

# LAKE OF THE ISLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✠

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is still able to say, Count me in. We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, Count us in.*

*This morning we welcome Hymnus Angelicus to our worship service under the direction of Paul McKenzie.*



*Kvernes Stave Church in Western Norway*

~~~~~  
*Inspired by Christ, living and growing in faith,  
we are a loving and open community of worship, witness,  
and service in God's world.*  
~~~~~



Prelude

Welcome

Introit for the  
Annunciation



Gathering Hymn

## ✠ Gathering ✠

*Following the call of God's Spirit, the community of faith gathers, welcoming one another and praying for God's mercy to fill the church and the world.*

*We invite you to use the prelude time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Kristina Rizzotto (b. 1989)*



The richest of the people will seek your favor,

**In many-colored robes she is led to the king,**

With her virgin companions following behind her

**with joy and gladness.**

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;

**I address my verses to the king.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW # 272



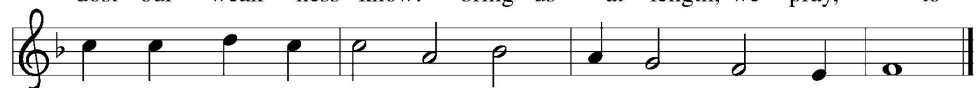
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath  
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the  
4 O Sav-ior, child of Mar-y, who felt our hu-man



sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as  
mind; with Mar-y we be-hold it, the  
air, dis-pels with glo-rious splen-dor the  
woe; O Sav-ior, king of glo-ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
vir-gin moth-er kind. To show God's love a-right, she  
dark-ness ev-'ry-where. True man, yet ver-y God, from  
dost our weak-ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win-ter, when half-spent was the night.  
bore to us a Sav-ior, when half-spent was the night.  
sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev-'ry load.  
the bright courts of heav-en and in-to end-less day.

Apostolic 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.**

Prayer of the Day

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

### ✠ Word ✠

*The Word of God comes alive for the gathered community.  
As God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.*

Lighting of the  
Advent Wreath

Today we light again the first three candles of the Advent wreath, the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the St. John's gospel, we find these words:

*John 13:34*

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. **May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the World, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.**

Advent Song



**Dear Jesus lead us to your bed, In Bethlehem we pray.**

**A candle we shall light, O Lord, To Guide us on our way.**

**Our Father, you have sent your son From your unbounded grace.**

**A second candle we now light To honor you with praise.**

**O Holy Spirit, you appeared As fire and heav'nly dove,  
Your prophet calls us to the light. Come fill us with your love**

**O Mary, favored one of God, For us the Child you bore.  
With joyful light, we honor you, Blessed Mother of our Lord.**



# ✠ The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ✠

*Kiera Christine Hoel*

*Parents: Ryan and Kayla Hoel*

*Sponsors: Kristin Hoel and Krista Finch*

## Profession of Faith

*Please stand,  
as you are able.*



*Please be seated.*

## Thanksgiving at the Font

## Baptism

*Please join in  
singing this refrain.*

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

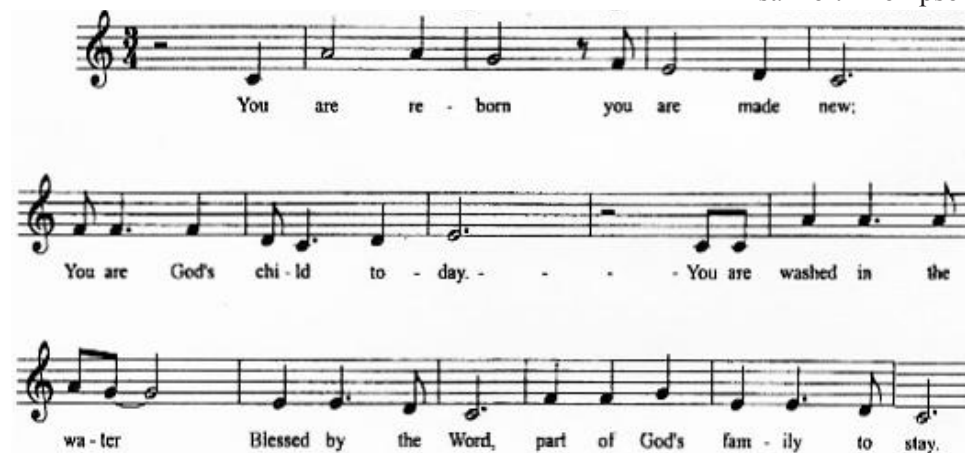
**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



**C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

## *The Baptismal Song*

Lisa Holt Thompson



## Gospel

*Luke 1:26-44*

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter

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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy."

