

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE - 9:30 PM  
December 24, 2023



# St. Matthew

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

CENTERED IN CHRIST  
Celebrating Love • Serving All

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Facebook: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover PA

Instagram: @stmatthanover

Livestream Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthewLutheranChurchHanoverPA>

Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. We have more information for you to read in the bulletin insert and on the welcome sheet in the pew. We're excited about the many ministries of St. Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

**Please tear off and put in the offering basket as you leave:**

Names of everyone attending **December 24 at 9:30 p.m.:**

Would you like to be added to our email list? **Please list your name and email address:**

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+ Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

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PRELUDE

*Mary Did You Know?*  
Madison Maloney, Soloist

Lowry/Greene

*Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow*  
Owen Dozier, Soloist

arr. Schrader

*All is Well*  
St. Matthew Ringers with Nicole Gross, Flute

arr. Christopher

WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Isaiah 9:2, John 1:1,14)

Pastor: The impossible is about to happen in a stable.  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

**All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has the light shined!**

Pastor: This is the evening when creation stood still and held its  
breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous  
thing.

**All: This is the evening when God embraced humanity from the  
inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

**All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth. Amen!**

**CAROL*****O Come, All Ye Faithful*****Wade/Oakeley**

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



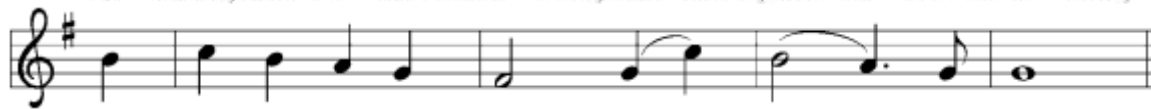
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**REETING**

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

**All: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

## CAROL

### *Love Has Come*

### Bible/Sequin



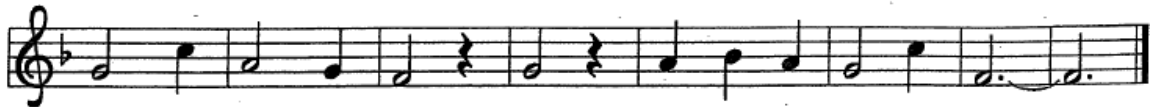
1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**FIRST LESSON:****OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE****Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Lector: A reading from the 9th chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>His 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***Sing Noel: A Christmas Fanfare***  
**Adult Choir**

**arr. Althouse**

**Text:** Sing Noel, our voices now we raise. We celebrate this day of days.

Sing Noel upon the mountains high for Christmas Day is drawing nigh.

Sing we now with a gladsome voice; let humankind now all rejoice.

Sing we now with a song of cheer, for Christmas Day is drawing near.

Sing Noel in dulci jubilo, with voices strong and hearts aglow.

Sing Noel and let the trumpet sound. O, hear the joyous music all around.

Joy to all, let the nations rise and join the triumph of the skies.

Shout the news, let the bells all chime. Goodwill to all this Christmas time.

Sing Noel in perfect harmony. Let love come down for all to see.

Sing Noel in voices clear and bright. Remember now that Christmas night!

