

# Christ Lutheran Church

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

### A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

We've been singing a sad song  
for quite some time,  
the melody syncing with our heartbeats,  
the lyrics stamped to the front of our minds.

You say, sad songs are honest.

It's hard to disagree,  
for sad songs tap us on the shoulder.

Sad songs remind us  
of the 100 different corners  
heartbreak could be behind.

But I don't have it in me  
to sing a sad song forever.

So despite the news,  
despite the aches in my body,  
despite the phone call last night  
that says she's waiting for the test results,  
despite yesterday's shooting,  
despite the unknown and unchanged,

I am going to sing a song of hope.

Like a canary in a snowstorm,  
I don't need another song of what is;  
I need a song of what could be.

So sing with me.

Our voices may get drowned out by the wind,  
but surely someone will ask:

Was that a flash of yellow in the snow? Was that the sound of hope?

Rev. Sarah Speed

# WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH THAT WELCOMES

All are welcome at Christ Lutheran Church. We emphasize grace, forgiveness, and the reality that God is love. The teachings and example of Jesus call us to love one another and to be an inclusive and affirming community for people of every culture, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, relationship status, family makeup, and spiritual background. No matter what challenges you're facing – physical, mental, spiritual, economic, emotional, moral, or otherwise – we invite you to experience God's grace with us. There is a place for you here.

## THE IN-PERSON CLC ESSENTIALS

**Restrooms** are in the Narthex and in the Education Building.

The **Nursery** is available from 9:15 a.m. through the end of the late service.

**Attendance Registration Cards** are located in the pew racks. We ask everyone in attendance, visitors and members, to fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate as it is passed.

**Audio Receivers** for the hearing impaired are available in the Narthex.

## THE VIRTUAL CLC ESSENTIALS

Please tune in each Sunday for livestream worship at 10:30 a.m. by clicking the YouTube button below.

Online giving is easy! Simply click the Offering button below, and it will take you to the giving page to make your offering when you are ready. You can also use your phone to scan this QR code, and it will take you to our donation page at <https://clcah.org/contact-us/give-online/>



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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

*How Lovely are the Messengers* - Mendelssohn

### WELCOME

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (10:30 a.m.) *Welcome, Holy Child* - Carol Huffman Dickerson  
*A Christmas Gift for You* - Nan Grantham  
Angelicus Choir

How does a weary world rejoice?

**We sing songs of hope. We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.**

We tell the stories of what could be.

**We listen for God's word.**

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

**We remember Mary's song.**

We gather for worship.

**We hope. Against all odds, we hope.**

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

**Let us worship holy God. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, we all know that a small group of convicted people can change the world. That's how it's always been. People like Mary, people like Zechariah, people like John the Baptist. And yet, we rarely feel like we can be one of those people. We downplay our ability to make a difference. We choose pessimism over optimism. We sweep hope under the rug for the sake of realism. We forget the words to Mary's song. Fortunately for us, our God carries enough hope and grace for all of us. So let us go to God in prayer. Let us speak the truth of our lives, and let that honesty change us.

Friends, let us pray: Holy God, **more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.**

Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear these words, you are God's beloved. You are forgiven. You are blessed and sent out to serve. This is the good news of the Gospel. Thanks be to God for God's unending love. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW #239

**GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Loving God, the grass withers and the flowers fade, but your Word stands forever. So today we pray—help us to truly hear it. Allow your words to sink deeply into the marrow of our bones. Allow your words to lift our hearts in hope, that we might feel closer to your promised day. With hopeful and grateful hearts, we pray. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Pew Bible/Old Testament page #877

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

**SECOND READING: Isaiah 12:2-6**

Pew Bible/Old Testament page #641

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

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

**ALL**

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.  
He brings hope to every heart.  
He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.  
He brings peace to every heart.  
He comes. He comes.

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.  
He brings joy to every heart.  
He comes. He comes. He comes.

