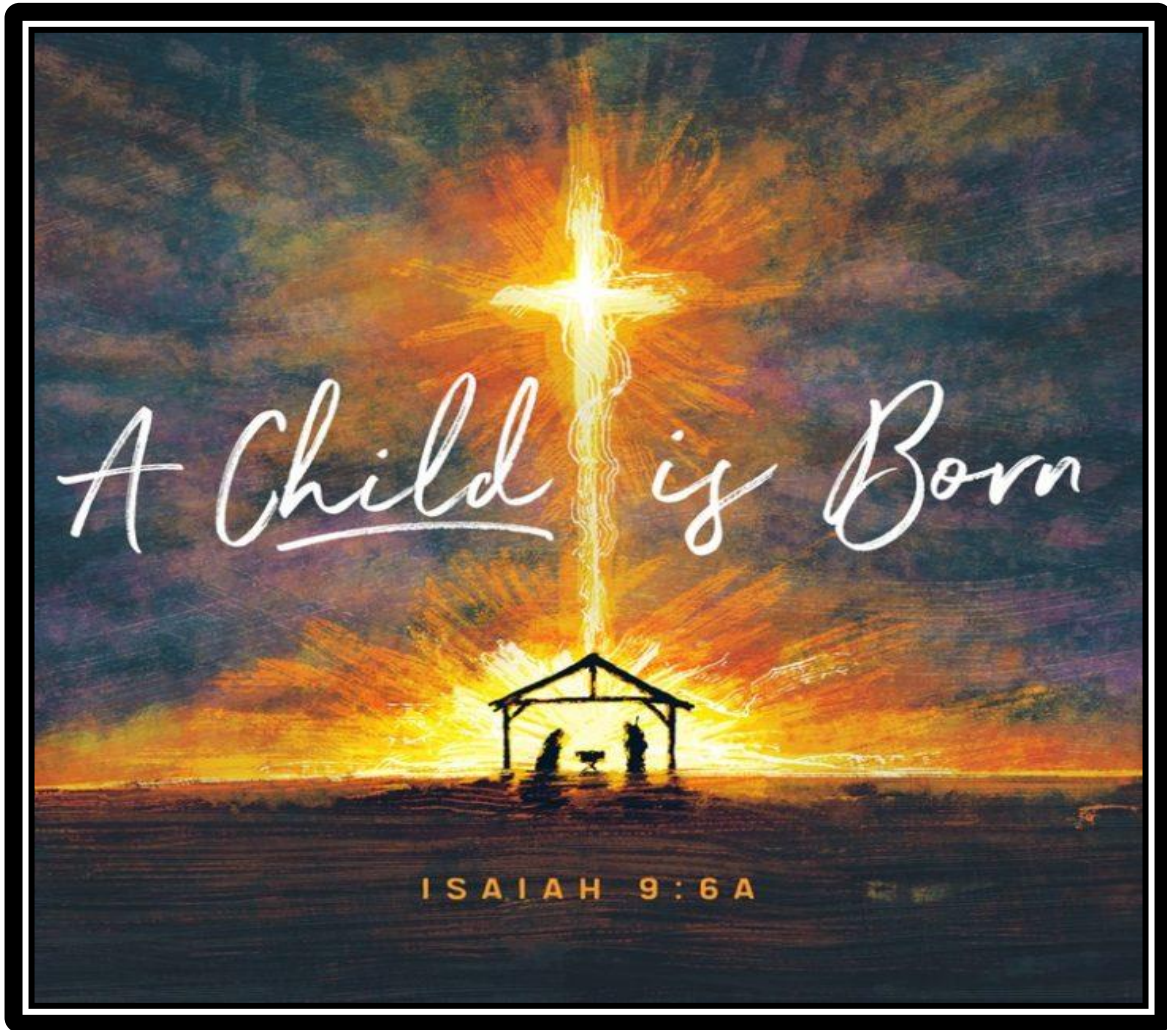


Family Worship
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023



St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Bath, PA

Bulletin presented in loving memory of
our parents Kerry & Sharon H., and
our grandparents Harvey & Dorothy H., by Family.

Glory to God in the highest!

Welcome, as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord! It is good to join in worship of the newborn King, who is the light that shines so brilliantly that no darkness overcomes it. In him, God took on our humanity, became flesh, so that we might have true life through him.

Jesus, the One we come tonight to worship and adore, welcomes all of us through his holy birth, his life and ministry, his crucifixion and resurrection. You are welcome here, regardless of your race, color, age, differing abilities, sexual orientation or religion. We are a house of prayer for all peoples.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you this holy night and always!

Holy Communion Information

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. St. John's offers multiple Holy Communion options, so that every worshipper can taste and see God's that the Lord is good. We have options for taking Holy Communion at your seat or by coming forward to the altar area. We have options for anyone who requires grape juice and gluten free bread. Please see an usher, who will give you complete information about our Holy Communion options.

