



HARK!

Listen, God is Human ●

St. John Lutheran Church
December 25, 2022
Christmas Day, 10am

St. John
December 25 - January 8

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Sunday 12/25 Christmas Day
10 - 11am **Worship**

Monday 1/2 Closed: Office & Pantry
7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
7 - 8pm AI-Anon: WW 3&4

Monday 12/26 Closed: Office & Pantry
7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
7 - 8pm AI-Anon: WW 3&4

Tuesday 1/3 Office 9am - Noon
Closed: Food Pantry
Noon Staff Holiday Lunch

Tuesday 12/27 Office 9am - Noon
Closed: Food Pantry

Wednesday 1/4 Office 9am - 4pm
8am - 2pm Food Bank Delivery

Wednesday 12/28 Office 9am - Noon
Closed: Food Pantry

Thursday 1/5 Office 9am - 4pm
9 - 11am Coffee with Friends: TR
11am - 3pm FP Delivery: KJH
3 - 5pm Daybreak Cooking: KJH
5 - 7pm FP Packing: KJH
5:30pm Daybreak Transport
6 - 7pm Daybreak: Serving
7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom

Thursday 12/29 Office 9am - Noon
Closed: Food Pantry
7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom

Friday 1/6 Closed: Office
9am - Noon FP Delivery: KJH
9 - 11am Quilters: WW5
9 - 10:30am Meals on Wheels
9:30 - 11:30am MOPS Steering: NX

Friday 12/30 Office 9am - Noon
Closed: Food Pantry
9 - 11am Quilters: WW5

Saturday 1/7 Closed: Office
8 - 10am FP Distribution Drive
Thru: NX KJH
5:30 - 6:30pm Worship: SA

Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve
Closed: Office & Pantry
5:30 - 6:30pm Worship: SA

Sunday 1/1 New Year's Day
10 - 11am Worship: SA

Sunday 1/8 Office Open during Worship
8:30 - 9:30am Worship: SA
9:45 - 10:45am Fair Trade Coffee: NX
9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School
11am - Noon Worship: SA
Noon - 4pm Christmas De-Decorating
12:15 - 2:30pm 'Tween Go!: KJH

STJOHNJOLIET.ORG/CALENDAR

Available 24/7 - Subscribe and link to your personal calendar

Merry Christmas, we welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.

The Poinsettia plants on the altar today are given in memory, in honor, and in thanksgiving of family and loved ones.

To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.



Worship Leaders – Sunday, December 25, 2022 (10:00 a.m.)

Deacon	Sandy Smith
Communion Assistant	Cheryl Lovell
Acolytes	Alex McDonald, Faith McDonald
Ushers	Mike Smith, Marge West
Piano	Susan Yokubonis
Altar Guild	Jan Drish
Counters	Nancy Kautz, Sharon Sullivan

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org	262-366-3132
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org	815-355-3205
Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org	815-557-9702
Nicole Adams	nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
David Luecht, Council President	council@stjohnjoliet.org	815-954-9368

St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435
815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org

 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**
 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

Prelude

“The Birthday of a King”

Hayes

Welcome

*Christmas Proclamation

P Family of faith, last night we gathered together to celebrate Christmas Eve. We lit candles. We sang along with the angels. Perhaps some of you were here with us. And now, just a few hours later, we are back! Christ has been born! God has come! The fear that came with the night has lifted, and the dawn has found us in a new place. We have once again been blessed with the eternal knowledge that our God, the creator of stars and galaxies, loves us deeply enough to enter into our world and experience everything it is to be human. God is with us: Immanuel. We are not, and will never be alone!

From generation to generation,

God keeps drawing near.

From generation to generation,

a light has shone in the darkness.

From generation to generation,

God's love has moved through history.

May we rest in the joy of this day,

May your hope and peace break into our world.

May we understand the meaning of your Shalom.

and may we allow it to change us.

Peace has come! Hope is born in the midst of winter!

There is nothing to fear!

Thanks be to God!

P Merry Christmas!

Let us now celebrate that good news together by telling the story and joining our voices in song on this most wonderful morning.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Text and Music by: Attr. John Francis Wade. Public Domain.
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- Verse 1** O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:
- Refrain** O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- Verse 3** Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain**
- Verse 4** Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

***Prayer of the Day**

- 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.**

- P** Let us pray:
Holy God of candlelight and open doors, God of tables and feasts, God of holly
and of ivy, we long to know you. We turn over every corner of our hearts, the
truths of who we are on this Christmas day, and lay them in the manger with
you. Prayers of gratitude, prayers of fear, prayers of joy, prayers of grief.
Collect them all and hold us close on this joyous morning, for today, especially
today, we long to feel you near. We long to hold onto the peace and hope your
birth brings. With gratitude and joyful hearts, we pray.

