



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith - Making a Difference - Open to All

Christmas Eve **December 24, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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Website: holytrinitynarberth.org; Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Narberth

Jessica Zurcher, Pastor-elect - pastorjessica@holytrinitynarberth.org

Dale Morris, Parish Administrator - holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com

Christopher Ertelt, Music Director

Virtual choir: Meredith Beck, Emily Bigelow, Lauren Cupples, Christopher Ertelt, Dawn Falato, Elizabeth

Fenton, Sarah Gliko, Paul V. Patanella, Brittney Marquand Sedgwick, Daniel Smith, Rob Tucker

You are a child of God and you are welcome here: whatever your faith commitment, experience, or level of doubt, mental or emotional health, physical abilities, financial or employment status, race, ethnicity, or primary language; whatever your gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. We welcome you whether you are a parent or caregiver; whether you are a fussy baby, an energetic toddler, a ‘tween, or a teen; whether you are an inquisitive young adult, exhausted adult, or wise senior citizen; whether you are single, in a relationship, married, divorced, or widowed; whether you struggle with an addiction to drugs, alcohol, or anything else. We welcome you however you found us: on the internet, from your neighbor or friend, or passing by our Giving Garden. We welcome those who hurt and those who celebrate, those who worship every week or just this once, and in whatever you choose to wear. We extend a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to join us as we grow in faith through worship, study, and friendship. We welcome you as we seek to make a difference through combating food insecurity, ministering with those in need, and committing to racial equity. And we welcome you to help us be fully open to all. Whoever you are and wherever you are from, you are a child of God and you are welcome here.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

“In dulci jubilo”

“In dulci jubilo”

J. S. Bach

Marcel Dupré

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C: **Amen.**

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Reconciling God,

C: **we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

L: God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: **Amen.**

Song: Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)



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!

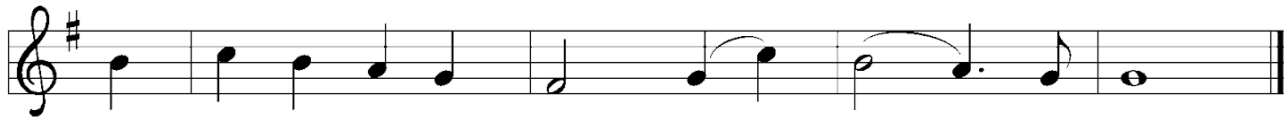


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Greeting:

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

C: **And also with you.**

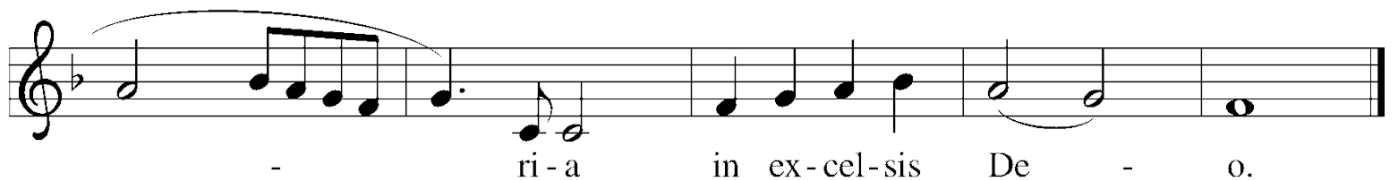
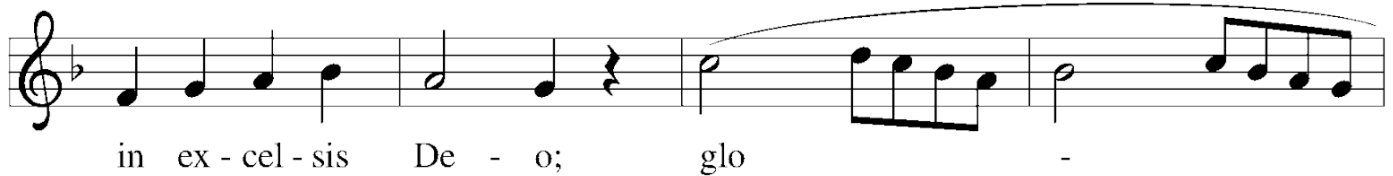
Hymn of Praise: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
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.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray together...

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

+ WORD +

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The first reading is from the Prophet Isaiah, the 9th chapter.

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: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

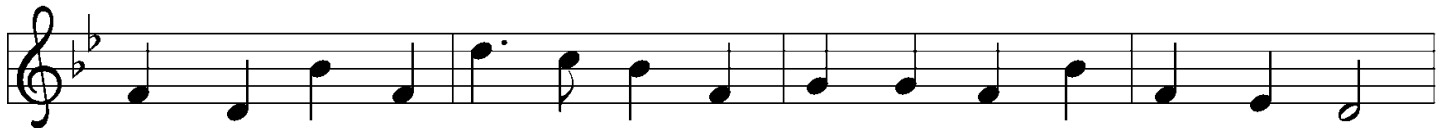
L: The second reading is from the letter of Titus, the 2nd chapter.

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: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

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

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

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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 in the guest room.

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

[¹⁵ When 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.]

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Jessica Zurcher, Pastor-elect

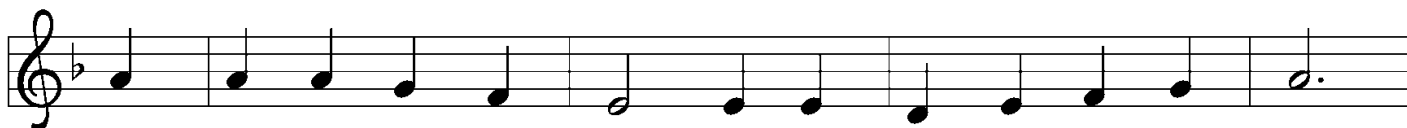
Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
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!

