

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD—CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

3:50 p.m. —A WREATH OF CAROLS

4:00 p.m.—CHILDREN'S PROGRAM—HOLY EUCHARIST
& CANDLE-LIGHTING



A Wreath of Carols

(Pre-Service Sing-a-long)

THE FIRST NOEL

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.
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.
Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

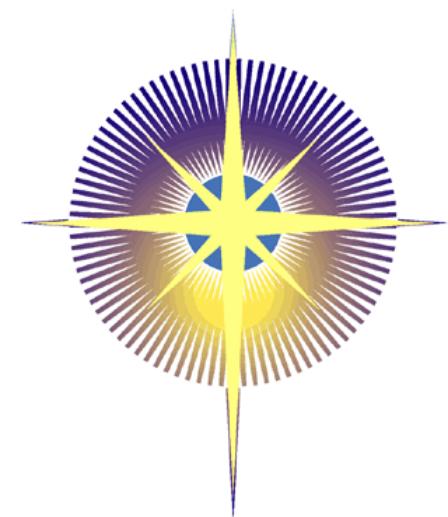


INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

LSB 393

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was
born for you!



IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LSB 366

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load,
 By care and guilt bent low,
 Who toil along a dreary way
 With painful steps and slow:
 Look up, for golden is the hour,
 Come swiftly on the wing,
 The Prince was born to bring you peace;
 Of him the angels sing.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

LSB 380

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
 Hail the incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Immanuel!
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris’n with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die,
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”



✖ PREPARATION ✖

PRELUDE

“Oh Come, Little Children”

Diane Bish

Pastoral Greeting

Pastor John Larson

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✖ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 People: Amen.

Call to Worship

Pastor: Arise! Shine! For your light has come. And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

People: **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: Arise! Shine! For your light has come.

People: **Our Light is Jesus! We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son. Amen.**

THE OPENING CAROL

“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

LSB 379

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!**

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**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Children / Youth Christmas Program

“The PLANE Truth About Christmas”

DAD: Come on guys, hurry! We're going to miss our connecting flight. Let's go, we're almost there!

MOM: There's Gate 22 right over there! We made it! Look, they haven't even started boarding the flight. I guess everything's a little behind schedule because of the weather.

DAD: I told you that our running would pay off. Now it's on to Nana's for Christmas and delicious fruitcake!



GATE AGENT: Attention, holiday travelers. Due to the severe winter storm, all flights have been grounded, and Denver International Airport is officially closed until further notice. We're sorry for the inconvenience and will keep you updated as information becomes available.

WILL: Some Christmas this is gonna be!

EMILY: This means we're not going to make it to Nana's in time for Christmas!

DAD: I'm afraid we're stuck here until the weather breaks. Just try to have patience.

EMILY: Patience! I'd rather have presents!

GATE AGENT: Attention holiday travelers. We realize that you're all very tired and that DIA is not equipped to handle this many people for an extended period of time. We ask that you please be patient and try to find some place comfortable to rest. Thank you.

READER #1: "In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, and everyone went to their own town to register. So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child." (Luke 2:1-5)

HYMN

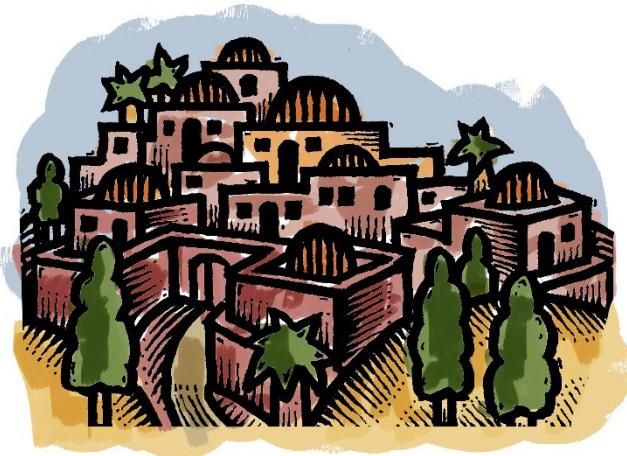
"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361

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.

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;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



DAD: Any updates?

GATE AGENT: No, I'm sorry. Please take a seat.

EMILY: This is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year!

WILL: Yeah, and we're going to miss it!

DAD: Miss what?

EMILY: The most wonderful time of the year! Christmas!

MOM: You're not going to miss Christmas.

WILL: All the flights are grounded!

EMILY: No presents!

WILL: No stockings!

EMILY: No karaoke machine!

WILL: No Nintendo Switch!

EMILY: No Squishmallows!

WILL: No Lego sets!

EMILY: No Christmas cookies!

WILL: No chestnuts roasting on an open fire!

BOTH: NO FAIR!

DAD: Those things are nice but that's not what Christmas is about. The truth is that you can't miss Christmas because it's actually something that happened when Jesus was born. When we celebrate Christmas, we're remembering the day Christ came to earth and God's plan for our salvation was put into action.

