

Central Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve December 24, 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.

BELL PEAL (7:00 PM)
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE on "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

P At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C Amen

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

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

P God-with-us,

C we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.

We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **C Amen**

The assembly stands

ENTRANCE HYMN ELW 257

- O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Isarael, That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all thing far and nigh: In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- O come, O Key of David come, and open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw Near Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

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.

P: If you pay attention, Christmas has a smell, a taste, a sound, a look, and a feel. You can experience Christmas with all your senses. Christmas reminds us Jesus experienced life in a human body. With his body, he could smell, taste, touch, hear, and see.

A: Today, we light the Christ candle because God is not just a distant, invisible being. Jesus showed us God is close to us, even on earth. Light the Christ candle.

GREETING

P May the grace and truth of Christ be with you. **C And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing *Refrain*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L Word of God, Word of Life C Thanks be to God

GRADUAL: "The People that Walked in Darkness" Sung by Lwazi Dlamini

The people that walked in darkness, that walked in darkness, The people that walked in darkness, that walked in darkness have seen a great light, have seen a great light,

the people that walked, that walked in darkness have seen a great light,

the people that walked, that walked in darkness, that walked in darkness,

the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, have seen a great light, a great light, have seen a great light:

And they that dwell, that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, And they that dwell, that dwell in the land, that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them hath the light that shined, and they that dwell, That dwell in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them hath the light shined upon them hath the light shined.

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L Word of God, Word of Life C Thanks be to God

WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

ELW 268

Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near To see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.

READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

A call and response between the reader and the assembly is placed throughout the gospel reading. Each time the reader announces To us is born a Savior, the assembly responds: **Jesus Christ our Lord**.

Our Christmas Eve story comes from the Gospel of Luke. In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Veronika

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!

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.

THE PRAYERS

P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Please sit or kneel for prayer. The response to each spoken petition is: P God of grace,

C Receive our prayer.

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

The prayers conclude:

P We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" Sung by Akosua Adwini-Poku

Behold! A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Emmanuel; God with us.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,

get thee up into the high mountain! Get thee up into the high mountain!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength! Lift it up, be not afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold your God! Say Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise shine, for thy light is come; Arise, arise, arise, shine, for ty light is come and the glory of the Lord, The glory of the Lord is risen, is risen upon thee, is risen upon thee, The glory, the glory, the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray... God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C 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.

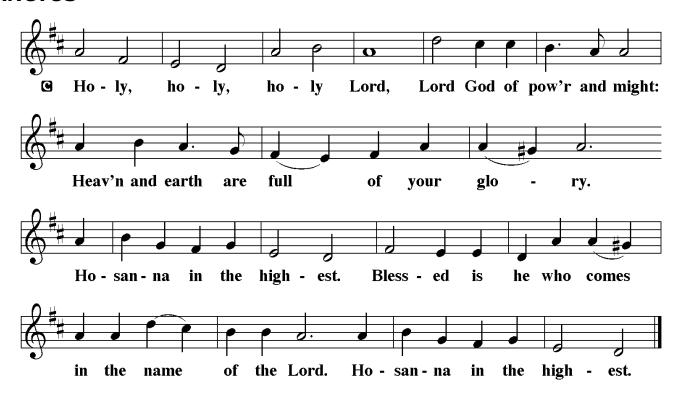
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy One, 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.

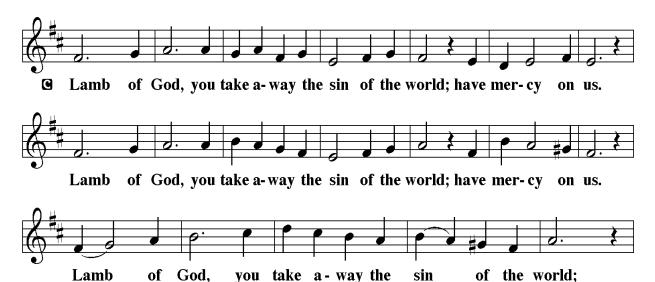
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God

LAMB OF GOD





DISTRIBUTION OF 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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray... Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

As we sing our final carols, Pastor Veronika and the worship assistants will receive the light from the Christ Candle. They will share their light with those at the end of each pew. Please pass the light to those next to you. Do not tilt the lit candle. Hold the lit candle upright and tilt only the unlit candle to receive the light.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Pastor Veronika prays.

