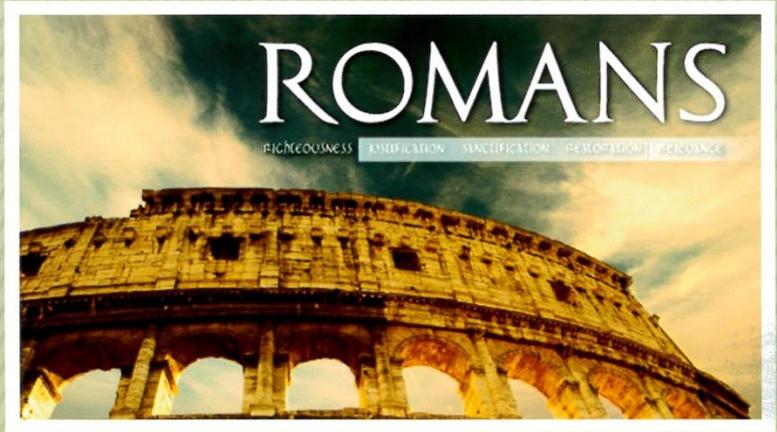
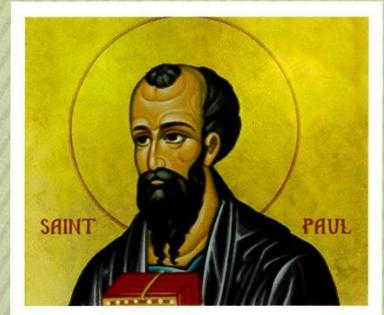
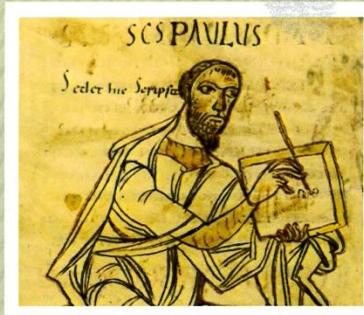


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EL



CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
is BORN!

Paul, Apostle



4th Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2016

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

SPECIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES Saturday, **December 24**
6:00 p.m. in Gym & 11:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL Sunday, **December 25**
10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion in Gym

NEW YEAR'S DAY Sunday, **January 1**
10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

<i>Elder:</i>	<i>Mike Bandman</i>	<i>Randy Gifford</i>
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	<i>Steve Best</i>	<i>Jack Warneke</i>
<i>Acolytes:</i>	<i>Ellie Maag, Lily Erwin</i>	<i>Hunter Kregel, Allyson Adams</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>JJ Jones, Sandy Lahera, OPEN</i>	<i>Scott Mundrick, Diane Mundrick</i>
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	<i>Andy Barkley, Dave Hoffmeister</i>	<i>Linda Peters, Larry Peters</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Little Family, Al Diercks</i>	<i>Theresa & David Carlson, Ams Family</i>
<i>Fellowship:</i>	<i>Wednesday Morning Bible Study</i>	
<i>Dec. Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Kathy Schwartz</i>	<i>Sheila Bunnell</i>
<i>Dec. Counters:</i>	<i>David & Cheryl Ross</i>	

ALTAR FLOWERS: SEE POINSETTIA LIST ON LAST PAGE.

ADVENT PROPHETS, 2ND VERSION

A 2nd version of a service that draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Isaiah 2:3,5, 61:10

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

C: *to the house of the God of Jacob,*

P: to His Church, the ones gathered around Jesus Christ,

C: *that he may teach us his ways*

P: and that we may walk in his paths.

O house of Jacob, O people of Jesus,

come, let us walk in the light of the LORD,

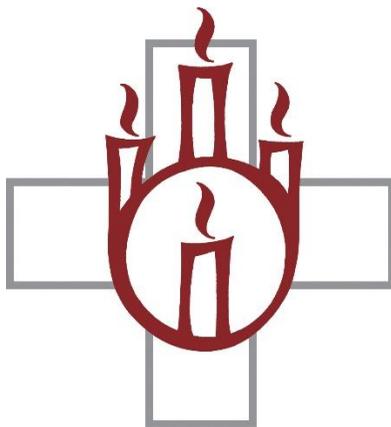
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen! I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;*

my soul shall be overjoyed because of my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.



Confession of Sin

based on Isaiah 64:5-6,8-9

P: We confess to the Lord that we have been in our sins a long time;
Shall we be saved?
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

C: **O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
And do not remember our sin forever.
Behold, please look, we are Your people.
Come, Lord Jesus, and save us. Amen.**

Absolution (Forgiveness) & Thanksgiving

based on Zephaniah 3:14-15,17

P: Sing aloud, O children of God; shout, O Church of Christ!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O children of the Lord's Kingdom!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
Jesus Christ is the Mighty One who has opened the way of salvation.
Your sins are forgiven
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Response to the Lord's Forgiveness

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349, sts. 2-3

inspired in part by Zephaniah 3:15

2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
burst, The i - ron the fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Anthem

“Emmanuel, Expected Jesus”

Adult Choir

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 Come, O come, expected Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
 Born to set Thy people free.
 From our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel’s strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear Desire of ev’ry nation,
 Hope of ev’ry longing heart.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Reading from an Old Testament Prophet

Isaiah 7:10–17 (ESV)

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (Paul's Letter to the Roman Christians)

Romans 1:1-7 (ESV)

[A letter from] ¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Sermon "Christmas Letter Writing Workshop with Paul" Romans 1:1-7

