

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Every Day God

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Garry Mohr, Interim Pastor

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

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Bob Menzies, Organist

Kate Radford, Soloist

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Sue Rose, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"In Christ Alone, My Hope is Found"*

arr. Carol Tornquist

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS FOR ADVENT

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church

therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ; the love of God; and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**ADVENT HYMN OF PRAISE: Every Day God***Congregation - sing at bold print*

<p><i>Earth's creator,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Loving Maker</i>  <b>O Jesus</b>  <i>You who shaped us</i>  <b>O spirit,</b>  <i>Recreate us,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>God of laughter,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>God of sorrow,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>God of shelter,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>Strong and patient,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Alleluia,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Now and always,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Alleluia,</i>  <b>O spirit,</b>  <i>Through the ages.</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>
<p><i>In your presence,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>We are gathered.</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>You have called us,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>To restore us,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Word of gladness,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Word of mercy,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Word of friendship,</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>Word of challenge,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Bernadette Farrell</i>  <i>Restless is the Heart</i></p>
<p><i>In our dreaming,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>In our daring.</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>In our searching.</i>  <b>O Spirit,</b>  <i>In our sharing,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	<p><i>Our beginning,</i>  <b>Everyday God</b>  <i>Our Unfolding,</i>  <b>O Jesus,</b>  <i>Our enduring,</i>  <b>O Spirit</b>  <i>Journey's ending,</i>  <b>Come be with us.</b></p>	

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. May you bless its light so that it shines brightly as it points us to the true Light of the World, your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE 1ST CANDLE**

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

**ADVENT HYMN****“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”****ELW 257***Congregation sings verse 1 & 2 only*

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph <sup>1</sup> like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- <sup>1</sup> on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>1</sup> and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and <sup>1</sup> come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore <sup>1</sup> us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD <sup>1</sup> God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your <sup>1</sup> people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the <sup>1</sup> bread of tears; you have given them bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision <sup>1</sup> of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh <sup>1</sup> us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at <sup>1</sup> your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong <sup>1</sup> for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- <sup>1</sup> way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- <sup>1</sup> on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD<sup>1</sup> God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”***

**ELW 490**

*Congregation sings verse 1 only*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like

a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Garry Mohr

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

**ELW 597**

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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 "Merciful God" The assembly responds with "receive our prayer."*

**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

*"Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"*

- Michael Praetorius

**OFFERING PRAYER** - *All speak the prayer together.*

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

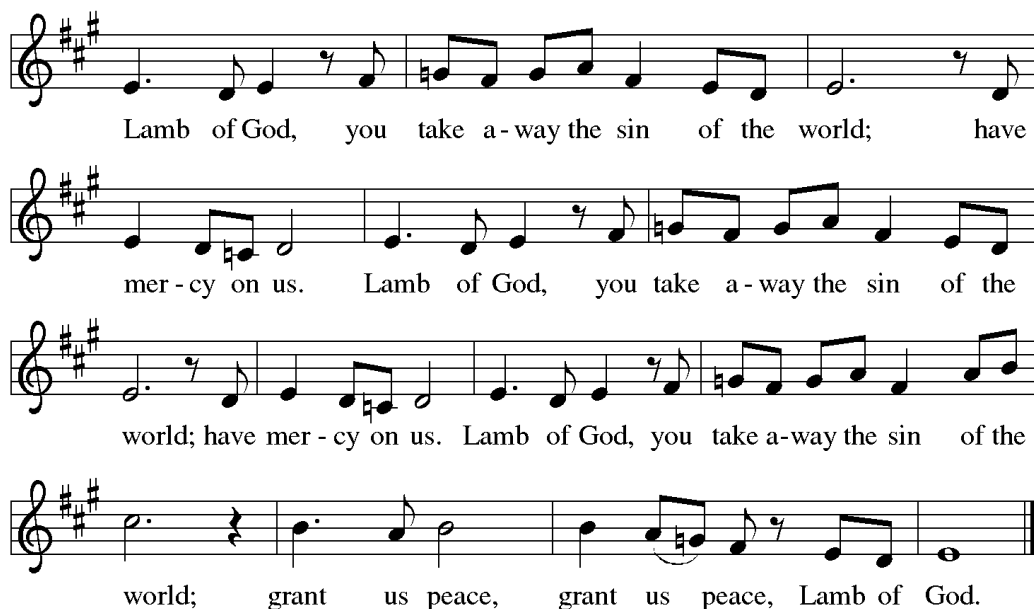
Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

