## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

To know Christ and to make Christ known.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

A HYMN SETTING OF THE EUCHARIST FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

DECEMBER 24, 2025 10:00PM



## WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission: To know Christ and to make Christ Known

#### THE PRELUDE

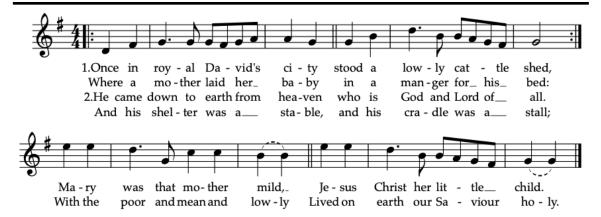
Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming Concerto-Prelude on Antioch DIANE BISH PAUL FEY

#### THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

The Congregation stands

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twentyone centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

#### AT THE PROCESSION



- 3. And through all his wondrous childhood
  He would honour and obey,
  Love and watch the lowly maiden,
  In whose gentle arms he lay:
  Christian children all must be
  Mild, obedient, good as he.
- 5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
   Through his own redeeming love,
   For that child so dear and gentle
   Is our Lord in heaven above;
   And he leads his children on
   To the place where he is gone.
- 4. For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.
- 6. Not in that poor lowly stable,With the oxen standing by,We shall see him; but in heaven,Set at God's right hand on high;Where like stars his children crownedAll in white shall wait around.

Tune, IRBY
Music, H.J. GAUNTLETT
Harmonized, A.H. MANN
Descant, SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS
Text, C.F. ALEXANDER

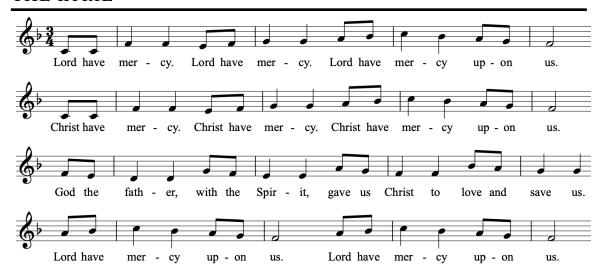
## THE GREETING

Pastor

Christ is born! Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Congregation And also with you.

## THE KYRIE



Tune, W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY Music, POLISH CAROL Text, TRADITIONAL

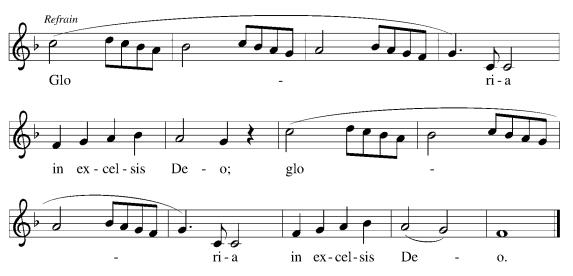
#### THE HYMN OF PRAISE



- 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 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Tune, GLORIA Music, FRENCH CAROL Text, TR. H.F. HEMY

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you. Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(The Congregation may be seated)

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For 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. Great will be his authority, 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

#### Cantate Domino canticum novum

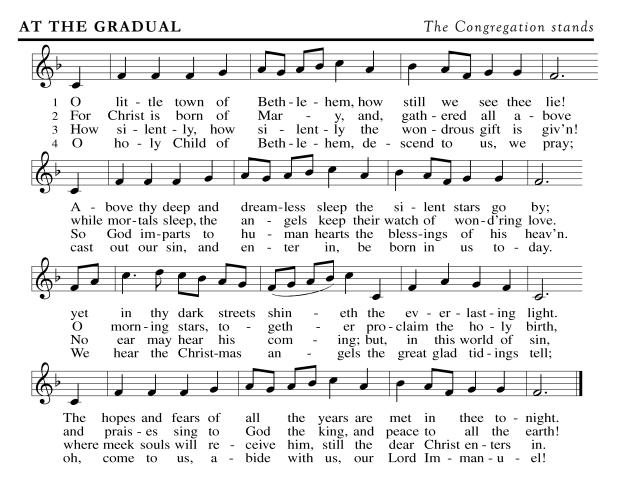
- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD | a new song; sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
- 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 peo- | ples with equity."
- 11 Let 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.
- <sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD, for you come to | judge the earth.
- <sup>13</sup> You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with your truth.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.



Tune, FOREST GREEN
Music, RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Text, PHILIP BROOKS

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. Congregation Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Lector The Gospel of the Lord. Congregation Praise to you, O Christ.

(The Congregation may be seated)

#### THE HYMN OF THE DAY

The Congregation stands



him,

4. Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
in the highest:
O come, let us adore him...

let

us

come,

dore

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
WORD of the Father,
now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore him...

Christ

Tune, ADESTE FIDELES Music, JOHN FRANCIS WADE Descant, SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS Text, TR. FREDERICK OAKLEY

the

Lord!