**HOLY GOSPEL:****JESUS IS BORN****Luke 2:1-7**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

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

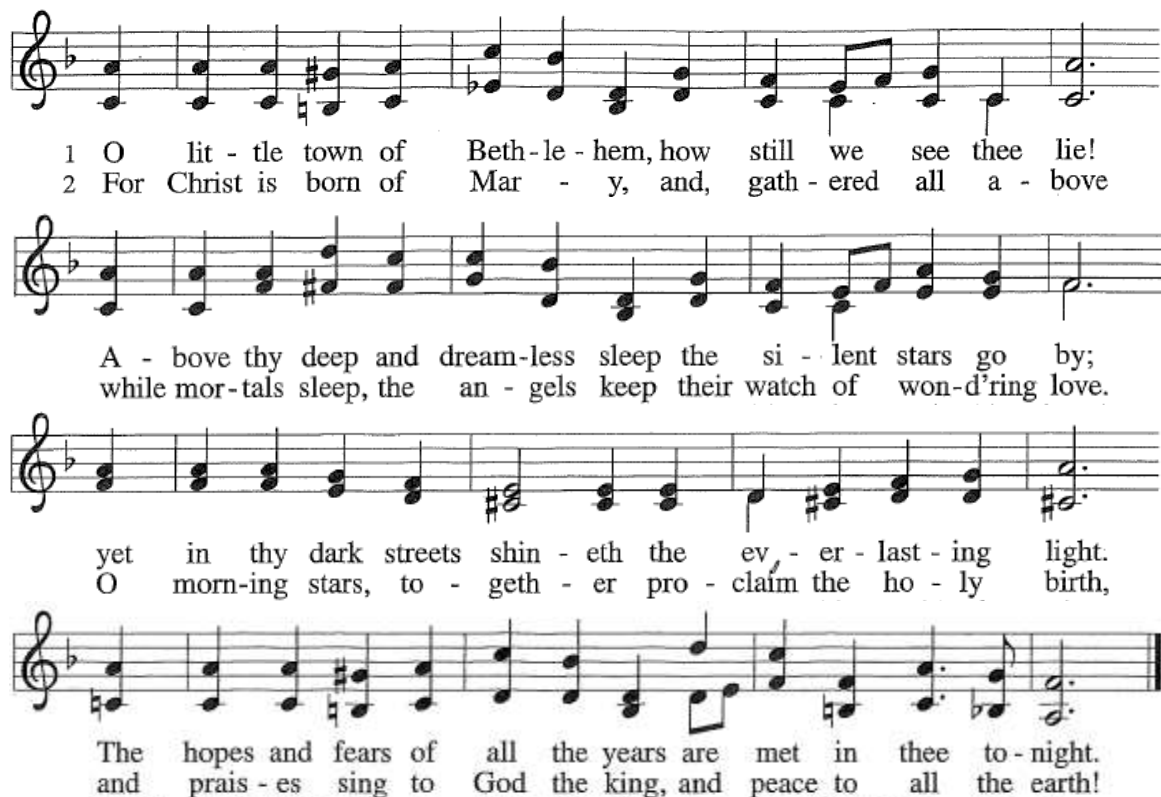
<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken

while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

# **CAROL**

# ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**Brooks/Redner**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

## **THE ANGELS BRING GOOD NEWS**

**Luke 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,

and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**CAROL**

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

**Hemy/arr. Barnes**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

*Refrain*  
Glo ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.



**THE HOLY GOSPEL: THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER****Luke 2:15-18**

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL*****Angels We Have Heard on High*****Hemy/arr. Barnes**

2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

*(Continued next page)*



**THE HOLY GOSPEL: MARY TREASURES THESE WORDS Luke 2:19-20**

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

**THE MESSAGE *Where Christmas Begins* Pastor Kathy Vitalis Hoffman**

**CAROL *What Child Is This* Dix**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

**PRAYERS** Each petition concludes, *“Hear us, O God.”* and the congregation responds, *“Your mercy is great.”*

**PEACE**

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

**All: And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words “Peace be with you,” and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)*

**ANTHEM**

***Christmas Lullaby  
(I Will Lead You Home)***

**Eaton/Grant/arr. Huff**

**Adult Choir**

**Text:** Are you far away from home this dark and lonely night?  
Tell me what best would help to ease your mind;  
Someone to give direction for this unfamiliar road,  
Or one who says “Follow me and I will lead you home?”  
How beautiful, how precious the Savior of old,  
To love so completely the loneliest soul.  
How gently, how tenderly He says to one and all,  
“Child you can follow Me and I will lead you home.  
Trust me and follow Me and I will lead you home.”  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**OFFERTORY**

***What Child Is This***

**Dix**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. God of abundance,

**All: receive and bless the gifts we have offered.**

**Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world**

**the abundance of your grace upon grace,**

**poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in several ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.*

**Individual packets** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

**If you are unable to come forward**, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

**Continuous manner** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it.

**Children who do not yet receive communion** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

## IN-PEW COMMUNION

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Eat wafer*)

(*Pause*)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen.** (*Drink wine*)

## MUSICAL OFFERING

### ***The Majestic Manger***

**Barrett/Steele**

#### **Adult Choir with Deb Smith, Director**

**Text:** As a baby in a manger, as a star to warm the night,  
As a song to fill our silent hearts, a voice of love and light;  
As a healer sent from heaven, as a lamb to take our sin,  
As a royal risen Savior, may His kingdom never end!

Crown Him King, crown Him Lord, Crown Him sov'reign, high above.  
Love has come, hope has won, grace has triumphed, life has begun.

Lord, you left Your throne and Your golden crown,  
When You came to the earth for me; but in lowly birth  
You came down to earth, and in great humility.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.

Prince of Peace, Your word is faithful, all Your promises are true.  
 Take our lives and make them holy, give us strength to follow you.  
 How majestic is the manger that brought wonder to the night.  
 For it gave to us a Savior, a King of love and light!

## COMMUNION CAROL

## *On Christmas Night*

## Wadding



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and  
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.  
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.  
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**All: Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

## CAROL

### *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

Mohr/Young/Gruber



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, born! sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## BLESSING

Pastor: God bless you and keep you,

✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

All: Amen.

## SENDING CAROL

### *Joy to the World*

Watts/Mason



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



**DISMISSAL:**

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*

*OUR WARM THANKS* to all those assisting in our worship services this evening:

- Musicians.....Madison Maloney and Owen Dozier, Soloists**  
**St. Matthew Ringers with Nicole Gross, Flute and Sue Gross, Director**  
**Adult Choir with Deb Smith, Director**  
**Daniel Deitzel III, Organist**
- Altar Guild ..... Anna Marchio, Judy Porowski**
- Communion Assistants..... Carolyn Markle, Walt Porowski**
- Communion Preparers ..... Sally Staub**
- Couriers ..... Carolyn Markle, Walt Porowski**
- Greeters.....Steve & Penny Rutters, Vicki Wildasin**
- Live Stream ..... Tom & Susie Shultz**
- Ushers..... Jay Bowersox, Jim Menges, John Frederick and Irvin Sowers Jr.**

*We wish you and your family a joyous and blessed Christmas and  
prosperous New Year! We thank you for all you do to make our  
community of faith a wonderful place to work and be.*

*The Staff of St. Matthew*

## **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231

*pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org*

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor

Rev. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Interim Teaching Pastor

*PastorMark@CrossMarks.com*

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230, *youth@stmattlutheran.org*,

Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, ext. 229

*msmith@stmattlutheran.org*

Doris Deitzel, Pastoral Assistant, ext. 225, *ddeitzel@stmattlutheran.org*

Deb Smith, Interim Youth and Adult Music Ministry Leader,

*musicmama1@comcast.net*

Lindsay Amspacher, Interim Children's Music Ministry Leader,

*Lindsay.amspacher@gmail.com*

Scott Fredericks, Minister of Music, Emeritus

**A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME** to all our visitors this evening. We hope you find this service meaningful and filled with all the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are invited to join us every weekend as we come together for worship and fellowship. Our Saturday service is at 5:00 p.m. and our Sunday services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with Faith Connections at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For December 31, there will be one service at 9:30 a.m.

**THE MORAVIAN STAR** over our manger has its origin in Germany and symbolizes the star that the magi used to find their way to Bethlehem in order to adore the Christ Child. This symbol is left hanging during the Epiphany season which draws together the themes of the birth of Jesus Christ bringing light into the darkness, the coming of the Magi, and Jesus' first miracle in Cana of Galilee.





**POINSETTIA LISTS** are available in the back of the church and on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place. Thank you to everyone who sponsored poinsettias. After the costs of the plants are met, the money will go to support ELCA Good Gifts.

*We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents and treasures shared with one another. We ask that you would donate as you feel comfortable by leaving physical offerings in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website.*



*Scan for  
e-giving*