### 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.**

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



## 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.”**

## 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.

**Gracious God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of hope and salvation, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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

**ELW 264 vs 1, 3 & 4**

### Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace; Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*"The Solid Rock"*

arr. Mark Hayes

*This week's altar flowers are given by Ken & Gretchen Sterling, as Advent begins, we pray you will make opportunities to show God's Love, leaving all those you encounter knowing we are Gods children together in this one world. Blessings will multiply.*

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Calendar This Week		
Every Sunday	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Sun 12/3/23	6:00 PM	Advent Dinner in the gym
Wed 12/6/23	10:00 AM	Bible Study in the Chapel
Wed 12/6/23	7:00 PM	Mid-week Advent Service – Virtual and In-Person
Thurs 12/7/23	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat 12/9/23	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our dear, long-time member, **Shirley Korngiebel passed away to be with her Lord on November 19, 2023.** Her niece, Ilean, was with her and the Solheim staff. Shirley was able to celebrate her 90th birthday on 10/25/23, and she was doing well and enjoyed her special day.

The family is grateful for our prayers and for all the wonderful care Shirley received at Solheim since 2015.

**The Advent Dinner is Sunday, December 3rd at 6 pm with a theme of HAGL's Got Talent!** We'd love help with clean-up! Scott and his band will be playing and we'll be singing carols and have other types of fun and merriment! We hope you will join us for Advent fellowship, and plan to bring your favorite Christmas dessert!



**Join us for mid-week Advent worship services at 7 pm, for the first 3 Wednesdays of December, either in person or online!** We will use the Holden Evening Prayer for this service. The liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer. The theme for this year's midweek Advent worship is Hopeful Anticipation.

**Poinsettias** for the Christmas Eve service have been ordered to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants are \$16.50 per plant. You can put your check in the offering plate, or mail your check to the office, with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Complete the form at the end of the bulletin or call or email the office at [office@hillavenuegrace.org](mailto:office@hillavenuegrace.org) and let us know if the poinsettia is in memory of, in honor of, or dedicated to anyone, and that sentiment will be included in our virtual Christmas Eve service bulletin.

**"Spirit of Giving" Christmas Boutique on Saturday, December 9th, from 1—5 PM at Solheim Senior Community at 2236 Merton Avenue in Eagle Rock.**

Get in the holiday spirit with Solheim as they celebrate their 100th year of serving seniors, and plan on doing some of your holiday shopping while benefiting a good cause!

Solheim's Christmas Boutique features local vendors who sell their arts, crafts and treats.

Take part in the holiday festivities at Solheim and bring your friends. Decorations throughout campus continue to appear and it's a sight to see! Enjoy Holiday Shopping, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Sweets and Treats, and a fantastic Hot Chocolate Bar! And, you can get your photo taken with Santa between 1:30 and 3:30!!



We will be having **Christmas Eve service in-person and online at 5 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>**, so please mark your calendar!

**Join us this Sunday at 10 AM for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!**

**Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude! 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=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpxcU5RUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: worship**

**One tap mobile**

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: 4584517**

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We are back to joining at the altar for communion. We will be going up the center aisle and returning down the side aisles. If you are not comfortable with that, pick up a communion set at the table in the narthex and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!

### ALTAR GUILD ANNOUNCEMENT

It is time to begin thinking about decorating our sanctuary for Christmas!

If you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant, please complete the following form and place it **AND your check** (made payable to Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran) in an envelope.

You can mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Please earmark all checks for **POINSETTIAS**. The cost per plant this year will be \$16.50.

Please complete the following form and turn it in by **WEDNESDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**That is the absolute deadline. Thank you!**

I am donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the following:

In memory of:

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In honor of:

---

---

In thanksgiving for:

---

---

Other:

---

---

Given by: (Please list names as you want them to appear in the bulletin)

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Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_