R: The Gospel of Our Lord.

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

Anthem

*Magnificat*

Paul A. Tate



*Altar of the Kvernes Stave Church, Norway*

Sermon

*Please be seated.*



*Following the sermon, we will take a moment of silence to reflect on today's gospel message.*

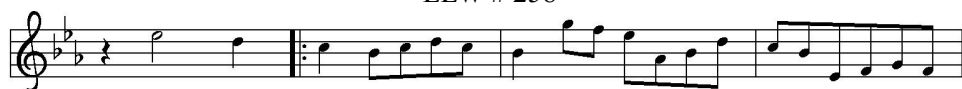
## Hymn of the Day

Verse 1, Choir  
Verses 2-3, All.  
Please stand as  
you are able.



## Unexpected and Mysterious

ELW # 258



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

## Prayers of the Church

P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

A: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah .... Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all of whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting of Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*After the greeting, please share a word of peace with your neighbors.*

## ✠ Offering ✠

*Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church is supported through the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of our friends and members. In order to fulfill our mission and ministry, we need to receive approximately \$7,900 in offerings each week.*

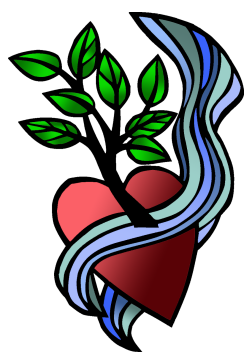
*We thank you for your support and partnership  
in the proclamation of the good news.*

## Anthem

### *Praise We Our Savior, Jesus Christ*

Johann Hermann Schein (1585-1630)

Offertory  
*Please stand as  
you are able.*



### *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

WOV #732

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12  
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

## Offertory Prayer

**A:** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

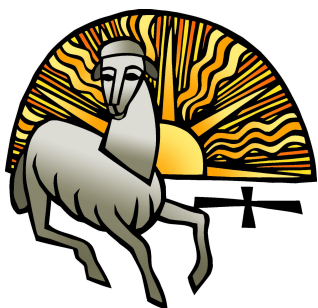
**C: Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer



## Words of Institution

Invitation to  
Communion  
*Please be seated.*



## ✠ Meal ✠

*We lift our hearts with praise and thanksgiving as the table is set, and we receive the bread and wine—the humble meal through which we are fed by the presence of Jesus the Christ and united as the body of Christ in the world.*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

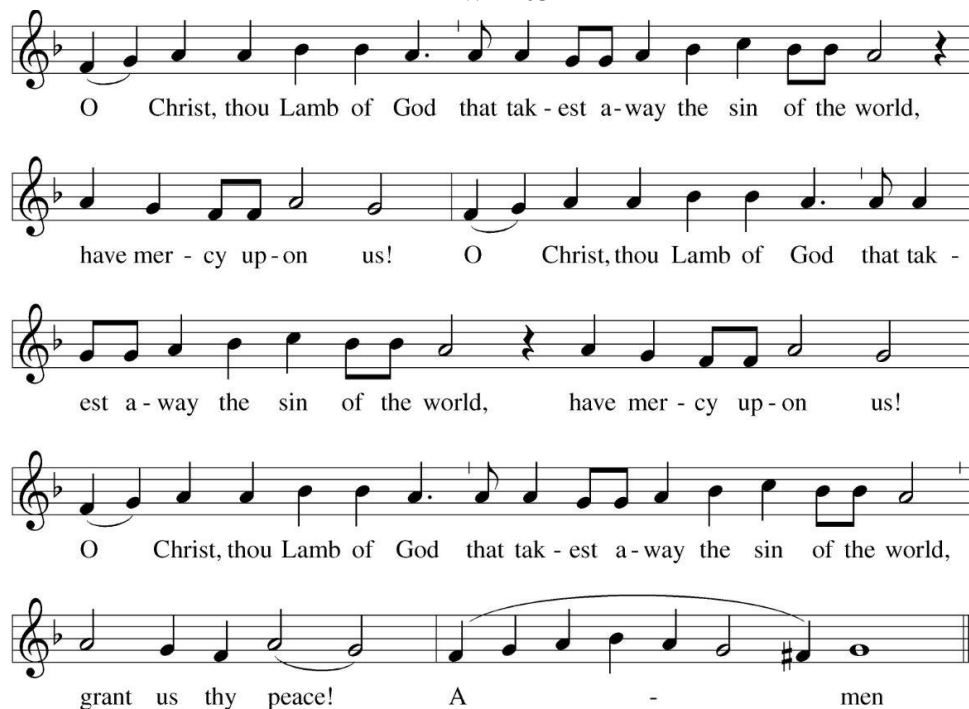
P: Long expected Jesus, as you were once promised long ago to Mary by the angel Gabriel in Nazareth, then came as a child to Bethlehem, appearing to John the Baptist at the River Jordan, and riding into Jerusalem as our king, we know that you are coming again. You are the desire of every nation; you are the joy of every longing heart. Prepare us to welcome you anew. By your all sufficient merit, you have raised us and you will raise us yet again. So let every Amen we pray, with gratitude and anticipation, rise before you in honor of your loving and triumphant name.




