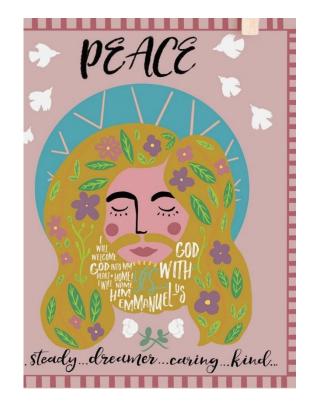
Welcome to Worship! ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Second Sunday of Advent The Liturgy of Holy Communion December 7, 2025 10:00 am

Ministers, The People of God MNYS Bishop, The Reverend Dr. Katrina Foster Reverend Jean Dougherty Music, Dan Grable Cantor, Cynthia Davis Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen Assisting Minister, Leslee Matheisen Readers: Joe Kostecki, John Sanzone Ushers, Jane DeRosa Barbara English, Donna & Frank Meystrik

Priscilla Guild: Linda Herzog



This is Christ's Church:

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. **Those with us for the first time** are kindly asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and greeters and are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex.

NEED PRAYER? Kindly share prayer concerns at the lectern located at the church entrance to have a name read aloud during worship. Completing a prayer card or calling the office assures the name will appear in print, and you may ask to receive a call from the pastor.

Our Mission: Because God shows His Love through Jesus Christ,

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a community of faith,

gathered around Word and Sacrament,

lives to WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, and SERVE,

and welcomes all people to share God's love

and to be workers together in this mission of the Church.

Communion: St. Andrew's practices eucharistic hospitality.

All are welcome at God's table.

In response to Jesus's command, we celebrate with a worship meal of bread (or gluten-free by request) and red wine or white grape juice (in the center of the communion tray.) It is the Lutheran tradition to commune using both elements. However, we believe Christ is fully present when receiving one kind (bread or wine/grape juice). Those not communing and children are invited forward to receive a blessing and may cross their arms to indicate their

intentions.

What is Reconciling in Christ?

This means we joyfully welcome all of God's people to worship with us regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or socio-economic circumstances.





Introduction to Advent



Advent is a time for waiting for God, and
Advent is also a time of God waiting for us.

Waiting for us to SAY YES!

Brave like Mary.

Kind like Joseph.

Daring like the Shepherds.

Generous like the Wise Ones bearing gifts.

Advent is a time to SAY YES! to God.

Yes, to finding our place in the story.

Yes, to feasting at God's table of hope, peace, joy, and love without end.

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, the night is far gone; the day is near.

We awake from sleep, for salvation is drawing close.

Like Joseph, we are called to trust and say yes to God's leading.

We say yes to the light of Christ breaking into our world.

Like John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way of the Lord.

We say yes to repentance, hope, and new life.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Oh, come, let us worship! Oh, come, let us worship!

PRELUDE

(Please stand as you are able.)

INVOCATION (The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.

We have not welcomed the stranger;

we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace all your sins are forgiven,

and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



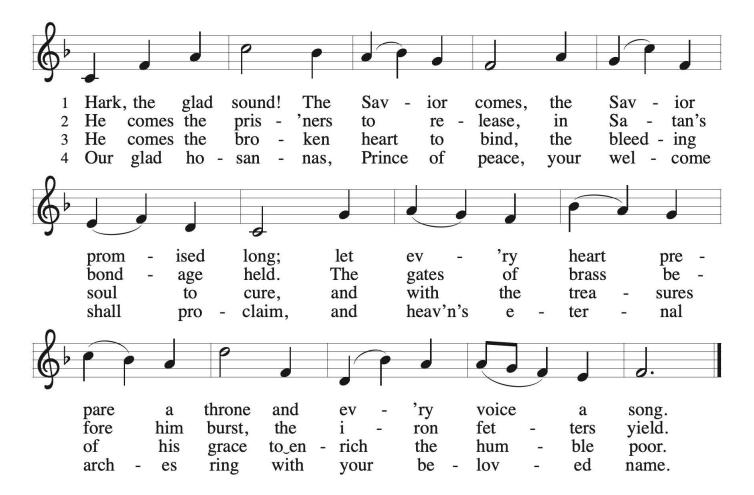
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. shep-herd, gent - ly He shall feed the flock like a lead them home-ward. Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry. He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

GATHERING SONG #239 HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!