SONG

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS”

by Carol Cymbala

Duet: Emery and Christa Kirschner

Accompanist: Lisa Lindeman

READER #2: “Arise! Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1-2)

EMILY: How much longer? Waiting is so hard!

DAD: I know what will pass the time! Dad jokes! Ok, here's the first one. What's a pilot's favorite kind of donut? A “plain” one! Here's another, what did the football player say to the flight attendant? “Put me in coach!”



MOM: Oh brother! Anyway, you know, a long time ago, people had to wait for the Messiah. The very first promise of a Savior happened in the book of Genesis to Adam and Eve after they sinned. God knew they and us would need a Savior. He kept that promise by sending Jesus.

READER #3: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and she shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

SONG **"BABY JESUS, WE LOVE YOU"** *By Dean Diehl
PS-1st grade Sunday school kids*

READER #4: "And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

READER #1: "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger." (Luke 2:6-7)

HYMN **"AWAY IN A MANGER"** *LSB 364, children only – verse 1*

Children:

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

All:

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**



GATE AGENT: Attention holiday travelers. Please pay close attention as important announcements will be forthcoming about your flight and we'll try to get you to your destination as soon as possible. Thank you.

WILL: I wish it was a GOOD announcement!

DAD: Since it is Christmas Eve, I'm reminded of the shepherds on the night that Jesus was born and the announcement they received from the angels.

READER #2: "In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear." (Luke 2:8-9)

READER #3: "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

READER #4: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:13-14)

HYMN **"ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"** **LSB 368**

*Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

GATE AGENT: Attention holiday travelers. We bring you good news of great joy. The storm has passed, and flights will be departing shortly.

DAD: Well guys, we get to fly out soon! Off to Nana's and fruitcake!

EMILY: Yay! That's good news, except for the fruitcake!

DAD: Actually, you know what the good news really is? This little baby, whose beginning was so humble and lowly, will one day save the world. The God of the universe, who loves us so much, came to dwell among us.

MOM: And don't forget that God wants us to proclaim the Good News of the Savior to everyone!

SONG **"GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"** **arr. Stephanie Roettjer
Youth Bell Choir**



(Children will find their parents and will sit with them for the remainder of the service)

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 men their songs employ,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
 and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. That the coming of the Word in the flesh might open the eyes of all who are blinded by this world's sin and folly, let us pray to the Lord,

People **O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor That the grace and mercy God has offered in giving His Son might turn the hearts of many to true repentance, joy, and hope, let us pray to the Lord,

People **O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor That the Church here and around the world might find a renewed sense of purpose as we join the Christmas angels and the hosts of heaven in praising the name of our gracious God, let us pray to the Lord,

People **O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor That an awareness of how much God loves us and what He has been willing to do for us since the beginning of time would bring comfort to all who face this bright new day through tears of pain or sadness, (especially ...), let us pray to the Lord,

People **O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

Pastor That God, outside of time and space, would so move the leaders of this world that they use every opportunity to reflect His care for the nations and areas they serve, let us pray to the Lord,

People O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

(Other intercessions may be added here)

Pastor Into Your almighty and gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**



OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Hope Has a Name"

by Kristian Stanfill, Sean Curran and Jacob Sooter
Ben Williams, solo

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✖ SACRAMENT ✎

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with



**Christmas Eve
Communion**

all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name,
evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS (*Sung to the tune: Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God by high-est hosts a - dored,
Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove, with the an - gels sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing; With them we our prais - es bring.
Bless-ed He, the com - ing One, God the Fa-ther's on - ly Son.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:2*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My \mathbb{X} body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \mathbb{X} blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

O LAMB OF GOD

(Tune: "On Jordan's Bank")

PUER NOBIS

O Lamb of God, who takes a-way The whole world's sin, now hear us pray: Have mer-cy on us, grant us peace, From all our sins give us re-lease.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Brynn Aldrich
Violin Solo**Hymn**

"O Sing of Christ"

LSB 362

Christmas Organ Music

"O Come, Little Children"

Michael Burkhardt

Christmas Hymn Improvisations

Paul Manz

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING**The Lighting of the Candles**

Candles are lit from the center aisle; please pass the light to one another being careful to hold the candle upright as not to burn yourself with the wax. Let Christ's light be shared! The candles may remain lit through the end of service.

**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 thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing.

People **Amen.**

Pastor May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

People **Amen.**

Pastor May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, receive by His great mercy, unending life at His second advent.

People **Amen.**

Pastor And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, ☧ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People Amen.

(Lighted candles may now be extinguished.)

