RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, we are glad you are here!

If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor and feel at home among us. In this bulletin, words in bold print are spoken by the assembly, non-bolded words are spoken by a leader. Two abbreviations used for hymns and service elements: ELW stands for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, which is the red hymnal in the book holder attached to the pew in front of you, and ACS is All Creation Sings, which is the blue songbook.

COMMEMORATION IN THE WIDER CHURCH

Thursday, December 26, 2024, Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

Friday, December 27, 2024, John, Apostle and Evangelist

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

Saturday, December 28, 2024, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, Name of Jesus

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him. **Thursday, January 2, 2025, Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872** Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

OPENING MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose ever Blooming Praetorius (chorale), Vulpius (canon) The Resurrection Evangelical Church Choir		
O Holy Night	Darwyn Banks, te	Adolphe Adam
Come Unto Him	Eleanor Jacobson, se	George Frideric Handel
Coventry Carol	Eleanor Jacobson, soprano & Sus	Traditional English Carol, arr. anna Jacobson, alto
The Oxen	Susanna Jacobson, mezz	C. Armstrong Gibbs zo soprano
Sweet Little Jesus	Boy Gary Roebuck, bar	Robert MacGimsey, arr.
Say, Where Is He? Darwyn	Banks, tenor, Gary Roebuck, Ba	Felix Mendelssohn ritone, Robert Verdile, Bass
Be Ye Joyful	The Choir, Carole Smith and Cla	Jan Bender ire Kanevsky, flutes



ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Aus Meines Herzens Grunde Barbara Bulger Verdile, organ

At the ringing of a bell, the assembly stands and faces the font.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

The assembly is invited to kneel or remain seated. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us. we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen. Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283)



GREETING (ELW p. 98)

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 (ELW p.102) Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

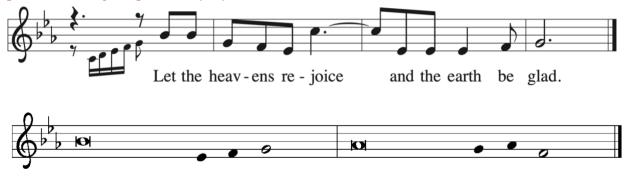
A reading from Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For 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. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For 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. ⁷ Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne and dominion of David. 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 96

The psalm is sung responsively by the whole verse.



¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song; sing to the LORD, [|] all the earth. ²Sing to the LORD, bless the name ¹ of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day. ³ Declare God's glory a-¹ mong the nations and God's wonders a-¹ mong all peoples. ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods. R ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens. ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary. ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families ¹ of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power. ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the ¹ holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ ty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, [|] all the earth. ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity." ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the [|] earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that [|] is therein. ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-¹ ing, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth. ¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness

and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A reading from Titus.

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ It is Jesus Christ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

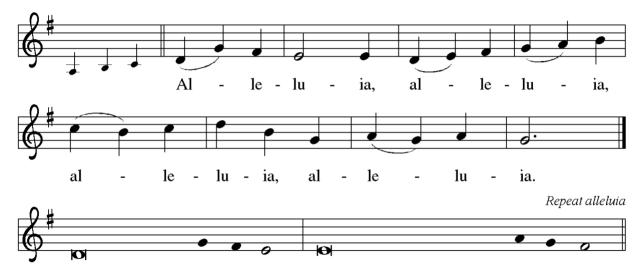
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCESSION

The Gospel, read in the midst of the congregation is emblematic of the Incarnation – God coming in the midst of the people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 102)

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. All sing the Alleluias, the cantor sings the verse, the Alleluias are repeated.



I am bringing you good news of great joy for [|] all the people:* to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi-[|] ah, the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Carsar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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 God 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

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

SERMON

Rev. Harry Therwanger

HYMN OF THE DAY:

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve: Jeg er så glad hver julekveld (ELW 271)



Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104) We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (ELW p. 106)

Assembly, please stand.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray for all people in every need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great."

