

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
Greenville, Pennsylvania

The Second Sunday in Advent December 5, 2021 Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Liturgy of Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.

The assembly's responses are in **bold type**.

(Please remember to turn off your cell phone. Thank you. We prepare in prayer and holy silence.)

Significance of the Day: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Gathering

Prelude Hymn Variations on Forest Green (Phillips et al)

Greeting and Announcements

(The assembly stands as the hymn begins.)



Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light

that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,

kindle within us the fire of your Spirit.

that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,

that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,

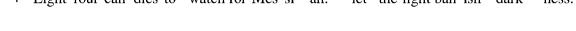
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Hymn Response: Light Two Candles

(Assembly will sing second stanza)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness. 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.





God ful - fills shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, He the prom - ise. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights shin - ing! He

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

Word

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi:

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

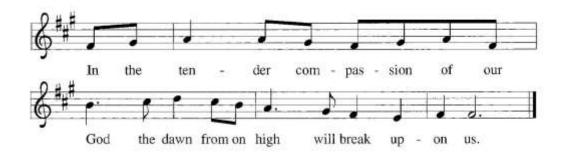
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

(Psalm will be sung responsively by verse. Refrain follows verse 79.)



- 68 Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel, you have come to your people and | set them free.
- 69 You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior, born of the house of your | servant David.
- 70 Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies, 71 from the hand of | all who hate us.
- 72 to show mercy | to our forbearers, and to remember your | holy covenant.
- 73 This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham: 74 to set us free from the hands of our | enemies

free to worship you | without fear

75 holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life 76 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

77 to give God's people knowledge | of salvation by the forgiveness | of their sins.

78 In the tender compassion | of our God the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of death, and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. (R)

A reading from Philippians:

3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands.)

Gospel Acclamation

(Choir sings Alleluia; Assembly repeats Alleluia)



Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia*. (*Luke 3:4*, 6)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

5 Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

+ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. Amen.



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 Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, responding, Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, council members, finance committee members, teachers and volunteers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. We pray especially for our Mercer County community during this wave of Covid infections. Protect us from the dangers of this virus. Grant healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. We especially remember Sonny. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

(The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

(The assembly is seated.)

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering Interlude on Freu dich Sehr (Keene)

Offering Verse



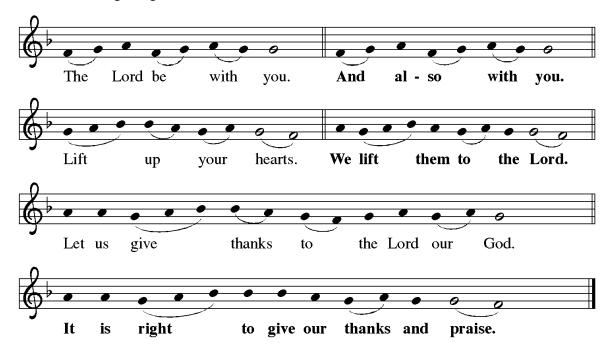
Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

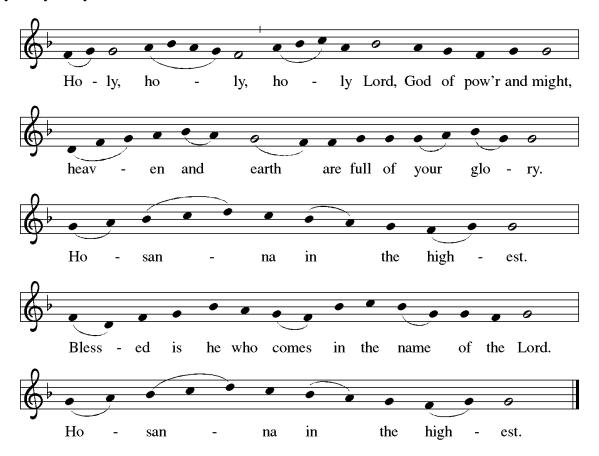
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



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 choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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



Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

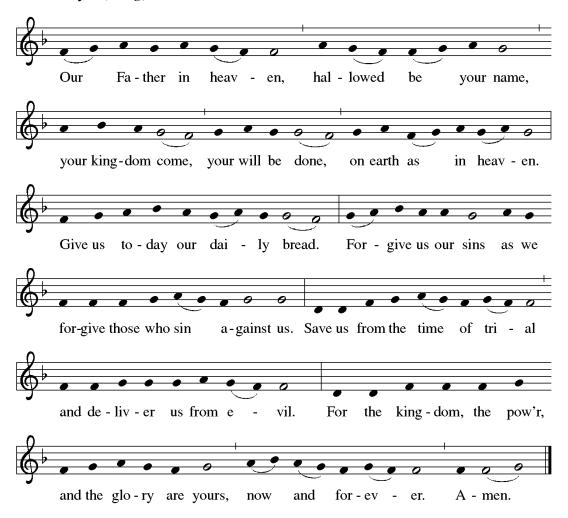
Send your Spirit on us

and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
now and forever.



