



Central Lutheran Church

**Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dedication of Lian Cedeño-Connell
December 22, 2024**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor, Pastor
Harold Knight, PhD, Music Director
Rachel Brown, Administrative Assistant**

Central Lutheran Church, ELCA

1000 Easton Rd., Dallas, Texas

God calls us to proclaim the Gospel and demonstrate Christ's love for all.

Please turn off your cell phone.

This service is being livestreamed to our neighbors near and far on Facebook.

Most of the sanctuary- including all leaders and worshippers- is on camera.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MUSICAL MEDITATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P 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.

C Amen.

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

P: The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.

A: Today, we light the candle of hope, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

Light the first candle.

P: Advent reminds us the Prince of Peace came and lived among us. He felt stress within himself and conflict with other people, yet he chose his path of peace—peace within himself, and peace with humankind.

A: Today, we light the candle of peace because Jesus showed us how to live in peace.

Light the second candle.

P: There is joy in the anticipation of the Advent season. Just as Mary waited for the birth of her son, we count the weeks and days to celebrate Christmas. Waiting makes space for imagination and preparation, and joy fills our hearts in that waiting.

A: Today, we light the candle of joy because joy is in the promise that the holy one is coming.

Light the third candle.

P: Love is the purpose, the reason, the source. Love is the all-in-all of Advent and Christmas. Without love, Christmas is just a resounding carol, a clanging jingle bell. But love transforms us into joyful participants in the great story of a wondrous birth.

A: Today, we light the candle of love because God so loved the world that God sent Jesus.

Light the fourth candle.

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

PRESENTATION OF A CHILD

See insert.

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



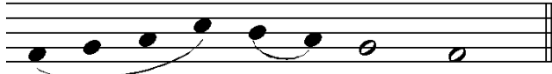
Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, 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 Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

Sung Responsively

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me

and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,**

from generation to | generation.

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm

and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones**

and lifting | up the lowly.

⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things

and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**

to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,

⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,

to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

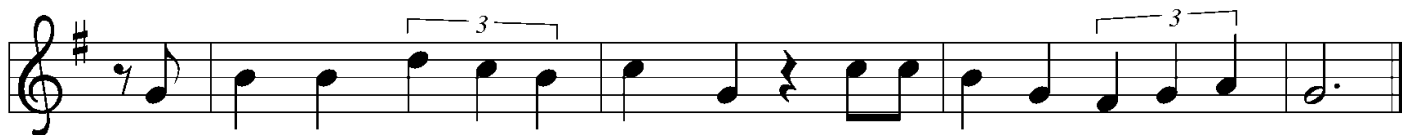
ELW 253

Sung by the congregation

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;

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Veronika

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

APOSTLES' 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.

THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Please sit or kneel for prayer. The response to each spoken petition is:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Receive our prayer.

People with prayer needs: **Lydia** Landfair, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Paul** Chambers, **Charlotte** Danielson, **Katy** McCabe, and **Judy** Christiansen.

The prayers conclude:

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

C Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus. Please offer a symbol of reconciliation to one another.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

THE OFFERING

*We give thanks for what God has first given us. Our ministry to the people of East Dallas is supported by your offering. An offering plate is available in the narthex after worship. You may also use our online giving through **Vanco, PayPal, or Givelify** (available in the App Store) or continue to mail your offerings to our office.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Dormi, Jesu*

Sung by Akosua Adwini-Poku

*Sleep, Jesus! Mother smiles Who sees such sweet sleep,
Sleep, Jesus, gentling! If you sleep not, Mother weeps,
While she spins, in song she prays, Come, gentle little sleep.*

*Dormi, Jesu mater ridet, quae tam dulce somnum videt.
Sino dormis, mater ploat, inter fila cantans oral.
Dormi, Jesu, blandule. Blande veni, somnule.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Creator God,

