

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Christmas Vigil

Divine Service – Setting One

December 24, 2023

Vol. 126-04

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 151

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



Today | you shall-know *

that the Lord will come and | deliver you-:

And in the morning | you shall-see*

the glory | of the Lord.

The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof, *

the world and those who | dwell therein.

Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD? *

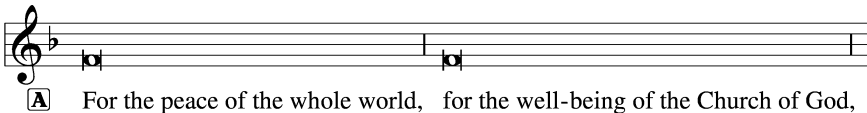
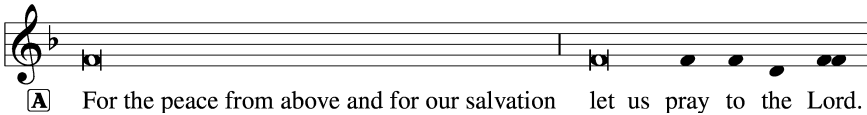
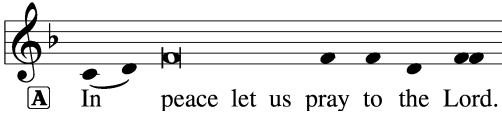
And who shall stand in his | holy place?

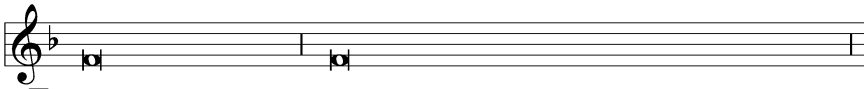
He who has clean hands and a | pure heart, *

who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- | ceitfully.

He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
 and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.
*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**
and to the Holy / Spirit;
*as it was in the be- / ginning,**
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.
 Today | you shall-know *
 that the Lord will come and | deliver you-:
And in the morning | you shall-see*
the glory | of the Lord.

Kyrie





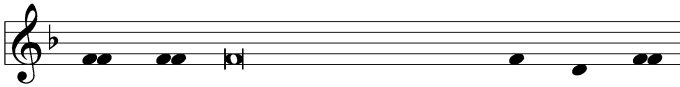
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, who does gladden us with the yearly anticipation of the birth of Your only Son Jesus Christ, grant that we who now joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer may also behold Him without fear when He comes as our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choral Response “Jesus Thy Church with Longing Eyes”

Epistle

Romans 1:1–6

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse




C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

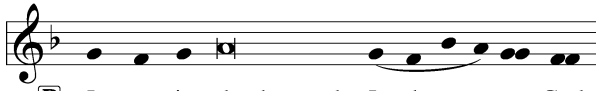

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament pg. 160

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

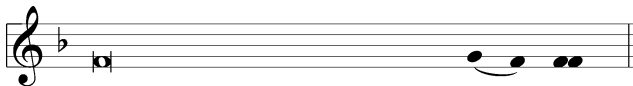
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

