



# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday in Advent  
December 8, 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.**

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND 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.*)

## 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.**

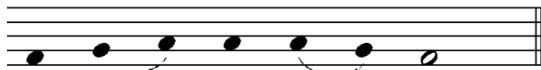
## KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



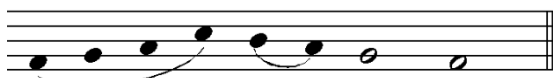
Lord, have mer - cy.

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



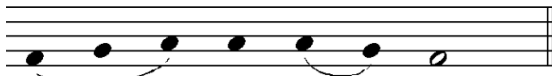
Lord, have mer - cy.

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 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.

**C Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

*Sung Responsively*

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and | set them free.

<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your | servant David.**

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from  
our enemies,

<sup>71</sup> from the hands of | all who hate us,  
<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy | to our forebears,  
and to remember your | holy covenant.**  
<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,  
**free to worship you | without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,  
<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge | of salvation  
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion | of our God  
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow  
of death,  
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 253

*Sung by the congregation*

### He Came Down



He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have light;



He came down that we may have light; hal-le-lu-ia for-ev-er- more.

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

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

### READING OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you O Christ**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### SERMON

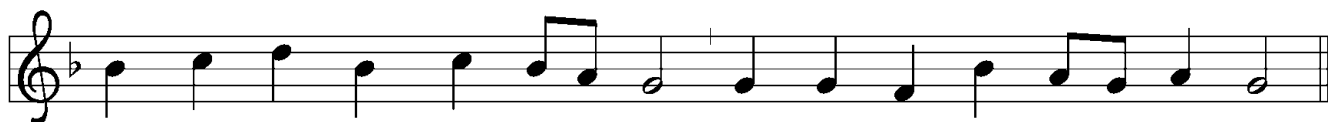
*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Pastor Veronika**

## Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

**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, **Byron** Myrick, **Norma** Ruth Myrick, **Paul** Chambers, 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: The Messiah

*Sung by Lwazi Dlamini*

*But who may abide the day of His coming?*

*And who shall stand when He appeareth?*

*Who shall stand when He appeareth?*

*But who may abide, but who may abide the day of His coming?*

*And who shall stand when He appeareth?*

*And who shall stand when He appeareth? When He appeareth?*

*For He is like a refiner's fire, for He is like a refiner's fire.*

*Who shall stand when He appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire,*

*For He is like a refiner's fire, And who shall stand when He appeareth?*

*But who may abide the day of His coming?  
And who shall stand, and who shall stand when He appeareth?  
When He appeareth?  
For He is like a refiner's fire, like a refiner's fire,  
And who shall stand when He, when He appeareth?  
And who shall stand when He appeareth?*

*For He is like a refiner's fire, and who shall stand when He appeareth,  
When He appeareth?  
For He is like a refiner's fire, for He is like a refiner's fire.*

### **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.**

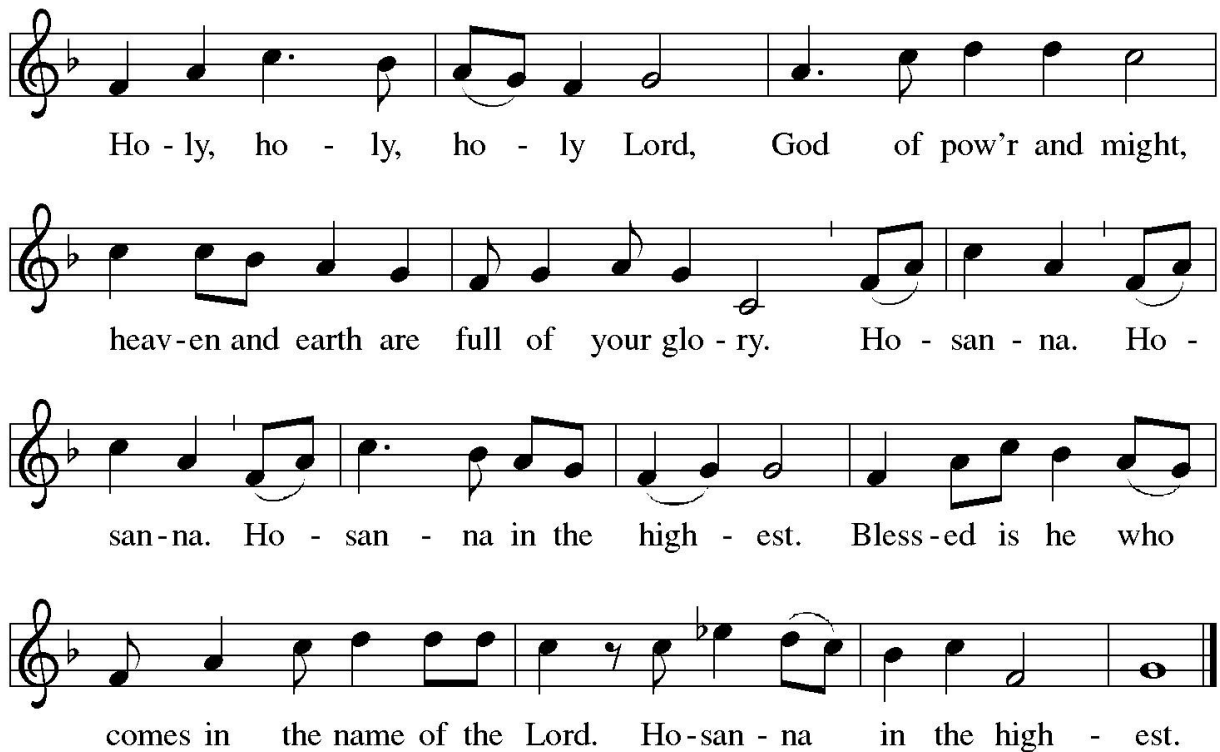
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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, and you may choose to kneel or stand. The bread will be dipped in the chalice and placed in your hand. If you prefer to receive only the bread, simply let the ministers know. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please fold your arms across your chest. Please note that grape juice is not available at this time.*

