

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God, to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love, and Action.

Sunday, December 11, 2022—9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

As far as Joseph knows, his new wife has been unfaithful to him and broken their marriage contract. And yet, instead of punishment, he chooses not to publicly disgrace or humiliate her. This interruption in his life becomes a holy invitation when the angel comes to him in a dream and says, “Do not be afraid.” When he awakes, Joseph once again has the courage to choose a better way. He chooses to stay with Mary, to become an adoptive parent. He chooses peace over violence, grace over condemnation. When have our ancestors also chosen a better way, and when have they not? Isaiah 35 is a vision of what happens when we choose a better way: the wilderness blooms, water breaks forth in the desert, eyes are opened, ears are unstopped, sorrow and sadness flee away. A highway shall appear and it will become a holy way.

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

*3 minutes of silence to center our hearts for worship.
Our time will conclude after the centering music.*

CENTERING MUSIC

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P A series of experiments by Princeton psychologists, Janine Willis and Alexander Todorov, taught the world that it only takes a tenth of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God wiggles God's self into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

C **God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.**

P Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God!

C **Amen.**

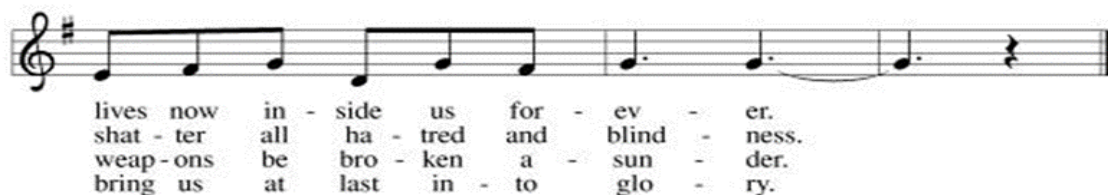
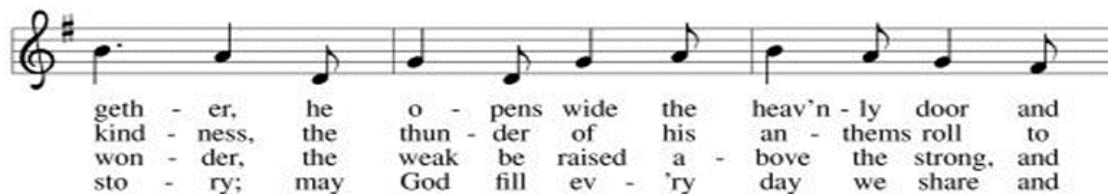
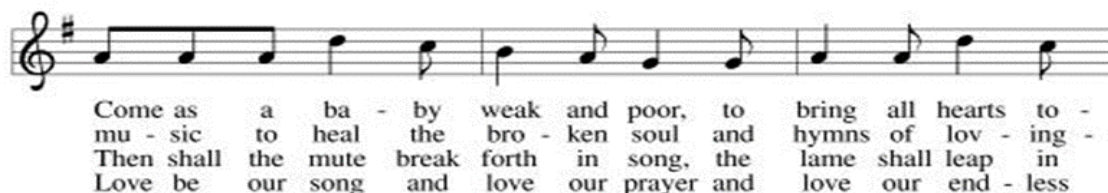
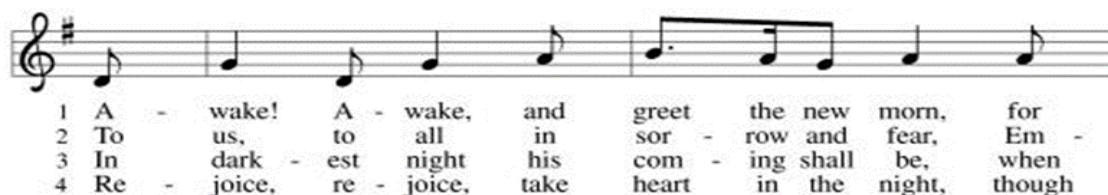
PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

SHARING OF PEACE

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

P Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What brings you joy? Hear some of their answers:

Reader 1: A clean kitchen.

Reader 2: Sand between my toes.

Reader 3: Being outside.

Reader 4: Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.

Reader 1: Having a camera in my hands.

Reader 2: My partner’s laugh.

Reader 4: Mountain air.

Reader 3: When my parents pick me up.

