

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2021**



**Cover Art: UNKNOWN MASTER, Flemish**

Nativity. c. 1400; Tempera on wood, 33 x 21 cm; Museum Mayer van den Bergh, Antwerp

## **PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** and glad tidings on this Christmas Eve, one of the few services of the year where the light inside the church causes the Gospel story told in our stain glass windows to shine outwards into the night. As we light candles this evening may we be reminded that each of us too, in each individual story, carry Christ's light into the world in all we do.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wanting all to be comfortable yet mindful of burnt-out hospital workers and wanting to protect the vulnerable with us tonight, we request you wear masks during our singing and service and practice social distancing to the extent it is possible.

**GREETING:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Let us enter this Holy Night as the Light of Christ enters into our hearts.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord you are the great gift giver. We thank you tonight for the gift of song and that Sharon is here to share her gift with us. Bless her and her family and all the families participating in this service and all who bring their faith and fellowship as their gift to you tonight.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *Oh Holy Night*

Sharon Wyland

OPENING HYMN - *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful*

Verses 1 &amp; 3

45

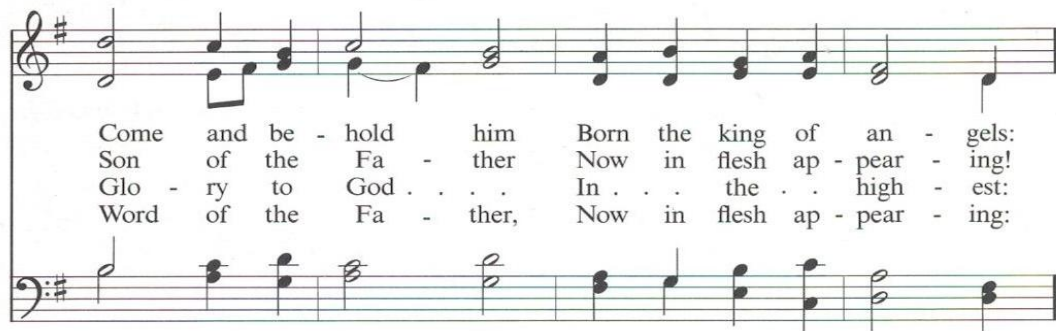
## Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



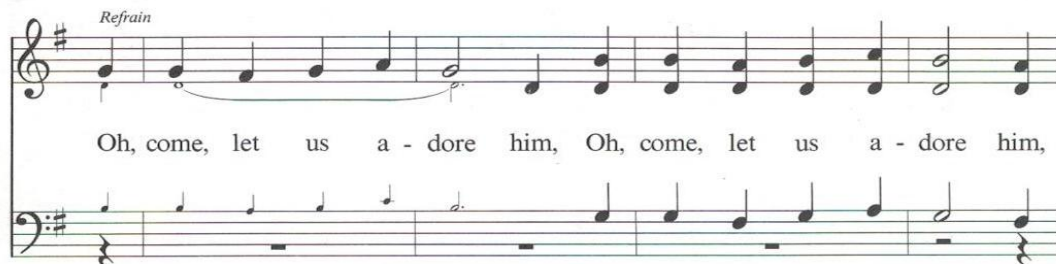
1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, Light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, 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:



*Refrain*  
 Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**PRAYER:** 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 only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*The Light of Christ*

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES:**

One: *Tonight we light the Christ Candle in the center of the wreath. We light it for Christ the center of our life, the center of our Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.*  
*Alleluia*

One: Promising God, Where Hope is faint; ignite our faith in your healing and the promise of eternal life.

**All: We lift the light of Hope.**

One: Eternal God in the midst of strife and conflict may your peace be known throughout the world.

**All: We lift the light of Peace.**

One: Joyful God may we delight in the spirit of Children this Christmas.

**All: We lift the light of Joy**

One: Boundless God may your Love be an eternal wellspring within us.

**All: We lift the light of Love**

One: As we embrace the Christ Child tonight, may we be filled with the radiant light of the Trinity.

**All: We lift the light of Christ**

(Congregational response sung to #142 *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*)

**People:      We lift the light of Christmas now  
                  and greet eternal life.  
                  New hope and peace and joy and love  
                  are born in Jesus Christ.  
                  New hope and peace and joy and love  
                  are born in Jesus Christ.**

## ***The Journey***

LESSON: Luke 2: 1-5

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius as governor of Syria.) 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.

