

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**December 22,
2024**

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

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9am -3pm

Ministers
Every member

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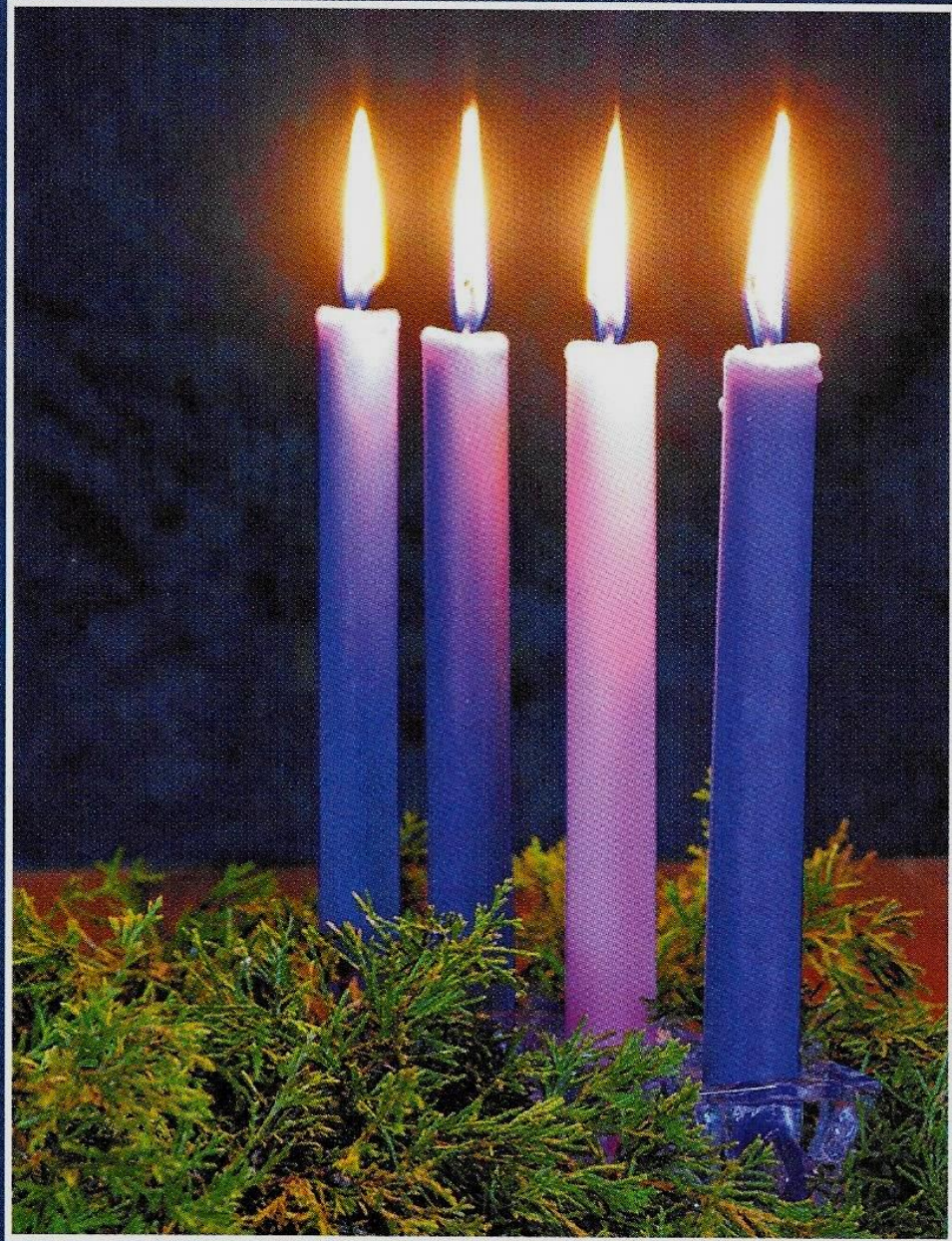
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Pat Lowther

LOVE



*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...
from you shall come...
one who is to rule in Israel*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

9:00 A.M. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22TH, 2024



God bless you as we gather on this 4th Sunday in Advent. The 4th candle on the Advent wreath is often called the “Candle of Love.” It symbolizes the angel Gabriel’s visitation to Mary. Like Mary, we pray God would open our hearts—so that we may receive Him who comes in the promise of the Lord filling us with good news of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life.

We welcome all visitors and pray our worship together brings you a special blessing as Christ extends his invitation to all.

Please come and join in fellowship & refreshments immediately following in the Library.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

PRELUDE /BELL/CALL TO WORSHIP

BELL CHOIR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time,

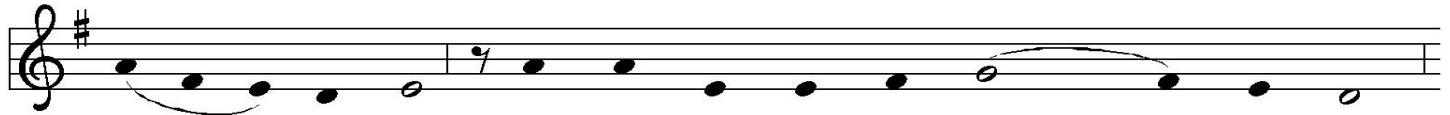
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**





1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

The first reading is in Micah chapter 5, verses 2-5a.

