Christmas Day Worship with Traditional Carols

December 25, 2022, 10:00 am



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Christmas 2022

Dear Friend in Christ,

Joy to the World, we sing. The music resounds this season with great zeal. We lift our voices and proclaim a great joy, wonders of love, with hearts preparing him room.

Yes, *Joy to the world!* Then again, the war in Ukraine still rages, so many around the world flee for refuge and safety, children, and adults, leaving their familiar homes for the sheer unknown. Also we hear of the triple threat of influenza, RSV and COVID, and we could add economic challenges, and continued divisiveness. Joy to the world? Joy to our lives?

Do you have a Nativity Scene in your home, or maybe see one this time of year? Let's take a closer look at that baby. Right there, in the eyes of that little vulnerable one, let us see our God. Our God is there. Our God is here, never distant. Our God has come to us, turning earthly models of power totally upside down. Our God has come as savior, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. No matter what, for us, loving us, guiding us. Our hope is right there in that manger, the greatest gift of joy and peace. Yes, let's take a closer look – *Joy, Joy to the world*. Indeed.

Thank you so much for worshipping at Saint Luke. We invite you to join in worship and devotion regularly in person, or at <u>www.saintlukeonline.us</u>

Kindly click on the link, <u>saintlukewelcome.us</u> and complete the electronic Welcome, or fill out the card in your bulletin. We look forward to being in touch with a word of greeting and hope.

May we find a sense of inner joy and peace as we hear the words of the Christmas gospel, *To you, yes, to you, is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.*

Christmas Blessings,

Pastor Allen

Connie A. Miller Senior Pastor

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Gathering

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium

WELCOME

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

saintlukewelcome.us

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \blacksquare Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

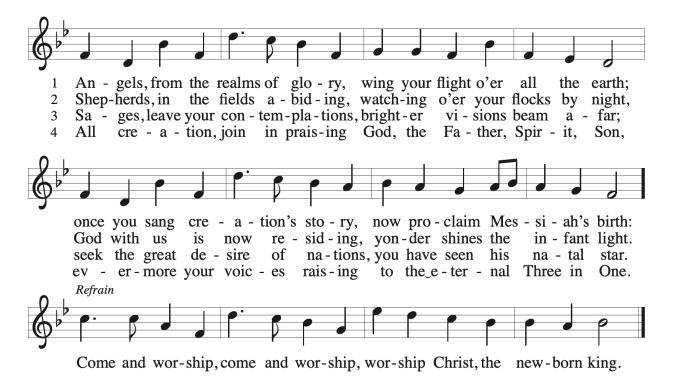
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \clubsuit Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN-ELW 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

GREETING

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE—ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

PSALMODY—ELW 267

Joy to the World

Let Joy the world, Lord come! earth to the is re -1 Joy reigns! 2 the earth, the Sav - ior Let their to all 3 No let thorns more sin and sor - row grow nor in -4 He rules the world with truth grace and makes the and king; her heart him ceive let ev 'ry pre pare em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills. and songs the ground; make his bless ings fest he comes to righ teous tions prove the glo ries of his na -and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and room na - ture plains peat re - peat the sound-ing the sound-ing joy, re flow far as the curse is found. far as the curse is won-ders of won-ders ness and his love, and of his sing, sing. and heav'n, and heav'n and ture na the joy, re peat, re peat sound - ing joy. found, far far the found. as, as curse is of love. love, and won ders, won ders his

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Psalm 98

SECOND READING

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

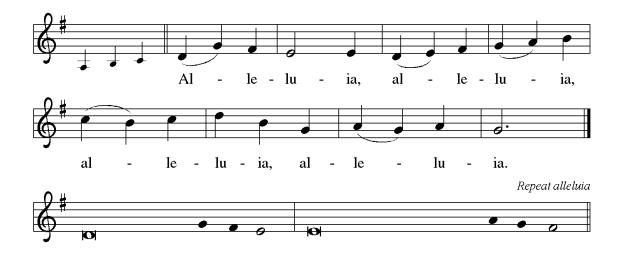
Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and a- | dore the Lord.* For today a great light has come up- | on the earth. Alleluia.