- C** **Amen.**

The Prophecy

Isaiah 9:2-7

D A responsive reading from the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—
on them light has shined.

**You repopulated the nation,
you expanded its joy.
they rejoice before you
glad in your presence with festival joy!
The joy of a great celebration,
sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.**

The abuse of their oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—
all their whips and clubs and curses—
Is gone, done away with,
a deliverance as surprising and sudden
as Gideon's old victory over Midian.

The boots of all those invading troops,
along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood,
Will be piled in a heap and burned,
a fire that will burn for days!

**For a child has been born for us,
The gift of a son for us!
The world rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
For the throne of David and his kingdom.
He'll establish and uphold it.

**With justice and righteousness,
From this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies
will do all this.**

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Text by: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite. Music by: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent. Public Domain.
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NOTE: Pastor will sing first verse through before congregation begins.

Verse 1 Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Verse 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Verse 4 Let the heights of heav’n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

The Angel Gabriel and Mary

Luke 1:26-38

“What Child Is This”

Text by: William c. Dix. Music by: English Ballad, 16th Cent. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Verse 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him;
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

The Magnificat (Mary's Song)

Luke 1:39-56

Hymn

270, Vs. 1-3

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Text by: Charles Wesley. Music by: Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.
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Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see.
Hail the incarnate deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace.
Hail, the Son of righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by.
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

The Birth

Luke 2:1-7

Hymn

277, Vs. 1-3

“Away in a Manger”

Text by: North American, 19th cent. Music by: James R. Murray. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Verse 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

The Angel’s Announcement to the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

Hymn

289, Vs. 1-3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Text by: French Carol; tr. H. F. Hemy. Music by: French Carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes.
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Verse 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

Verse 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

Children's Message

Christmas Reflection

Pastor Evan Mayhew

*Hymn of the Day

282, Vs. 1, 3, 4

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Text by: Edmund H. Sears. Music by: Richard S. Willis. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Verse 3 And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

Verse 4 For lo! The days are hast’ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Prayers of the Church

P Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

Congregation sings this response:

528

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications.
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Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

The prayers conclude:

P Emmanuel, God with us, help us to listen to the angels and not be afraid of you, of your weakness or your glory. We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

C **Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*You may share the peace of Christ with others.
Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace.*

Offertory

“What Child is This?”

arr. Hayes

Today we celebrate the gift of God’s love for the world. In turn, we share that love by giving what we can. We pray that whatever we offer of our time, money, and talents will be used by the Holy Spirit to create a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.

Let our offering give birth to a better world.

Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you. May God bless your generous heart!

***Offertory Response**

290, Vs. 3

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Text by: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born!

Verse 3 Down in a lonely manger
 The humble Christ was born;
 And God sent us salvation
 That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **Holy One, you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to be joyful in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving *(sung)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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:

*Holy

413, Vs. 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

Text by: Reginald Heber. alt. Music by: John B. Dykes, Public Domain.
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Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

C 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

P God is near. God is here!
C Thanks be to God!

Distribution

*We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.
All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

There are two ways to receive communion today:

Receiving Communion in your pew

You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket that the acolyte brings to you and return to your pew.*

Communion Carols

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

279, Vs. 1, 2, 4

Text by: Phillips Brooks. Music by: Lewis H. Redner. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of won'd'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

Verse 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

“The First Noel”

300, Vs. 1-3

Text by: English Traditional. Music by: English traditional; arr. John Stainer. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Verse 3 And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

276, Vs. 1-2

Text by: Polish Carol; tr. Edith M. g. Reed. alt. Music by: Polish carol. Public Domain.
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Verse 1

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall:
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Verse 2

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

***Blessing**

C Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

D Let us pray. Holy God, you gave us Christ the Son to give us joy. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end, as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen!

Benediction

C Sing AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

*Sending Hymn

#267, Vs. 1, 2, 4

“Joy to the World”

Text by: Isaac Watts. Music by: English melody, 18th cent; arr. Lowell Mason. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Sending

D Go in peace. God is Here!
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Ding! Dong! Merrily on High!”

