

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Hannah Lee, Organist

Kate Radford, Soprano

Order of the Liturgy

Festival Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP - CHRISTMAS LITANY

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

Oh, come let us worship him.

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

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

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

We have beheld Christ's glory, the glory of the Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Glory be to the Father, ✠ and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN

ELW 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, with the angels and shepherds, and with the animals in the stable we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us, and fill us with joy and wonder as we look upon this manger scene. May Jesus be born in our lives, that we might share his love with all the world, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

NATIVITY HYMN

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
 Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: 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.

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

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PSALM: Psalm 96 *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**
- 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.
- ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

THE READING OF THE LESSON: 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Angels We Have Heard on High****ELW 289**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7

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**O Little Town of Bethlehem****ELW 279**

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-14

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!”

HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC*"O Holy Night"*

Scott Swink & Bonnie Mohr

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Garry Mohr

SPECIAL MUSIC*"Mary Did You Know"*

Bonnie Mohr

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with "Hear us, O God." The assembly responds with "your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE - *The presiding and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING**OFFERTORY***"Bethlehem Down"**Lyrics—Bruce Blunt, Music—Peter Warlock*

OFFERING PRAYER - *All speak the prayer together.*

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

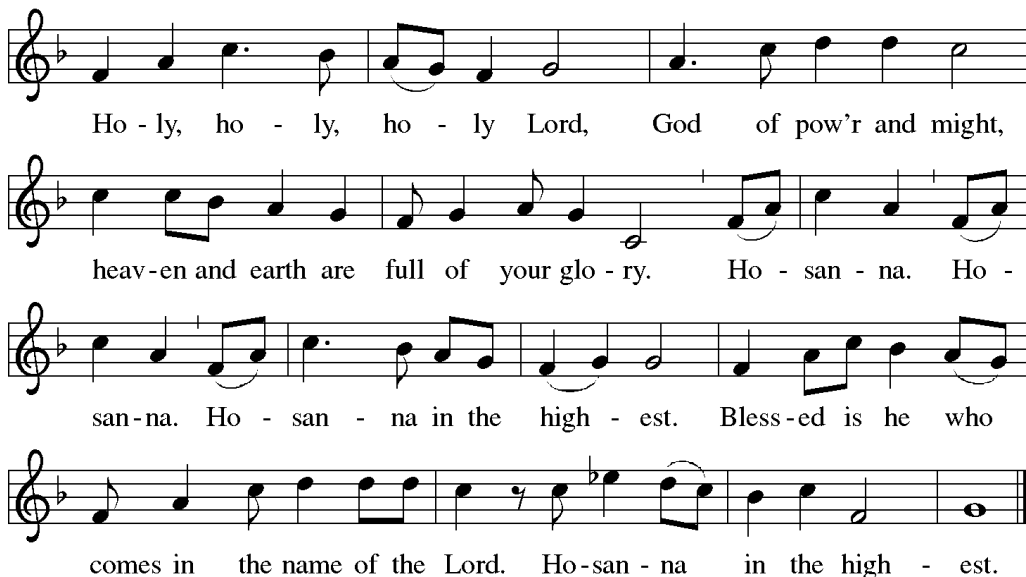
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your spirit...Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

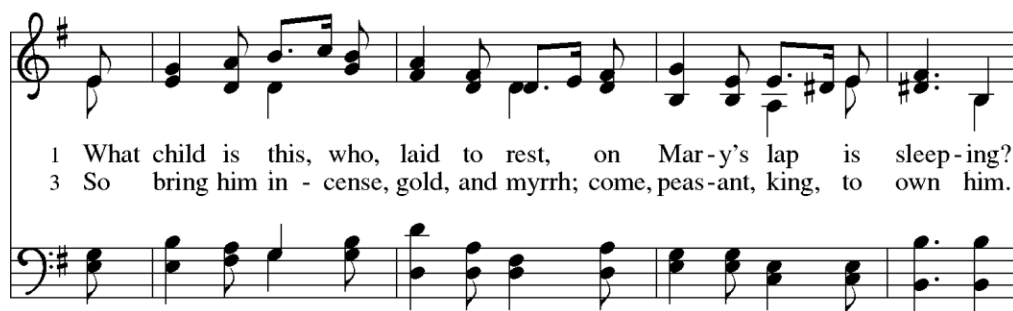
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: **"The body of Christ given for you."** Wine/grape juice: **"The blood of Christ shed for you."***

COMMUNION HYMN

What Child Is This

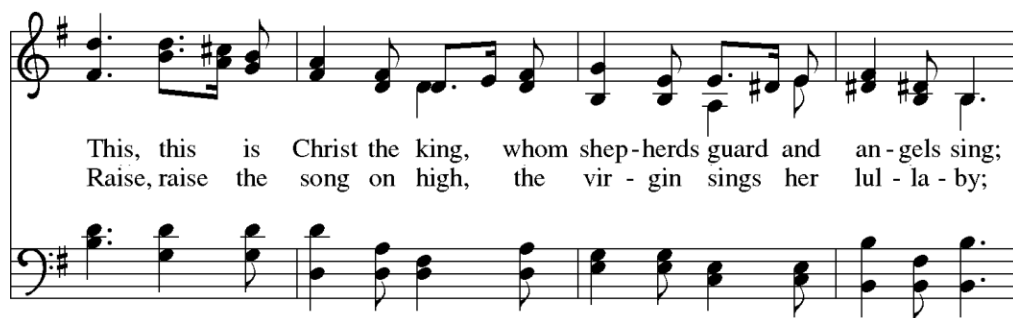
ELW 296




1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-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?
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;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep in his grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - *All speak the prayer together.*

**We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM*"Still, Still, Still"*

Traditional Austrian/Arr. Norman Luboff

CANDLE LIGHTING

The congregation may light a candle in their homes. Candles may be extinguished after the Prayer of Light.