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

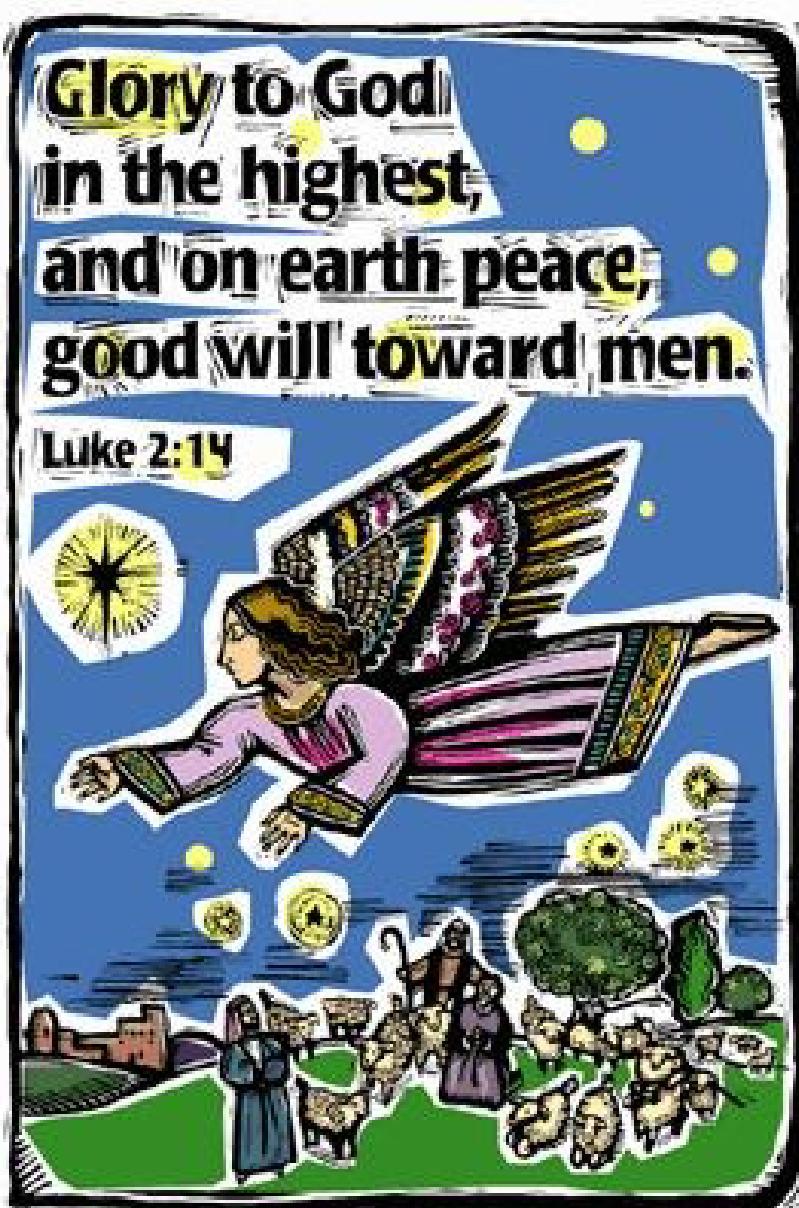
Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"The Little Drummer Boy / Pat-a-Pan"

Diane Bish



PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Stephanie Roettjer

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP: Mike Zehnder

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF: Stephanie Roettjer (DCE), Christa Kirschner (Bd of Ed), Krissy Schwerin, Meghan O'Connell, Lori Rolling, Jackie Viren, Katie Brehmer, Ann Kaneko, Diane Patterson

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVING IN WORSHIP:

Brynn Aldrich, Parker Aldrich, Brynn Anderson, Juliet Anderson, Kaia Anderson, Livy Anderson, Sierra Archambeau, Eli Faulk, Matthew Faulk, Caleb Gilbert, Kendyl Goff, Emery Kirschner, Tobin Lawrenz, Jensen Lawrenz, Norah Lawrenz, Ellie Lawrenz, Clara Olson, Adaleigh Olson, Rachel Roettjer, Anna Roettjer, Betty Shakely, Maple Shakely, Abby Williams, Ben Williams, Jacob Williams, Michael O'Connell, Freya Gorrell, Odin Gorrell, Lily Fetterolf, Frank Aguilar, Stella Aguilar, Olive Scott, Arthur Scott

The Sunday school kids, parents, and staff have worked with a lot of enthusiasm to prepare for this service. We thank them for their devotion and commitment to share the story of Jesus' birth with our congregation!

Many thanks to all those who purchased the beautiful poinsettia plants that decorate our sanctuary for Christmas:

Kim and Dan McCormick, Ron and Ann Kaneko, Gary Selzer, Gloria Gaudreault, Ken and Diane Cole, Carolyn Helstrom, Tracy Huggins, Andy and Mavis Slifka, John and Lori Rolling, Pastor John and Marilyn Larson.



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

ELDER 4:00

ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Bob Olsen

Gloria Mielke, Lynne Nelson,
Charmaine Rohde

✿ ✿ ✿

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