Apostles' Creed:

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the People:

L: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

- L: 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 swords into plowshares (*especially in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan*). Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling (*especially...*). Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: 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. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: 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.**

The Peace of Christ:

- L: The Peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you are comfortable.

Offertory Anthem

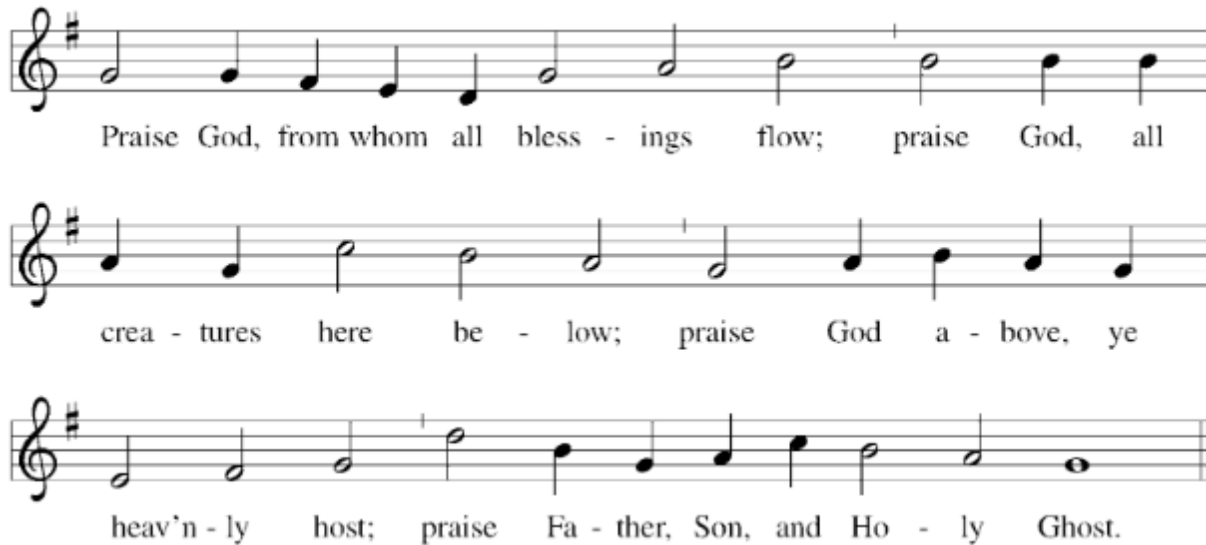
Star of Christmas

Pepper Choplin

You are welcome to use this QR code if you wish to donate online, or to go to our church website.



Doxology:



Offertory Prayer:

- L: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. 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.**

+MEAL+

The Great Thanksgiving:

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Proper Preface:

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

L: 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.

L: 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.

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

Lord's Prayer:

- L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- 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:

- L: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

Communion Song: What Child is This? (ELW 296) (Please join in as you are able.)



1 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;



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

Prayer after Communion:

L: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

Benediction:

- L: The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✙ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
- C: **Amen.**

Song: Silent Night (ELW 281)

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.

Dismissal:

- L: Glory to God in the highest!
- C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**
- L: Go in peace, grow in faith, make a difference, be open to all. Rejoice in the birth of Christ our Savior!
- C: **Thanks be to God!**

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



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.

Postlude

"In dulci jubilo" (in organo pleno)

J. S. Bach

Christmas poinsettia plants given by:

Pat Brubaker in memory of those loved ones who are no longer here and in celebration of those who are.

Gloria Eichner in loving memory of The Rev. Orion Eichner, Martin and Oriana.

Anne & Ben Hoffman in loving memory of their parents and sister, Louise.

The Engelhard Family in memory of Gramma and Grampa Brunner, Jeanne Brunner, Fran Keilt, Tommy Cestare, Doris Jane and Pastor Harvey.

The Engelhard Family in honor of AJ and Royce Engelhard.

Mark & Dee Jaye Frye in honor of Christine Frye, Brendan and Josephine Sozer.

Mark & Dee Jaye Frye in memory of their parents, Mary Ann Mullany, Henry Frye, and Robert and Doris Jane Starankovic.

In memory of "GG", her great-grandmother, Doris Jane Starankovic, given by Josephine Grace Sozer.

Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey In honor of their grandchildren, Liam, Maya and Luke.

Karen Prince in honor of the Prince, Hnizdo, and Tretina Families.

Susan Snow & Barry Amole in memory of their parents, Kathryn and Charles Westman and Clifton and Lidalee Amole.

In Loving Memory of Grandma Doris and Pa, given by their grandchildren, Emma, William, Noel House.

Emy House Starankovic in Loving Memory of Grandma Emma & Grandpa Charlie, Grandma & Grandpa S.

Christmas wreaths given by:

Pat Brubaker in memory of those loved ones who are no longer here and in celebration of those who are.

Memorial Garden wreath given by:

Bob Catherman in memory of Eleanor Crissman and Jay Catherman.

Christmas wreaths above the altar given by:

Mark & Dee Jaye Frye in memory of Bob and Doris Jane Starankovic.

The Christmas Tree:

In memory of Charles & Kathryn Westman given by the Michael Simms family, Aaron Simms family, Karl Westman, Susan Snow and Barry Amole.