P: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The table has been prepared. All are welcome.

## *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*

LBW #103





|  |   |
|--|---|
| Distribution Music   | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">John Rogers</p>   |
| Distribution   | <p><i>Holy Communion will begin in the front of the church, nearest where the pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread and wine. Please take either a glass of red wine or white grape juice from the full tray and place your emptied glass into the extra tray which is in front of the first pew.</i></p> <p><i>Your offerings will also be received as the usher directs you toward the front of the church for communion.</i></p> |
| Post-Communion<br>Blessing<br><i>Please stand as<br/>you are able.</i> | <p>P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.</p> <p><b>C: Amen.</b></p>  |
| Post-Communion<br>Prayer   | <p>A: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.</p> <p><b>C: Amen.</b></p>   |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>✠ Sending ✠</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We receive the blessing of God and leave in peace,<br/>Sent out to live the way of Jesus for the sake of the world God loves.</i></p>   |
| Closing Anthem<br>Congregation will join<br>as directed.               | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Peace, Peace</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.<br/>Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild,<br/>Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace</b></p>   |
| Benediction  | <p>P: The Lord bless you and keep you.<br/>The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.<br/>The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.</p> <p><b>C: Amen.</b></p>   |
| Announcements  | <p style="text-align: center;"></p>   |
| Dismissal  | <p>P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.</p> <p><b>C: Thanks be to God.</b></p>   |
| Postlude   | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What Is This Lovely Fragrance</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Paul Manz (1919-2009)</i></p>  |

## WELCOME

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*We thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us this week, and we invite you back again—  
for prayer and worship. We will continue to have Sunday services online.*

*We hope the message of God's grace will guide and strengthen you  
as you grow in love and faith in your daily life.*

|                                   |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>YOUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY</b> | Pastor.....                 | Rev. Dr Arden D. Haug        |
|                                   | Organist.....               | Dr. Kristina Rizzotto        |
|                                   | Guest Musicians.....        | Hymnus Angelicus             |
|                                   | Cellist.....                | Audrey Snyder                |
|                                   | Baptismal Song.....         | Kathy Hering                 |
|                                   | Worship Assistant.....      | Marty Carlson                |
|                                   | Communion Assistant.....    | Mary Sabatke                 |
|                                   | Altar Servers.....          | Cathy Carlson & Kathy Hering |
|                                   | Reader.....                 | Janna Haug                   |
|                                   | Usher.....                  | Pierre LaMere                |
|                                   | Worship Tech Assistant..... | Jim Olson                    |

|                        |                     |                 |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>CHURCH OFFICERS</b> | President.....      | Marty Carlson   |
|                        | Vice President..... | Steve Hoyt      |
|                        | Treasurer.....      | Ross Bartels    |
|                        | Secretary.....      | Charlie O'Brien |

|              |  |                        |
|--------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>STAFF</b> | Pastor.....  | Rev. Dr. Arden D. Haug |
|              | Director of Music.....                             | Dr. Kristina Rizzotto  |
|              | Office Manager & Children's Ministry Director..... | Diane LaMere           |
|              | Worship Technical Director.....                    | Joseph LaMere          |
|              | Design & Communication Director.....               | Michelle McCreery      |

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*Worship is live-streamed each week & remains available for viewing on [www.youtube.com/@LOTChurch](http://www.youtube.com/@LOTChurch).*