SILENT NIGHT

Sung by all

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth; Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

P The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illuminate your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **C Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments:

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Prelude: Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Tune: J.S. Bach

Entrance Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel

Text: Psalteriolum Cantonium Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of Praise: O Come All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Gradual Music: The People that Walked in Darkness

Text and Music: The Messiah, G.F. Handel edited by T. Tertius Noble.

© 1912 G. Schirmer, Inc.

Welcoming the Gospel: From Heaven Above

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book or Worship Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book or Worship* admin. Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of the Day: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham

Arr. © 1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

Musical Offering: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

Text and Music: The Messiah, G.F. Handel edited by T. Tertius Noble.

© 1912 G. Schirmer, Inc.

Service of Lights: Silent Night

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Sending Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Henry, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Thank you for the lovely poinsettias given by the following:

Lisa, Isabelle & Alden Barse In memory of Geneva & Bob Barse

In honor of Marian Morgan

Carole Bawcum In memory of her parents, Minnie & Pete James

In honor of her children, Henry Bawcum & Carrie

Enocksen

David & Amy Brown In memory of Bob & Jan Davis; Willie Mae Rowell,

Sunny Coffman

Mark Buie In memory of Patricia Buie

Charlotte Danielson In memory of Erwin & George Danielson Harold & Cathy Jones In memory of Peggy Hanson & Ed Carlson

In honor of Julian & Penn Jones

Judy & Katherine Koble In memory of Katherine Emmert

Mark & Jan Moody In memory of their parents and grandparents

John Sanders

Bruce & Jean Staffeld

In memory of Norma Sanders

In memory of their parents

In honor of their grandchildren

Ted Steinke In memory of Helen & Ted Steinke Sr.; Joann & Mac

McRae; and Aunt Jane Gibbon

Ed & Ylva Wolfgang In memory of their parents

In honor of their children and grandchildren

Thank You to everyone who helped to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season. Your labors are greatly appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Church Office Hours: The church office will be closed from today, December 24 until January 2. On January 3, we will resume normal hours of 10 am - 2 pm on weekdays.

Pastor Veronika will be on study leave for her doctorate on January 2 – 3, 6-9, 13-16. Should you need pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office.

Serving in Worship today: Ushers: Mary Glenn, Joel Glenn, Anne Monson, and David Hopson; Lector: Ed Wolfgang; Assistant Minister: Jeff Lowry

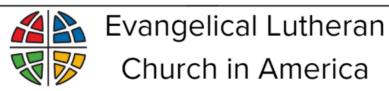
Caring & Sharing: Next Sunday, **December 29 at 9:00 am** we will have Caring & Sharing- a time when everyone gets together to send birthday, anniversary, and get-well cards to members of the congregation and beyond.

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.

Lunch & Sunday School: On **January 19 at noon**, we will have a lunch and Sunday school in the Parish Hall. Our guest speaker will be Pr. Tom Schwolert, who will discuss his work as the director of spiritual care at Roots Adolescent Renewal Ranch. Kids and adults are invited to attend!

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.

Central Lutheran Church



Pastor: The Rev. Veronika Czutor 972-904-0245 | reverend.veronika@gmail.com

Music Director: Harold Knight, PhD harchiek74@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Rachel Brown 214-327-2222 | central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com

1000 Easton Rd. Dallas, TX 75218

www.CentralLutheran.org

www.facebook.com/Central LutheranDallas **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.

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

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & COMFORT

For healing
Archie and Rebecca Huizenga
Linda Gourley
Ed Andrewson
Robin Friedrich
Norma Ruth Myrick
Flizabeth Brownsted

Relationship
Friends of Janis Farrow
Sister of Julie Atkins
Friend of Anne Monson
Friend of Mary Glenn
Mother of Alesia Pearson
Friend of Janis Farrow
Friend of Janis Farrow

Elizabeth Brownsted Friend of Janis Farrow
Aba Desilus Friend of Victor Chacon Monter

Gail Oehler Friend of Beth Garcia
Elizabeth Cardenas Daughter of Irene Hallmon
Sylvia Chadwick Mother of Mary Glenn
Karen Spitzer Mother of Kristy Hamlin
Bonnie Knight Sato Sister of Harold Knight
Katy McCabe Friend of the Congregation

Church Members

Lydia Landfair

Don Smith

Mario Montejo

Nancy Nulisch

Carol Paschetag

Paul Chambers

Kris McDowell

Yuvonne Muirhead

Mary Swenson

Judy Christiansen

Suzanne Schwenn

Charlotte Danielson

Those We Mourn:

Marilyn Gillett;

Byron Myrick, father of Alesia Pearson