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. May the light of these candles point us to the true light, which enlightens everyone, our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the light of Christ bless us and keep us from all darkness, for Christ Jesus is our hope and salvation. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

ELW 281

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PRAYER OF LIGHT

Most merciful God, we give thanks to you that, on this holiest of nights, you blessed the whole world with the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. May the light of Christ shine brightly in us, so that we forever remember the gift of Immanuel. We pray that, as we go out into the night, may Christ's light radiate from us so that it becomes a beacon of hope to all who are shrouded by darkness. We pray this in name of the new born king, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you, may the Lord keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you his peace. In the name of the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"

Marc F. Cheban

+++++

A special thank you to:

*Candy Farrell, Marsha Green & Bonnie Henry who crafted and donated the
Chrismons on the large Christmas tree.*

Anita Mork & Fred Garcia for organizing the poinsettias this year.

Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve.

Please join us Sundays for worship at 10:00 AM

Pastor Garry and Bonnie wish you a very blessed Christmas!

| Mark Your 2024 Calendar: | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| February 14th | Ash Wednesday |
| Mar 31st | Easter Sunday |

Join us for Christmas Eve Virtual Candlelight Service with Special Music and Preludes starting at 4:30 PM. Service starts at 5 PM. You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: worship

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439

Passcode: 4584517

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Many thanks to the members and friends of Hill Avenue Grace who have aided in the beautification of our church sanctuary this Christmas season.

Barbara Mills: In memory of Hal Mills, and In Honor of Jesus' birthday.

Kris Pilon & David Cuatt: In thanksgiving for Nathalie Pilon whose birthday is 12/25.

Karen Scholl DeGilio: In Memory of my Mike, our parents, our sisters: Janine DeGilio Wurm & Marion Scholl Anderson and many other dear Saints!

Lija Kalejs: In memory of my father, Karlis Kalejs and my sister, Nora Moolenkamp; and in Thanksgiving for Christ's birth.

Tom and Charlotte Buckley: In memory of our parents, Kenneth & Catherine Buckley and Esther Van Auken; In Thanksgiving for our daughters and sons-in-law, Suzanne and Josh and Caroline and Luca, and our grandchildren, Enzo, Alaska, and Stella.

Bill & Donna Mann: In Memory of Harlan and Pat Hanson, Garfield Hansen, Bill and Frances Mann, and Nancy Watson; in Honor of Dorothy Hanson; and in Thanksgiving for our Children, our Grandchildren and our Great-Grandchildren.

Karen McClure: to the Glory of God.

Karen and Dick Rowse: In Memory of John Pinza, our son-in-law, & Daniel Rowse our grandson.

Elsa K Balding: In Memory of loved ones.

Donna and Bob Menzies: In Memory of Pastor Zach Johnson; and in Thanksgiving for Pastor Garry Mohr & his ministry: and for our family – Rob, Linda, Robby & Olivia, and Mark, Lelia and Lelia Carter.

Anita Mork and Fred Garcia: In Thanksgiving for family and friends.

Amy Khoury: In Memory of my beloved husband, Nasim Yusef Khoury.

Dave and Pat Fortmeier: In Honor of our 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren; and in Thanksgiving for our many blessings.

Diane and Dick Branson: In Memory of our parents: Herbert & Hazel Kuehne and Paul & Mildred Branson; our dear friend Shelly Baum; and in Thanksgiving for our children Kathleen, Ken and Karen and their families.

Maureen Frahm: In Memory of Robert Frahm.

Margaret Rothwell: I thank God for all his blessings.

Pastor Garry & Bonnie Mohr: In Thanksgiving for our grandchildren.

Shirley Gudal & family: In Memory of Dennis Gudal, Robert and Kitty Feidler who are missed this holiday season; and in Thanksgiving for our many blessings including good health through the year.

Christmas Chrismons

First developed many years ago by the women's group of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, these ornaments have been displayed during Advent and the Christmas season in homes and churches throughout our country and the world.

The word "Chrismon" is taken from the two words Christ and monogram, which refers to the Christian symbols depicting various concepts or life-moments of Jesus Christ.

Gracing our Christmas trees in the sanctuary are over 60 of these ornaments which remind us of God's gift of His Son to us.

Let Us Rejoice And Be Glad!

Each Concept & Meaning:

Candle: *The candle reminds us to let our own faith in Christ always burn brightly; Christ leads us with His Holy light.*

Butterfly: *This symbol of life is used to indicate the eternal life we will enjoy because of the love of our Lord.*

Star: *The bright star in the East was what led the wisemen to the Christ Child, born in a lowly manger in a stable.*

Chalice & Bread: *We take communion knowing that we are being gifted with the blood and the body of our Savior, who has offered His very life for ours.*

Angel: *An Angel gave Mary the knowledge of the child of God within her, and angels of the Host of God sang in the sky to herald the coming of this babe.*

Lutheran Rose: *This particular symbol Martin Luther created, demonstrates his faith and understanding of God's personal relationship with us.*

Cross: *Though sinless and free of wrong doing, Jesus was crucified on the cross, suffering untold pain and misery, all to take away our sin forever.*

Crown: *Jesus was born in a lowly state, but after his suffering and death, He rose from the dead to be the King of kings. His cross exchanged for a crown!*

Bell: *Church bells signify the time for worshippers to gather for church services.*

Heart: *The heart is a symbol of love and reminds us that God is Love.*

Dove: *The dove is a symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit.*

Triune God: *These entwined circles represent the Trinity with the Three eternal and unified members, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*