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103275. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. From sundaysandseasons.com. One License A-740897

PRELUDE MUSIC

Variations on "Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen"	arr. Walther
"What is this lovely fragrance"	arr. Lani Smith
"Still, Still Still"	arr. F. Ritter
"Noël"	arr. Nicolas le Begue
"I Wander As I Wonder"	arr. Gary Lanier
Flutist: Bonnie V.	
"O Holy Night"	arr. Adam/Lanier
Cellist: Spencer G.	
"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"	arr. Paul Kickstat

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother — now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

GATHERING CAROL “*O Come, All Ye Faithful*” (LBW #45, verses 1-4)

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:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;

Jesus to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

I bring you good news of great joy.

Angels have proclaimed to us the birth of our Messiah.

To you this day is born a Savior, who is Christ our Lord.

We come to worship and adore him.

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

his name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

CAROL OF PRAISE “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*”

(LBW #44)

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!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of the 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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING : *Isaiah 9:2-7*

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

(LBW #60 Verse 1)

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

The Holy Gospel is written in the Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-15*

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON/

SERMON

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION (7 PM)

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (LBW No. 54)

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 men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

ANTHEM: (10 PM) *“By Candlelight”*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, surrounding our lives with a holy and limitless love.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying unending love and calling us to childlike trust in God entering our fearful darkness, that we might enter his glorious light.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, calling us to follow Christ Jesus, drawing us on to be born again, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

And we believe that each new child born into this world is a glimpse of the face of God, a call to live in peace, and to share generously the abundant gifts of God.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless. Hasten the day when all are fed, no one is lonely, and being poor is only a memory.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in the Bible we read, the Word that comes before us in worship, the promise made to us in baptism and the feast of the Holy Communion meal so that we may bear your light to all the world.

Jesus Christ, merciful savior, we commend into your hands all our prayers, and the needs of each one of us, the church, our community and our world. Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace with your neighbors by waving at them.

During the flu seasons we ask you not to move into the aisles

THE OFFERING

In the interest of everyone's safety during cold and flu season, we will not be passing offering plate at today's worship service. Thank you for your offering! Offerings may be placed in the offering basket located behind the first pew on the main level, or if you have not had a chance to put your offering in the basket, the ushers will be happy to receive your offering at the end of the worship service.

*If you have not yet filled out a Communion card for 2023 or if you are not sure, please fill out a communion card and place in the offering basket. If you would like to continue receiving information from St. John's by text and email, please put your contact information on the communion card and add the word "Flocknote".
(Flocknote is our message database).*

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

"Angel's Carol"

arr. John Ritter

Soloist: Eileen G.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God with us,
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 bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right to give thanks to you, God in flesh appearing. Gathered around the Holy Communion table on this holy night, we remember the story of how you dared to share our life, the story of how you took on our humanity, to dwell among us, full of grace and truth, even accepting death on a cross. Gathered around the Holy Communion table on this Christmas night, we break the bread and remember that it is in our brokenness that we become whole; we fill this cup and remember the abundance of your grace. And so, we rejoice to remember that: 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

Lord, teach us to pray,
**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

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Come, receive our Savior in these gifts.

WE SHARE THE HOLY COMMUNION MEAL

Pastor will invite you forward to receive communion at the appropriate time.

This is the body of Christ, which is given for you.
This is the blood of Christ, which is shed for you.
Amen.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. On this day, O God,
**You gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the Christ to us,
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. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Almighty God,

You have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

As the Church is darkened, the pastor will turn on his candle. Everyone may join in turning their candles on. When everyone is ready and the church is darkened, we will all join in singing Silent Night.

Tip the lighted candle toward your bulletin to help see the printed lyrics.

HYMN “Silent Night”

(LBW #65)

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven a-far,

Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light

Radiant beams from your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, who came with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Candles are turned off

HYMN “*Joy to the World*”

(LBW #39)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, Far as the curse is found.

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.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! Peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “*Fantasy*”

arr. Richard Hudson

Today's Announcements

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

This Week At St. John's

12/24/23	Sunday	Worship/Communion Fellowship Hall	3:00 PM
		Worship/Communion/Candle Lighting	7:00 PM
		Worship/Communion/Candle Lighting	10:00 PM
12/25/23	Monday	Christmas Day	
12/28/23	Thursday	Quiet Communion	1:00 PM
12/31/23	Sunday	Worship	9:00 AM
		Masked Worship	10:15 AM

2024 Giving Envelopes have been delayed. The challenging times of production and supply chain issues continue to plague us. Please know that your envelope number has not changed and you can continue to use the same number on your contributions.

Merry Christmas from the staff at St. John's. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from...

Pastor: Terrence Walsh ~ **Organist:** Kevin Ehrig ~ **Preschool Director:** Dawn Mayer
Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Wendy Hartzell ~ **Secretary:** Marianne Mosher
Office Administrator: Jamie Brozman ~ **Sexton:** Now Hiring.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sun., Jan. 21, 2024, at the 9:00 AM Worship Service. Only one service will be held; there will not be an 8 AM or 10:15 AM Worship Service and there will be no Sunday School session. Please plan to join us on this very important day. The proposed 2024 budget was mailed; if you need a copy, please call the church office. In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will be held **Sun., Jan. 29, 2024**. The same schedule will apply: one service at 9 AM with no Sunday School session. **See you there!**

Thank you to Kevin Ehrig (organist) for his loving devotion to provide our church with beautiful music this Christmas Eve. We have truly been blessed with his musical ability and we want him to know how much we appreciate his time and talent.