Gospel

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

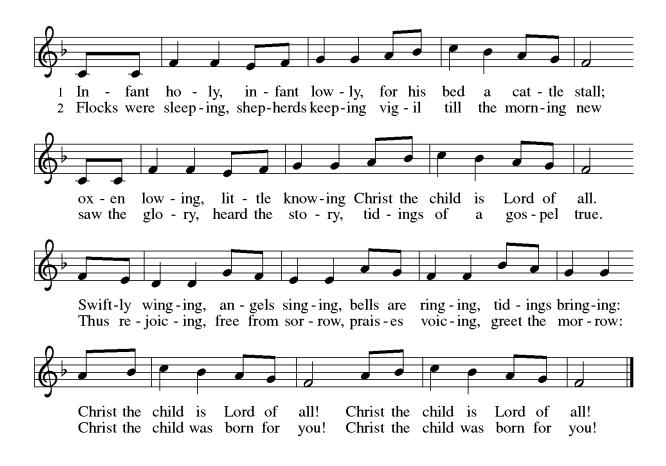
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY-ELW 276

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the

Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in the Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the good creation, and the needs of all.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of grace and joy, **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

Come down to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us, for the sake of the one whose birth the angels sang and the shepherds proclaimed, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

PEACE

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

Meal

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Contemplation on "Divinum Mysterium"

Kenneth Lowenberg (b. 1939)

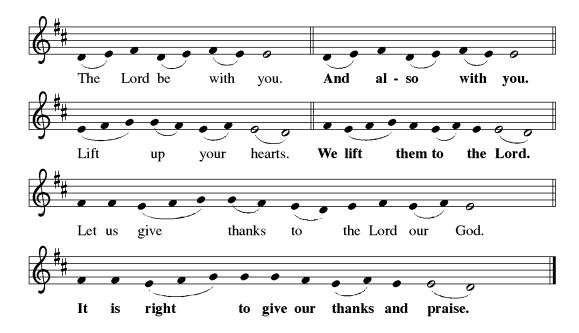
Please stand.

Offering Prayer

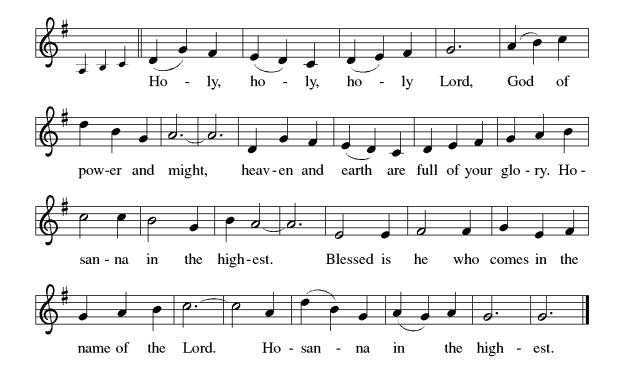
Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



O God, of heaven and earth, into our fallen world you chose to come, resplendent in glory, in your only Son, a babe in the manger. On the cross he bore our sins and prepared for us the ultimate gift of salvation. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Prince of Peace with a living faith, as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. O come, Emmanuel.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace. **Thanks be to God.** Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

Please be seated.

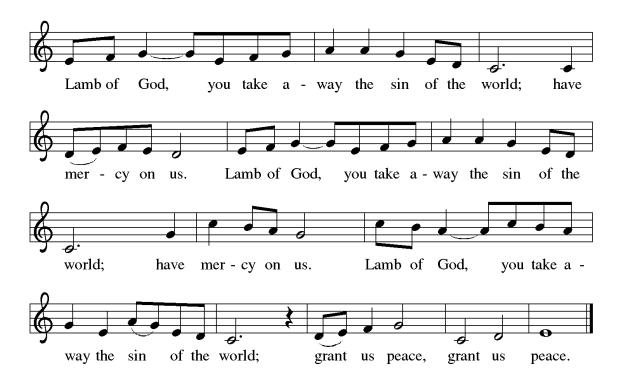
COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



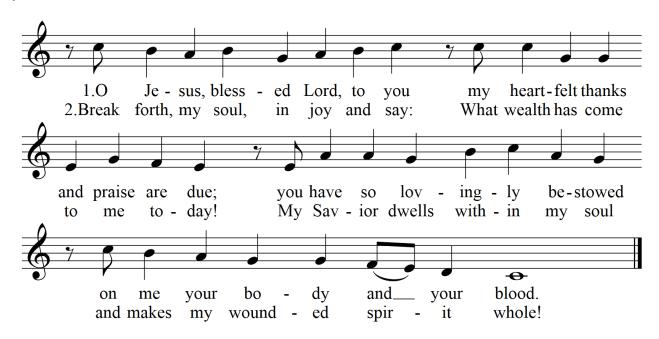
• Of the Fa - ther's love be got ten ere the worlds be -1 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless vir - gin, 2 ed, when the whom seers in 3 This is he old time chant - ed of with the heights of heav'n a dore an - gel hosts, his 4 Let him; thee, with God the 0 5 Christ, to Fa ther, and, Ho - ly 0 be, he is Al - pha and O - me gan to ga, Ho - ly voic - es full grace, the Ghost con - ceiv of by ing, whom the one ac - cord, of the proph ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow sing; be - fore him prais es thee, Ghost, to hymn and chant and high thanks-giv ing 0 the source, the he, of the things that are, that he end ing bore the Sav - ior our race, babe, the world's re of and the word; shines, the prom-ised in their faith - ful now he long - ex and King; let no tongue on earth be and ex - tol our God un - wea - ried be: hon - or, glo - ry, and and prais - es do -0 0 have been, and that fu - ture years shall see, deem re - vealed his sa - cred face, er, first cre - a - tion praise its pect ed; let Lord si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring min ion. and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry 0 more. ev - er - more and ev - er ev - er - more and ev - er more. ev - er - more and ev - er more. ev - er ev - er - more and more. ev - er - more and ev - er - more! А men.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST- COMMUNION CANTICLE

