



The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org

Holy Infant so Tender and Mild

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.

A famous theologian once said, “We are to think of the Lord’s birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze.” It’s not that Christ the Savior was born. It’s that Christ the Savior is born.

Restrooms are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

LARGE PRINT copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Pastor Aaron Winkelman

Preacher

Pastor Aaron Winkelman

Organist

Amy Balza / David Porth

Cantor

Micah Vanderhoof

Instrumentalists

Jon Balza, Ethan Balza, Allie Bauer, Adele Faust,
Dominic Faust, JJ Faust, Ethan Ganshow, Keith Gennerman,
Noel Iles, Ethan Klein, Samuel Lyon, Heidi Margulius, Elise Mayer,
Keagan Mayer, Sarah Mayer, Kellan O’Connell, Pat Renner, Micah Vanderhoof

The Service, Setting Five

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Christmas Day Dialogue

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Our eyes have seen his salvation, which he prepared in the sight of all nations.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord, **and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Being in very nature God, he did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354

The Choir will sing stanza three.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 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, to earth he comes!
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
 On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
 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!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

Christmas Day Introit

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Dominion is on his shoulder and his name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel. (Isaiah 9:6)

Psalm 98

*1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.*

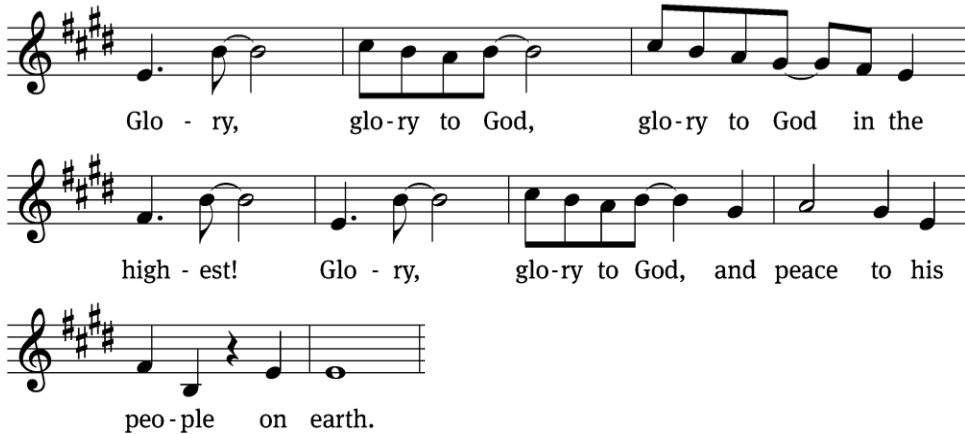
*2. The Lord has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel.*

*3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Glory to God in the Highest

The Cantor will sing the verses.



Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer, receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. *Refrain*

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”
Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

For Unto Us a Child is Born
George Frideric Handel

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

-Isaiah 9:6

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Galatians 4:4,5

Refrain

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

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

Tone

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,

born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those un - der the law.

Refrain

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Gospel

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358

1:All, 2:W, 3:M, 4-5:All



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
and ex - tol our God and King.
and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Sermon

Stand

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code located at the end of the bulletin or you may go to pilgrimcares.org/giving. We present the offerings before the altar as a reminder that our giving overflows out of the Gospel and is itself an act of worship.

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



- 1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
- 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
- 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent. Tune: German, 14th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain

The Sacrament

The Bible teaches that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ, and with one another, as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. With that in mind, we invite all members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to come forward. If you wish to partake of the Supper with us in the future, please speak to one of our Pastors after the service. He would be happy to help you take that step.

Stand

Preface



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of six staves of music in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly' and 'Ho - san - na in the high - est'.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est! Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

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

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

Lamb of God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, grant us your peace.

A - men.

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Be seated

Distribution

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

CW 331



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; glad ti - dings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
God for all be - low, that in his king - dom,



joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

- 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark:
the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
by whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done
in sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery,
that you might share your joy with me.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,
how weak you are, so poor and small,
that you should choose to lay your head
where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
it would be far too poor and small
a cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king, so rich and great,
to be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases you to see
this simple truth revealed to me:
that worldly honor, wealth, and might
are weak and worthless in your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
within my heart, made clean and new,
a quiet chamber kept for you.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
my lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing with joyful tongue
that sweetest ancient cradle song:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us his Son has giv'n,
while angels sing with pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann Text and tune:
Public domain

Stand

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

CW 951

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Joy to the World

CW 353



All: 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth re -
All men: 2 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
Choir: 3 Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
All: 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



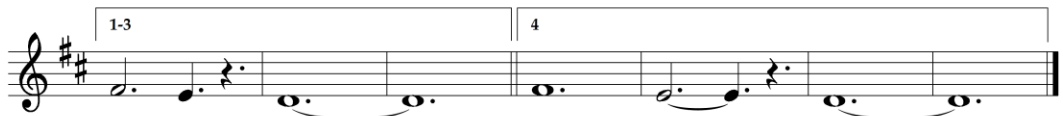
ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his
 songs em - ploy! While fields and floods, rocks,
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his



pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is found, far
 hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his love, and



heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and
 as the curse is found, far as, far as the
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders won - ders



na - ture sing!
 curse is found.
 sound - ing joy.
 of his love.

	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Ushers		
12-25	Phill Lepple & Dan Vaghar (9:00am)	
12-28	Matt Lawonn Please Volunteer	Dave Chmielewski Collin Mayer
Worship Hosts		
12-25	Joe & Marlene Bedalov (9:00am)	
12-28	Pete & Amy Kuske	Joel & Jenny Raasch



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving. Save the check – give online!

Acknowledgments

Setting Five from Christian Worship

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Thank you to all the families that provided poinsettias!

Gennerman, Hermanson, Kehoe, Kirchner,
Konig, Loomis, Pankow, Renner, Schmick, Winkelman

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