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE (ELW p. 106) The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace by bowing, waving, or offering another appropriate gesture and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Go Tell It on the Mountain

John Abdenour

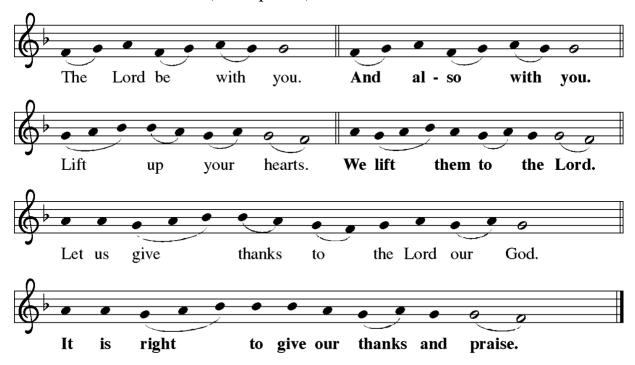
OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

Members of the assembly may bring their offering forward when ushers invite them. Baskets are available to receive your gift at the front of the sanctuary. Communion ministers will sanitize and cleanse their hands prior to handling the gifts of bread and wine.

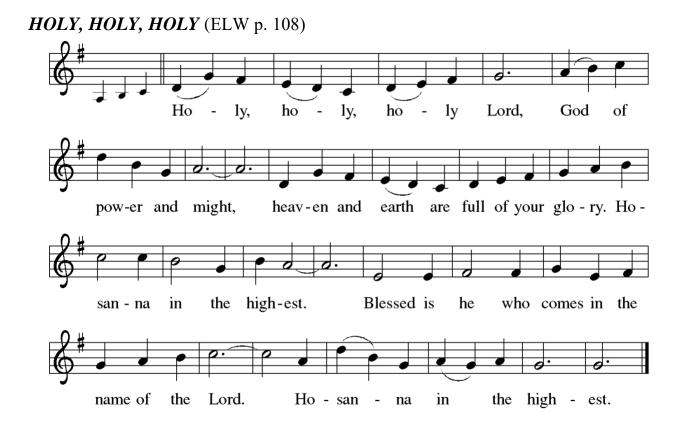
OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 107)

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING: (ELW p. 108)



The Thanksgiving continues with the Preface for the day; the assembly responds:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 110)

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (p. 112)
And now, we pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

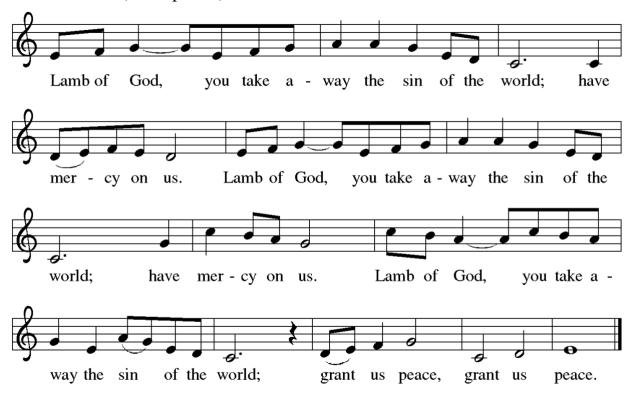
The assembly may be seated. At the direction of ushers, baptized and communing members wishing to commune will proceed to the front of the nave, maintaining appropriate physical distance. To receive the bread, place your hands palms up. To receive the wine, hold a small cup firmly, the assisting minister will pour wine from the common cup. Please do not dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free hosts are also available. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You may elect to commune by receiving the bread only or you may elect to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Each person may respond, "Amen."

LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 112)

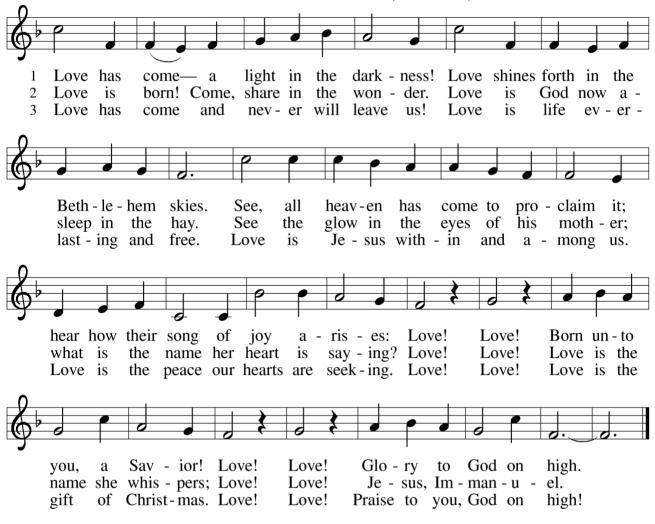


COMMUNION ANTHEM:

A Spotless Rose

Graeme Morton

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: Love Has Come (ELW 292)



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 114)

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Receive the light from your neighbor, keep lit candles upright. Candles remain lit until the blessing and final hymn.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281) *First stanza in German, then all English stanzas.*



READING: John 1:1-4

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

RESPONSE

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

SENDING HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)



DISMISSAL (ELW p. 115) Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Wachet Auf Barbara Bulger Verdile, organ Emma Lou Diemer

Merry Christmas!