Reader 1: The end of my to-do list.

Reader 2: Hugs from my niece and nephew.

Reader 4: Baby giggles.

Reader 3: My cat.

Reader 1: Putting my hands in the garden.

Reader 2: A chord resolved.

Reader 4: Stargazing.

Reader 3: Bedtime books.

Reader 1: A warm cup of coffee with friends.

Reader 2: My new granddaughter.

Reader 4: Lingering at the table after dinner.

Reader 3: Time with family.

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another, but closer to God.

The third candle is lit.

Reader 2: Family of faith, what brings you joy?

C: Amen.

5 O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer:
O sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God,

C scripture tells us that you came to Joseph through an angel— loud and clear, impossible to miss. Scripture also tells us that Joseph listened. He rearranged his life to follow your invitation. God, we long for that— all of that. We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts. Trace us back to our roots—back to Joseph—who heard and followed. With gratitude we listen. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:5-10 (read responsively)

- ⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.
⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed**
down; the LORD | loves the righteous.
⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #250

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree,
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C: We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us—believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION—As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence. Each petition ends:

P God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

“We Are an Offering”

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all
those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

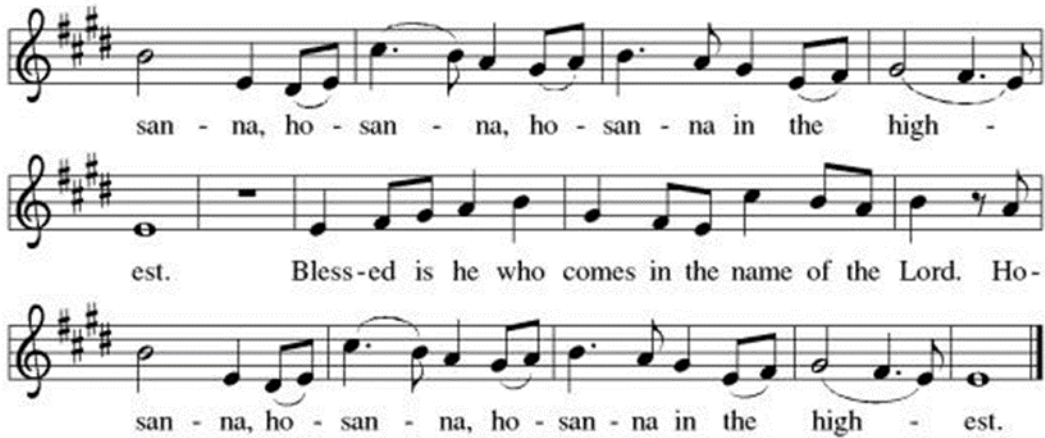
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

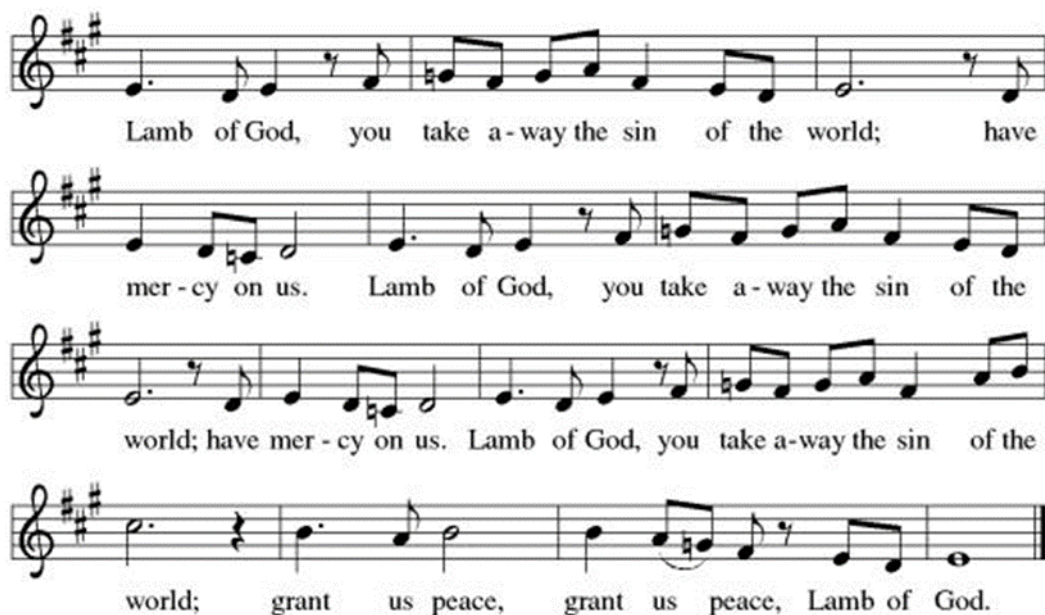


WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 - *all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

