Christmas Eve 2023



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Appleton, Wisconsin

MISSION STATEMENT

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love

Pop Vision 2024

We will be...an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples, transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to God's House which is the spiritual home of all who come to worship today. Part of Prince of Peace Church's mission statement says that we are "a family of Christians." Because God has made us family, we gather in this church home to receive the Lord's strength, comfort and peace. Christ, our brother, is here, and his presence will change us. As new people, we leave this spiritual home to go out and live our daily lives in the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go, but remember to come home. See you next Sunday!

Mobile Devices: As a courtesy to others, please remember to turn off ALL mobile devices during worship.

A hearing loop system is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

Celebrate the end of the year by worshiping with us on New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, 2023.

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Preaching Minister: Roger McQuistion

Presiding Minister: Jennifer DeNetz

Assisting Ministers:

(10:30 am) Bill Lempesis (2:00 pm) Pete Miller

(4:30 pm) Sebastian Brown

(8:00 pm) Kris Gurholt

Organist/Director: Sondra Joten

Musicians:

(10:30 am) Colleen Perrine
Nancy Ullsperger, Tom McElrath
(2:00 pm) Soli Deo Gloria Bell Choir
Andrea Carpenter (violin), Janice Evers,
Stephanie Allaire (choir accompanist)
(4:30 pm) Aaron Juhl
(8:00 pm) Canticle Choir
John Beyer (director)

Greeters:

(10:30 am) Tom & Ellen Rick Nancy & Tom Scheuerman

(2:00 pm)

(4:30 pm) Bev Schwahert

(8:00 pm) Randi & Mady Busse

Ushers:

(10:30 am) Mike Romnek, Scott Perrine (2:00 pm) Greg Koller, Don Carpenter (4:30 pm) Chris & Mary Volkman (8:00 pm) Erik & Jack Anderson

Projection Prep/AV:

Tom Richmond

(10:30 am & 2:00pm) Andy Palmbach (4:30 & 8:00 pm) Peter Juhl

Communion Servers:

(10:30 am) Nancy Scheuerman

(4:30 pm) Adam Brown

As a courtesy to others, please remember to silence all mobile devices during worship



ELW denotes the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal P-Pastor A-Assisting Minister C-Congregation

GATHERING MUSIC

10:30 am

2:00 p.m

4:30 pm

8:00 pm



"Mary Did You Know"
"Carol of the Huron"
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



Greene | Lowry arr. Hatch arr. Gazda | Clark arr. Behnke

WELCOME TO WORSHIP & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ELW 283, st. 1-3

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels:

REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: REFRAIN

Text: John Francis Wade, 1711 1786

DIALOG

- P Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
- C By day and night he shines for all to see.
- P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
- C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
- P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
- C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
- P Jesus is the light of the world.
- C Jesus is the light of our lives.
- P Sing to God a new song!
- C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674 1748

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.
- C And also with you.
- P Almighty God,
- You have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one

who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until

the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

- A Word of God, Word of Life.
- C Thanks be to God!

CAROL "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

ELW 279

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:7-13

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God

in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. ¹³I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

- A Word of God, Word of Life.
- C Thanks be to God!

CAROL

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

ELW 277

Women & Trebles:

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Men & Low Voices:

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

ALL:

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent. Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-6

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." ³When King

Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the

prophet: 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from

you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

- Ρ The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

CAROL

"THE FIRST NOEL"

ELW 300 (st. 1-3)

The 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.

> Refrain Noel, 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. Refrain

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

Text: English traditional

GOSPEL READING

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

- The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Matthew 2:7-12

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL

"WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE"

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again; king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh; prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

GOSPEL READING

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph qot up, took the

went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of

child and his mother by night, and

Matthew 2:13-15

Egypt I have called my son."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.



- 1 Gen-tle Jo-seph heard a warn-ing from an an-gel in the night;
- 2 Tar gets of a ty rant's ar my, seek ing safe ty, flee ing strife,
- 3 Give us, God, such faith and cour-age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid-en moth-er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight: leav-ing house and land and kin-dred, spurred by dreams of peace-ful life; and to those who come a-mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ-child's fam-'ly lived out what the prophet had fore-told, through the des-ert of un-know-ing and the night of doubt they went, Let us see in ev-'ry strang-er ref-u-gees from Beth-le-hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old. guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent. help us of - fer each one wel-come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-703841.

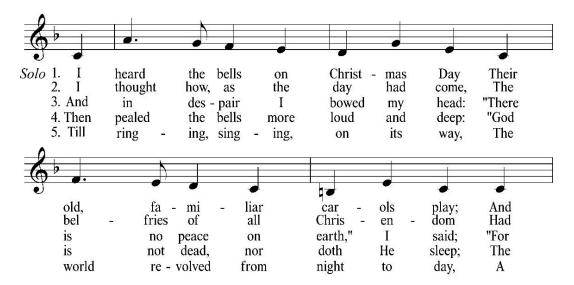
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

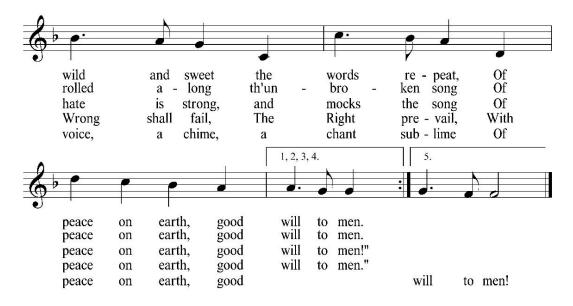
"All the Difference"

Pastor Roger McQuistion

HYMN

"I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"





Text: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Music John Marks

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Petitions end: Hear us, O God,

Response: your mercy is great.

