## **HOLY COMMUNION Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2017** 

10:30 am

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

#### SILENT PRAYER

**PRELUDE:** Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Brahms

(Behold, a Rose Breaks into Bloom)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

**HYMN:** Prepare the Royal Highway

# 264

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

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

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the 

  → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P 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, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Kneel/Stand

- **P** 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.

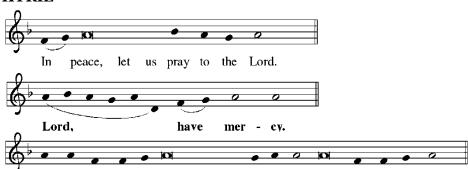
  Amen.
- P In the mercy of almighty God,
  Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
  and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
  As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
  and by his authority,
  I therefore declare to you
  the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
  in the name of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

## Stand

#### **GREETING**

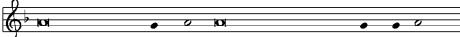
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.





For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

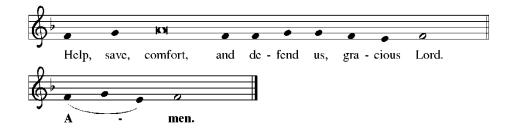




For this ho-ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,







#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, 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

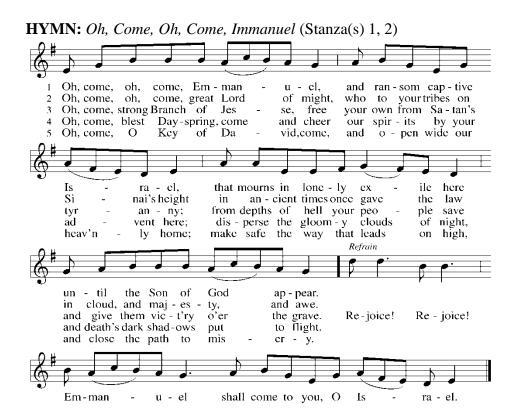
P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

## **G** Amen.



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

**A** reading from Isaiah.

 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

# PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (The congregation sings the verses in bold face type.)

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people and blotted out | all their sins.

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him, that his glory may dwell | in our land.

- <sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have | met together; righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup>Truth shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.
- <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall | go before him, and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

#### SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

## **A** reading from Second Peter.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and

the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation sings Alleluia:



## Choir sings the Verse:



Prepare the way | of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God

## Congregation repeats Alleluia.



GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

- P The holy gospel according to Mark.
- **☑** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Sit

**SERMON** 

Pastor Weleck

#### Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

# 249

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**

- P 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,

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.

and his kingdom will have no end.

#### 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.
- A Gracious Lord, stir up your church to repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and prepare for us the highway of your arrival. Baptize us with the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit that we may be free from

- sin's alloy. Lord, in your mercy,
- **G** 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,
- **G** hear our prayer.
- Me 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.
- Me 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,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- Me 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,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

#### **PEACE**

- **P** The peace of the Lord 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.

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

## Sit

#### **OFFERING**

**ANTHEM:** Comfort Ye/Every Valley

Handel

Matt Valent, Tenor Tracey Richvalsky, Piano

## Stand

## **OFFERTORY**



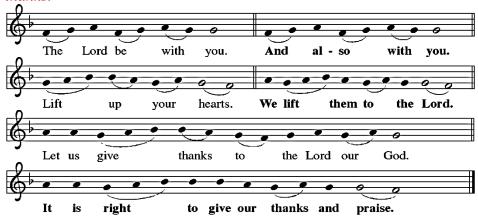


#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

- **A** Let us pray...Merciful Father,
- 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**

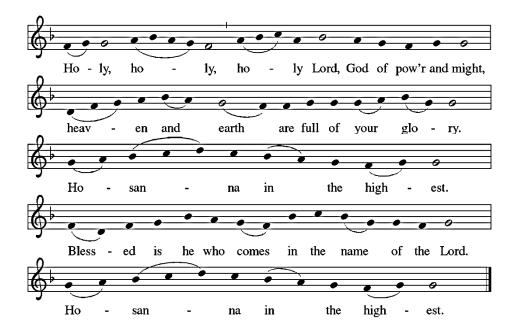
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

P 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.



P 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.

