



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith - Making a Difference - Open to All

December 28, 2025
The 1st Sunday of Christmas

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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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

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Johannes Brahms

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

C: **Amen.**

L: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

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.**

Gathering Hymn: Once in Royal David's City (congregation sings verses 3 & 4)



- 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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.**

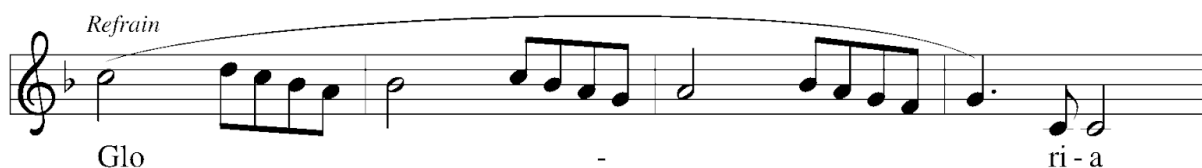
Hymn of Praise: Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)



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;

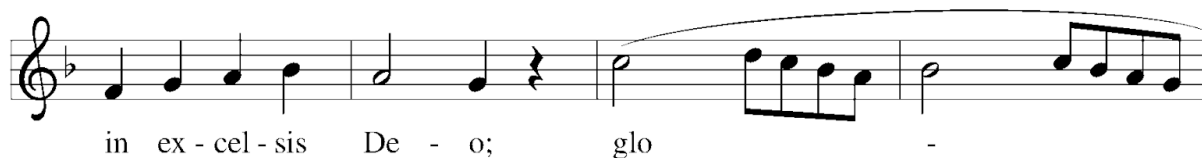


and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray together...

C: **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace, adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

+ WORD +

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

L: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, the 52nd chapter.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy,
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

L: The second reading is from Hebrews, the 1st chapter.

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
 “You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

 “I will be his Father,
 and he will be my Son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
 “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,
 “He makes his angels winds
 and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,
 “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
 and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And,
 “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
 they will all wear out like clothing;

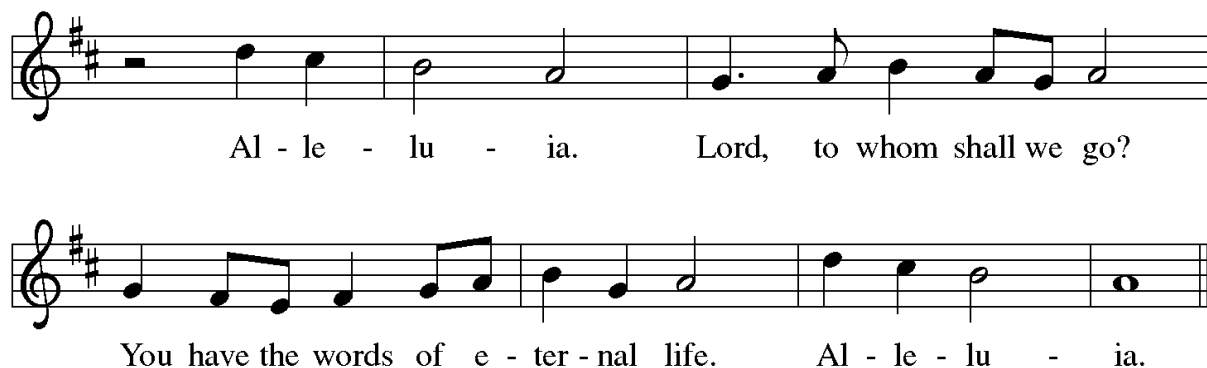
¹² like a cloak you will roll them up,
 and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
 and your years will never end.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Jessica Zurcher, Pastor-elect

Hymn of the Day: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272)



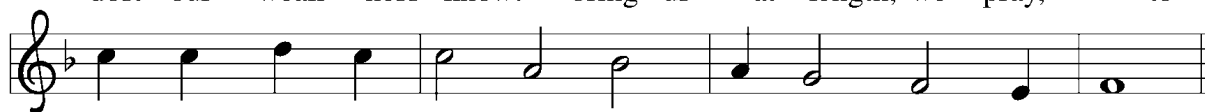
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