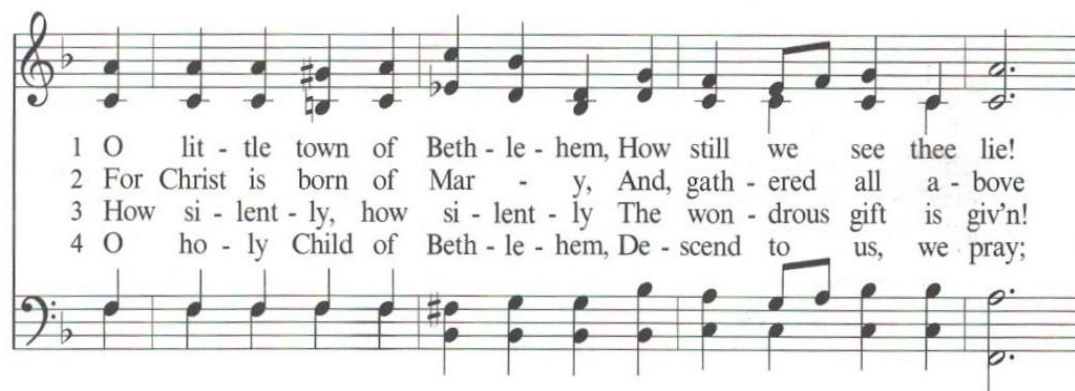


## HYMN – O Little Town of Bethlehem

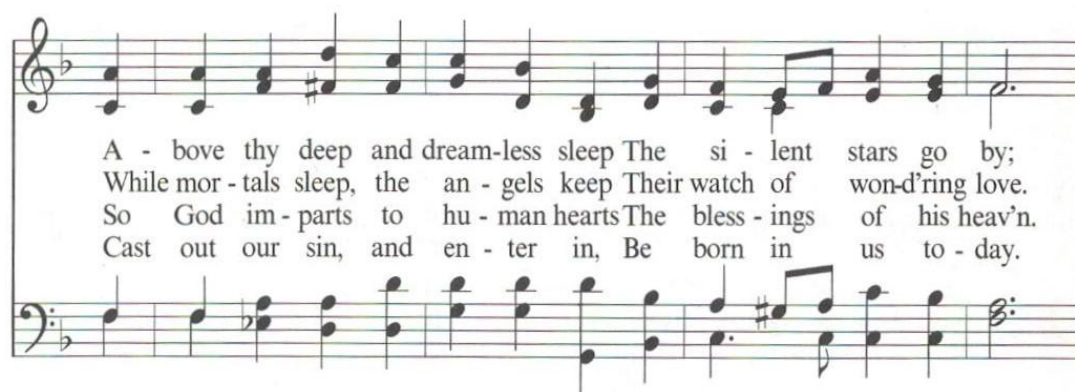
Verses 1 &amp; 4

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

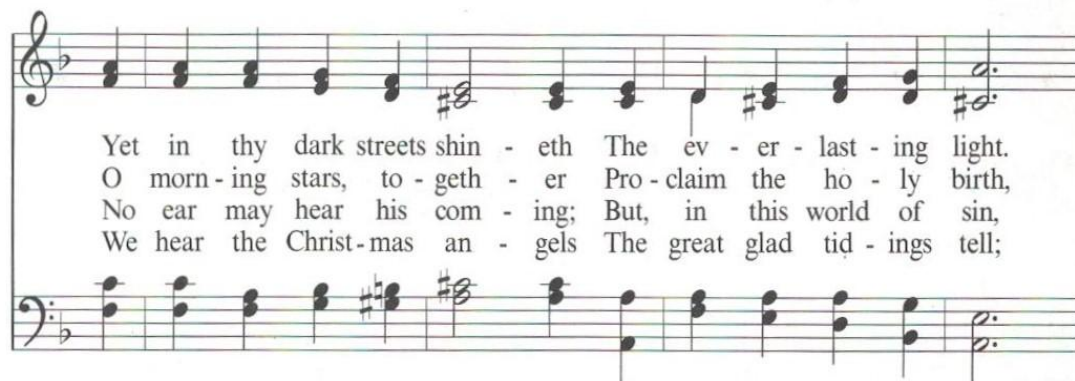
41



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!