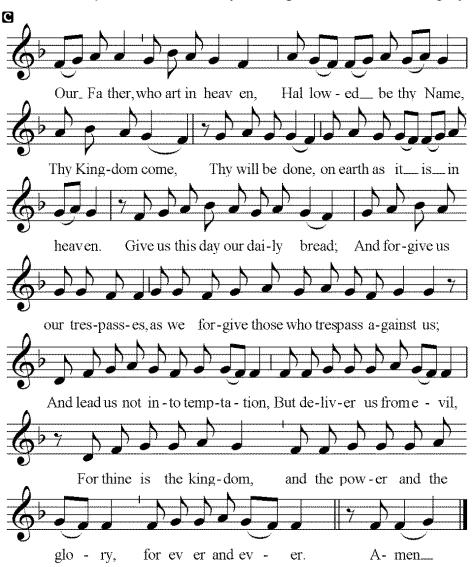
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



#### **LORD'S PRAYER**



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



#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P 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.
- C 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.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

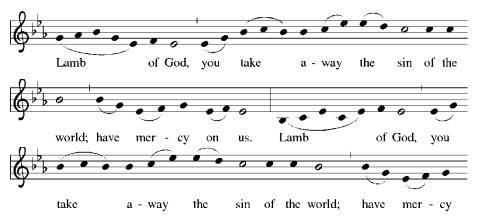
and each person may respond

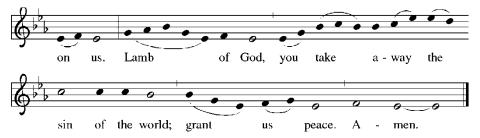
Amen.

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:** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

# 256

#### Stand

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

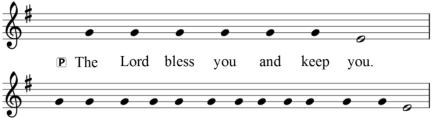
**A** Let us pray.

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.

## **SENDING**

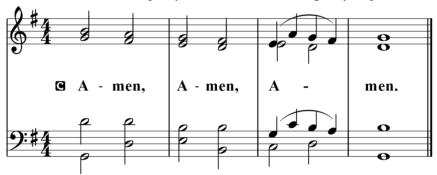
## **BLESSING (BENEDICTION)**



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and +give you peace.



#### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**☑** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN:** *Joy to the World* 

# 267

POSTLUDE: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Archer

+ + +

**Thank you to Matt Valent,** who is serving as our organist in Laurie's absence this morning. Matt is a retired music teacher from the PV School District, and has been serving as our tenor section leader since September. Until last spring, he was also the Organist/Choir Director at Grace Lutheran in Royersford.

**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
Janice Reiff	Treasurer	610-385-7493	janicetreiff@gmail.com
Frank DePaul	Property Committee	215-669-0677	fvdp52@gmail.com
Jeanne Funk	Comm. & Tech.	610-792-3830	jfunk@kpinterface.com
John Kochel	Outreach/Mutual Min.	484-945-0100	John.Kochel@thrivent.com
Janet Stokes	Parish Life	610-948-8554	sjastokes@aol.com
Debra Augustine	Christian Education/Mutual Ministry	610-489-3869	Anniedwebb@verizon.net
Bob Rodenberger	Trust Fund Treasurer	610-489-3280	r.rodenberger7@gmail.com
Jack Schatz	Old Church	610-489-3176	
Karl Stefan	Cemetery/Mutual Ministry	610-454-0373	kssurf@verizon.net

## **Assisting in the Service:**

Acolyte: Samuel Dogonniuck Crucifer: Shayna King

Lectors: 8:00 am: Mike Van Blaricum

10:30 am: Jim Lien, and Jeannie Funk

Greeters: John and Dot Moorehead Ushers: 8:00 am: The Usher Team

10:30 am: Mike Beattie, Dave Halteman, Dick Allebach, and

Scott Halteman

Communion Assistants: 8:00 am: Debra Augustine

10:30 am: Janice Reiff and Sonya Sowards

Altar Guild: 8:00 am: Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Joe and Donna Cooney

Offering Tabulation: Debra Augustine, Karl Stefan, and Jeannie Funk

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Patrick and Anita North in honor of daughter Lily's birthday.

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

<u>The Center Vase on the Altar</u> is given to the glory of God in loving memory of D. R. DeWane, Jr. from his family.

<u>The Sanctuary 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 Wreaths that adorn the church doors</u> are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe Family in memory of loved ones.

