

# **Central Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 5, 2025**

**The Rev. Veronika Czutor  
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 (10:30 am) WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MUSICAL MEDITATION**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C Amen.**

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

*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.**

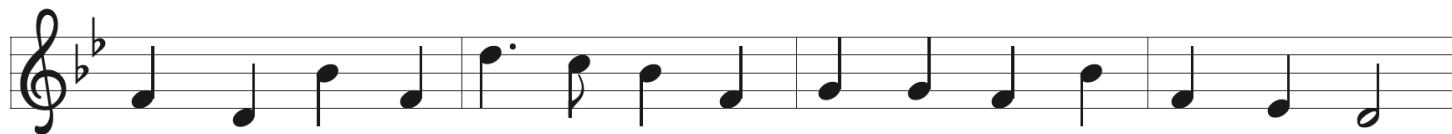
**Amen.**

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.*

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

# GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

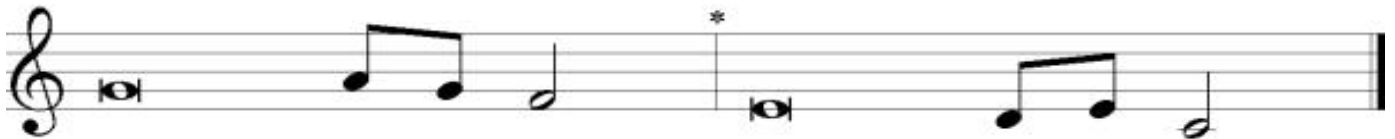
<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## **PSALM 147:12-20**

*Sung responsively.*



<sup>12</sup>Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates  
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

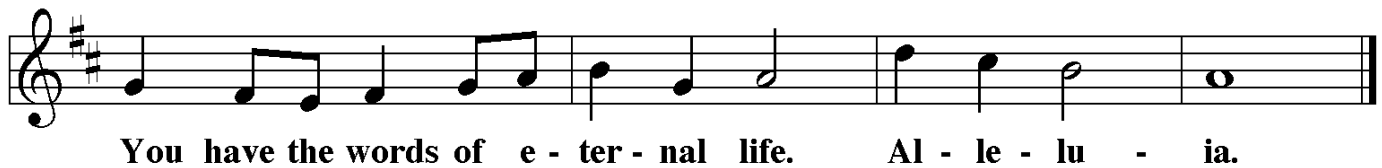
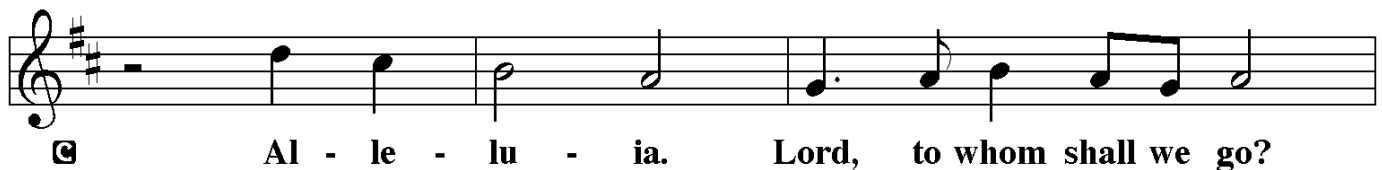
## **SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

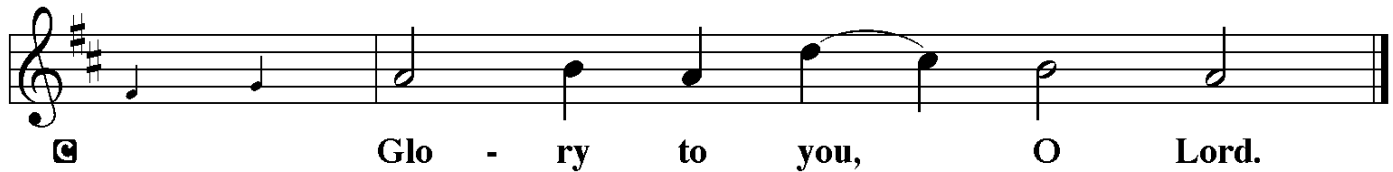
L Word of God, Word of Life

**C Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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



## **READING OF THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Pastor Veronika**

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

**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 ... 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 MEDITATION: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice** (J.S. Bach)

## OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.**

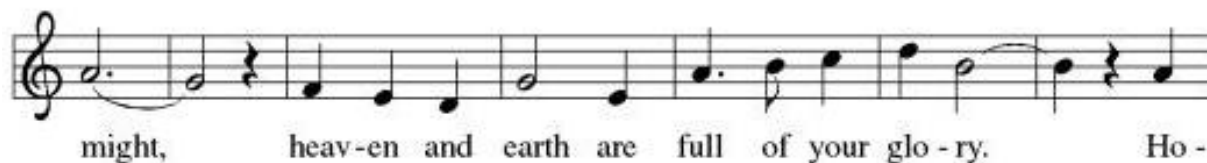
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

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

## HOLY



## **EUCCHARISTIC 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.**

## **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 Merciful God,

**C 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. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**C Amen.**

## The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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Gathering Hymn: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Hymn of the Day: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Musical Meditation: Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Music: J.S. Bach

Sending Hymn: *The First Noel*

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## Central Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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[www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas](http://www.facebook.com/CentralLutheranDallas)

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

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

**Serving in Worship today:** Ushers: Mary Glenn; Lector: Ed Wolfgang; Assistant Minister: Jeff Lowry

**Harold's Retirement/ 80th Birthday Party:** Our music director, Dr. Harold Knight, is retiring on Epiphany in 2025. We invite you to come to his Retirement/ 80th Birthday Party **today after worship in the Parish Hall.** Celebrate Harold and his 60+ year career in music and education.

**The next Church Council meeting will be on January 12 at noon in the Parish Hall.**

**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!

**The Tuesday Morning Bible Study** begins meeting for the new year on January 21 at 10:30am. All adults are welcome to join. Contact the church office for more information.

**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.



**Open this QR code (or go to [linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch](https://linktr.ee/centrallutheranchurch)) to connect with us, join our mailing list, or donate online.**

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

<b>PRAYERS FOR HEALING &amp; COMFORT</b>	
<b>For healing</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
Archie and Rebecca Huizenga	Friends of Janis Farrow
Linda Gourley	Sister of Julie Atkins
Ed Andrewson	Friend of Anne Monson
Robin Friedrich	Friend of Mary Glenn
Jover Veraguas	Brother of Ruth Chambers
Norma Ruth Myrick	Mother of Alesia Pearson
Aba Desilus	Friend of Victor Chacon Montero
Gail Oehler	Friend of Beth Garcia
Sylvia Chadwick	Mother of Mary Glenn
Elizabeth Cardenas	Daughter of Irene Hallmon
Karen Spitzer	Mother of Kristy Hamlin
Bonnie Knight Sato	Sister of Harold Knight
Katy McCabe	Friend of the Congregation
Elizabeth Brownsted	Friend of Janis Farrow
<b>Church Members</b>	
Don Smith	Yuvonne Muirhead
Mario Montejo	Lydia Landfair
Kris McDowell	Mary Swenson
Nancy Nulisch	Judy Christiansen
Carol Paschetag	Suzanne Schwenn
Paul Chambers	
<b>Those We Mourn:</b>	
Marilyn Gillett;	
Byron Myrick, father of Alesia Pearson	