Lord's Prayer (sung)



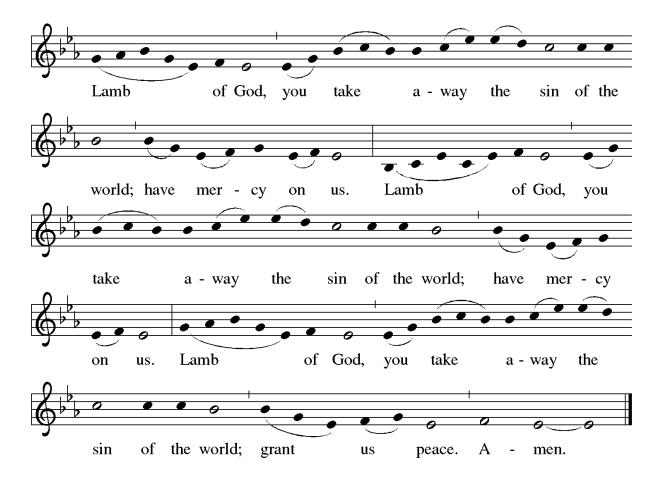
Breaking of Bread

They will come from East and West, and from North and South, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Come, Lord Jesus.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God



The Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen**.

Anthem Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Prichard)

Come Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art.

Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone.

By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,
you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.

Make us ready always
to welcome Christ into our hearts,
and send us forth to be your people in the world,
announcing your coming among us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** (*Sung*)



Dismissal Go in peace. Christ is coming.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Variation on Beredan vag for Herran (Hovland)

Serving Tonight

Presiding MinisterPastor Brenda MartinPianistMaidene HackettLiturgical DeaconDan Eppley

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Chuck Lanning
Communion Assistant Kris Abraham
Lector Bonnie Massing
Acolyte Hannah McKinney
Head Usher Linda Armstrong
Altar Guild The Martin family

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Martin Roth, Pastor Emeritus, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

Attendance at the Saturday, November 27, 2021, 5:30 p.m. Service: 18. Attendance at the Sunday, November 28, 2021, 9:30 a.m. Service: 41. Total: 59.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Sue Bittler in thanksgiving on the 50th anniversary of her marriage to the late Paul Bittler.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday December 5, 2021 Second Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 a.m. SCS and Confirmation Classes

7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Monday December 6, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Tuesday December 7, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday December 8, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer6:15 p.m. Evening Vespers

6:45 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 9, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion

7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Friday December 10. 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Saturday December 11, 2021

5:30 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)

Upcoming Events

Sunday December 12, 2021 Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion10:45 a.m. SCS and Confirmation Classes

1:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Monday December 13, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Tuesday December 14, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer9:00 a.m. Flying Quilts10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday December 15, 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

6:00 p.m. Parish Choir Rehearsal

6:15 p.m. Evening Vespers

Thursday December 16,2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion

5:00 p.m. Officers Planning Meeting

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Friday December 17. 2021

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Saturday December 18, 2021

5:30 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)

Christmas for Bethesda

In the narthex there is a bulletin board with the names of some girls that reside at Bethesda in Meadville. If you are interested in providing a gift for one of these girls, please choose a gift tag, purchase the gift, and return it *unwrapped* to the church *with the tag attached to the gift* and *in a plastic bag*. The deadline for all items to be returned is Wednesday, December 8. There is also a list of "general" items that can always be used. Gift bags and wrapping paper are also welcome. Donations may be dropped off in the box in the narthex or at the church office.

Advent Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer began on **Monday, November 29 and will conclude on Thursday, December 23** in the choir pews. It begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 8:50 a.m. Please use the rear parking lot door for entry. Take this opportunity for quiet reflection at the beginning of your day as a way of making spiritual preparation during Advent.

Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2022 are now available in the narthex. Please stop and pick up your box. If you see your family members' boxes or a neighbor's and can drop them off, please take them as well.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before you call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

Rylan Walberg (friend of the Weaver family)
Josh Gelvin (friend of Ray and Catherine

Richardson)

Phil Kennedy (friend of John Logan)

Doug Moon (friend of John Logan)

Judi Moinet

Irlean Dragen (mother of Billie Hollenbaugh)

Sandy Kimmel (cousin of Janet Kunczt)

Henry Mueller (husband of Peg Browning)

John and Carrie Brooks (cousins of Janet

Kunczt)

Carol Junk (daughter-in-law of Betty K.)

Bill Eggar (friend of Barbara Swartz)

Lisa Barrett (sister of Rusty Saverino)

Marie Eaves Paul Yoos

Dave Hollenbaugh

Barbara Swartz

Cathy Anderson (daughter of Betty K. Junk)

Tillie Schell

Danica (friend of Linda Armstrong)

Bonnie Gratzmiller (friend of Linda

Armstrong)

Henry Heil

Donnie Littelle (friend of Rich & Denise Hall)

Fred Junk (husband of Betty K. Junk)

Donnie K. (friend of Wayne and Darla Swift)

Marie (sister-in-law of Henry and Ruth Heil)

Lori McCann

Jim Shaffer

Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)

Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)

Carl Long

Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)

Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Bill Dunn (brother of Beth and Ed, nephew of Warren and Pat Roth)

Sunny Wilt

Jerry Hall (brother of Rich and Denise Hall)

In Military Service

- Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)
- Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Fredericksburg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)
- Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)
- CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)
- Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)