Thank you to the choir for their continuous dedication and love for our church. You brighten the services and lift us up with your voices. Thank you to Bonnie V. (Flutist), Spencer G. (Cellist), & Eileen G. (soloist) for your lovely talents during the Christmas Eve Service.

Year-End Member Contributions for 2023 must arrive by the church on or before Tuesday, December 26, 2023 by 12 Noon to be included in your 2023 contributions to the church. Any contributions received after this date and time will be posted to your 2024 contributions. Don't delay! Thank you for supporting the financial ministry of St. John's.

Nursery School Enrollment 2024-2025: Do you know someone looking for a great place to enroll their child in nursery school? Look no further and share the word, we have an amazing program and teachers here at St. John's Bath. Enrollment forms are available through Dawn Mayer at 610-841-6729 or by e-mailing stjohnbath@gmail.com. Classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds.

St. John's Sunday School will be on a winter break from 12/24 to 12/31. Talk to your friends and bring a friend to Sunday School on January 7th. What a way to welcome the new year by sharing with others. We welcome new attendees to share our love for God.

Prayers Requested For: Matthew A., Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis A., Josie B., Shane B., Barb B., Cory B., Gerald & Jamie B., Dawn & Bill B., Jason C., Patty & Larry D., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Cami Grace G., Janis G., Shawn H., Lil H., Troy H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., the family of Claire K., Gerry K., Mary K., Steve K., Diane L., Lee L., Jeff L., Ruth M., The M. Family, April Rose M., Joe N., Danielle N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Brent R., Earl & Steve S., Ethel S., Louise S., Barb S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., John S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Carol W., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Galen W., Susan W., Dolores & Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., Francis Z.

*If you would like to add or remove a person from the prayer list,
the **Church Office** (610.837.1061).*



God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250

This holiday season St. John's will be participating in the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. The Good Gifts Program supports work in 88 countries throughout the world. Your donation to the Good Gifts Program helps fight world hunger, supports women and children, provides fresh water to people, provides health care around the world, supports families and individuals suffering due to emergencies, and helps grow our church. You'll find ornaments hanging in the foyer and other common areas of the church showing items you can "purchase" with your donation. To donate for a specific gift take an ornament and make your donation in the amount on the ornament. You can also make a donation in any amount and it will go toward a gift available in the program. Your donation can be made in cash or check. If using a check, please make the check payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Place your donation in an envelope and on the outside of the envelope write "Good Gifts Donation" and the gift on the ornament you selected. Please make your donation no later than December 26. Consider making a donation to the Good Gifts Program this holiday season and help those in need who are less fortunate than ourselves. May you all have a blessed holiday season!

ELCAMA1352

ELCA.org/goodgifts



Merry Christmas





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH BATH, PA
CHRISTMAS EVE—2023
Poinsettia plants are placed to In Loving Memory



Of:

By:

Neil & Louise A.
Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Horace D.
Guy (Pete) B.
Departed Loved Ones
Ralph E.
Departed Loved Ones
Departed Loved Ones
Husband, Melvin F. Jr.
Kevin M, Mr. & Mrs. Carl G.
Alfred & Lottie F.
Departed Loved Ones
Dorothy & Harvey H.
Pastor Eugene S.
Kerry & Sharon H., Harvey & Dorothy H.
Pauline H., Ruth L., Marg T., & Deb V.
Departed Members of the K. & K. Family
Richard N.
Departed Loved Ones
Departed Loved Ones
Our Parents
Lewis & Sallie R. & Howard & Lillian M.
Rose & Gerald W. & The K. Family
Wife, Martha S.
Departed Loved Ones
Russell E. S., Husband
Gloria W., William S., Dolores K.
Walter Z. & James C.



Samantha A.
Ann & Gordon B.
Jan B.
Barbara B.
Robin & Roseanne B.
Nancy E. & Family
Bill & Cindy F.
Barry & Judy F.
Laverne F.
Wanda F. & Family
The F. Family
Joyce G.
Janis & Family
Tracy H.
Kim & Justin H.
The H. Family
Dennis K. & Family
Deb K. & Susan S.
June K.
Glenn & Nancy M. & Family
Marianne & Duane M.
Marianne & Duane M.
The P. Family
Earl S.
Ron & Cathy S.
Irene R. S.
The W. Family
Stella Z.



Poinsettia plants are placed to In Honor Of:

Of:

By:

Elizabeth N.
Mark John K. Jr. & David Richard K.
Melody & Melissa M.; Melinda, Cory & Birdie B.
Rev. Stanley K. & Mrs. Marjorie S.

Deb K. & Susan S.
Deb K.
Erwin & Dawn M.
The W. Family