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

Pew Bible/New Testament page #60

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Howard Stendahl

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

ELW #249

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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.**

*The congregation is invited to kneel as able.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We pray for those in need, within our own community and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Our petitions end with “Lord, in your mercy,” and the congregation responds: “**receive our prayer.**”*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

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## **MEAL**

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**OFFERTORY MUSIC** (10:30 a.m.) *I See a Star* - Greg Gilpin  
Sanctuary Choir

## **OFFERING**

*Christ Lutheran designates 20% of your Sunday offerings to our benevolence partners who make a direct impact on the lives of people in our world who need it most. See page two for more information on giving virtually from your phone or go to [clcah.org](http://clcah.org).*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

# OFFERTORY HYMN

*Fall on Your Knees*

$\text{♩} = 89$

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A

6  
thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O

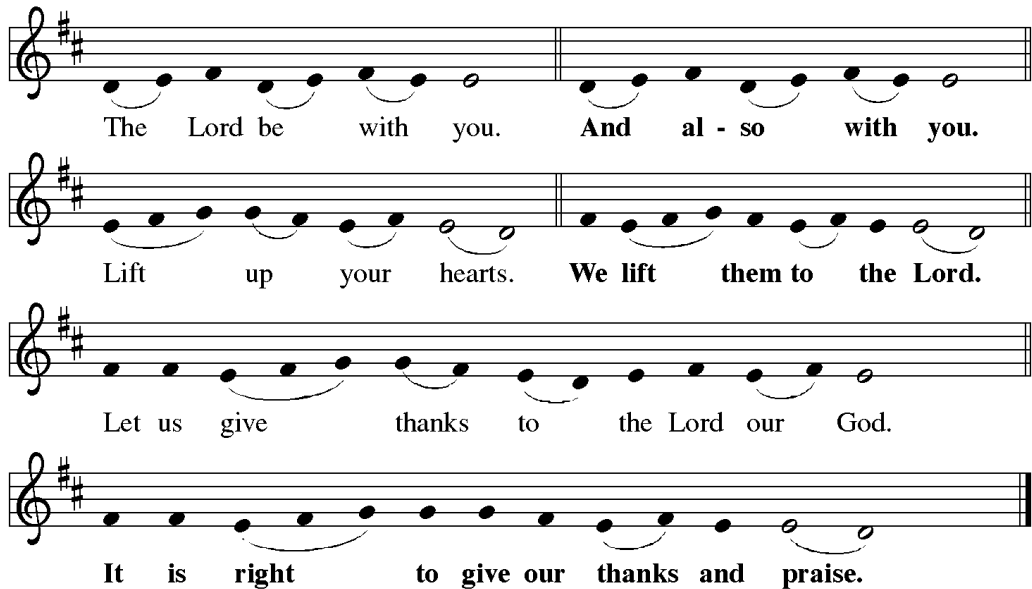
12  
hear the angel voices! Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! His power and

19  
glory ever more proclaim!

# OFFERTORY PRAYER

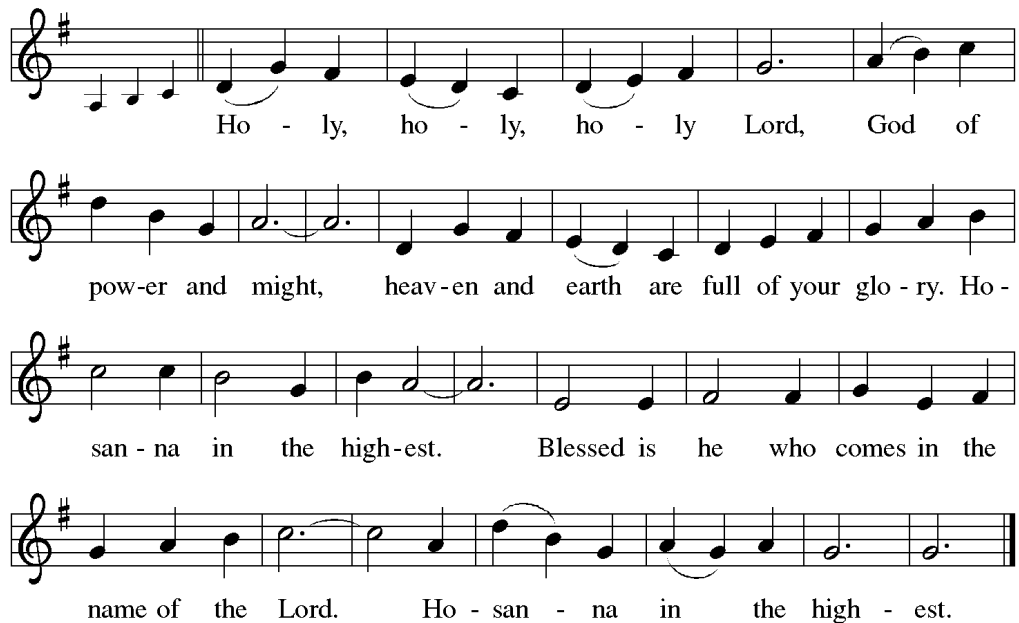
Let us pray together. Creator God, you have made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING & EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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.