TABLE BLESSING

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

C May it be so. Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

DISMISSAL

P Go in joy and bring joy to the world. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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*Many of the prayer used in todays service are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC
| sanctifiedart.org.”*

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, December 12

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

6:00 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

Wednesday, December 14

1:00 pm Advent Service

2:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Advent Service

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 16

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Online services are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/rlcfp/live), YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp or search for "Resurrection Lutheran Franklin Park YouTube") and Twitch.

Bible Study can be accessed via Zoom online (bit.ly/rlcfp-zoom) or by phone (312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 230 167 8868, Password: 9777). You can also watch without participating on YouTube (www.youtube.com/rlcfp).



The flowers today are from Barb Ziemer in memory of Ron's birthday, and from Kathy & Irv Kossack in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.



We are continuing "**peanut butter Sunday**" in December. We are also in need of **pasta sauce** but all donations are very much appreciated. Thank you!

Help Brighten a Child's Christmas this Year!



The Outreach Committee will again be donating \$250.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) foster care and family Christmas program. This programs provides gifts to a child who may otherwise go without. We are inviting members to join us as well.

If you are interested, donations can be put in the collection plate, mailed, or sent to us electronically if that is how you send in your regular offerings. **Checks should be made payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church. Please mark your donations "LSSI Christmas"**

in the memo area. The last day that we will be collecting will be December 18 so that we can get the funds to them in time for Christmas. Thank you!



Share the Gift

The Franklin Park American Legion Post 974 family is again hosting the Stand Down, a program to support Veterans in need. It will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the Legion Hall at 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, Illinois. They will provide a hot meal, toiletries, and blankets, as well as a chance to speak with Veteran Service Organizations and other groups, about VA benefits, housing, transportation, and other services. If this is a cause you would like to support, we are accepting cash donations through Sunday December 18th and Share the Gift will match those donations up to the first \$1,000 received.



On Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24, please come and enjoy a wonderful selection of pre-service Christmas music at 10:30 pm including beautiful arrangements, instrumentals, choir and carols. Christmas Eve worship with holy communion follows at 11:00 pm. Bring your family and Christmas guests!

There will also be a 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve as well.

Sunday, Christmas Day will be our regular 9:30 am service.



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Barb Z, Sue S, Dolores B, Janet G, Irwin K, Marvin K, Dave N, and Donna T.

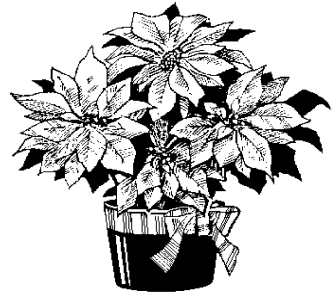
FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: RoiAnne and her daughter, Cindy, Woody H, Billie O, Rocio, Marilyn V, Walter M, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Warren, Marina, Luisa, Nathan, Ruth, Cyndy W, John B, Feodore, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K. Sue Koevenig's nephew Kevin, and niece Alison V, Terry, Stan and Darlene M, Sue Flanagan's son Robert, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Karen Shumaker's brother Curtis and cousin Joan, Lynn, Elaine R, Lamone C, Russ Sprenger's daughter Kimberly S, Linda B and Janet Grace's son-in-law Scott B.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Josiah Gross, Edward Scharlow, Mike Brimie, Robert Dilks, and Mike Ignoffo.

Poinsettias for Christmas

You are invited to share in decorating the church for Christmas by ordering poinsettias for **\$10.00 each**.

If you would like to have plants reserved in your name, please complete this form, include payment and drop in the offering plate or turn it into the office. **The last day to order is TODAY, December 11.**



You have the opportunity to dedicate your plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please indicate your wishes below.

Please order _____ Poinsettia (s)

Name _____

Phone _____

Given in honor/memory of (please circle one):