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.**









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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up our hearts, O God, as John calls us to prepare your way and as Joseph once said yes in faithful trust.

Turn us toward repentance, clothe us with your mercy, and make us ready for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(The assembly may be seated.)
ANTHEM

(St. Andrew's Choir)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

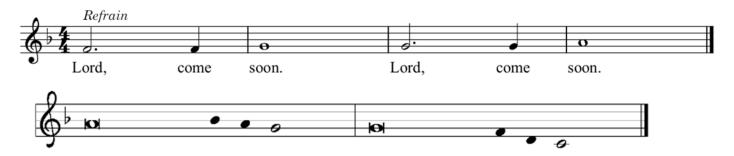
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

- ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (Cantor introduces the refrain, assembly repeats. Psalm is chanted responsively)



- ¹ Give the king your jus- ¹ tice, O God, and your righteousness to ¹ the king's son;
 - 2 that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
 - ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity ¹ to the people, and the ¹ hills, in righteousness.
 - ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- ¹ mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush ¹ the oppressor. Refrain
 - ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and I moon endure, from one generation I to another.
 - ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
 - ⁷ In his time may the ^I righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ^I be no more.
 - ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel; you alone do | wondrous deeds!
 - ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious ¹ name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- ¹ men. Amen. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

A reading from Romans.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles

and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

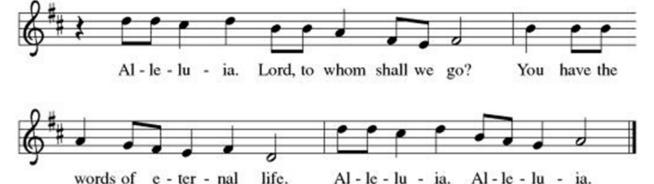
in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

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

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

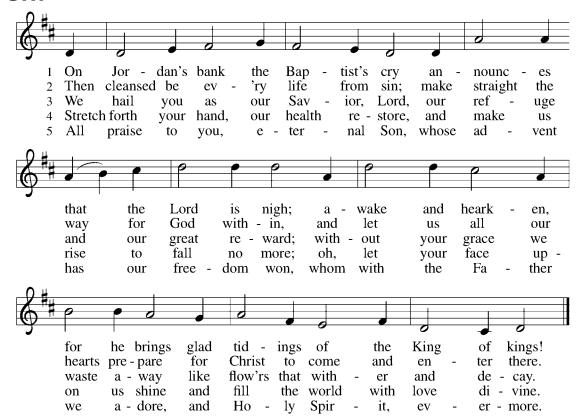
¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

(The assembly may be seated.) SERMON

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY #249 ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY



NICENE CREED

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

We also include in prayer today:

A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international students and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures, all on our prayer list and those we now name before you silently or aloud...... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(The assembly may be seated.)

OFFERING



(When Jesus fed the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity [see Mt. 14:13-21]. Thank you for sharing from the abundance you have received. Offerings may also be given online at the church website.)

OFFERING HYMN #253 HE CAME DOWN



(The assembly stands as gifts are brought forward.)

OFFERING PRAYER (assisting minister)

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

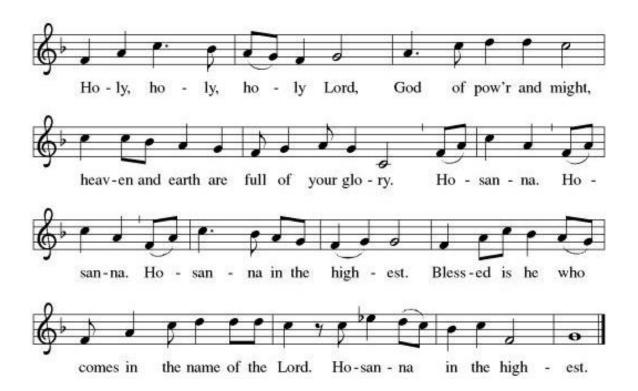
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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.