Arr. Hayes

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The Poinsettias Gracing Our Altar are Given to the Glory of Almighty God

Given By

Dedication 2022

Nicole & Jonathan Adams	In thanksgiving for our three sons; Avery, Bailey & Levi
Lauren Burgess	In honor of our wonder and blessed church family. Thank you all for everything you do and making St. John not just a church, but a home.
Lauren Burgess	In memory of a beloved father and true gift from God, Danny Wayne Burgess
Lauren Burgess	In thanksgiving for the love and companionship of my wonderful sister in Christ, Barbara Reed
Judy Butler	In memory of Herman & Virginia Butler
Robin & Tim Caldwell	In memory of Robin's dad, Bob Hein
Robin & Tim Caldwell	In thanksgiving of God's grace!
George & Judy Coope	In thanksgiving for all God's gifts
Ron & Eloise Crabb	In honor of our son-in-law, Paul & daughter, Michelle
Ron & Eloise Crabb	In honor of Eloise's mother, Viva, and sister, Donna
Ron & Eloise Crabb	In honor of our son-in-law, Todd, daughter, Laura and grandsons, Adam & Logan
Ron & Eloise Crabb	In memory of our friend, Bob
Dwight & Eileen Diercks	In memory our parents, Robert & Florence McCarty, and Herbert & Wanda Diercks
Janel Eaton	In memory of Tim Manning
Karen Egly	In memory of my husband, David L. Egly
Steve & Monica Engel	In honor of our wonderful children, Meghan & Rob Doyle, and Joe Engel
Linda Evans	In honor of my children and grandchildren
Linda Evans	In memory of Mike Evans
Linda Evans	In memory of my parents, Frank & Mary Lou Russ
Linda Evans	In memory of Mike's parents, Homer & Helen Evans
Linda Evans	In memory of Peter & Linda Holmer
Linda Evans	In memory of my brother, Rick Russ
John Fleming	In memory of Elizabeth Fleming
Tony Freehauf family	In memory of Bill & Anamae Freehauf
Tony & Anita Freehauf	In thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren
Friends of St. John	In memory of Marge Skolos
Mark Frost & David Luecht	In memory of Mom Frost

The Poinsettias Gracing Our Altar are Given to the Glory of Almighty God

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Dedication 2022

Bill & Kim Jensen	In memory of Lindsey Eileen Jensen and Gregg A. Butterfield
Renee Lacivita	In memory of my parents and grandparents
Steve & Eva Liss	In thanksgiving for our son, Elliott and our families
David Luecht	In thanksgiving for St. John Church, Staff, & Council
Bob & Vicki Makowka	In thanksgiving for Michelle, Nicole, Sandra, Nicolas & Logan
Manifold family	In memory of John Christopher Manifold by his aunts & uncles
Kurt & Dawn MacGregor	In memory of our grandparents, Harold & Myrtle MacGregor, and Marvin & Betty Mauge
Kurt & Dawn MacGregor	In thanksgiving for our children, Jacqueline, Alexander & Caroline
Shirley Masters	In memory of Stephen M. Masters
Shirley Masters	In memory of Wylie H. Mullen
Kathy Moore	In thanksgiving for my family and friends
Pam Murray	In memory of Ray & Ruby Murray
Norem Children	In memory of Franklyn & Stefie Norem
Frank & Karen Norem	In memory of John Manifold
Sandy Peterson	In memory of Rev. Robert Peterson and our parents
Greg & Cheryl Pierce	In memory of our fathers, Ronald Stevens and Carrol Pierce, and mother, Edna Stevens
Suzanne Repavich	In memory of grandparents & parents from the Repavich family
Cindy Robinson	In memory of Sid & Gee Gill, and Ivar Gill
Matt & Peggy Robinson	In thanksgiving for the St. John Food Pantry
Joe & Carol Scaglione	In memory of Joe's brother, Mike Scaglione
Lindsay Skolos	In honor of Marge Skolos
Lindsay Skolos	In memory of John Manifold
Mike & Sandy Smith	In honor of Betty Peterson & Bernie Smith, two wonderful moms!
Mike & Sandy Smith	In memory of Larry Peterson & Bill Smith, two dads who are greatly missed.
Joyce Vyhnanek	In memory of all those I loved and lost
Roger & Judy Wright	In thanksgiving for our wonderful and loving family