O Jesus, Blessed Lord



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Sending

BLESSING

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew our hope. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, 🗷 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN—ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Dismissal

Filled with the joy of Christ's birth, go in peace! Love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Postlude on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

David Willcocks (1919-2015)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor* The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS The Rev. Gary Nuss, *Support Pastor* The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

READER Richard Ahlberg, Jr. Congregation Treasurer

MUSICIANS Dr. Alain Truche, Director of Music and Organist

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Nancy Gurganus in remembrance of David and Alma Hudgel, and in honor of Pastor Beth Platz



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FOOD CARD DEDICATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD WITH THANKSGIVING!

Pastors Eleanor and Bob Abarno in honor of their children

The Bassein-Roy family in remembrance of Pastor Ken and Rhoda Mahler, in honor of all the clergy, staff and volunteers at Saint Luke, and in thanksgiving for the beautiful music at Saint Luke

Martin and Martha Bell in remembrance of Adrian and Lucile Propst, in remembrance of A. Sidney Propst, in remembrance of Grayson and Loretta Bell, and in remembrance of Elmer Norman Bell

James and Lorraine Bentley in honor of the Saint Luke staff and volunteers, in gratitude for Saint Luke online, and all who make it possible

Diane and Luke Castle in remembrance of Gordon and Anita Ward, Cleo Castle, and in honor of goddaughter Lucy Lindgren

Christine Ceder in remembrance of her husband, Robert Efraim Ceder, in remembrance of her parents, Isabelle and Samuel Mohr, and in honor of her children and their families

Dee Clarkin in remembrance of Phil and Elaine Clarkin

Pam Collins, John Geiger and Marcia Laundy, in thanksgiving to God for the life and witness of their parents, Marcus and Peggie Geiger

Carol Crawford in honor of Christopher Crawford

Carol and Tom Darnell in remembrance of all their loved ones who now rest with the Lord

Anita Davis in remembrance of Benjamin Davis

Susan DeHart in remembrance of her parents, Dorothy and Ken DeHart, and brothers Ken, Jr. and Tom

Karen Evans in remembrance of James Evans

Carol Farrar in honor of Eloise, their beautiful new granddaughter, and in honor of Amy, Jennifer, Andrew, Abigail and Matthew

Ed and Carol Fenstermacher in remembrance of Marion and Cassel Jacobson, in remembrance of Harvey and Margaret Fenstermacher, in honor of Erica, Thomas, and Alex Fenstermacher, and in remembrance of Mike and Cathy Pine

Betty and Bob Fulton, in remembrance of John and Dorothy Nutter

Albert and Arvilla Goergens in remembrance of William and Margaret Reinholtz, in remembrance of Albert and Evelyn Goergens, in remembrance of George and Emma Goergens, and Alfred Pierson

Matthew Grussing in remembrance of Wayne and Fern Anderson, in remembrance of Jim and Lorraine Grussing, and in remembrance of Jack and Jean Yeargan

Melissa Groen in honor of Saint Luke's Sunday School teachers, and in remembrance of the life of Karen Lieske

Nancy Gurganus in remembrance of David and Alma Hudgel, and in honor of Pastor Beth Platz

Claudette Hamerski in remembrance of Claude and Emily Myers, in remembrance of Hugh and Cleo Hamerski, in remembrance of Mary Viands, and in honor of her grandchildren, Justin, Colin, Wesley, Brendan, Emily, Nolan, Bradley, Grayson, and Emily

The Heinbaugh Family in remembrance of Jack S. Heinbaugh and Frances C. Heinbaugh, in remembrance of Charles E. Heinbaugh, Sr. and Lois L. Heinbaugh, in remembrance of Robert L. Heinbaugh and Gene M. Heinbaugh

Charles La Duca in remembrance of Brenda Martin, and in remembrance of Marie Louise La Duca