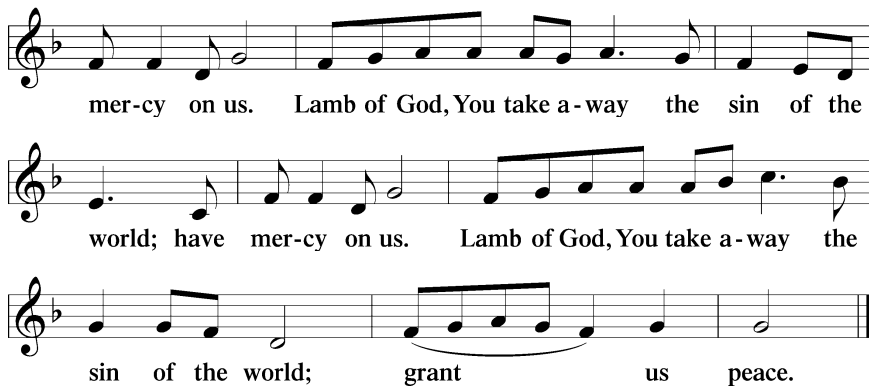


C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



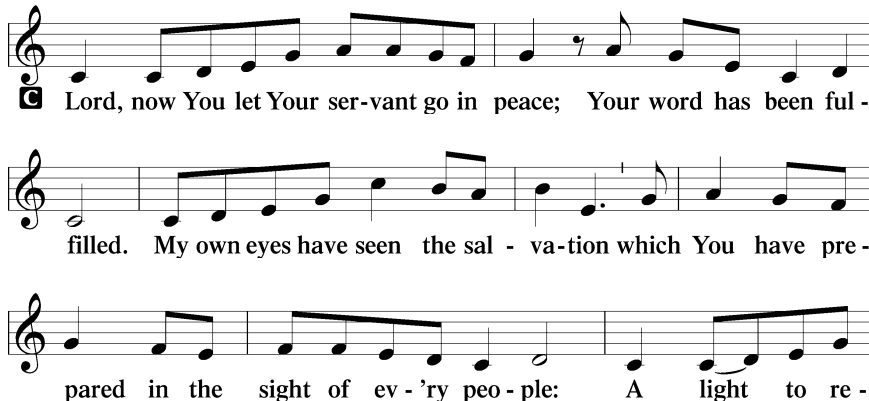
Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.

Distribution Hymns

- #624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born
- #347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
- #348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
- #352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord
- #351 Creator of the Stars of Night

Nunc Dimittis





veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

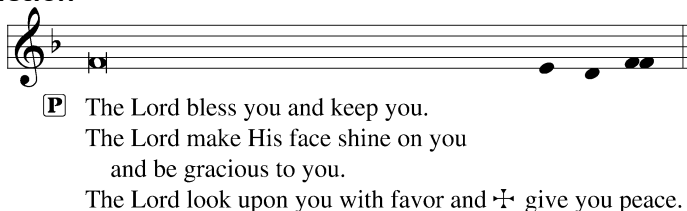
Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

#359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching	Rev. Anthony Dodgers
Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Fieldworker	Sem. Morgan Phillips and Sem. William Bales
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Glen Werling and Bruce Werling
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Organist	Emilie Meyer
Choir	Adult Choir
Acolyte	Volunteers
Crucifer	Volunteers
Altar Guild Chairman	Tisha Laley and Cheryl Louison
Ushers	Todd Ottinger, Ethan Ottinger, Landon Geiger Jay Werling, Collin Laley, Kaden Laley

Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau	260-273-7595
(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)	
Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster: Rev. Anthony Dodgers	616-648-6489
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	260-597-7121
Bethlehem Lutheran School Office	260-597-7366
Kantor: Mr. Richard Brinkley	260-705-4105
Deaconess: Wendy Boehm	260-415-8526
Website for Church and School: www.BethlehemOssian.org	

TODAY	9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Divine Service
	NO Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Light
MONDAY	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
WEDNESDAY	5:30 p.m. Catechesis Class
	7:00 p.m. Spoken Divine Service
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m. Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Divine Service

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossiansec@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 597-7121.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE NOW DUE

WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that you please complete a green visitor's card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Also, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again.

THANK YOU so much to the Women of Bethlehem for organizing the card shower for our family and our new baby arriving soon. We are very touched by the generosity and love shown. Thank you to everyone who gave a gift to our little family. Each one will be a big help to us in the weeks and months to come. We look forward to introducing you all to the newest member of our family! Sincerely, Pastor Dodgers & Betsy & Nicholas

2024 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE and FLOWER CHART is now posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to prepare the altar for church services or donate flowers to be placed on the altar or hymn board table. A special announcement should be given to the church office. Thank you

2024 Offering Envelopes are now available. Please plan to pick up your box from the tables in the north hallway. Boxes should be in alphabetical order. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you

CHEESEBALLS – The Bethlehem Youth Group is selling homemade cheeseballs; \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20.00. Please see Deaconess Wendy Boehm to place your order.

Donations for New Library Bookshelves - Library Improvement Phase II

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to Phase I of our room swap for the Library and Kindergarten. It was a great success! We are now beginning to raise money for Phase II, which will improve our library with new bookshelves. These will be wooden bookshelves, handmade by a member of our church. This project will also create more space for books, with shelves for all three walls of the new library, which will add room for our collection to grow. Please consider making a donation to this beautiful and useful project. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran School and include a memo: Library Phase II.

HOLIDAY SERVICES - Please join us for worship:

December 24th Christmas Eve Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Evening Prayer -Service of Light 7:00 p.m.

