



Advent 4

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA
612 Division St. | La Crosse, WI | 608.782.3468

WWW.OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH.NET

***"Our mission is to make the love of Christ known
to all as we worship, serve and grow together."***

All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord, including ongoing work for racial equity in our Church and in the world.

Joanne Richmond, Senior Pastor—pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Sandra Schultz, WCC Coordinator—wccloset@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Mary Ender Stutesman, Music Coordinator & Organist—stuteswoman@gmail.com

Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net

Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist

Juan Fernandez, Custodian

Welcome, visitors! We're glad you are here! We hope your time with us is a blessing, and that you will come back soon.

We would like to be in touch with you! Visitors—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form (www.allarewelcome.org under the Live Stream tab) today. **Members**—you only need to fill them out once a year when you receive Holy Communion. **In addition**, use the form for prayer requests, hymn requests, to get the monthly newsletter, to give us address changes, or for any communication with the office or pastor.

If you need **hearing assistance**, ask in the church office for our special devices.

If you need **assistance with the live stream**, please call 608.782.3468 or join us on the phone live stream at 1.877.552.3468 (toll-free).

+FOR OUR WORSHIP TODAY+

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joanne Richmond

AV Team: Asa and Fox Zinniel

Communion Assistant: Sue Staples

Organist: Thomas Haag

Prayer Reader: Sue Staples

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles W. Ore

ADVENT CANDLE #4

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned.

Holy God, you sent your gift
of pure love to us.
Love descended from heaven
to be born of a virgin.
Love lay in the scratchy hay
of a manger
in a meager barn in Bethlehem.
All of your love was robed
in the delicate skin of a baby
and wrapped in swaddling clothes.
This final week of Advent,
help us to reflect on the magnitude of love
that was made manifest in Jesus.

Amen.

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
 alive in the world,
 reviving creation,
 arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

GREETING

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

And also with you.

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, amen.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Jesus, and come.
With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that binds us,
that we may receive you
in joy and serve you always,
for you live and reign with the Creator
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39—55

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUNG PERSON'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Joanne Richmond

Unexpected and Mysterious



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter
 ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of
 sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
 Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
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CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Response to each petition is from ELW #751, O Lord, Hear My Prayer.)

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God who unites us, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world.

God who creates, we praise you for the beauty surrounding us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

God who reigns, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are here. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

God who guides, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community.

God who gives us life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history.

Holy God, hear us as we sing:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

NOISY OFFERING

DIALOGUE

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 right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

COMMUNION

You may come forward for communion using the center aisle. After receiving bread from Pastor, please take an empty glass from the small table. If you prefer grape juice, take a full glass. Proceed to the person with the pouring chalice. After receiving your wine/blessing, place your empty glass in the basket you will see as you walk toward the side aisle.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

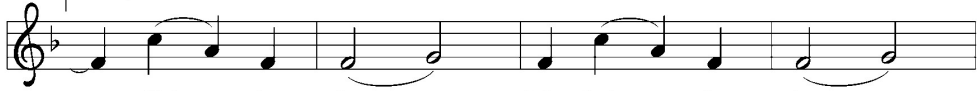


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

The King Shall Come

Charles W. Ore

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Celebrate Christmas with us at Our Savior's!

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24—7pm

Join us for a traditional candlelight service in a warm, family-friendly atmosphere. We'll celebrate the joy of Christ's birth with hymns, communion, and the soft glow of candlelight.

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday, December 25—9:30am

Come together on Christmas morning to celebrate our Savior's birth. Enjoy carols hear the Christmas story, and partake in communion. All are welcome in worship and at communion.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday

Sunday, December 29—9:30am

Wrap up the holiday season with a lighthearted worship service! Don your brightest, loudest, and most glittering Christmas sweaters as we sing, pray, and laugh together, ringing in the new year with a little "joy to the world!"

We look forward to celebrating these special sacred moments with you!

YEAR-END GIVING—HELP US FINISH 2024 STRONG!

Your generosity allows us to have a positive impact on our neighborhood, community, and the world.

For your end-of-year gifts:

- 1) Leave your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday
- 2) Use our on-line giving portal, by going to Our Savior's website: <https://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net/make-a-contribution/>
- 3) Use our secure mailing address: "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, PO Box 97, La Crosse, WI 54602-0097".