#### THE NICENE CREED

Pastor Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

Congregation We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(after each petition)

Pastor Hear us, O God.

Congregation Your mercy is great.

#### THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be always with you. Congregation And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and gestures of peace.

(The Congregation may be seated following the peace)

#### CHORAL RESPONSE

HE 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!

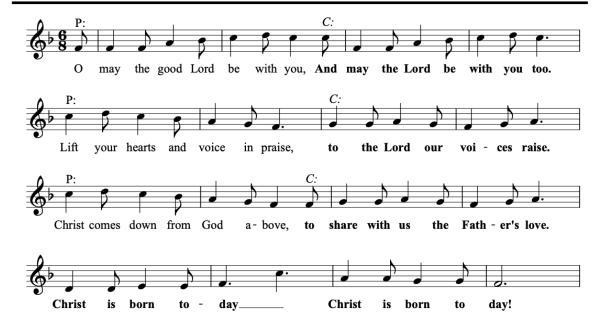
Born is the King of Israel.

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.

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.

(Congregation may join)
Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord.
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Text, CORNWALL,  $13^{\text{TH}}$  CENTURY Music, MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA (B. 1978)



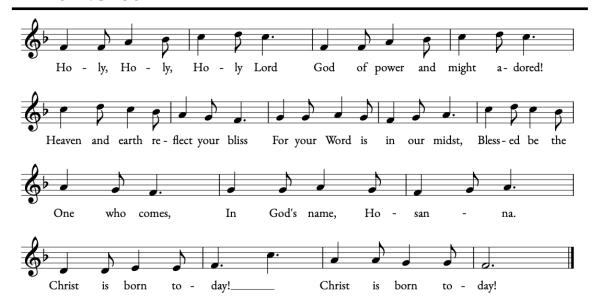
#### THE PREFACE

Pastor

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor

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:

Congregation Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Pastor

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 to his coming

Congregation Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor

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.

Congregation Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor

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

Congregation Amen.

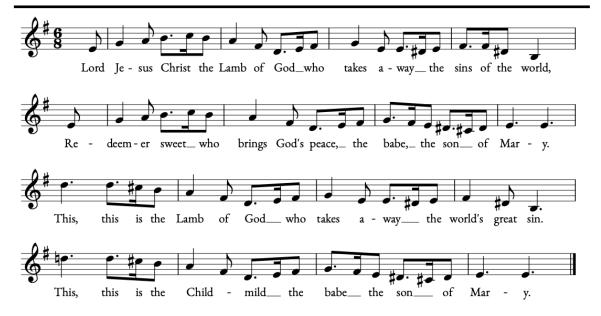


#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Rejoicing in Christ who has come among us, let pray as our Savior taught us:

Congregation 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.



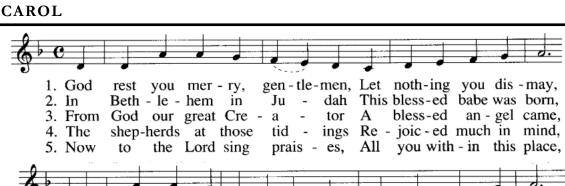
#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

## Congregation Thanks be to God.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

(The congregation may be seated)



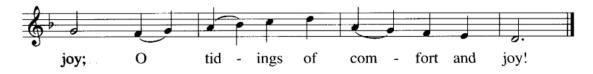


Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior Was born up - on this day. For man - ger Up - on this bless - ed morn: And laid with - in a And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought tid - ings of And left their flocks a - feed - ing In tem - pest, storm, and wind, And with true love and char-i - ty Each oth - er now em-brace:



all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray. save us Mar - y Did noth-ing take in scorn. For which his moth - er How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name. And went to Beth - le - hem straight-way, The bless - ed babe to find. This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers shall re - place.





Tune, GOD REST YOU MERRY Music, LITTLE BOOK OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS, CA. 1850 Text, LONDON CAROL, 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY



- 2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
  The world has suffered long;
  Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
  Two thousand years of wrong;
  And warring humankind hears not
  The tidings which they bring;
  O hush the noise and cease your strife
  And hear the angels sing!
- 3. For lo! The days are hastening on,
  By prophets seen of old,
  When with the evercircling years
  Shall come the time foretold,
  When peace shall over all the earth
  Its ancient splendors fling,
  And all the world give back the song
  Which now the angels sing.

Tune, NOEL Music, ARTHUR SULLIVAN Text, EDMUND H. SEARS

#### CHORAL RESPONSE

The Bleak MIDWINTER, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

> Text, CHRISTINA ROSETTI Tune, GUSTAV HOLST (1874-1934) Music, MACK WILBERG

#### AFTER COMMUNION

The Congregation stands

Pastor

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

Congregation Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor

Let us pray.

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.

Congregation Amen.

