



**Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Christmas Eve**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
Red Lodge, MT

# Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve | December 24th, 2024

Greetings, and Welcome to Christmas Eve at Messiah Lutheran Church. We welcome each of you to the communion table: As God is the host of the meal, know that we welcome you to it as warmly and fully as Christ himself.

## Prelude

*(See the Announcements page for a list of musicians and musical offerings)*

## Gathering

### Introit | O, Who's That Yonder?

### Gathering Hymn ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

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

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

continues...

*Refrain*

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

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

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4;  
tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: attr. John Francis Wade

ADESTE FIDELES  
Irregular

## 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**

## Prayer of the Day

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

### Children Sermon

#### Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze together, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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

# Hymn ELW 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*(The cello and piano will play through once - join on verse 1)*

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.

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

ES IST EIN ROS  
 7676676

## Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### ELW 265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

*(Listen once to the cello, then join on verse 1)*

The musical score is written for voice and cello. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff and a cello line in the lower staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

continues...

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
 Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865–1943, and John Wickham  
 Arr. © 1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE  
 10 10 12 10

## Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

continues...

*Refrain*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Glo - ri - a'. The second system contains the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a'. The third system contains the lyrics 'ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes in the vocal line, with a steady accompaniment of chords and moving lines in the piano part.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>4</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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

The Word of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day ELW 286 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ  
LM

## Christmas Prayer

Holy God, Emmanuel, we praise you in the beauty and warmth of this place. You have come among us to illuminate our lives by your love. Be with us now as we remember that gift of love and help us to share that love with a yearning world. You who made the stars of the heavens, mold us in the hope that shines upon us in Jesus, the bright morning star, come at last.

**Amen.**



## MEAL

### Offering

#### Offertory Hymn ELW 271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

*Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;*  
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!  
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!  
3 He dwells a - gain in heav-en's realm, the Son of God to - day;  
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;  
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

*da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.*  
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.  
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.  
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.  
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.  
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959  
Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863  
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

JEG ER SÅ GLAD  
CM

### Offertory Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

# The Great Thanksgiving

S 152

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface (done by pastor...)

### Sanctus ELW 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

# Eucharistic Prayer | Words of Institution

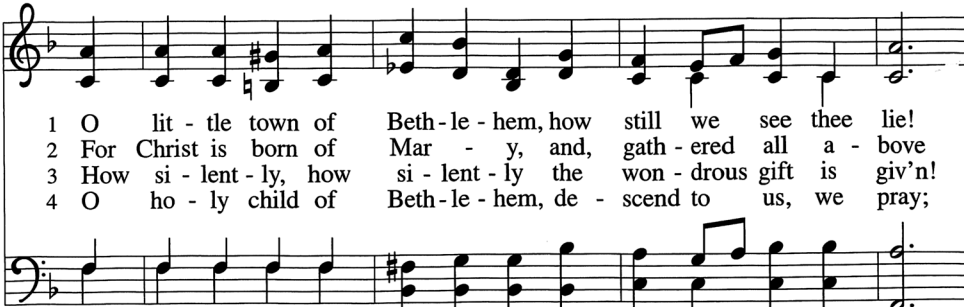
## The Lord's Prayer

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

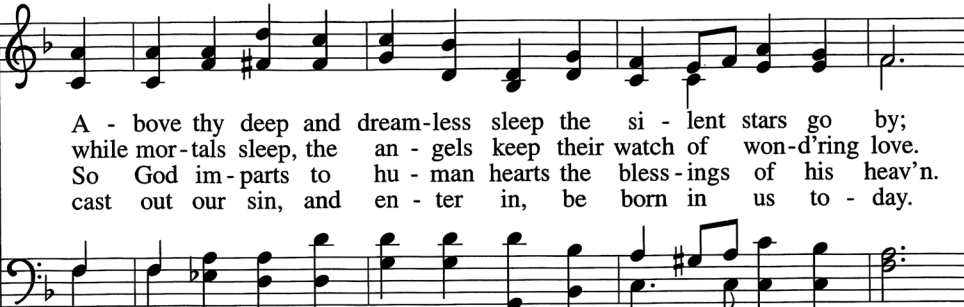
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## Communion