- P Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.
- C Amen.

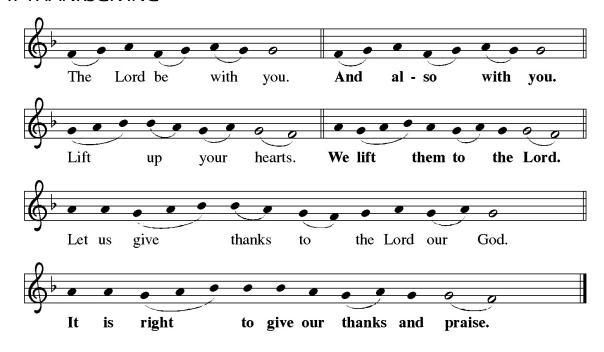
OFFERING

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(10:30 a.m.)	"Breath of Heaven"	Grant Eaton
(2:00 p.m.)	"How Great Our Joy!"	arr. Larson
(4:30 p.m.)	"O Holy Night"	arr. Gazda Clark
(8:00 p.m.)	"Enatus est Emmanuel"	Shaw
	(To Us Is Born Emmanuel)	

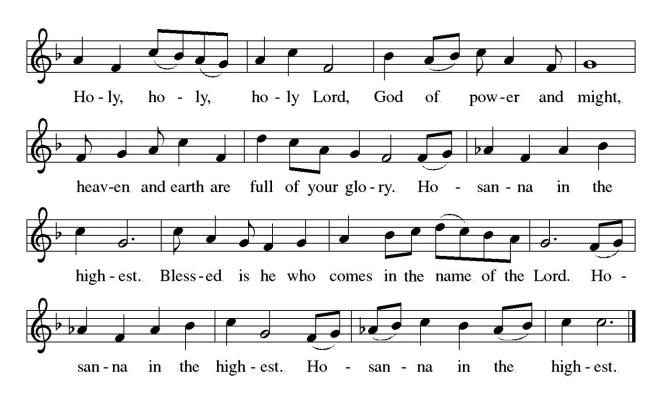
OFFERING PRAYER

- A God of abundance,
- receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

- P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of gace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May you Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- Come, Holy Spirit.
- P 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P As we gather around the Lord's table to celebrate the birth of a Savior, let us pray together the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray:
- C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.



In the bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present. Much more than a sign, story, or symbol of God's love, it is an event where God reaches down to us through common earthly elements and invites us into the mystery and miracle of a relationship with him, the Word made flesh for us. All, who have been baptized, are invited to this experience of God's love, where He is our host and we are his guests, who will take the message of his love into the world.

COMMUNION

"LAMB OF GOD"

(Sung to the tune for "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve")

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

CAROLS

"IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER"

ELW 294

In 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.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n 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 Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"

ELW 275

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

- P God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
- C Amen.

The Christ candle, at the center of the Advent Wreath, is lit. It symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, of whom John's gospel speaks.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION

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 overcome 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

(8:00 p.m.) CAROL "NIGHT OF SILENCE"

"SILENT NIGHT"

grace and truth.

Kantor/arr. Ferguson

ELW 281

John 1:1-14



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.



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792 1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820 1885

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



FINAL BLESSING

- P God bless you and keep you, 4 Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.
- C Amen.

SONG & PRAYER FOR PEACE "Dona Nobis Pacem"

ELW 753

(Grant Us Peace)

1 x thru, then in canon



DISMISSAL

- A Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news!
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

Setting by Christopher Uehlein

~~ POINSETTIA DONATIONS~~

Jack & Kathy Anderson & Family
In loving memory of Sigrid Erickson & Tracy Maloney

Judy & Christina Baranczyk
In memory of Bill Tommelein & our precious ones
Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Nancy Becker-Nagan *In honor of Christ's birth.*

Gabriel Belongea In memory of Ann Belongea (d. 11-23-2023)

Mary Jane Bradley
In memory of Kenneth Bradley

Mike & Margie Bricco *To the glory of God!*

Nan & Brad Bunnow In memory of Lois Bunnow

Tom & Donna Clementi
In memory of parents & grandparents

Barbara & Chad Ekern
In memory of Don & Ruth Bergman

Dave & Sharon Erickson Glory to God in the Highest!

Nikki & Brian Gingras
In memory of Marilyn & Andy Lempesis

Kathleen Haase-McNeely & Tom McNeely
In memory of Ray & Florence
To the Glory of God!

Dan & Jill Heinritz

In memory of Milton & Joy Lee

Ron & Sondra Joten
In loving memory of Ron's mother, Delores Joten

Nette Kimbal

In memory of Marvin Quandt, Nette's dad & Tyler & Megan's grandpa. We miss you so much!

Greg & Sue Knudson
In honor of Cindy Romnek & PoP Pastoral Staff.

Erik & Erin Larson & family In memory of Erin's dad, Steven Hankey. In honor of Christ's birth.

The Lawler's In honor of Christ's birth

Lynn Mulvey
In memory of Bruce Martin

Betty Ann Nelson
In memory of Duane Nelson

Dave & Chris Pynnonen In honor of Christ's birth!

Colleen & Scott Perrine

In Memory of Paul Bruner, Jayne Fitzmartin, Mary Jane Fitzmartin, Walter Fitzmartin, and Dick and Shirley Perrine

Tom & Ellen Rick
In memory of family who have passed

Bill & Cindy Robarge *To the Glory of God!*

Nancy & Tom Scheuerman Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Paula Staedt In memory of my sister, Barb Champeau

Andrea Wilber In memory of Marion B. Wilber

Women of the ELCA *To the Glory of God!*

A Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

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