December 25th Christmas Day Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

December 31st Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR CLASSROOM AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

Recite Together:

The Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostle's Creed

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

Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.

Scripture Reading and/or Devotion Lesson

Prayers and Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

What is John 1:9-14

- 1. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- 2. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.**
- 3. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**
- 4. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,**
- 5. Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- 6. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Offering Dec. 17, 2023

Average weekly need \$13,818

Home Fund Env. \$13,116.63

Synod 25.83

Loose 267.58

Scholarship Fund

Improvement Fund 45.85

Endowment Fund 20.00

Music Fund

Sunday School 5.00

School Tuition 15,099.05

Library Phase II 1,000.00

Washington DC Group 300.00

Total \$29,879.94

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance \$9,829.40

Next week bills due: \$18,000

Bills due two weeks: \$12,000

Savings Account Balance \$40,864.63

Borrowed from Savings: Paid

Operating Loan Debt: (\$18,750.00)

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday 205/145

Wednesday 242

WOB Church Bathroom Project \$7,987.13

The Poinsettia plants decorating our sanctuary
this Christmas have been
given to the glory of God by the following:

- *Brian and Sheryl Bauermeister in loving memory of Glenn & Pauline Bauermeister,
Tim Dodge, Charles Rochford and in honor of Nancy Rochford*
- *Scott Bauermeister in loving memory of Glenn and Pauline Bauermeister*
- *Ed and Lisa Black in loving memory of Raymond and Berenice Stoppenhagen*
- *Josh and Wendy Boehm in loving memory of Julia Boehm*
- *Brian and Jennifer Bultemeier family in loving memory of Aldon and Joyce Bultemeier,
Woody and Lucy Mewhorter*
- *Steve and Clara Conrad in loving memory of Jane L. Johnson
and in honor of Kay J. Johnson, Marvin and Cathy Conrad*
- *Loren Dathe in loving memory Anita Dathe and in honor of Oliver and Chloe*
- *Larry Eichler in loving memory of Joan K. Eichler*
- *David and Ronda Flesch in loving memory of Keith Flesch, Rita Markey
and Glenn and Pauline Bauermeister also in honor of Josie Flesch*
- *Milton and Patsy Gallmeyer in loving memory of our parents
and in honor of our children and grandchildren.*
- *Jeff and Lisa Gresley in honor of our children and grandchildren*
- *Lane and Jeni Harkless in loving memory of Kristie White*
- *Dan and Heidi Kleppinger*
- *Keith and Dorothy Krick in celebration of 48 years of marriage coming in January*
- *Jason and Tisha Laley and family in loving memory of Lynn Dishong and Michael Laley
and Bruce Thorpe*
- *Jay and Cheryl Louison in honor of our children and grandchildren*
- *Donald Lutz in loving memory of Lois Lutz*
- *Mike and Emilie Meyer in loving memory of Marvin L. and Marilyn P. Meyer
and Lois Lutz*
- *Stan and Pat Meyer in loving memory of Wilbur and Ilene Meyer, Shelley Ambriole,
Dave and Joan Sprunger*
- *Mike and Kathy Nahrwold in loving memory of Carl and Helen Nahrwold
and Bob Worden*
- *Donna Scheumann in loving memory of mom and dad Helen and Edward Scheumann*

- *Ralph and Donna Schumm in honor of our children and grandchildren*
**Neil and Susan Stoppenhagen in honor of our family*
**Diana Thorpe in loving memory of Bruce Thorpe and Lynn Dishong*
Edward and Helen Scheumann
**Seth and Natalie Wanner in loving memory of Marvin and Marilyn Meyer, Lois Lutz,*
Carolyn and James Johnson, Wilbur Wanner
**Calvin and Beverly Werling in loving memory of Andrew and Velma Werling*
**Doyle and Laura Werling in loving memory of Horman and Esther Werling*
**Gail Werling in loving memory of my husband Mick Werling and family that has*
gone to be with the Lord. Also, in honor of my children and grandchildren
**Pastor and DoRena Wirgau in honor of our godchildren; John Michael, Susan,*
Johannes and Donovan

The Altar Guild committee wishes to thank everyone for their Poinsettia orders. Please plan to pick up your plants after the 9:00 am Christmas Day Service. Thank you