C you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

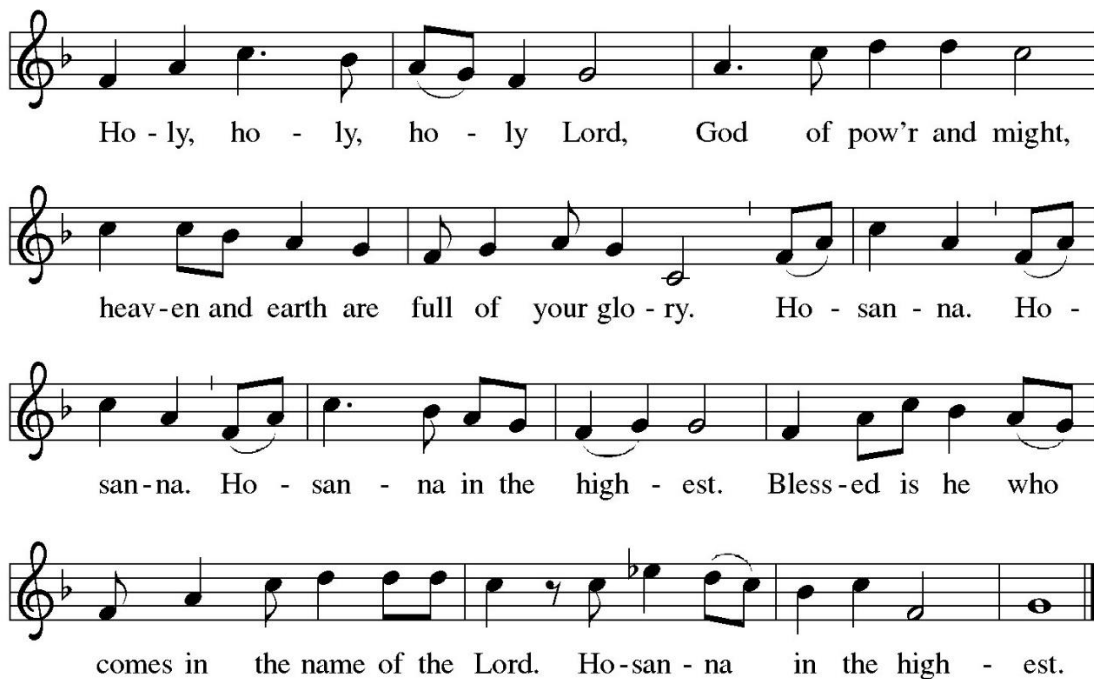
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy One, ... P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P 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.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

THE 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

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

C Thanks be to God

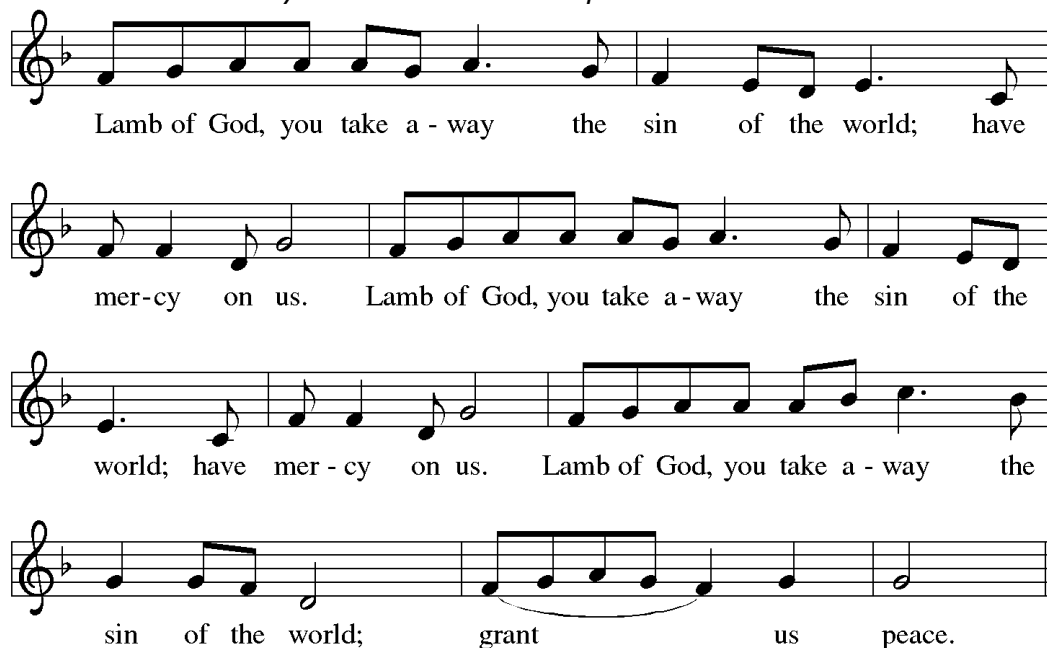
COMMUNION

As you come forward for Holy Communion, please sanitize your hands. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail, where you may choose to kneel or stand. The bread will be placed in your hand, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request—please inform the ministers if needed. The Communion cups contain red wine and white grape juice. If you prefer to receive only the bread, let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Follow the guidance of the ushers if you decide to walk up to the Altar to receive the Sacraments.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Meditative organ music is played as the congregation receives the Holy Communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray... **C Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.
C Amen.