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
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Apostles' Creed:

L: Gathered as one body, let us make public profession of our faith together:

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.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

- L: God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. 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

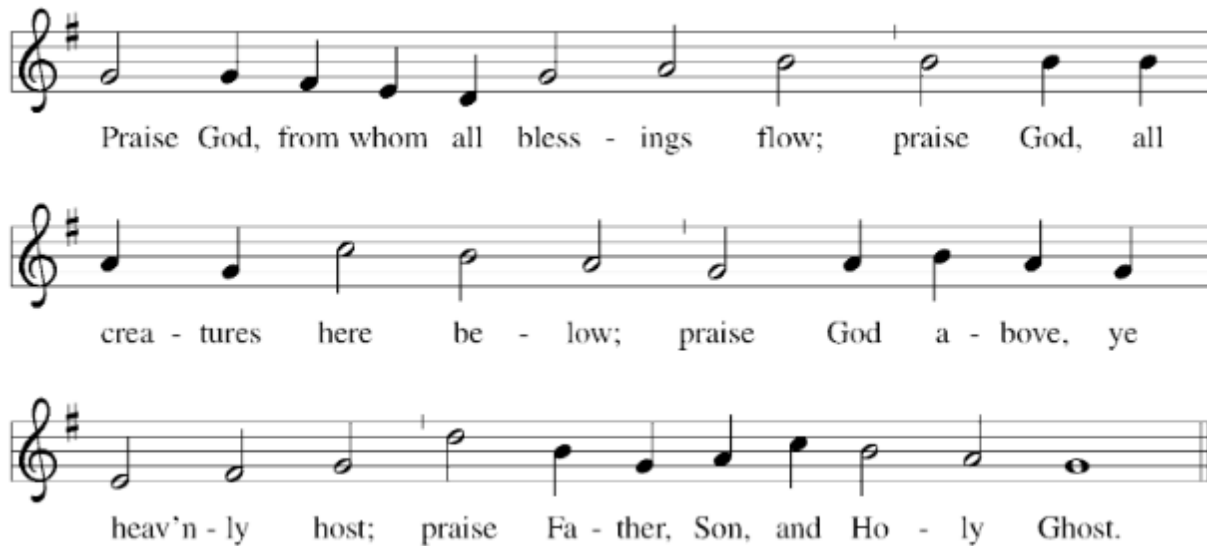
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

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: God of glory, great are your wonders among us, and many are the blessings you bestow.
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.**