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

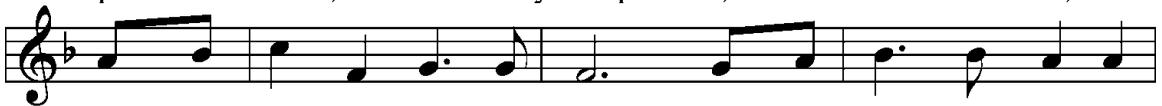
LSB 548 sts. 1, 3



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



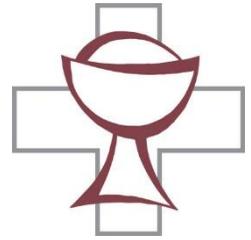
sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

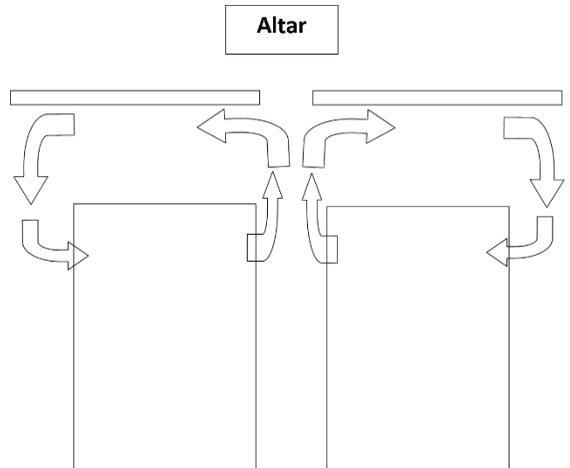
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Preface Verses

Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333 sts. 1, 4



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -
dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,
Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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

C: And also with you.

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

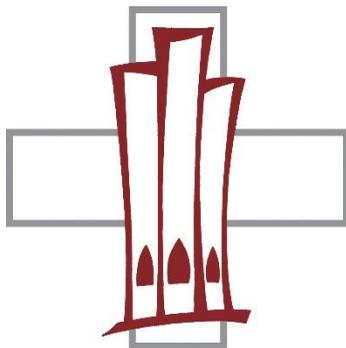
C: **Amen.**

Benediction

based on Isaiah 61:1-3,8

P: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Jesus,
because the LORD has anointed Him to bring good news to you;
he has sent Jesus to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God against sin, death, and the devil;
to comfort all who mourn; giving them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
So that you may be called oaks of righteousness.
The Lord says to you: I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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We thank the following for beautifying our worship areas with poinsettias.

Sheila Bunnell - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Theresa & David Carlson - in memory of Theresa's parents and sisters;

Morrie & Carol Cook - (3 plants) in memory of daughter Hannah, parents Irene Luhrsen, Morrie & Marge Cook;

Jim Franz - in memory of father, brother, sister and grandparents;

Steve & Jann Freehling - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Nicole M. French - (3 plants) with thanks, gratitude & appreciation for Pastor, love & appreciation for Kay Antonopoulos and the Leicht family;

Sue Frendreis - in memory of husband Michael Frendreis;

Paul & Linda Groh - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Carla Hartman - (2 plants) in memory of Julia Kopetz and Betty Hartman;

Mark & Kathy Hipsher - in memory of Mark's brother Ron Hipsher and Kathy's sister Kim Hallman;

Craig Johnsen - (10 plants) in memory of wife Donna J. Wheeler Johnsen and Cliff & Sophie Johnsen;

Kazarian Family - in memory of Grace Gibson;

John & Karen Kozlik - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Kristine E. Lindsey - (2 plants) in memory of son Nicholas and husband Garry;

Kim Maiore - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Suzy Lietzau McCahey - (3 plants) in memory of loving parents Roger & Donna Lietzau, in appreciation of Pastor Ben for his support & guidance through troubling times and to the glory of God;

Scott & Diane Mundrick - to the glory of God;

Bill & Lynda Oesterreich - to the glory of God;

The Olson's - (4 plants) in memory of Gayle's parents Elaine & Gene Puetz;

Ronald & Deborah Olson - in memory of Sylvin & Adelyn Olson and Elmer & Marge Frank;

Diane Perkins - in memory of John Perkins;

Rasmussen, Souza, & Kazarian Families - (3 plants) in memory of William, Alice & Mark Souza;

Bill & Midge Ratzburg - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Jose & Claudine Rayos - (2 plants) in memory of Matthew & Patricia Koller and Jose Rayos, Sr.;

Jerry & Lauri Rizzo - in honor of their second wedding anniversary on December 27;

David & Cheryl Ross - (3 plants) in memory of Gordon & Carol Gillings and Wayne Harmon;

James & Jennifer Silasiri - (3 plants) in memory of son Micah Silasiri and in appreciation of children Ryan & Ella Silasiri;

Jim & Jeannie Silasiri - in memory of grandson Micah Silasiri;

Ben & Susan Squires - (2 plants) in memory of Susan's mom, Sam Foster;

Diane Swanson - (3 plants) in memory of Susan Squires' mom and in appreciation of Carol Cook & Lisa Schwarz;

Ted & Margie Tatgenhorst - to the glory of God;

Dawn Werfelmann - (2 plants) to the glory of God;

Paul Werfelmann - in memory of Paul & Bonnie Werfelmann;

Don & Deborah Wuethrick - (2 plants) in memory of Robert J. Neubig and in appreciation of family all over US;

Ziegler Family - to the glory of God.