Marcia Laundy, in thanksgiving for the life and witness of her beloved husband, Roger Laundy, and also in thanksgiving for the life of Marion Kahlert

Ruth and Paul Manchester in honor of their children and grandchildren, in remembrance of Gilbert F. and Helen Garbisch, and in remembrance of Elbert and Peggy Manchester

Sarah Manchester in honor of Paul and Ruth Manchester

Scott McKay in honor of Ann Karpiscak, in remembrance of Paul Karpiscak, in remembrance of Jacqueline McKay, in remembrance of Xavier McKay, and in remembrance of Paul Van Karpiscak

Pastor Connie A. Miller in thanksgiving for the witness of the in-person and virtual faith community of Saint Luke

Ellen Miller in remembrance of Harry and Virginia Griggs, and Robert and Edythe Miller, in honor of grandchildren James, Katie, Robert, Alexander, and Ellamaija Miller, in honor of Alain Truche, Jeffrey Pannebaker, and Walter Edmonds

Bill and Kay Montgomery in remembrance of Matty and Mildred Matthews, Tom Alden, and in honor of Coralyn Colladay

Ruth Moorman in remembrance of Arthur Moorman, in honor of her children, Lisa, Penny, Anders, Abby, and grandchildren, Charlie, Eleanor, Avery, Finn, and great grandchildren, Emmi and Charles Robert, in honor of Ann and Gary Nuss, Amelia, Sharon, Ingrid, Tim, Holden and Zahra, and all who have helped her throughout this difficult time

Amelia Nuss, Sharon Nuss and Ingrid Pyne, in honor of their parents, Pastor Gary and Ann Nuss, and in remembrance of their grandparents, Alfred and Grace Hesse and Carl and Winifred Nuss.

Pastor Gary and Ann Nuss in honor of their daughters, Amelia, Sharon, and Ingrid, in honor of their grandchildren Holden and Zahra Pyne, in remembrance of their parents, Alfred and Grace Hesse and Carl and Winnefred Nuss, in honor of Judie Pasquini, and in remembrance of Lyla Jydstrup

Ute O'Neal in remembrance of Cecil O'Neal, and in remembrance of Alfred

Yvette Piacsek in honor of the Dallenbach Family, and in honor of the Ziegler Family

Sarah Province in honor of her children and grandchildren, in loving memory of her husband, Philip Province, in thanksgiving for the ministry and outreach of Saint Luke Church, and in remembrance of all the saints who have gone before us

Barbara Sanders in remembrance of departed members of the Sanders and Vaught families, in honor of her son and "daughter," Greg Sanders and Kate Malloy, in remembrance of departed members of the Marsh and Giessman families, in honor of Pastor Nuss and the "Panerians" who inspire her every week

Barbara and Art Sensenig in honor of Navy Chaplain David Sensenig, in remembrance of Dave and Elsie Zimmerman, and in remembrance of Russel and Cathryn Sensenig

Nancy and Wilson Shaffer in remembrance of W. Earl and Dorothy D. Bricker, Albert and Natalie Shaffer, in honor of Erin Shaffer and Susan Lee, in honor of Michael, Katie, Brigid, Thomas, Thaddeus, and Brendan Shaffer

Mary Ann Shepherd in remembrance of her husband, William Shepherd, and in remembrance of her parents, the Reverend Glenn and Mary Fisher Barger

Linda Sherwood in remembrance of her parents, Alvin and Mildred Jeffers

Joyce and Bill Schultz in remembrance of Richard and Eleanore Braithwaite

Traude Smith in remembrance of Minnie Stamm, and in remembrance of Margaret Smith

Carin Sprick in honor of her children and grandchildren, in remembrance of dear friend Britt Rosberg, in remembrance of dear friend Mona Carlsson, and in remembrance of dear friend Inger Palm

Deborah Van Buskirk in remembrance of Pastor Engebret and Helen Midboe, in honor of Kathy, Mimi and Sue, in honor of James and Thomas and their wives, in honor of Adaline, JJ, Jayce, Marie, and the new little one coming soon

Diane VanLonkhuyzen in remembrance of John VanLonkhuyzen, and in remembrance of Robert and Doris Cross

Sunny Vargas in remembrance of Larry McDaniel

Karla Berg Walker in remembrance of loved ones from the Berg and Walker families, and in honor of their grandchildren, Kayleigh, Emily, and Nolan Walker

Madeline Wetzlar in remembrance of Lynne Burns

Christmas Blessings!



For more information about Saint Luke programs and worship opportunities, scan the QR code or visit <u>www.saintluke.us</u>

During this season of giving, thank you for your gifts for the mission and ministry of the babe in the manger. www.saintlukegive.us

Cover: Nativity Window at Saint Luke