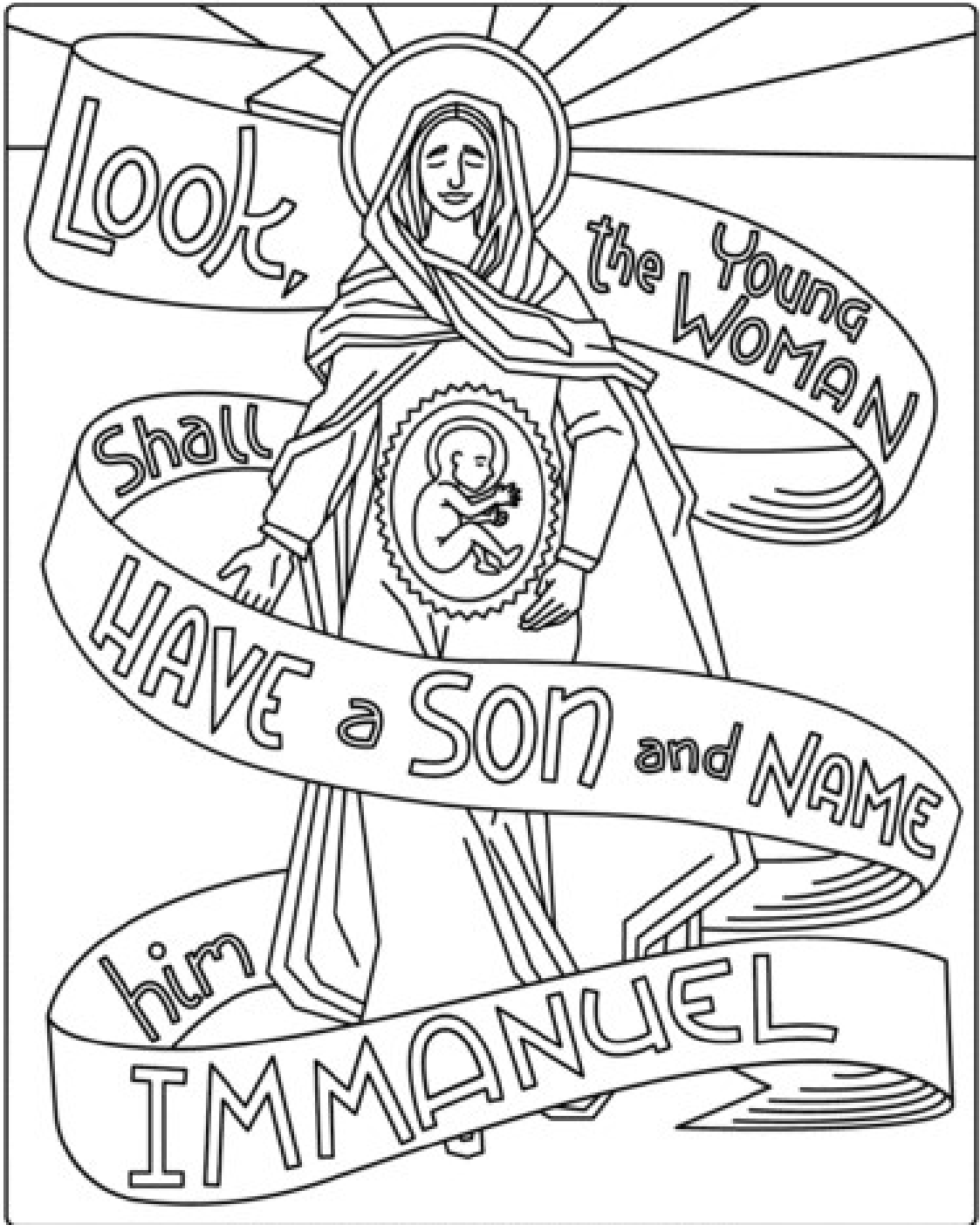
*Gifts to Our Savior's must be received by **Sunday, December 29 by 9:30am** to be included on your 2024 giving statement. Any gifts received after the 29th will be credited to your 2025 giving statement. Thank you!*

SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall

Come hear leadership reports, discuss the ministry of Our Savior's, and vote funding the 2025 budget and the ballot of individuals to serve on the church council for 2025.

*To all committee chairs and organizational presidents, please turn in your reports to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. If your committee or organization has a checkbook please include a financial report as well. Thank you!*



OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

POST ON A FRIG, NEAR A PHONE, ON AN ALTAR AND ANY OTHER SACRED PLACE

CALENDAR

Advent 4—Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Monday

9am—1pm Office Open
10am—12 noon Gas Vouchers

Tuesday—Christmas Eve

Women's Clothes Closet Closed

9am—1pm Office Open
4pm CFS Doors Open
4:15—5:30pm CFS Carry Outs
7pm Worship/HC

Wednesday—Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

9:30am Worship/HC

Thursday

9am—1pm Office Open

Friday

Church Office Closed

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

Women's Clothes Closet Closed

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday

9:30am Worship/HC
10:15am Coffee Fellowship
6:30pm Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

Calendar Notations:

HC—Holy Communion

CFS—Come For Supper

WCC—Women's Clothes Closet

PRAYER CONCERNS

HEALING AND PEACE

Athena Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Carol** Kant, **Casey** Kanter, **Cindy** Moe, **Cindy** Veith, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane** Speer, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Jim** Garson, **Joyce** Gosman, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Kilian** Crary, **Lane** C., **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Mary** Covey, **Monica & Jack**, **Morris** Buros, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Pete** Harman, **Rich** Pitz, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Theo** Abnet, **Tom** Cade, **Vera** Wensole, and **Vickie** Hengel

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

Marilyn Carroll and **Bev** Paar

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Gabriel W. Kleven, **Greg** Phillips, **Ricky** Macon, **Stacie** Phillips, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Richard Moyer	December 23
Matthew Linse	December 24
Hannah Smaby	December 26
Jill Buck	December 27
Amy Wells	December 27
Bev Burand	December 28
Judi Winkler	December 28
Ed Feran	December 29
Rynzo Patros	December 29