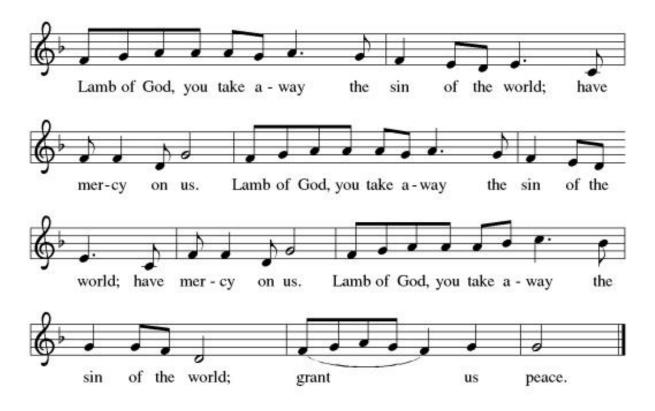
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As we wait and wonder, let us also be fed. Jesus welcomes all to this table. Come!

(The assembly may be seated.)

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Please follow the ushers' directions as you are invited forward to either kneel or stand at the rail.)

COMMUNION HYMN #631 LOVE, DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING



(After all have received, please stand as you are able.)

EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. **Amen**.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (assisting minister)

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. God + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #726 LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD



DISMISSAL (assisting minister)

Why are we waiting?

For the coming of Jesus.

How are we waiting?

With patience and hope.

Go in peace. Soon, and very soon, we are going to see the King.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:

Elena Quandt [requested by Doreen Flanagan]

Debbie Bartfield, Rose [requested by Pastor Jean]

Vanessa Marie Lahann, Gavin Lahann [requested by Violet & Donnalee]

Allie Abruzzi [requested by Ashley Gyscek]

Tania Dufour [requested by Maria Gyscek]

Steve Jaffe, Jimmy, Richard & George Mengert Bruce Logan, Betty Perlish, Alex Hegarty, Bob Widmer,

Carmine Colasanto, [requested by Carolyn Gabelman]

Deirdre Reilly, Jeanne McCurdy, Belinda Busaca Zeitlin, Margo Naranjo [requested by Barbara English]

Mel Flaherty, Elizabeth Flaherty [requested by Amanda Flaherty]

Neil Gwinn [requested by Anastasia]

Family of Richie Cardoza [requested by Bill Moser]

Jimmy LaSurdo, David Schwack, Amanda Haeffer

Fran Favara [requested by Liz DeLuca]

Anita Ahrens, Craig Keil, Kate Furtado [requested by Janis Raineri]

Carynne Solensten [requested by Joanne Wortmann]

Sal Agnello, Charlie Macaluso [requested by Jane DeRosa]

Lyla Suffis [requested by Jen & Brett Suffis]

Karen Crimi, Jeffrey Gilmore, Rev. Wayne Gollenberg, Barbara McCanlis [requested by Jill Breimann]

Pastor Rebecca Pollicino, Ruth Clark

Stu Souza, Micelle Dozier-Morgan [requested by Mary Fjellstad]

Carolyn Martin [requested by Linda Overton]

James Riley [requested by Lita Riley]

Marissa Evers, Lauren Cravotta [requested by Joe & Margie Costello]

Rev. Margaret Casses, Jeff Taylor [requested by Fred Swanson]

The family of Robert Grisafi [requested by Colleen Donohue]

Mary Ellen Tiffany, Don Cimato [requested by the Klouda Family]

Bobby Hazen, James Pallazzo, Don Spagna, Rose Marie Peragine, Amy Jane McGlynn, Richard Lewis,

Rocky Cinque [requested by Marianne Spagna]

Judy Daley, Jennifer Meisenkothen, Rachel Boccio, John Sullivan [requested by Dorothy & Jim Clavell]

Carolyn Bennett [requested Jill Spage]

Arthur Schaeffler [requested by the Poulos Family]

Nancy M., Judy Zimmerman, Brett D, [requested by Cindy Davis]

Emilie Diehl [requested by daughters Cyndie & Kathy]

Emily Richardson, Betsy Johnsrud, Laura Hicks, Andrew Madarasz, [requested by Leslee & Steve Mathieson]

Marilyn Havighorst [requested by Martha Hahn]

Andy Hazin & the Hazin family, Ilse Gunther [requested by the Hoffman family]

David Travis [requested by Richard Travis]

THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE:

Sgt Eric Hodosky, Lt Col Lenore Livingston née Fortin, Corporal August Detting,

LT Col William Fortin, Sgt Jack Dougherty, Sgt Jasmine Dougherty