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW 264**

### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE

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Gathering Hymn: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Composite

Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai

Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of the Day: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Musical Offering: *The Messiah*

Music: George Frideric Handel

Sending Hymn: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Text: Franc Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

### Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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[www.CentralLutheran.org](http://www.CentralLutheran.org)

[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 –Linnea Castillo; Lector – Alesia Pearson; Assistant Minister – Jeff Lowry

**Council Meeting:** The church council will meet **after worship today in the Parish Hall.** All church members are welcome at every council meeting.

**Lydia Circle:** The Lydia Circle's Annual Christmas party and ornament exchange is tomorrow, **Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm at Jan Moody's house.** This event is open to all women. For more information and her address, please contact Jan Moody at [jmzmoody@att.net](mailto:jmzmoody@att.net).

**Midweek Advent Vespers:** Come join us at Central Lutheran (on **December 11 and 18**) for a **midweek Advent vespers and soup supper**, where we'll gather with our siblings from Emanuel Lutheran to prepare our hearts for Christ's arrival. This Advent, we journey through the theme of Mary's Song—a song of deep faith, prophetic hope, and boundless love. In Mary's song, we hear her dreams, her call for justice, and her faith that God is with us. Let her words invite us into a season of expectant hope and a peace that stirs our spirits. Come be renewed as we draw near to the mystery and promise of Christ.

**Brain Health Talk:** Want to learn more about how to stay healthy as you age? Want to keep your brain active for as long as possible? Join us in the **Parish Hall on Sunday, December 15 at noon.** We will have a lunch followed by a talk titled "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body". The talk will be led by Jane, a volunteer from the Alzheimer's Association. All will have the opportunity to ask questions.

## **Advent & Christmas Schedule:**

- **December 11 & 18 at 6:00 pm-** Wednesday Advent Vespers and Soup Suppers (in partnership with Emanuel Lutheran Church)
- **December 16 from 9am-Noon-** Gift wrapping at Cesar Chavez Learning Center
- **December 21 at 6:00 pm-** Las Posadas at Emanuel Lutheran Church

- **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

**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](http://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**

**For healing**

Archie and Rebecca Huizenga  
 Linda Gourley  
 Ed Andrewson  
 Robin Friedrich  
 Jover Veraguas  
 Byron & Norma Ruth Myrick  
 Aba Desilus  
 Gail Oehler  
 Sylvia Chadwick  
 Elizabeth Cardenas  
 Maggie Lund  
 Karen Spitzer  
 Bonnie Knight Sato  
 Elizabeth Brownsted

**Relationship**

Friends of Janis Farrow  
 Sister of Julie Atkins  
 Friend of Anne Monson  
 Friend of Mary Glenn  
 Brother of Ruth Chambers  
 Parents of Alesia Pearson  
 Friend of Victor Chacon Montero  
 Friend of Beth Garcia  
 Mother of Mary Glenn  
 Daughter of Irene Hallmon  
 Friend of Janet Rashbaum  
 Mother of Kristy Hamlin  
 Sister of Harold Knight  
 Friend of Janis Farrow

**Church Members**

Don Smith	Yuvonne Muirhead
Mario Montejo	Lydia Landfair
Kris McDowell	Mary Swenson
Nancy Nulisch	Judy Christiansen
Carol Paschetag	Suzanne Schwenn
Paul Chambers	

**Those We Mourn:** Marilyn Gillett