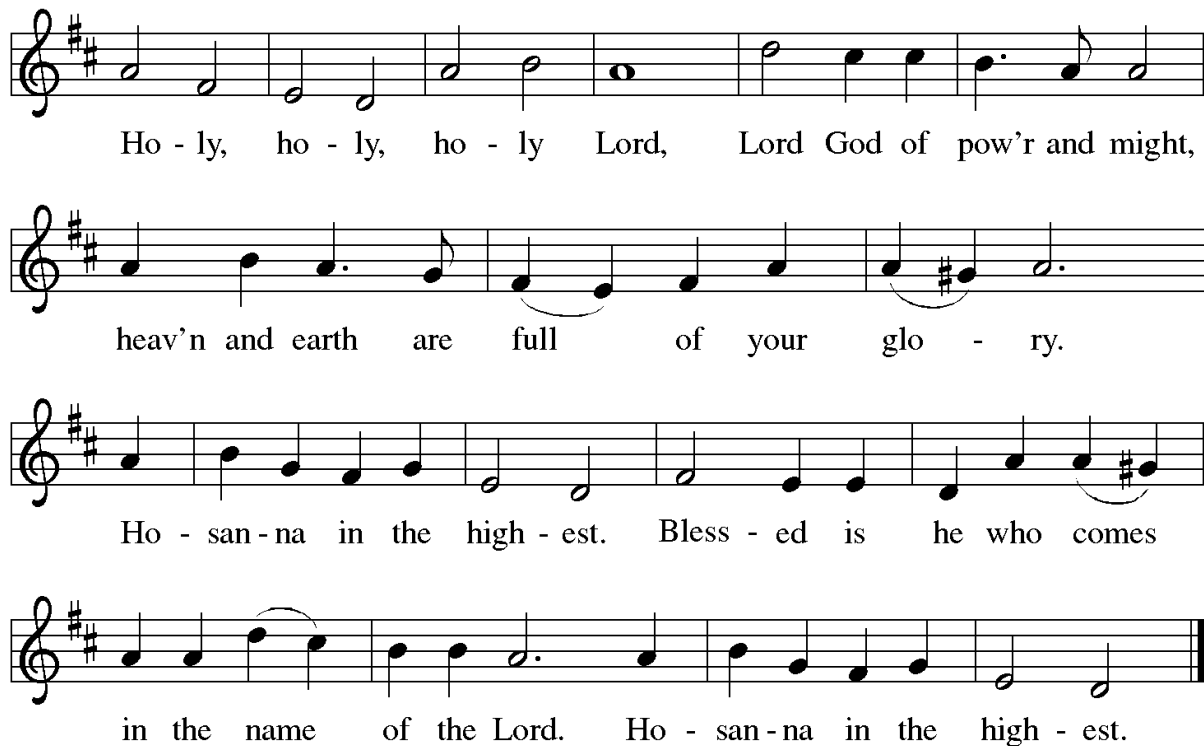
+ MEAL +

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. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



- L: 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.
- L: 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 ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

- 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 of Israel, 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:

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

Marty Haugen

Prayer after Communion:

L: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

Sending Hymn: O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW 313)



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

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.**

Postlude

"In dulci jubilo" (in organo pleno)

J. S. Bach

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Happy Birthday to: Andrué Herold (12/28)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Endowment Fund Suggestion Box

The Mission Endowment Fund team will be meeting soon to discuss recipients. And while the team makes the final selections, YOU get to choose the possible recipients! Put any suggestions you might have in our suggestion box in the sanctuary or you can send an email to holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th

On the 25th after worship, we will be gathering as a congregation to discuss the year 2025 and look forward to how we can grow in faith, make a difference, and be open to all in 2026. Join us in-person if you can, but as usual those on Zoom will have voice and vote as well.

Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Jan Doan

Condolences to the family and friends of
Fran Gebhart on her passing.

Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)

Sharon Neall (Hall family member)

Beth Brady (Kristine DelMonte's co-worker)

Norma DelMonte (Tom's mother)

The Houghs (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Linda Baldi-Boyd

Marbury Hooey

John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Annette Steiger (Dave Steiger's sister)

Margie (Jan Doan's friend)

Joseph Davis

Danelle VanInstendal (friend of the Steigers)

Heinrich Mengel (cousin of the Hoffmann Family)

Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)

Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)

Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)

Mary Ann Dixon (friend of the Hoffmans)

Darby Rinkel (great-niece of the Steigers)

David Segermark (Kristine DelMonte's father)

Jane S. (friend of Pat Brubaker)

Ken Ackerman (Carl Ackerman's father)

Grace Vanartsdalen (friend of Bruce and Dorothy
McCluskey)

Ellen Mitchell (sister of Mary Williamson)

Bob Fuhrmeister (grandson of Bob Catherman)

Anthony Fuhrmeister (great-grandson of Bob
Catherman)

Steve Crews (Kim's father)

The Lim family (friends of the Princes)

Cheryl Kurpiel and Family (friends of the Frye
family)

Cestare family (Extended family of Kim)

Bob Gamble (friend of Bruce & Dorothy
McCluskey's)

Joe Prince & Greg Savoy (loved ones of the
Princes)

Deborah deHeyman and family (friends of Holy
Trinity)

Katy Olsen (Pat Brubaker's niece)

Lori Chambers (friend of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)

Laurie & Wayne (friends of Pat Brubaker)