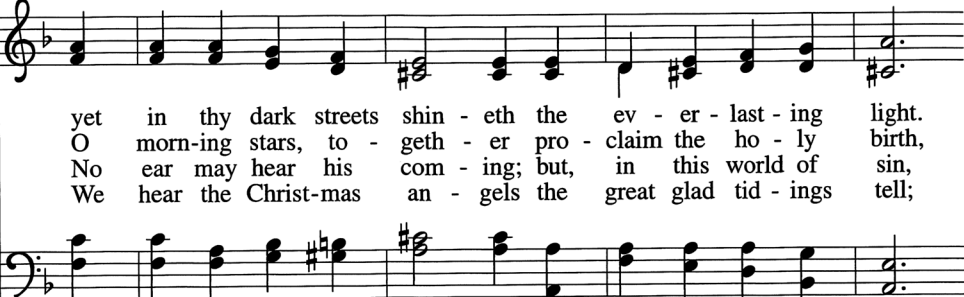
### Communion Hymn ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 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!

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

ST. LOUIS  
 86867686

## Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen**

## SENDING

### John 1:1-14, 16-18

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

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

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

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

# Lighting of the Candles

(As you pass the flame, please tilt only the candle you are lighting)

## ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night!

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

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

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

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

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

STILLE NACHT  
Irregular

## Blessing

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

# Sending Hymn ELW 267 Joy to the World

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

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

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

ANTIOCH  
 CM and repeat

## Dismissal

Go in peace, and merry Christmas.

# Merry Christmas!

## Announcements

Sunday, December 29, Annual *Freedom In Christ* Prison Ministry Service - your last chance for Christmas Carols until next year!

Saturday, January 6 @ 6:00 pm Epiphany Party out on our Fellowship Field. Dress for the weather! Bring a hot beverage, a chair, and Christmas cookies to share!

New Members will be welcomed on Sunday, January 26 - email the church or contact Pastor Ben for more details.

Pastor's Bible Study group will meet Tuesday nights starting January 7th at 6:00 PM in our Gathering Space.

## Prelude

Jesu, Joy - J.S. Bach  
Carol of the Bells  
In the Bleak Midwinter  
The Handbell Choir  
Jesu Bambino

Ted Munsch and Ben Cherland  
Anja Cabanas-Holmen  
Maren and Kirsten Holmen  
Kirsten and Iselin Cabanas-Holmen  
Dick Crofts

## Today we are praying for

The family of Brook Feister, Melinda Berry, the family of Jim Koski,  
Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Rob Loney,  
Paul Odegaard, Carlos Ramalho, the family of Dolly Stuber,  
and David Tilton

The Chancel Flower arrangement was donated by Brian and Carrie Moe in memory of Lucille (Lucy) June Brummer and in honor of Sandra, Charlie, Pearl, and Henry, and their church family, Messiah Lutheran Church of Red Lodge.

Cindy Runzler has donated a poinsettia in memory of Leon Odegaard.

Beverly Urbaniak has donated a poinsettia in memory of Violet Schiavon.

Donna Downing has donated a poinsettia in memory of Norma Putney.

Alan Stuber has donated a poinsettia in memory of Dolly Stuber.

Connie Baehr and Ted Munsch have donated a poinsettia in memory of Cami Kay Friedrichs.

Maria Gibson has donated a poinsettia in memory of Lynn Langeliers and another in honor of Chuck and Ginny Gibson.

Suzi Hansen has donated a poinsettia in memory of Allen Hansen (beloved Frumpy), and has donated poinsettias to honor Landyn Allen Hansen, Annika Dee Hansen, and Elisa Maureen Hansen, her grandchildren.

The family of Charles Kittle has donated a poinsettia in his memory

Jennifer J. Coutts has donated a poinsettia in memory of Willard G. Coutts, Jr., and in honor of Shirley J. Coutts and Heather Coutts.

Jim and Jeri Kyner have donated a poinsettia in memory of Howard Marquardt.

Todd and Linda Daily have donated a poinsettia in memory of Shyrl Daily.

Dick and DJ Rosekelly have donated poinsettias in memory of Doug Beckman and in honor of Nick Winter (Navy) and Zack Winter (Air Force).

Kathleen and Dennis Kreatz have donated a poinsettia in memory of Edwin Burger

Don Lindall has donated poinsettias in memory of Allen Hansen, Howard Marquardt and Jim Koski, and in honor of Dolly Koski.