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

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Gathering Hymn: *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Text: Carl P. Dar Jr., b. 1944, based on eLUke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Presentation of a Child: *Who Calls You by Name*

Text and Music: David Haas, c. 1957 © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

Hymn of the Day: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

Musical Offering: *Dormi, Jesu*

Music and Text: Jacqueline B. Hairston b. 1932

Sending Hymn: *Joy to the World*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.,; arr. Lowell Mason 1792-1872

Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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[www.facebook.com/Central
LutheranDallas](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors, we are glad to have you with us and invite you to come again!

Pastor Veronika's Office Hours: By appointment.

Church Admin Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10 am - 2 pm

Serving in Worship Today: Usher – Lisa Barse; Lector – Ed Wolfgang; Assistant Minister – Jeff Lowry

Advent & Christmas Schedule:

- **December 22-** Last Day to Order Poinsettias
- **December 24 at 7:00 pm-** Christmas Eve Worship Service
- **December 29 at 10:30 am-** Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Worship Service- Our candlelit Christmas Eve worship service will be on December 24 at **7:00 pm**. We will hear readings from the gospels, raise our voices in song, and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Caring & Sharing: Next Sunday, **December 29 at 9:00 am** we will have Caring & Sharing- a time when everyone gets together to send birthday, anniversary, and get-well cards to members of the congregation and beyond.

Harold's Retirement/ 80th Birthday Party: Our music director, Dr. Harold Knight, is retiring on Epiphany Sunday in 2025. We invite you to come to his Retirement/ 80th Birthday Party on **January 5 at noon in the Parish Hall**. Celebrate the conclusion of this 60-year career in music and education.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting will be on **January 26 after worship** with a chili cook off. Shape the future, then taste the flavor—vote on the 2025 budget then eat chili, and dessert! This will be a potluck so we ask that anyone who is able to please bring a pot of chili or dessert to share.

Visitation: If you or someone you know is in need of visitation from Pastor Veronika or one of our visitation team, please contact the church office at central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com or at 214-327-2222.



Open this QR code (or go to linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch) to connect with us or make your offering online.

Our Prayer List: Please submit your prayer requests to the church office via phone (214-327-2222) or via email (central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com).

| PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>For healing Archie and Rebecca Huizenga Linda Gourley Ed Andrewson Robin Friedrich Jover Veraguas Norma Ruth Myrick Aba Desilus Gail Oehler Sylvia Chadwick Elizabeth Cardenas Karen Spitzer Bonnie Knight Sato Katy McCabe Elizabeth Brownsted</p> | <p>Relationship Friends of Janis Farrow Sister of Julie Atkins Friend of Anne Monson Friend of Mary Glenn Brother of Ruth Chambers Mother of Alesia Pearson Friend of Victor Chacon Montero Friend of Beth Garcia Mother of Mary Glenn Daughter of Irene Hallmon Mother of Kristy Hamlin Sister of Harold Knight Friend of the Congregation Friend of Janis Farrow</p> | | |
| <p>Church Members</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Don Smith Mario Montejo Kris McDowell Nancy Nulisch Carol Paschetag Paul Chambers</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Yvonne Muirhead Lydia Landfair Mary Swenson Judy Christiansen Suzanne Schwenn Charlotte Danielson</p> </td> </tr> </table> | | <p>Don Smith Mario Montejo Kris McDowell Nancy Nulisch Carol Paschetag Paul Chambers</p> | <p>Yvonne Muirhead Lydia Landfair Mary Swenson Judy Christiansen Suzanne Schwenn Charlotte Danielson</p> |
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| <p>Those We Mourn: Marilyn Gillett; Byron Myrick, father of Alesia Pearson</p> | <p>Those Presented to the Community: Lian Cedeño Connell</p> | | |