## THE CANDLELIGHTING

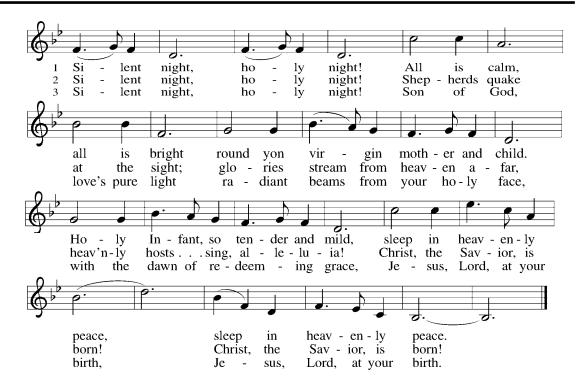
Pastor

Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory will be seen through you.

Congregation Amen.

(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor. Remember to keep your candles upright and burning until the conclusion of Hark the Herald Angels Sing, raising your candle high on stanza 3).

#### CAROL



Tune, STILLE NACHT Music, FRANZ GRUBER Text, JOSEPH MOHR

#### THE PRAYER OF LIGHT

Pastor

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your Light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

Pastor

May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

#### AT THE SENDING



Tune, MENDELSSOHN Music, FELIX MENDELSSOHN Text, CHARLES WESLEY

#### THE DISMISSAL

Pastor Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

#### THE POSTLUDE

Toccata on Hark the Herald Angels Sing

18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ENGLISH CAROL ARR. PAUL FEY

## WORSHIP LEADERS, 10 p.m.

Lector: Ray Huff

Communion Assistants: Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler

Organist: Samuel Robinson

Ushers: Shawn Cartwright and Devin Owen

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## THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S NATIVITY CONTINUES

Sunday, December 28, Christmas Sunday, Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.

The Church Office will be closed December 25 through January 3.

If you are in need of a pastor, please call Pastor Carol Johnson at (570)772-6674

# BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2026!

-PASTOR VASEY & FAMILY!

#### IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS WE COMMEMORATE:

## Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Friday, December 26, 2025

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

## John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday, December 27, 2025

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

## The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Sunday, December 28, 2025

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

## Name of Jesus

Thursday, January 1, 2026

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

# Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872 Friday, January 2, 2026

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

## POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

#### AND IN MEMORY OF

Forrest and Margaret Klinger, by Ron and Donna Baker

Francis Bigelow, my husband, by Ruth Ann Bigelow

James Buckman, husband, by Debra Buckman

Eugene and Reba Jacobs, by Linda Rosini and Dr. John and Holly Carson

Janet Romanelli and Peter Romanelli, and Paul Freeman, by Megan Cartwright

Shirley & Bob Campbell, by their children

Bob and Shirley Miller, our parents, and grandparents, by Bill, Dick and Barb Cooley

Jack and Margaret Dewar, by Steve and Candy Dewar

Our father, Francis Bigelow, and our mother, Judith Fortin, by Matt and Wanda Fortin

Robert Emerson Furman, by Theresa Furman

Edward Sr. and Mary Gair, by Edward and Brenda Gair

Roxanna Larson, our aunt, from her nieces and nephews, by Roxie Gohrig

Beryl Howard, by her daughter, Roxie Gohrig

Lawrence and Luella Bair, and James and Virgina Huff, our parents, by Ray and Cindy Huff

Edwin Jackson, and Jerry Splain, by Brian and Nikki Jackson

Ray Kinney, our father, and Carol Smith, our mother, by Mike and Jackie Kinney

Helen and William Kennedy, Anna and Robert Kuntz, and Marty Kuntz, by Charles and Ann Kuntz

Don and Helen Ochs, by Jay Michael Ochs

Jack and Eleanor Whiting, by Steve and Candy Dewar and Herb Poff

Bill and Prudy Poff, by Steve and Candy Dewar and Herb Poff

Gwyn Marie Rees, Lisa Marie Rees, and parents, Ruth and Harry Ulmer, by Ruth Rees

Charlotte Reitz, my wife, by Richard Reitz

PAUL Edward Robinson, by Samuel Robinson

Our loved ones, by Vernon and Carol Schwanger

Our parents, by Phil and Barb Thomas

Bob Todd, my husband, and Margaret Thomas, my mother, by Cindy Todd

Josephine and Allen Malick, and Judy and Phillip Williams, by Dave and Cheryl Williams

Loved Ones, by the Zeigler family

Peter Zeigler, by his family

#### AND IN HONOR OF

Ren Holohan, great granddaughter, by Debra Buckman Judy Jackson, and Jackie Wertman, by Brian and Nikki Jackson Grant Rees, and the Haussmann Family, by Ruth Rees Our children and grandchildren, by Phil and Barb Thomas Rebecca, Ryan, Anna, and Adam Pritchard, my wonderful family, by Cindy Todd

Stefan and Riley, our sons, and Ruth and Gloria, our mothers, by Gary and Shelby Weber

#### AND FOR LOCAL HUNGER

In memory of Bonnie Gray and Ned Earnest, by Becky Miller Pryor



## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Office: 570-323-4619

## Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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