Readings for December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God. **Psalm 98**

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. (Ps. 98:3)

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

Readings for December 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal:

^{#270:} Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Text: Charles Wesley, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn; arr. William H. Cummings. Text and music: Public domain. #271: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, Text: Marie Wexelsen; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen. Music: JEG SÄ GLAD, Peder Knudsen. Text: ©1932 Augsburg Publishing House. Music: Public domain. All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-713051. #281: Silent Night, Holy Night, Text: Joseph Mohr; tr. John F. Young. Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber. Text and music: Public domain. #283: O Come, All Ye Faithful, Text: attr. John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. Unknown, st. 2. Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade. Text and music: Public domain. #292: Love has Come, Text: Ken Bible. Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composes en langue proveçale*. Text: ©Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Music: Public domain. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Sons.com, ©2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006914. Cover Art: The Adoration of the Shepherds, Artist: Matthais Stom (c1615-1649), oil on canvas. Collection: *Palazzo Madama and Casa degli Acaja*, Turin, Italy. Public Domain in the United States of America.



2024 Poinsettia Dedications

Leslie Nolen in honor of RELC Volunteers Fred and Mary Lou Albert in memory of our parents Fred and Mary Lou Albert in memory of dear friend, Sharon Kravetz Doug and Deb Andre in honor of our parents Jeanne Broyhill in memory of Jane Bragg Broyhill Jeanne Brovhill in memory of Gladys Bragg The Chaale Family in memory of Espiridon, Anissi, Laura, and Scott Gail Flatness in honor of my fellow choir members Sandy, Ed, Todd, and Tara Vickers in memory of Robert C. and Edythe B. Garman Franz Gimmler and Effie Stallsmith in Memory of Mark Franz Gimmler and Effie Stallsmith in memory of John Mark and Sarah Linton in memory of Hazel and Ralph Kessler Mark and Sarah Linton in memory of Vera and Don Linton Franz Gimmler and Effie Stallsmith in memory of granddaughter, Caylyn Stallsmith Leone Hanson in loving memory of Don Hanson Leone Hanson in loving memory of sister, Judy Debbie and Justin Howell in memory of Ruth and William Howell Debbie and Justin Howell in memory of my Great Aunt, Irmgard Malek John and Lara Larsen **Glen Mason in memory of Helen Mason Glen Mason in memory of Robert Mason** Glen Mason in memory of Barbara Pate Edd and Anita Nolen in honor of Leslie Nolen and Kristin Wine & Billy Wine Julie and Dennis Polla in memory of Leonard and Bernice Polla Michael and Carole Smith in memory of our parents Ebon and Pastor Harry Therwanger in memory of Robert Smith Ebon and Pastor Harry Therwanger in memory of Carol Williams Mimi and Tom VanPoole in memory of Candy and Charles McDowell Mimi and Tom VanPoole in memory of Gilmer and Thomas VanPoole Robert and Barbara Verdile in memory of Ted and Marion Bulger Robert and Barbara Verdile in memory of Alexander and Louise Verdile The Zeigler Family in honor of the blessing of Love, Family, and the Christmas Season



December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Harry Therwanger Vicar Jessica Zurcher Glen Mason Curran Gilster Curran Gilster and Kyle Gilster Gary Roebuck Presiding Minister Assisting Minister Assisting Minister Reader Communion Assistants Cantor

Attendance December 22, 10:00 a.m., 93 Live Stream Views, 7| Views after Streaming, 18

Our worship service is regularly video recorded and posted online. Printed scripture readings and weekly announcements are available from the ushers.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 6201 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22205 www.relcarlington.org 703-532-5991

Harry Therwanger, Pastor pastorharry@relcarlington.org 312-515-7269

Vicar Jessica Zurcher, Pastoral Intern vicarjessica@relcarlington.org 301-412-8989

Barbara Bulger Verdile, Music Director Angie Brooke, Christian Education Coordinator Leslie Nolen, Council President Christina Cuesta, Council Secretary