HOLY COMMUNION Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Handbell Choir arr. McChesney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- ▶ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

 Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, 10:30 am

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **C** Amen.
- ${\bf P}$ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

■ Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

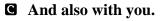
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Stand

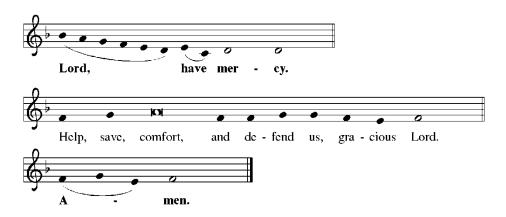
GREETING

 \mathbf{P} The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

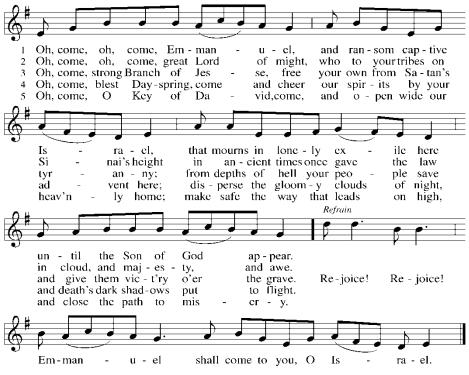
C Amen.

Sit LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.

HYMN: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Immanuel (Stanza(s) 1, 2, and 3)



CHILDREN'S SERMON

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

A reading from Isaiah.
 ¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert: ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM LUKE 1:46B-55 (*The congregation sings the verses in bold face type.*)

⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁵who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them; who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

⁶who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,

and food to | those who hunger.

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;

the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

⁸the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way \mid of the wicked.

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

A reading from James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Congregation sings Alleluia:



I am sending my messen- | ger before you, Who will prepare your | way before you.

Congregation repeats Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater

than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sit SERMON

Pastor Weleck

Stand HYMN OF THE DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway

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The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

NICENE CREED

- ▶ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- 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

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- ▲ We give you thanks, O Lord, and praise your holy name, for you are good and your mercy endures forever. You create us, and you sustain us. You redeem us and you sanctify us. You give bread for the body and you refresh our souls with your life-giving Spirit. You take away the burden of our sins, comfort us in every sorrow, and bless us with more than we can ask or think. To you be glory in the church forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- A We pray for the church, for its pastors and bishops, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace. Lord, in your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- ▲ We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
- **G** hear our prayer.

▲ We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- **G** Amen.

PEACE

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** 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.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Sit OFFERING

ANTHEM: Advent Promise Jeanne Funk. Flute Schram

Stand

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER A Let us pray...Merciful Father,

G we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

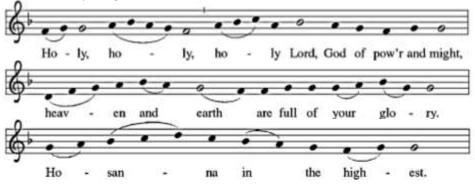
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:

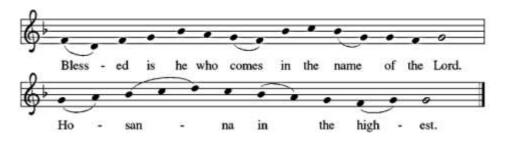


The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

■ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly sings the SANCTUS:





The minister continues with the WORDS OF INSTITUTION, usually included in a Eucharistic Prayer.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

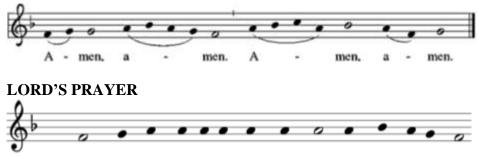
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my + blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



P Lord, re-mem-ber us in your king-dom and teach us to pray.





INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Sit

COMMUNION

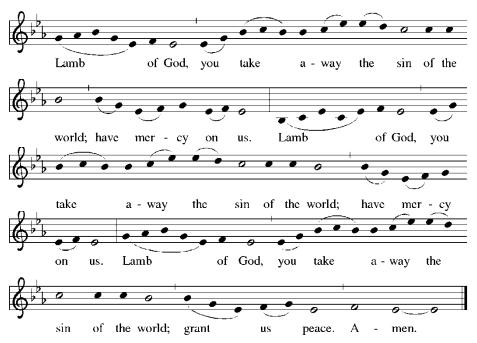
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. and each person may respond The blood of Christ, shed for you.

R Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to kneel at the altar rail for a blessing. The Body of Christ is received in the palm of the hand. The Blood of Christ is poured into a small glass which should be picked up on the way to the altar rail.

Music during the Communion: LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION HYMN: Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



- 5 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, and take the pledges of salvation here.
- 6 He who his saints in this world rules and shields, to all believers life eternal yields,
- 7 With heav'nly bread makes those who hunger whole, gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
- 8 The judge eternal, unto whom shall bow all nations at the last, is with us now.

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- **C** Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Comfort Comfort Ye My People

Pachelbel

+ + +

The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

A Hymn of Praise is not appropriate during Advent because of the season's preparatory nature.

The liturgical color blue, symbolic of hope, is used for the Advent season.

Vestry Members	Special Area	Home Phone	E-mail Address	
Gary Wessner	President/Property	610-454-0106	gtwess@comcast.net	
Richard Allebach	Vice President	610-948-3488	dallebach@verizon.net	
Brian O'Hara	Secretary/Worship & Music	610-489-0417	brian.ohara24@gmail.com	
Cynthia Snyder	Treasurer/Mutual Ministry	610-409-8333	yosua@aol.com	
Jeanne Funk	Comm. & Tech.	610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com	
John Kochel	Outreach/Mutual Min.	484-945-0100	John.Kochel@thrivent.com	
Janice Reiff	anice Reiff Parish Life		janicetreiff@gmail.com	
Janet Stokes	Parish Life	610-948-8554	sjastokes@aol.com	
Deb Augustine	Christian Education	610-489-3869	Anniedwebb@verizon.net	
Bob Rodenberger	RodenbergerTrust Fund Treasurer610-489-3280r.rc		r.rodenberger7@gmail.com	
Jack Schatz	chatz <i>Old Church</i> 610-489-3176			
Karl Stefan	rl Stefan Cemetery/Mutual Ministry 610-454-0373 kssur		kssurf@verizon.net	

Assisting in the Service

Altar Servers: Ben Richvalsky and Ally Napier

Ushers: 8:00 am: Members of the 8:00 am Usher Team

10:30 am: Michael Beattie, David Halteman, Scott Halteman, and Richard Allebach

Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller 10:30 am: Sean McClain and Barbara Burch

Communion Assistants: 8:00 am: Debra Augustine

10:30 am: Bob Rodenberger and Janice Reiff

Offering Tabulation: Debra Augustine, Karl Stefan, and Jeanne Funk Altar Guild: 8:00 am Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Donna and Joe Cooney

<u>The Sanctuary Lamp Candle</u> is given to the glory of God by Shirley Latshaw in loving memory of parents, Howard and Emma Ziegler and Frank and Mildred Latshaw.

<u>The Altar Flowers in the Upper Nave</u> are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Allebach in loving memory of the December 15 birthday anniversary of Mother, Blanche J. Allebach.

<u>The Centervase Flowers in the Upper Nave</u> are given in loving memory of D. R. DeWane, Jr., from his family.

<u>The Wreaths</u> that adorn the church doors and windows are given to the glory of God by the Holcome family in memory of loved ones.

<u>Altar Guild Needs Your Assistance!</u> No experience necessary. We fill the candles with oil, the pitchers with wine, and put flowers in the vases. We work in partners and serve two or three times in a year. Please call Donna Beishl at 610-350-0238 to have any questions about this function answered.

<u>Christmas Pageant:</u> Please plan to attend our Sunday school's Christmas pageant on December 18th at 10:30 a.m. The children have been working hard and are looking forward to telling the story of Christmas!

Parents of children aged three through sixth grade: Please feel free to relax in the Fellowship Hall with coffee and other parents while your children are in Sunday school. Or, join the adult Bible study class that meets during the Sunday school hour. Take-home activity pages are available at the registration desk so that you can reinforce the story with your children at home and the Spark Bible, with all our Sunday school stories, is available for purchase at

https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/8122/Spark-Story-Bible-Sunday-School-Edition.

Social Ministry Committee - Hat and Glove Tree:

We will again be collecting winter hats and gloves for Silver Springs Martin Luther School. At the request of school personnel, please no hand knitted or crocheted items and no scarves or mittens. Sizes range from Age 7 through adult. Please place your donations on the Christmas tree in the lower narthex. Thank you!