## *The Birth of Christ*

### **LESSON:** Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

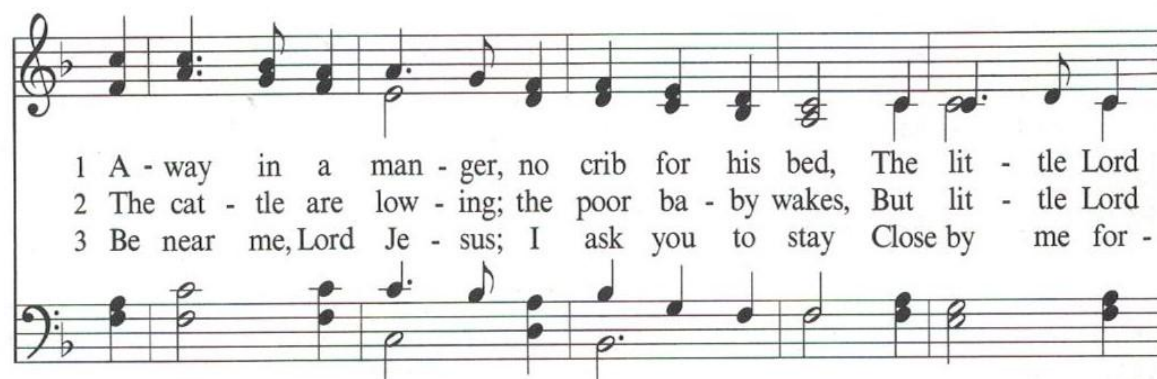
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **HYMN:** Away in a Manger

Verses 1-3

## Away in a Manger

67



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky . . looked  
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from the sky And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 your ten - der care And fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

Text: American, 1885  
 Tune: American, 19th cent.

AWAY IN A MANGER  
 11 11 11 11

**GOSPEL PROCESSION**  
***The Revelation of Christ***

Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

2:8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

2:9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

2:10 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:

2:11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

2:12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill towards all people"

2:15 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."

2:16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

2:17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

2:18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

2:19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



## HOMILY

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE and gifts:

## PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Words of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

#### Holy Communion

#### Post Communion Prayer

#### *The Light of Christ*

READER: Isaiah 9:2

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

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

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Candle lighting** – Ushers will come to the ends of the rows to light your candles. Please pass the light down the row.

*Silent Night will be sung after all the candles are lit.*

**HYMN – “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

Verses 1-3

**Silent Night, Holy Night!**

65

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**P** The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

**C** **Glory to God in the Highest!**

**P** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, in heaven.

**C** **On earth peace, good will toward all peoples!**

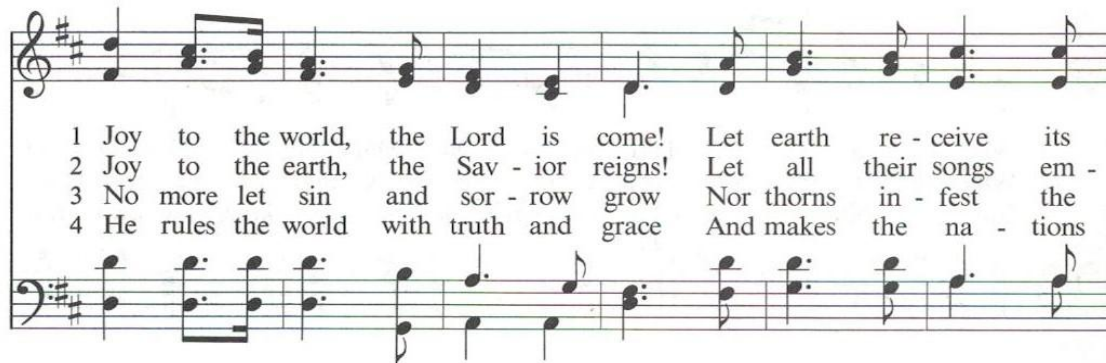
*The candles are extinguished - and ceiling lights come on. (You may put your candle in the boxes placed at the bottom of each staircase as you leave.)*

*The Joy of Christ***CLOSING HYMN - Joy to the World**

Verses 1-3

**Joy to the World**

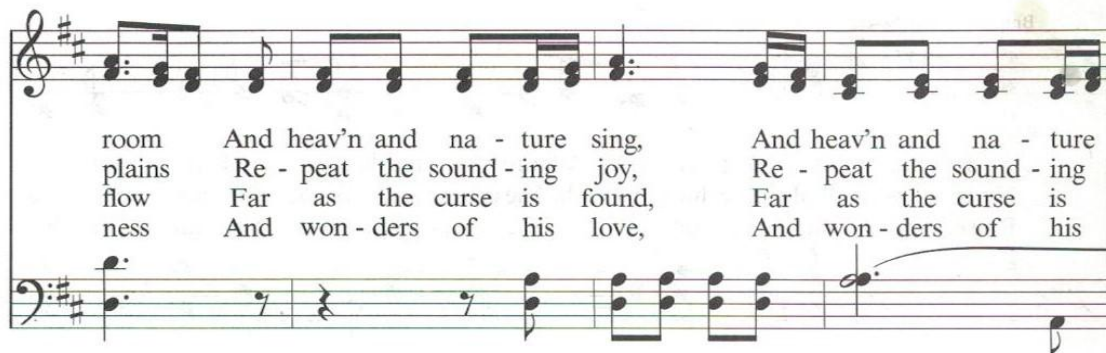
39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
 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



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.

## **BENEDICTION**

P Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, keep you in His light and truth and love now and forever. **C Amen**

## **POSTLUDE**

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Church Office:** 935-2032 **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

### ***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.*

### ***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

UPCOMING SERVICES: This Sunday Dec 26, is the Feast of Stephen, the Second Sunday of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Come casual (kids can come in their PJ's - (OK you too if you like.) We will sing Carols and hear in their words the Gospel story they tell.

January 2 - Epiphany celebrated. The visit of the Three Kings. Communion

January 9 - Baptism of the Lord, Remembering our Baptism, a service of Healing and Wholeness. Communion

Thank you to all who helped with communion and our worship service this evening.

This evening's offering will be directed to St. John's Discretionary Fund.

Those who placed poinsettias may take theirs with them following the service.

The Altar Roses are given to the Glory of God by Reba Harmon in loving memory of her husband, Jim Harmon, and John "J.P." Zook.

The Candelabra greens are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Susanne "Toot" Stroup, by her children, Sharon, Larry, Molly, Tom, Mike and Patrick.



The Poinsettias in St. John's  
are given to the Glory of God by...

*Jane Fultz in memory of husband, Bud,  
all her loved ones, and in honor of her  
children, grandchildren and their families .*

*Reba Harmon in honor of her children,  
Holly, Jami and Jimmy.*

*Marjorie Shilling in loving memory of her husband, Dick.*

*Deb French in loving memory of Charlie French,  
Carrie Knarr and Randy Peachey.*

*Deb French in honor of her son, Tristan,  
grandchildren, Mady, Gaby, Kadense and Gavin,  
and her mother, Mary French.*

*Jay and Joy Byler in memory of their loved ones,  
and in honor of their children and grandchildren.*

*Eleanore Rachau in loving memory of Dick Rachau.*

*Carolyn Conner in loving memory of  
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Boring, Samuel Metz,  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Conner and Russell Lee Conner.*



*Carolyn Conner in loving honor of  
her children, their spouses, her grandchildren,  
and great grandchildren.*

*Ron and Carol Fultz in loving memory of  
Bud Fultz, their grandson, Gage Fultz,  
grandparents, Jerry and Elsie Knepp, Helen Treaster,  
Roy and Ruby Fultz and Hilda Stricker.*

*Ron and Carol Fultz in honor of their parents,  
John and Jane McKinley, Jane Fultz and Bob Treaster,  
and their children, and their families,  
Zach, Jenny and Vance, Ryan, Ashley Nicole, Kayden,  
Owen and Colton, Scott, Ashley Ann and Alexa.*

*Jami Zook in memory of John "JP" Zook,  
and in honor of their children and grandchildren*

*Neil Himes and family in loving memory of Pam Himes.*

*Don and Rosalie Smith in honor of their sons and families,  
Don and Benita Smith, Jed and Alice Smith,  
Eric and Cynthia Hileman, Sarah Smith,  
Samantha Smith and Alexandra Smith.*

*Don and Rosalie Smith in memory of their parents,  
Bud and Elsie Smith, George and Henrietta Naylor.*

*Ross and Sylvia Harshbarger in memory of their parents,  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Hile and  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman H. Harshbarger.*

*Ross and Sylvia Harshbarger in honor of  
their sons, Michael, Bradley and David,  
daughter-in-laws and their grandchildren.*

*John and Denise Chester in memory of  
John H. Chester and William and Charlotte Clark.*

*Ken and Nancy Wyland and family  
in memory of Mark and Dorothy Smoker,  
Leroy and Virginia Wyland.*

*In loving memory of our parents,  
Bruce and Judy Kauffman,  
by Stacey and Kent, Jason and Malinda.*

*In loving memory of Bruce and Judy Kauffman,  
our "Pappy and Grammy", from grandchildren,  
Paige, Kelsey, Jarrett and Mitchell.*

*Mike and Michele Harshbarger in memory of  
her parents, Mike and Ann Sabol.*

*Jim and Georgianna Buchanan in honor of  
their daughters, Beth and Angie, son-in-law, Steve,  
and grandchildren, Noelle and Elliott.*

*Pastor Ela J. Robertson in memory of Dick Shilling,  
and in honor of the members and council of  
St. John's Lutheran Church, honoring their reverence,  
dedication, leadership and joy in serving Christ.*

*Gwen Hornberger in loving memory of  
Darlie Hornberger and her parents,  
Glenn and Beverly Bigelow.*

*Gwen Hornberger in honor of  
her granddaughters, Grayson and Avis.*

*Ruth Baker in memory of those family and friends  
who have gone before, her husband, parents,  
grandparents, brothers and sisters.*

*Ruth Baker in honor of the nurses, doctors,  
educators, and all workers who have given  
so much to the service of others.*