But 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. Therefore 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. And 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; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

The second reading is in Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Light One Candle

(vs. 4) ELW #240



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

MESSAGE

Pastor David Nissen

SONG OF THE DAY

All Earth is Hopeful

ELW #266



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING



Special
Music

Bring Us Hope

Trinity Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us pray:

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW #267

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.

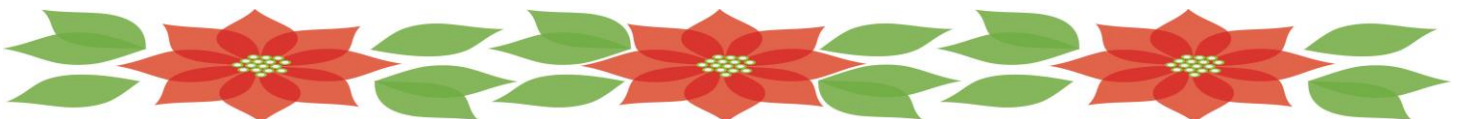
heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Our thanks to all who serve the Body of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 am Worship	
Accompanist	Mary Mulry		
Acolyte	Kendall Haala		
Reader	Levi Johnson		
Sound Tech	Russ Sorensen		
Greeters	Keith & Sarah Lendt		
Ushers	Mark Miller & Mike Petersen		
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner		



We extend our Deepest Sympathy to Linda Schueler and family and friends in the loss of her husband, Jerry, who was laid to rest with services here at Trinity on Tuesday....that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more.... The arrangement in front of the pulpit is in his memory.



Thank you Trinity Family!



Great thanks to all who have worked to make this Advent season a blessing for our community. If you helped with the Children's Christmas Worship, baked or bought Cookies, packed a Holiday box, or cooked for Meals that Matter....thank you. It all works together to do God's work in our world. May we all continue to work together in the future as we help as we can this Holiday season and always. Together we can make a difference-we do make a difference.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY WITH THE COOKIE WALK! Whether you baked, worked or bought, you are vital to make this work for people in need. Together we raised \$1200.00. Thanks also to Thrivent for donating \$250.00 toward our efforts. Heartfelt thanks for making the 34th year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success.



Blessings to you all, Darlene Brummund,
President of your WELCA



***There will be NO Church School December 25th or January 1st.
Classes resume Jan. 8th at 6:00 PM. See you then***

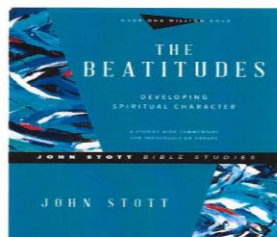
***Thank you Trinity for filling the Holiday Boxes for our weekend food families!
You are truly the Hands of Jesus! Your Social Ministries Board***

Envelopes and Statements are in your mailbox. Pick yours up today!

Women's Bible Study

ALL ARE WELCOME to begin the new year with
a series of 8 meaningful lessons

**Beginning on Wednesday, January 8
9:00-10:00 a.m.**



"The beatitudes reveal to us eight qualities that bring God's blessing: meekness and mercy, poorness in spirit and purity of heart, mourning and hunger, peacemaking and persecution. Jesus highlighted these to offer both encouragement and instruction on living distinctly as his followers in a world with values much different from God's."

**Small study book, coffee, and hospitality
are provided for all to enjoy.**



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Financial needs of the Church update

Gods work with our hands is possible through the generosity of our faithful givers – thank you! Many exciting things are happening at Trinity; below we provide a broad overview of TLC's financial condition, ongoing needs and additional giving opportunities to help our mission be realized!

- **'24 Budget:** For December we need nearly \$69,000 to meet our \$298,000.00 budget, the total budget has been nearly unchanged for the prior two years.
 - December '23 you rallied and gave **\$89,000.00** which helped to improve our financial position, **it would be great if we could do that this year which would also give us a good start on our '25 needs!**
- **'25 Budget:** Budgeting process for '25 is underway. As indicated, our budget has changed little in the last three years, however we project increases will be required & will place the budget in a range of +/- \$315,000 (exact amount TBD). Some increases resulting from:
 - Our new fulltime Pastor
 - Property and liability insurance premiums.
 - Monthly utilities
 - Other misc. expenditures that were held in check the last several years.
 - **Please consider the challenge of increasing your giving by 5-10% to help support the work of God through renewed excitement growing in our Congregation!**
- **Building projects:** Several necessary building improvement projects are underway.
 - Electrical panel replacement, pedestrian ramp reconstruction, and possible other projects that are being discussed.
 - Member loan balance of \$10,000.00 plus interest obligation remains resulting from '22 building improvements.
 - Current available approximate building fund balance: \$25,000.00
 - **Additional information forth coming regarding projects noted above and the required amount of fundraising needed. Until then, please consider contributions to the building fund.**

Additional information will be forthcoming in the near future regarding all the topics above. Thanks again to our generous members!
Stewardship Bd.

