary Coleman.

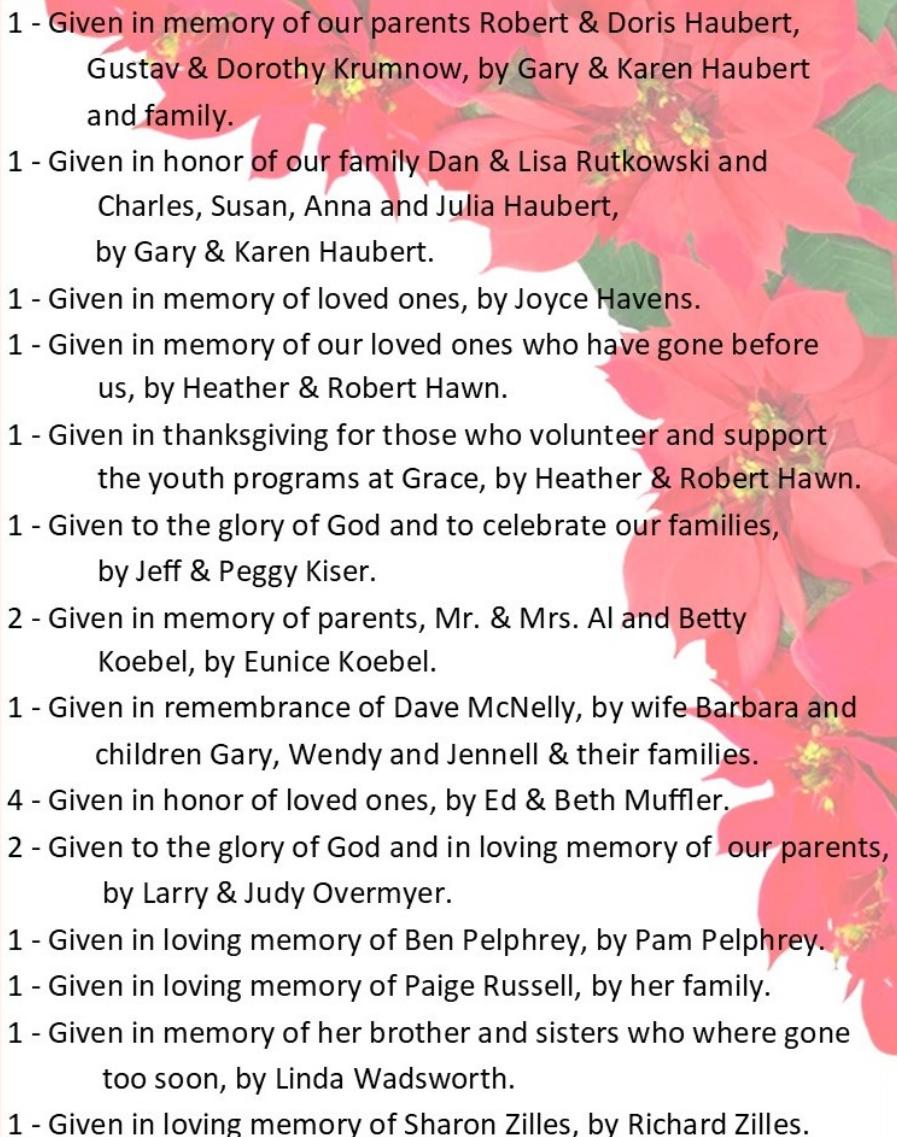
2 - Given in celebration of our children, Amy Huckaby, Scott
Swope, Emily Riley, Matt Dorr, and in memory of our
beloved son, Steven Swope, by Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Dorr.

1 - Given in memory of departed loved ones, by Judy Gangwer.

1 - Given in honor of our Lord and our family at Grace Lutheran,
by Gary & Pamela Geasan.

1 - Given in memory of Lyla & Arnold Avers, by Bob & Jan Harris.

1 - Given in memory of Helen & Donald Harris,
by Bob & Jan Harris.



- 1 - Given in memory of our parents Robert & Doris Haubert, Gustav & Dorothy Krumnow, by Gary & Karen Haubert and family.
- 1 - Given in honor of our family Dan & Lisa Rutkowski and Charles, Susan, Anna and Julia Haubert, by Gary & Karen Haubert.
- 1 - Given in memory of loved ones, by Joyce Havens.
- 1 - Given in memory of our loved ones who have gone before us, by Heather & Robert Hawn.
- 1 - Given in thanksgiving for those who volunteer and support the youth programs at Grace, by Heather & Robert Hawn.
- 1 - Given to the glory of God and to celebrate our families, by Jeff & Peggy Kiser.
- 2 - Given in memory of parents, Mr. & Mrs. Al and Betty Koebel, by Eunice Koebel.
- 1 - Given in remembrance of Dave McNelly, by wife Barbara and children Gary, Wendy and Jennell & their families.
- 4 - Given in honor of loved ones, by Ed & Beth Muffler.
- 2 - Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, by Larry & Judy Overmyer.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Ben Pelphrey, by Pam Pelphrey.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Paige Russell, by her family.
- 1 - Given in memory of her brother and sisters who where gone too soon, by Linda Wadsworth.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Sharon Zilles, by Richard Zilles.

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*Angels we Have Heard on High/Angels from the Realms of Glory/the first Noel/
Silent Night/Go Tell It On The Mountain Public Domain*

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Love Has Come text 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services*

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The Advent Series *Bright Star of Bethlehem* was written by Tim Runtsch.

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WHITE POINSETTIAS on the Altar are given to the glory of God in memory of their deceased members by the Altar Guild.

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL OFFERING will be given to **BRIDGE OF HOPE**. Donation buckets will be available at each entrance to the sanctuary. With your gifts we know that we can make a difference.

LESSONS & CAROLS will take place at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 902 E. State Street, Fremont, on **Sunday, December 28 at 10 am**. Please note there will be no services at Grace this weekend.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 and again on Thursday, January 1, 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season.

Grace Lutheran Church



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Minister of Music:

Nate Leonard
nateykeys@gmail.com

Minister of Youth & Family:

Heather Hawn
heatherrhawn@gmail.com

Called to Present the Light of Christ!