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SCAN TO GIVE



## CALENDAR

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|                       |          |  |                     |
|-----------------------|----------|--|---------------------|
| SUNDAY, DEC 24        | 9:30 AM  | <i>Worship with Holy Communion...</i>      | Sanctuary & YouTube |
|                       |          | <i>No Coffee Hour today</i>                |                     |
|                       | 4:30 PM  | <i>Christmas Eve Family Worship...</i>     | Sanctuary & YouTube |
| MONDAY, DEC 25        |          | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>                       |                     |
|                       |          | <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>                |                     |
| TUESDAY, DEC 26       | 7:00 PM  | <i>Men's AA.....</i>                       | Fellowship Hall     |
|                       | 7:00 PM  | <i>AA/Recovery &amp; Spirituality.....</i> | Christy Room        |
| THURSDAY, DEC 28      | 12:00 PM | <i>Al Anon.....</i>                        | Fellowship Hall     |
| FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29   | 5:00 PM  | <i>Wedding Rehearsal.....</i>              | Sanctuary           |
| SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 | 3:00 PM  | <i>Wedding.....</i>                        | Sanctuary           |
| SUNDAY, DEC 31        | 9:30 AM  | <i>Worship with Holy Communion...</i>      | Sanctuary & YouTube |
|                       | 10:45 AM | <i>Coffee Hour.....</i>                    | Fellowship Hall     |

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**1936-2023**

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**

2020 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55405

612 377-5095

[Church Office](#) ✕ [Pastor Haug](#) ✕ [loti.org](#)

*Office Hours*

Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM – Noon



ELCA

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Prayer List

Please keep the following friends & members of our community of faith in your prayers of thanksgiving or for comfort, peace, and healing:



**The family of Pat Nortwen, Kathy Dahl**, daughter of Phyllis Dahl; **Marta Brown**, daughter of Liz & Mike Brown; **Graham Rawle**, friend of Mark Duff & Michelle McCreery; **Matthew Moen; Anna Lena Stenberg Skold; Trygve Svard; Cecelia Morris**, friend of Kathy & Mark Hering; **Sam Pederson**, nephew of Jennifer Cook; **Beth Addington & Elizabeth Muench**, friends of the congregation; **Natalie Mozey**, daughter of Alan & Mary Poulsen; **Bunny & David Anderson**, sister & brother-in-law of John Bergford; **David Cook**, brother of Jenny Cook; **Kathy Sawyer**, niece of Philip Friedlund, **Joey Juras & Fitz Loula**, friends of the Gruys family; **Dona Duff**, mother of Mark Duff; **Alison Reagon**, friend of Mark Duff & Michelle McCreery; **Lyle Kuehn**, brother-in-law of Carol Kuehn, **Amanda Frahm**, sister-in-law of John & Alyson Frahm; **Nancie Nelson**, friend of Michelle McCreery; **Phyllis Thomson**, friend of Michelle McCreery; **Donna Shroyer**, cousin of Linda Nelson; **Avey Egsgaard**, friend of Jana & Michael Kavoukjian; **Vonnie Norum**, mother of Liz Brown; **Mary Ann Wastweet**, sister of David Hagford; **Debbie Daline**, friend of Michael & Jana Kavoukjian and **Marion Eddelbuettel**, grandmother of Nico & Lauren (Rondestvedt) Eddelbuettel; **the family of Marilyn Anderson**, friend of Phyllis Dahl.

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### Loved Ones In The Military

Please keep all the members & families of the military in your prayers of thanksgiving and protection.



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

*Mary Flynn 12/28 Remi Pizarro 12/29  
Jon Zachman 12/29 Chris Hovda 12/30  
Pauline Haug 12/30 Allyson Sprain 12/30*

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### Kid Worship Materials

Kid worship materials are available in the Narthex (back of Sanctuary). Crayon packets and a variety of coloring pages and activity sheets are available for your children to enjoy during worship.

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### Staffed Nursery in the Christy Room

Our Nursery is staffed today for our littlest ones in the Congregation to use. Ushers can help you with directions to the Christy Room or simply follow the signs provided in the back of the Sanctuary.

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### Meditation

LOTI is available during office hours for a time of quiet meditation. You can use the sanctuary to spend time in prayer, light a candle, listen to recorded sacred music, and/or use a guided meditation tool. Please call the church office to reserve a time.

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### The Gift of Generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported LOTI this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. End of the year gifts to LOTI must be received by Sunday, December 31st.

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