December 22ND, 2024

My soul rejoices in God my Savior.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Luke 1:56-80	The birth of John the Baptist
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38	An angel visits Mary
Wednesday	Matthew 1:18-25	An angel visits Joseph
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	To us a child is born
Friday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Saturday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. He cares for me, his humble servant. Luke 1:46-48

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, child of Bethlehem, come and be King in our hearts and home. Amen. (Micah 5:2)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless our home with love this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you strength and courage. May God's face smile upon you and God's kindness save you. Amen. (Psalm 80:3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

What is a piece of good news you remembering receiving? How did you react?

How did Elizabeth respond to Mary's arrival from Nazareth? (Luke 1:39-45)

In what ways is Jesus' birth good news for you? What will be your response this Christmas?

DEVOTIONS

Use this simple liturgy for lighting your fourth Advent candle this week:

Leader: In John 3:16, we read that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Our fourth Advent candle is the candle of love. As we light it, let us celebrate the love that Jesus shows us. (Light all four candles on your Advent Wreath.)

All: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our home with love this Christ-mas. Amen.

SERVICE

Is there room for more at your meal table this Christmas? Be on the lookout for some-one who may be without friends or family at this festive time, and invite them to join you, either on Christmas Day or the days after. Students, single adults, recent immigrants, widows, widowers, and elderly persons can feel particularly lonely at Christmas time.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On Christmas Eve or Day use a manger scene you have or build a simple one and tell the story of Jesus' birth using the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20. You can also have people play the role of the different characters in the story (including the animals) and act out the Christmas story.

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions



Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give. Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	259
Church School & Confirmation	71
Website	105
Bible Studies Attendance:	8+10=18
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$21,068.39
December Giving: (\$28,650.00 .Needed)	\$40,773.67
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$269,541.04
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$280,825.00

We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit Bless Pastor Dave in his work here and would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Kelsey, Sheila, Linda, Grazie, Sandy, Larry, Krista, Sherry, Kali, Eagan Mae, Jane, Ramsey, Sarah, Molly, Patricia, Nancy, Lennon, Chris, Julie, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, John, Lois, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones.... Especially Linda Schueler in the loss of her husband, **Jerry**....that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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Thank you to the following donors for sharing God's beauty with us in the form of a poinsettia.

Feel free to take your plant home any time after the 5:00 Christmas Eve service has concluded. Many Thanks!

- ❁ The Ibberson families in memory of William and Colleen Ibberson
- ❁ The Schueler family in memory of Jerry
- ❁ Mark & Sandra Beito in memory of our parents
- ❁ Jay Sellner in memory of Brandy Sellner
- ❁ Nicole Voigt in memory of grandparents Ted and Nina Voigt, & Donald Zirbes
- ❁ Larry and Diane Evers in honor of their family
- ❁ Craig and Joleen Dittbenner and family in memory of Sidney Dittbenner
- ❁ Craig and Joleen Dittbenner and family in memory of Marian and Lester Johnson
- ❁ Tony Skovbrotten in memory of Allerd & Carol Skovbrotten
- ❁ Shawn & Jamie Heiderscheidt in memory of Judy Demarais
- ❁ Shawn & Jamie Heiderscheidt in memory of Rex & Judy Beech
- ❁ The Jean Bloemke family in memory of Craig Bloemke
- ❁ Michal and Pat Lowther in memory of our parents
- ❁ John & Lori Hirschboeck in memory of Dale Larson
- ❁ John & Lori Hirschboeck in memory of George & Rosie Hirschboeck
- ❁ Sandy Brinkman in memory of Dr. Dean Brinkman
- ❁ Sandy Brinkman in memory of Ed Polesky, Bill Vogeler & Nicholas Jacques
- ❁ Floyd Stenger in memory of Deb Stenger
- ❁ Ann Steffl in memory of Marian & Elmo Volstad
- ❁ Ann Steffl in memory of Marion & Alvin Arneson
- ❁ Ann Steffl in memory of Kim Amundson
- ❁ Ann Steffl in memory of Cole Braulick
- ❁ Brian & Carol Polesky in memory of Betty, David & DJ Riley
- ❁ Brian & Carol Polesky in memory of Ed Polesky, Dean Brinkman, Bill Vogeler
& Nic Jacques
- ❁ Rod and Darlene Brummund in memory of Don and Donna Marcott,
Alan Justen, Herbie, Albert, David, Herbert and Esther Brummund
- ❁ Rod and Darlene Brummund in honor of our children Katrina, Andrea, and John,
grandchildren Ariella and Andy
Great-grandsons Marcus and Baby Antonio

