

St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



158 Fish Hill Road
PO Box 196
Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372
Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org
Parish Administrator's Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.
Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals
Christian Education: Sunday's at 10:15 A.M.
Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family?

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION. . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Rashion Santiago (Pastor Woody)

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2022 Council Members

Grant Allen

Dawn Bartron

Bill Below

Chris Kinsley Sr.

Nicole Kresge

Carl Reindl

Deb Storman

Beth Werkheiser

Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>

Worship Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

**Please Stand, if you are able.*

Chimes (Call to Worship)

Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship

We gather in preparation

For good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

For joy is about to explode in our midst.

We gather in celebration

For we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God.

With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

*Confession

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

We confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace, O God. Instill within us your peace and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to be more peaceful so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

Amen.

***Absolution**

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Sharing of Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with one another. *Please stay in your pew area and share a sign of peace and greeting with one another.*

***Kyrie**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

Amen.

Christ, Be Our Light verse 4



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

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. *(Isaiah 9:2)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. *(The 1st candle is lit.)*

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will not forsake them. *(Isaiah 42:16)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord *(The 2nd candle is lit.)*

The Lord says to his servant, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." *(Isaiah 49:6)*

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord *(The 3rd candle is lit.)*

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. *(Isaiah 58:8)*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord *(The 4th candle is lit.)*

(Sing the refrain to "Christ Be Our Light")

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

² **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

¹⁷ **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

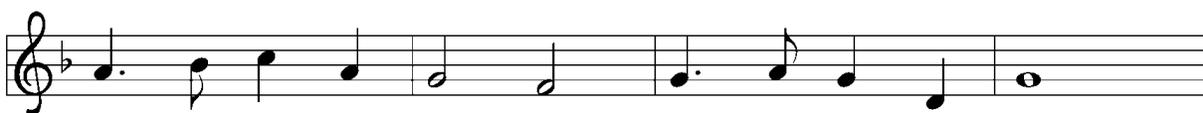
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but he knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

***The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, hear as your people offer their concerns and joys. *Pause.* God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

***Offering Prayer**

Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise.

***Proper Preface**

It is indeed right our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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

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

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

*Table Blessing

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

Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Choir

*Blessing

Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him, the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Love Has Come

*Sending Hymn



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!

*Choral Benediction



May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
_____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
_____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS017969.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Christmas Eve's Readings:

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Christmas Day Readings:

Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19
Genesis 22: 15-18
Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7
Isaiah 11: 1-9
Luke 1: 26-35, 38
Luke 2: 1, 3-7
Luke 2: 8-16
Matthew 2: 1-12
John 1: 1-14



Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgt. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Diane Berner; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Sue Felker; Jamie Fisher; Paul Frantz; Todd & Anna Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Tim Grover; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Rick Hamlet & family; Kim Harper; Harrison Herzberg; Matt Herzberg; Scott Heykoop; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Kris Kent; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Joeann Lance; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Louise Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Claudette Segear; Vaughn Sensinger; Phyllis Sensinger; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Kamia Taylor; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Steve Widgett; Alice Weaver; Harry Weaver; the Williams family; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; Pastor Woody; Carolyn Zacharias; for the families and victims of the mass shootings; for all of those struggling with addictions; for all who are traveling; for the people of Ukraine; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Please leave requests and/or updates in the basket labeled "Prayer Requests" located in the church office. Please renew your request monthly if you or your loved one is still in need of our prayers. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong.



As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

Christ's Café – December 21st – 4:30-6:00pm

This month's community meal is ham, candied sweet potatoes, peas & carrots, applesauce and a roll. This is a free meal, but donations are accepted. There will be special music that evening also!

Inside Out Church – Wednesday at 6:30pm dinner included!

Join us each Wednesday evening for a delicious meal full of fellowship and then an in-depth discussion of a scripture passage led by Pastor Woody. The discussion reveals a deeper understanding of the scriptures and how it can guide us through our lives and grow our spiritual being.

Mitten Tree

It is that time of year when we are all once again getting ready for the special night that our Savior was born. While you are doing whatever special holiday traditions you and your family do, take some time to think of those less fortunate. Once again, we will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to keep both children and adults warm this winter. Please consider donating any or all of the items above to decorate our Mitten Tree. The tree will be up until January 8th. If you have any questions please contact Dawn Weiss. Thank you in advance.

Emergency Preparedness Team

The Team will be meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Parlor.

Today is the last day for Poinsettia orders

Christmas Schedule

December 24th Christmas Eve 7:00pm Candlelight Worship Service

December 25th Christmas Day 9:00am Service of Lessons and Carols



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

The sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful poinsettia plants this Christmas. Pastor feels safe doing this, with an artificial tree. If you would like to donate a plant in memory of or in honor of someone special or just simply to the Glory of God, please complete the form below and return it to the office no later than Sunday, December 18, 2022. Each poinsettia will be \$4.00

Your Name: _____

Phone# _____

Number of Plants: _____

Amount Attached: _____

In memory of...	In honor of...	To the Glory of God	Name(s) of those being honored