Adult Bible Study is held at 9:15 am in the Church Library each Sunday. ALL ARE WELCOME! Refreshments will be served! Questions? Contact Janice Reiff at janicetreiff@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS				
Sunday	12/10	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel	
		8:45 am	Cookie Sale Pick Up	
		9:00 am	Sunday School	
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study	
		10:30 am	Holy Communion in the Brick Church Nave	
		11:30 am	Cookie Sale Pick Up	
Monday	12/11			
Tuesday	12/12	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts	
		7:00 pm	Community Club	
Wednesday	12/13	9:30 am	Soup Kitchen	
_		6:00 pm	3-in-1 Confirmation Classes	
Thursday	12/14	6:00 pm	Bell Choir	
		7:00 pm	Adult Choir	
Friday	12/15	6:00 pm	Pinewood Derby Workshop	
Saturday	12/16	9:30 am	Fruit Basket Assembly	
		3:00 pm	Augustus Christmas Concert	
Sunday	12/17	8:00 am	Holy Communion in the Chapel	
		9:00 am	Sunday School	
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study	
		10:30 am	Holy Communion in the Brick Church Nave	
			Sunday School Christmas Pageant	
		1:00 pm	Living Nativity Practice	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! We will dedicate the new meeting space and Elevator on April 15, 2018. Details to come, but mark your calendar now to make sure you join us!

Hats and Gloves Tree: We are again collecting hats and gloves for the children and teenagers at Silver Springs Martin Luther School. Please decorate the tree in the atrium with your donation. As per school personnel please no mittens or scarves. Also they regret that they are unable to accept hand knit or crocheted items. Donations will be accepted through December 31 and will be delivered to the school in early January.

<u>Volunteers Are Needed:</u> to assembly fruit baskets for Shut-In Augustus members on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. We will hold this event in the Recreation Hall (the large room in the basement under Fellowship Hall). This is the same location we used last year. We will need volunteers to fill baskets with fruit, as well as to deliver the baskets to Augustus members living in nursing homes or at home. These are members that can no longer attend church. This annual service is much appreciat4ed by the basket recipients. They enjoy visiting with us at this time of year.

<u>Many Thanks</u> to all the Augustus Members that contributed a toy/toys for the children living in the Martin Luther Silver Springs School in Plymouth Meeting. Augustus Members have been most generous. We filled a "Forester" with Christmas Cheer! Thank you!

Notice from your Cemetery Committee: In order to keep pace with inflation, anticipate increased maintenance costs, and provide for the future care of our cemetery, please know that effective January 1, 2018, the cost of graves spaces will be \$620 each for members and \$1,550 each for non-members."

2018 Stewardship Campaign Update						
	Commitment Cards	Dollar Amount				
Total Possible	272	\$235,000				
Received as of 12/6/17	75	\$122,895				
<b>Amount Outstanding</b>	197	\$112,105				

## **2017 Christmas Poinsettias**

POINSETTIAS 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: 610-715-4850

**NAME** 

E-mail: kal412@comcast.net

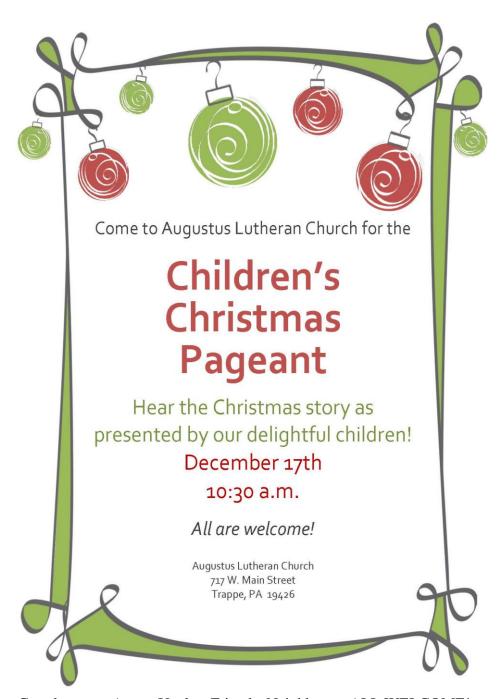


ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, December 10, 2017

## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

COLOR	QUANTITY	TO	TAL\$		
RED	@	\$10.00 ea			
WHITE	@ \$10	.00 ea			
Ple	e: vill take my plan ease distribute m te the bulletin ac	y plants to ot	hers.	vice 12/24.	
			_		
			_		





Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Friends, Neighbors - ALL WELCOME!