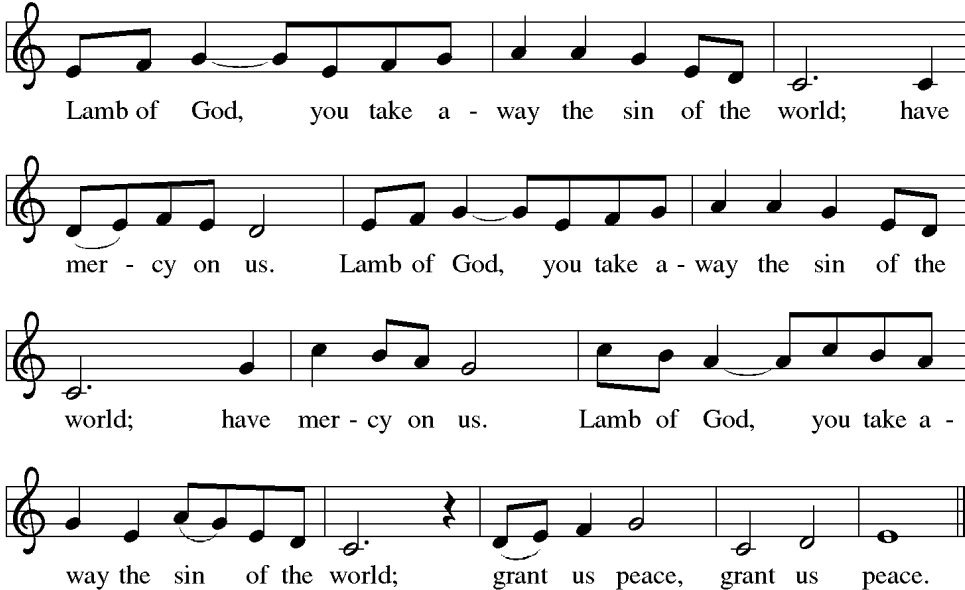
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **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.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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

## DISTRIBUTION

*Two thousand years ago Jesus ate with sinners and those whom others scorned. He still does. None of us is worthy, except by God's grace. No matter what you have done or what your present condition, Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another.*

*The gathered faithful have a choice to commune at the front of the sanctuary by intinction or in their seats with individual communion packets available at the entrance to the sanctuary. With intinction, the bread is placed in your hand for you to dip in the wine. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion from a minister where you are seated. Gluten-free wafers are found on the small table next to the usher stand for anyone who needs them.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** (10:30 a.m.) *Abide With Me* - arr. Moses Hogan  
Sanctuary Choir

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW #257

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray together. Generous God, **we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world— so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you and for the sake of the whole world. You are God’s beloved. So go rejoicing. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW #244

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Wake, Awake For Night is Flying* - Cherwien

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Preaching Minister*  
*Presiding Minister*  
*Assisting Ministers*  
*Lectors*  
*Acolyte*

## 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Howard Stendahl  
Pastor Leslie Price  
Robert Crotteau  
Celia Crotteau  
Leopold von Durckheim

## 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Howard Stendahl  
Pastor Leslie Price  
Alfreda Pennington  
Verna Fletcher  
Hadley Braaten

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

*President* Michael Fischer  
*Vice President* Bryan Woods  
*Treasurer* Jeff Timm  
*Secretary* Paul Pfeifer

*At-Large Member*  
*At-Large Member*  
*At-Large Member*

Rhonda Barsalou  
James Ehler  
Edna Robbins

## STAFF

*Senior Pastor*  
*Pastor*  
*Director of Faith Formation*  
*Director for Day School Ministry*  
*Accountant & Office Manager*  
*Office Administrator & AV Tech*  
*Minister of Mission & Outreach*  
*Director of Music Ministry*  
*Organist*  
*Youth Choir Director*  
*Youth Choir Accompanist*  
*Custodians*  
*AV Tech*  
*Event Coordinator*  
*Nursery Attendant*

Rev. Leslie Price  
Rev. Howard Stendahl  
Carrie Jowers  
Dana Ferraro  
Ainslee Ford  
Lori Harris  
Deacon Lisa Diana  
Dr. Daniel Long  
Jeff Hammack  
Mary Patino  
Sharon Wiedemann  
Sam Tenorio & Justin Martin  
Jesus Garcia  
Carolyn Dufelmeier  
Clara Tenorio

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Patti Lynch, Pam Sheffield, Laurie Stiteler, Bobby Stobb, Frank Pennington, Ron Olson, and James Ehler

## WELCOME TEAM

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Lori Harris, Bob Logan, Mary Lynn Logan - Chair, Bob & Karen Corder, Bill Chavers, Joan Woods, Mary Overstreet, Edna Robbins, Ida Marie Schultz, Ulf Balldin, Jennifer Dunn, Heather Rosenquist, Tracy Anderson, Natalie Tate, Kathy Dicke, and Steve Wright

## THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to our faithful volunteer, Mary Overstreet, for the new series of banners which adorn our Sanctuary and so beautifully depict our Advent and Christmas theme: A Weary World Rejoices.

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## TODAY

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- 9:30 a.m. - Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. - Lucy Circle, Parlor
- 11:30 a.m. - Cookie Exchange, Fellowship Hall

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## THIS WEEK

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### Monday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. Money Counters, Parlor

### Tuesday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Quilters, Primrose House
- 7:00 p.m. Read Through the Bible via zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2461346872> or 346-248-7799

### Wednesday, December 18

- 5:30 p.m. Gloria & Angelicus Choirs Christmas Party, Courtyard & Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Advent Evening Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary, (half-hour worship)

### Thursday, December 19

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall

### Friday, December 20

- 7:00 p.m. River City Ringers Concert, Sanctuary

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Today, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us as our 3 year olds' through 7th grade children tell the wonderful story of Christmas to the congregation from the eyes of John the Baptist. You won't want to miss it!

## LUCY CIRCLE

Today, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

The Lucies will meet in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 15, to discuss the essay by Anne Lamott, "The Dressing Room Encounter That Made Me Get Real About Aging." Anne's humorous look at the reality of aging makes the process not only funny, but possibly even tolerable. Please join us for a friendly, light-hearted discussion.



*A Weary World Rejoices*  
**HOLDEN**  
*Evening Prayer*

DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.  
WORSHIP AT 6:30 P.M.

*Wednesday*  
*December 18*



# 'Tis the Season

2024 Holiday Handbell Concert Series

Friday December 20th  
7:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church



 [RiverCityRingers.org](https://RiverCityRingers.org)  [RiverCityRingersSA](https://RiverCityRingersSA)

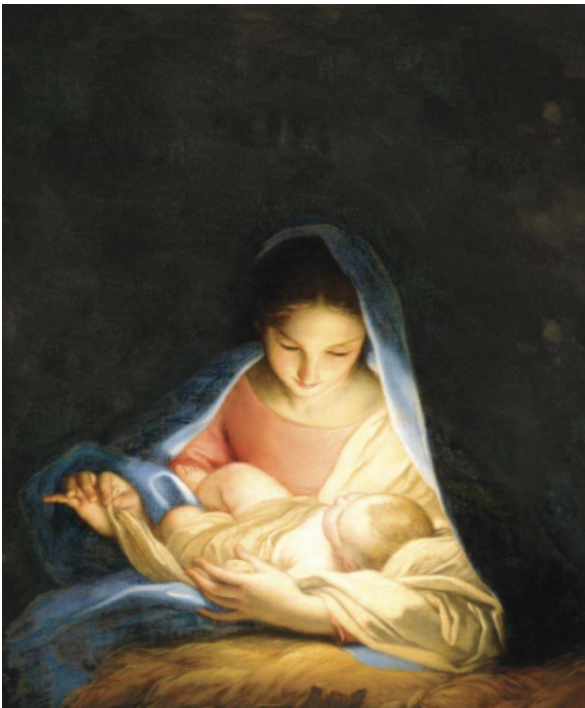
Concerts are free and open to the public. Donations appreciated!  
River City Ringers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

A white silhouette of an elephant with a red gift box on its back, set against a green background with white snowflakes and stars.

FX3  
CHRISTMAS  
WHITE ELEPHANT  
PARTY

RSVP to Ms. Carrie

DECEMBER 22 • 5:00 - 7:00 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL



*A Weary World Rejoices*

CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Services*

DECEMBER 24

3:00 P.M. Child-Friendly  
5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Carols & Candlelight



# Poinsettias for our Sanctuary

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia/s at \$15 each, which may be picked up after the 7:00 p.m. service on December 24th or during the following week.

Check payable to:  
Christ Lutheran Church  
indicate: "Poinsettias"

The deadline for ordering is December 16.

IN HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

TO THE GLORY OF GOD: \_\_\_\_\_  
(X)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
(Please Print)