



LUKE 2:30

MY  
EYES  
HAVE SEEN YOUR  
SALVATION

## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mr. James Landis, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

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### **Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!**

#### **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**7:45 A.M. SERVICE**

**Today's Theme:** The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

**Welcome all visitors!** We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

**Welcome to the Eucharist!** All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

**Prayer:** *Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our*

*Lord, who lives and reigns with and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We gather to worship and to claim the promises of God.

**We come to be reminded of the grace that sustains and the mercy that forgives.**

We come to renew our covenant as followers of the Christ.

**Blessed is the name of the Lord and greatly to be praised!**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

What a rare gift this season brings. God loves us so much that God came to us in Jesus. Let us humble ourselves and confess our sins before the God of love.

*(SEATED OR KNEELING)*

#### **SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Trusting in the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

**God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.      Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.      Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.      Lord, have mercy.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

## **ADORATION AND PRAISE**

### **ACT OF PRAISE**

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

The Word of the Lord.    **Thanks be to God!**

### **THE PSALTER**

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
**Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

## **THE SECOND LESSON**

Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

St. Luke 2:22-40

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

*Glory be to You, O Lord.*

## **THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD**

*Praise be to You, O Christ.*

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **SERMON**

**"Praise God!"**

**Pastor Rankin**

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## **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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and 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.

## **PEOPLE'S OFFERING**

### **OFFERING DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we gather to sing praise to you as we remember the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Christ, you offer hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. In response to your great gifts, we present these offerings. Bless these gifts that we offer and use them for the work of your kingdom on earth. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short and dimmed the brilliance of your light shining through us, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth. When we are afraid to look upon your glory, you came as a quiet traveler, as a burning bush, and as a pillar of light. You called us to be people of light, to walk no longer in darkness, and always, you light our way. Even when we walk in darkness, you shine your light and offer your grace, awaiting our return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reveal your glory and grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the angels in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

### **THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP**

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

**The Bread of Life, broken for us.**

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

**The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.**

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

*(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neuro-divergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



Sustain all people who, like Simon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

### **BENEDICTION**



**CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY**



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Chancel Flowers and The Worship Aids are given by the Hambrick-Stowes to the Glory of God, as 2023 rests in His hands, looking to 2024 with faith, hope, and confidence.**

#### **Ministering Today**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
<b>Money Counters</b>	Cherie Cataldi, Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Bob Bistline
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nancy Enders, Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy
<b>Building Trustee</b>	Nevin Cooley
<b>Koinonia</b>	Rankin Family
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Card Advent Workshop</b> <b>Called to Care</b> Nancy Enders <b>Visitation</b> Janice Jenkins

#### **Happy Birthday**

Today – Rev. Jack Esbenshade, Gale Long  
Monday – Joan Cash, Pat Seachrist  
Wednesday – Samuel Minder  
Thursday – Mary Ann Bradley  
Saturday – Koen Miller, Nancy Musser, Matthew LaRouche

Attendance for Sun., December 24	7:45–14	10:30–74	TOTAL – 88
Christian Education	28		
Christmas Eve	6:30–114	10:30–26	TOTAL – 140

### **This Week at Trinity Church**

**(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)**

Wednesday	Preschool Returns
Thursday	1:30 PM—Anniversary Committee (Choir Room)
Saturday	7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA
Sunday	7:45 AM – Eucharist
	9:00 AM – Sunday School
	10:00 AM - Koinonia
	10:30 AM – Eucharist

### **PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE**

#### **MEMBERS**

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman	Leo Daly	Hedwig Hunsicker
Michael McDonough	John Shelsky	Scott & Jane Owens
Don & Pat Miller	Nancy Patton	Dr. Janet Harriger
The Lehman family	Joann Peck	Harry Himelwright
Donna Wolf & Family	Shelly Family	Mary Lou Shaab
Stan & Pat Seachrist	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Hank Fox	Charles & Betty Booraem
Betty Tyndall and family	Mary Witmer	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Erika Otthofer	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman	Ron Becker	Danielle Huggins Holbein
Pastor Harry Royer	Joann & Dawn Garvin	Dr. Blaine Connor

#### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

The family of Rev. Dr. Richard Vieth (Professor Emeritus at Lancaster Seminary)  
 The family of Paul Melton (requested by Michael & Dina Slechta)  
 Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)  
 Dan Doughton (Family friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)  
 Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)  
 Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)  
 Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)  
 Bill Zahm (brother of Phyllis Zimmerman)  
 Mary Mattern Smith (cousin of Anita Rohrer)  
 Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)  
 Donna Esbenshade (wife of Rev. Jack Esbenshade)

**The Haverstick Family** (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
**Tom Riley** (friend of Bud McCarty)  
**Rev. Loy Garber** (former seminarian)  
**Roland Anderson and family** (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)  
**Jaden Allen** (nephew of Carol Kratz)  
**Gina McCarty** (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)  
**The Bruno family** (friends of Blaine Connor)  
**Jessica Brown** (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)  
**Janice Zimmerman** (sister of Ken Zimmerman)  
**John Martin** (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)  
**Kelly Quick** (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)  
**Marianne Gibble** (friend of Trinity)  
**James Malone & family**  
**Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner** (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)  
**Janet Owens** (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)  
**Chad Zirkel** (son of Donna Zirkel)  
**Jordan Sensenig** (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),  
**Don Pfeifer** (husband of Denise Pfeifer)  
**Jake & Jean Otthofer** (parents of Dan Otthofer)  
**The Martin family**  
**Robert Richards** (brother of Jerry Richards)  
**Ronald Himelwright** (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)  
**Barry Richards**(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
**Tyler Miller** (grandson of Iris DeMaio)  
**Joan Kalbach** (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)  
**Jim & Kathy Long** (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)  
**John Siebern** (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)  
**Jo Jo Richards & family** (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

**THE JANUARY PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available on the table across from the church office. Please help us by delivering envelopes to some of our homebound members!

**2023 ANNUAL REPORTS:** The 2023 annual reports are due to the church office by January 12!

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
 my whole being shall exult in my God;  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of  
 salvation,  
 he has covered me with the robe of  
 righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
 spring up,  
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and  
 praise  
 to spring up before all the nations.  
<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 and her salvation like a burning torch.  
<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
 and all the kings your glory;  
 and you shall be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand  
 of the LORD,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Psalm 148****SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

Cover: Presentation of Jesus at the temple (1963), fresco, by Dom Georges Sagat. Keur Moussa Abbey, Keur Moussa, Senegal. Photo copyright © Godong/Robert Harding Picture Library/Superstock. Used by permission.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
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**THE MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST:** The men will be meeting in January 13th at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. There is a sign-up sheet across from the church office.

**CHURCH UNDECORATING:** Please plan to stay after the 10:30a.m. service on Sunday, January 7 to help remove and pack up Christmas decorations from the exterior and interiors of the church. Thank you in advance for your assistance in packing up decorations in preparation for next year! Contact a member of the Parish Life Committee (Anne Rankin, Kayla Brennan, Denise Pfeifer, Cherie Cataldi, Jeff Hackenberger, and Rachel Baynard) for more information.

**175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GIFTS:** There are extra copies of the historical book, the prayer book and the anniversary pens and magnets on the table across from the church office.

**GRIEF GROUPS:** Prior to the pandemic, Pastor Chris was hoping to form some small groups to look at issues of grief. Please contact him or Carol Kratz if you are interested in participating in one of the groups!

**KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP:** We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**



**PRAYER SHAWL** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, January 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW** is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

**THE CHRISMON TREE:** The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term “Chrismon” comes from the Latin “Christi monogramma” which simply means “monogram of Christ”. Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

**THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE** are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

**THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS,** made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

**THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN** was made by Mike Wagner.

**THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVATOR** was made by Mike Wagner.

**2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS:** Upcoming dates for worship aids are: January 21. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are January 21. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

### **A PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE YEAR**

*On this last day of our calendar year, O God of goodness and light, illumine a path for us by which we may walk in faithfulness. Too often we have lost our way. Too often we have lived out of our pride and stubbornness and failed to turn to you in our times of need. You have given us all that we need to live sober lives in a right mind. Impel us to sin no more and give us a more perfect knowledge of your divine ways in the world. Help us accept the forgiveness you offer if we but only ask for it. Grant us the opportunity to celebrate the coming year with a faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us. Power this celebration through your Holy Spirit---the greatest gift you can offer us today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*