<u>A Big Shout Out to our Augustus Family.</u> We sold about 105 dozen cookies for our Senior High Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser this year. Thank you to all the youth and parents who baked all these delicious cookies, and those who assembled the plates, wrapped the plates and delivered and sold the cookies. We have an AMAZING church Family here at Augustus. So very proud to be a part of it. Enjoy the rest of the Holiday season.

<u>Thank you for your generosity!</u> Our annual Toy Drive for Silver Springs/Martin Luther School was a great success. The ladies were able to deliver a carload of gifts to this worthwhile organization. Thank you! <u>Shut In Fruit Baskets:</u> On Saturday, DECEMBER 17th at 10:00 a.m. volunteers are needed to help with Augustus' shut-ins baskets. Volunteers are needed to purchase fruit (a day ahead), wrap and deliver baskets for Augustus shut-in members living in their homes and in nursing and retirement homes. Baskets without handles, holly berry sprigs to decorate baskets, Christmas wrapping paper, stiff clear plastic wrapping, etc., will be needed for the fruit baskets. Your contribution to this effort will be much appreciated. Thank you. Fran Ivarson for WELCA

<u>Girls Night Out – Monday, December 19!!</u> Take a break from Christmas preparations and come and enjoy a relaxing evening of painting and socializing. You will go home with a beautiful painting of a winter scene. Artistic talent NOT required! We will begin at 6:30 pm at Painting with a Twist, 70 Buckwalter Rd #411, Royersford, (484) 450-6972. This is in the Limerick Square Shopping Center across from Texas Roadhouse. The price is \$35. Seating is limited. Please call or email Deb Scholl by December 14 at (610) 409-1950 or schollde@aol.com for further information and to reserve your spot! Sponsored by WELCA but open to all over the age of 13. Ages 14 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. www.paintingwithatwist.com/roversford

<u>Can the Senior Youth Group help you?</u> The Senior group goes on a Mission trip every year during the summer. During these trips we do service projects for families in need. We realize that we don't have to travel in order to help those in need. If you have a service project that our youth could assist in, please let us know. Please send your request to <u>youth@augustustrappe.org</u>. We are looking to do 3-5 projects throughout the year. Any materials needed would have to be purchased by those for whom we are doing the work. The labor and supervision will be provided by the youth group. Once requests are made, we will determine which projects we are able to do.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS				
Sunday	12/11	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel	
		9:00 am	Sunday School	
		9:00 am	Sunday School Parent Fellowship	
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study	
		10:30 am	Holy Communion in the Upper Nave	
Monday	12/12			
Tuesday	12/13	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts	
		7:00 pm	Community Club	
Wednesday	12/14	8:30 am	MOPS	
		9:30 am	Soup Kitchen Outreach	
		6:00 pm	3-in-1 Confirmation Classes	
Thursday	12/15	7:00 pm	Adult Choir	
Friday	12/16	12:30 pm	MOPS Christmas Party	
		7:00 pm	Pack Meeting	
Saturday	12/17	10:00 am	WELCA Christmas Baskets	
Sunday	12/18	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel	
		9:00 am	Sunday School & Parent Fellowship	
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study	
		10:30 am	The Service in the Upper Nave	
			Children's Christmas Pageant	
		1:00 pm	Living Nativity Practice	
			Sr. Youth Christmas Party	

Christmas Services:

December 24	5:00 PM	Family Service of Lessons and Carols with Living Nativity in the Old Trappe Church
	7:00 PM	Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols in the Old Trappe Church
	9:00 PM	Holy Communion Service with Carols and Candlelight in the Brick Church
December 25	No Services	s on Christmas Day.
January 1	9:30 AM	Lessons and Carols Service

2016 Christmas Poinsettias

POINSE	ETTIAS CAN NOW BE ORDERED FOR CHRISTMAS! Please include payment with your order.
	Make checks payable to: AUGUSTUS FLOWER FUND
Mail to:	Karen Lachenmayer
	412 Dartmoor Road
	Schwenksville, Pa. 19473
Phone:	610-287-2827
E-mail:	kal412@comcast.net
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	ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 11, 2016
	ORDER DEADERVE. Sunday, December 11, 2010
	POINSETTIA ORDER FORM
NAME	
COLOR	QUANTITY TOTAL \$
RED	@ \$9.50 ea
WHITE	@ \$9.50 ea
× .	
Check On	
	will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24.
Pl	ease distribute my plants to others.
I would lik	ke the bulletin acknowledgement to read: