Immanuel Lutheran Church

Children of God, called to proclaim the mighty acts of Jesus through lives of love and servanthood.



January 2017 Newsletter

Weekly Wednesday night service at 6:00 pm

JANUARY 1st ONLY
Sunday Worship
9:00 am
Starting January 8th
8:00 am and 10:30 am

Faith Formation 9:15 am-10:15 am

Office Hours 9:00 am-1:00 pm Weekdays

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"I Will Give You As a Light To the Nations" by Peter J. Weller

The Old Testament lessons for January are from the prophet, Isaiah, and they foretell the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah speaks to the ancient Israelites during the Babylonian captivity while they are in exile, and he describes God's plan for the new life in Israel and Judah when the captivity is ended and the Israelites return.

In these verses from Chapter 49, the Messiah, the Holy One, himself, speaks: "Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But, I said, 'I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.'

"And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

"Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.' " (Isaiah 49:1-7)

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Find us on Facebook at Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa and online at luthwash.org

Come visit us at 1226 East Washington Street, Washington, Iowa 52353

319.653.3950

Pastor Howard - 319.333.7758

Monthly Updates (Month to date)

General Funds-\$4,393

Monthly expenses-\$12,000-\$15,000

Building Fund Gifts-\$225

Monthly payment-\$810

Debt reduction-\$573 (Nov payment)

Attendance

November 23rd ~ 3 November 27th ~ 75

November 30th - 11

December 4th ~ 96 December 7th ~ 13

December 11th ~ 75 December 14th – 14

December 18th –92 December 21st –25

December 24th 5:30 pm-122

December 24th 10:30 pm – 45

December 25th ~ 30

Sunday Worship Times to CHANGE



Council has made the decision to return to two worship services on Sunday mornings; 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., beginning January 8, 2017. Sunday Faith Formation classes will be held at 9:15 a.m. This does NOT affect the Wednesday evening worship, which will continue at 6 p.m.



We extend our deepest Christian sympathies to Jason Taylor and his family, on the death of his father, +Richard Taylor

The Altar Committee is looking for some new members that would like to help set up for the 8:00 Worship Service, clean up and set up after the 8:00 Worship Service and clean up after the 10:30 Worship Service. If you are interested in helping out the Altar Committee please contact Jane Kruse at 653-2614.



Valentine Gifts

The Confirmation youth will be selling homemade, heart shaped, Valentine cookies for Valentine's Day. The youth will be receiving pre-orders for individual large cookies, boxes of a half-dozen cookies, or boxes of a dozen cookies on Sundays January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. For your gluten-free or "healthy" option boxed homemade, dried apple slices will also be offered. It's not too early to begin planning on treating your loved ones (or yourself) for Valentine's Day. This is a fundraiser for the confirmands to



attend confirmation camp at Camp Ewalu. The cost to send one confirmand to Ewalu's 2017 confirmation camp is \$410 (that's the early registration discount!). We thank you for your generous support of the confirmation youth: Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Rob Taylor, and Quinn Wubbena.

Luther League

When: Sunday, February 5th (NO Meeting in January)

Where: Immanuel

Why: Soup-er Bowl Sunday

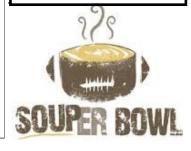
Who: 6th – 12th Graders (friends are WELCOME!)

Time: TBD

Leadership: Katie McWhirter,

Angela Taylor, and Pastor

Howard





December Birthday

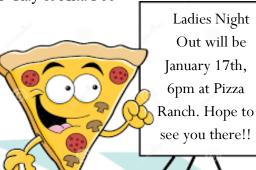
2- Stephen Bay

January Birthdays

- 1- Elizabeth Terrones
- 3- Rhonda Steele
- 4- Renee Buchholz
- 5- Christy Rueckert
- 6- Janola Rueckert
- 7- Naomi Erickson
- 7- Don McAvoy
- 7- Sherry Ives
- 8- Jim Six
- 10- Joseph Lyons
- 10- Karen Heineman
- 11- Marty Westen
- 13- Peter Weller
- 14- Lauren McWhirter
- 14- Tricia Kroll
- 14- Oscar Hernandez
- 17- Jim Petersen
- 18- Janette Edwards
- 18- Ray Poe
- 18- Mary Gail Lyons
- 24- Ainsley Six
- 25- Callie Brink
- 28- Rodney Hill
- 28- Angela Taylor
- 31- Ron Andersen

January Anniversaries

22- Ray & Alta Poe





Faith Formation Schedule

January 1– No classes

January 8– 9:15 a.m.



All American

Restorative Care is in need of clothes and

Mary at 319.653.6527

gift cards for gas.

Any questions,

please call:

Junior and Adult choirs will resume on January 11th at their regular times.

Wandering Worshipers

Richard Schmidt worshipped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in North Liberty, Iowa on November 20, 2016.

Installation of 2017 Council Members

On Sunday, December 18th Pastor Howard installed the following persons elected to council by the congregation at Immanuel's Annual Meeting (executive board was elected during the December council meeting): Steve Vetter, President; Katie McWhirter, Secretary; Nancy Baker, Travis Brink, Ray Poe, Jon Runaas, and Linda Six. The following council members will be installed at the January 4th council meeting: Angela Taylor, Vice President, and Deidra Baker. God bless you with God's Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

January Milestones

"I'm an angel in the Christmas program"

Grace Taylor

Thank you to the Christmas carolers. It was one of the high points of my holiday season.

Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year Bev Crandall

From Larry & Deb Richmond and family

We wish to thank you for your prayers and cards for our family during the loss of our grandson, Will. He is Mark & Jaclyn's baby and lived almost two months. He was born with many health issues and we are so thankful to have had him in our lives, even for such a short time. May God continue to bless all of you at Immanuel!

THANK YOU to everyone who brought their unwrapped Christmas presents to church on Sunday, December 18th. The following adults and youth April, Addison, Ajay, Avery, and Aden Six, Kristin and Ryan Jones, Tricia and Lucas Kroll, Vicki and Allison Rebling, Nancy Baker, Linda Six, and Quinn Wubbena were elves as they carefully wrapped all the gifts. \$230 was raised toward the New York trip in July.

THANK YOU to Deidra Baker, Nancy Baker, Katie McWhirter (and Lauren), Angela Taylor and Steve Vetter for your assistance during the laying-on-of-hands at the Healing service held on Wednesday, December 21st. The laying-on-of-hands is a holy and precious time, God's power working through you. Thank you for being an instrument of God's powerful and effective work.



I would like to give a BIG thank you to everyone who helped make the Immanuel's children Christmas program BABY JESUS, PRINCE of PEACE possible.

Thank you to Deb Simmering, Tina Montz, Jon & Margie Runaas, the Education team, Pastor Howard, & my husband Ron.

Thank you to the parents for getting your children to the rehearsals & especially getting them to the program on such a bitter cold morning!

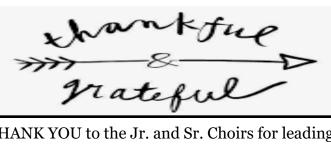
Finally the children. You are all AMAZING!!!! You were all attentive and courteous to me and to each other. I could not ask for the program to go any better! Again, thank you.

Your sister in Christ, Linda Brown, director



THANK YOU to
Mike Jewell who
played the sacred
music for the Blue
Christmas / Service
of Healing. Your
music set the tone for
a holy experience
with God.

THANK YOU to Lee Buchholz, Sammie Frakes, Finn Frakes, Margie Runaas, and the Jewell family for blessing our Christmas Eve worship services with your special gift of song and music. You joined with the celestial choir of angels singing and playing praises to God on the holy night of our Savior's birth. Lee, thank you also for your blessing of song on Christmas Day.



THANK YOU to the Jr. and Sr. Choirs for leading worship through sacred music on Sunday, December 4th. Your message of Christ's birth to all humankind was a true blessing to the congregation and God was glorified. Thank you for your faithful ministry: Sara Bartlett, Choir Director; Jr. Choir: Natalie Prohaska, Emma and Thomas Lueck (unable to attend due to road conditions), Mikaila Matheson, Caitlin Kroll, Kylee Statler, and Kenzie Quigley. Adult Choir: Mike Jewell (voice and piano), Margie Runaas (voice and piano), Sandy Weller, Kate Glinsmann, Diane Tweeton, Lynette Sievers, Debbie Jewell, Lee Buchholz, Jim Petersen, Jon Runaas, Steve Jones, and Peter Weller.

"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you." Psalm 5:11 THANK YOU to all the Immanuel Salvation Army Bell Ringers at Wal-Mart who braved the cold, wind, and snow on Saturday, December 17th: Mike Howard, Pastor Howard, Judy Venzke, McWhirter Family, Deb Simmering and Linda Brown, Dale Venzke, Steve and Kathy Vetter, Six Family, and Ray Poe (and anyone who joined in, but didn't sign up). Money placed in Washington County kettles remains in Washington County.

THANK YOU Mikaila Matheson, Audrey Wubbena, Quinn Wubbena, and Claire Wubbena for playing special music for worship on Sunday, December 18th. God has blessed you with musical talent and we are grateful that you use your talent to give God glory and bless the congregation of Immanuel.

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High" Psalm 92:1





THANK YOU to all the youth of Immanuel Lutheran for your presentation of the birth of Jesus on Sunday, December 18th. Your energy, innocence, and love of Jesus are a true blessing to the people of Immanuel. Thank you to Linda Brown for directing the pageant "Prince of Peace" adapted from the poem Baby Jesus, Prince of Peace by Carol Greene. Your hard work and dedication are so appreciated. The love you have for the children is seen in the love the children have for you! The cast was: Narrators Taylor Bartholomew and Mikaila Matheson; Mary: Kylee Statler; Joseph: Ajay Six; Mary's Donkey: Thomas Lueck; Angel Gabriel: Emma Lueck; Jesus: Armor Six; Angel Choir: Vivi Kroll, Kenzie Quigley, Ainsley Six, and Callie Brink; Shepherds: Avery Six, Clayton Bartholomew, and Lason Montz; Shepherdess: Claire Wubbena; Mama Sheep: Caitlin Kroll; Lambs: Ashlee Statler, Lauren McWhirter, and Axel Six; Bull: Aden Six; and Calf: William McWhirter. "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14. To see more photos from "Prince of Peace" go to Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa.

January 2017, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

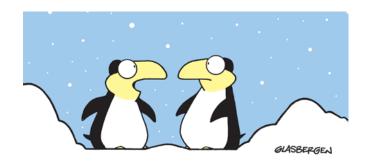
Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that! Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 21. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A New Harmony- Zach has always had a love of the outdoors. In his free time, he can usually be found in his back yard, mowing the lawn or making sure his snow blower is working properly before the first snow. But when Zach began working with his hourly support staff, Shane, he found a new love: music. Shane is an hourly support staff with LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Each week, the duo works together to help Zach stay active in the community, practice his coping skills, and achieve his personal goals. Music therapy has become a major part of their time together. "We play guitar quite a bit," Shane says. "I think music therapy is very important. It just helps calm the soul down." During each session, Shane teaches Zach a few new chords or strumming patterns that Zach can practice on his own. "I know when I've had a long, bad day at work, I get kind of angry rather quickly," Zach says. "If I can, I go to my room and grab my guitar and start strumming some chords. I'm not much of a singer, but I've started putting some words with some of the jamming out I do." Seeing Zach's new appreciation for guitar is just one way Shane is constantly inspired to come to work. "A lot of motivation for hourly work is you only have a short amount of time with the individual, and it has to change their life," he says. "When we can use our time to utilize music like Zach has, it can be a great coping skill, and it's working for him."



"Faith means believing in things you've never seen...like your feet!"

"I Will Give You As a Light To the Nations" by Peter J. Weller

To Christians, Jesus is the one speaking in these passages. In Isaiah's time, the Messiah's voice was a voice from the future, who spoke to people and nations beyond just the Israelites. The Messiah says that the LORD called him before he was born, named him while he was in his mother's womb, and gave him the mission of a servant. But, he is to be more. The LORD says to him, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6) Thus, God will be not only the God of the Israelites, but of all humanity, and through knowing this Messiah servant, God's salvation will be made known and available to everyone.

The Messiah knows the enormity of the task that he will face. When the Lord says that he will be glorified through his servant, the servant responds that he has labored in vain and spent his strength for nothing. The Lord tells his Holy One, the Messiah, that he will become deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, and the slave of rulers. Yet, the Lord also says to him that "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you." The Messiah also understands that his cause, as well as his reward, is with the Lord.

Truly, Isaiah's ear and mind and heart was tuned to God. He has great perception and understanding of what God is telling him. With Isaiah, one begins to see the enlargement of, and transition from, the idea of God being the God of Israel only, to God being a universal God, known by all throughout the world. Undoubtedly, in today's world, many people know of God. To what extent they believe, or not believe, in God is a separate question altogether. Different religions see God differently, and they have different ideas as to what eternal life looks like, what salvation means, and what sort of meaningful relationship can be developed with God. So the work of making God's existence and God's story known to all peoples continues. Each of us, in our own way, must share in that work.



The youth and adults going to New York this summer would like to host a Parents' Night Out on Sat. Jan. 21st from 5:30-9pm at Immanuel. The cost to leave your children, in our care, is a free-will offering.

Dinner, snacks, and fun will be provided. We would like to have sign-ups confirmed by Wed.

Jan. 18th after service so we can have adequate staffing and supplies. Please contact

Tricia Kroll at

319-530-0415 or careytm@yahoo.com with inquiries.

Our Mitten Tree will be out until January 8th. Please cover it with new or gently worn winter items.



New Disciple's (Member's) Class

You are warmly invited to become a fellow disciple of Christ at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Howard will be holding a new disciple's (member's) class on Sunday, January 15th, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Let's journey together as we discover what being a Lutheran is all about. If you, or someone you know, are interested in joining Christ's body here with us, please contact Pastor Howard or the church office, 653-3950. We will receive these new disciples to Immanuel Lutheran, during worship, on January 22nd. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8 NRSV)

2017 Offering Envelopes

2017 envelopes for your Tithes and offerings of Thanksgiving, are on the table in the hallway. These envelopes are for your monetary offerings to God and are used to support the ministries of Immanuel Lutheran through the church budget. If there aren't envelopes with your name on it, please contact Kelly in the church office at 653-3950.

Immanuel Lutheran's Children/Youth/Minors Abuse Prevention Policy TRAINING

Immanuel has developed a policy for preventing abuse to the children/youth/minors who participate in Immanuel Lutheran functions. Church council will be leading a training class for all individuals who interact with children/youth/minors here at Immanuel. The successful completion of this training is **MANDATORY** for individuals to continue to interact with children/youth/minors here at Immanuel Lutheran. A training session will be taught on Sunday, January 22nd at 1 p.m. If you are unable to participate in this training, other training sessions will be offered. Policies are located on the table in the hallway for you to take and begin reading. Thank you for your desire to keep the children/youth/minors of Immanuel safe while under the supervision of Immanuel Lutheran's staff and volunteers.

The Epiphany Season

January brings us out of the Christmas season and into the season of Epiphany. "Epiphany" means "to show" or "to make known" or "to reveal". During the 2nd century "Epiphany" was used, by the church, to express the manifestations of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. During the Epiphany Season, manifestations of God incarnate are commemorated: Jesus, Lord and King, of both Jews and Gentiles – when the Wise Men visited child Jesus in



Bethlehem. The Wise Men were the first to reveal Jesus, to the world, as the incarnate Christ. This is called the Epiphany of Our Lord and is always celebrated on January 6th. The color of the paraments for Epiphany is white: purity, holiness, and joy. Jesus' Divinity – Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, with the speaking of God the Father and the appearance of God the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to be God's Son (celebrated Sunday, January 8th). The color of the paraments is also white. Jesus revealing God's power through love for the world – made known through Jesus' ministry of preaching, miracles, and healings. The color of the paraments is green: representing the new life that Jesus gives us and our spiritual growth. The Epiphany season concludes with the Transfiguration of our Lord, which will be celebrated on Sunday, February 26th. The church year moves from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, March 1st.

Christmas Caroling Good for All

On Sunday, December 4th, 23 carolers bundled up and traveled throughout the dark, snowy, Washington night singing Christmas carols. We visited 12 households/nursing home and we delighted everyone as we sang: Away in the Manger, Jingle Bells, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. We returned to the church and enjoyed delicious soups and desserts provided by the Youth and Fellowship committee. It was



a great evening proclaiming the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, through caroling to our Immanuel Lutheran family. More pictures may be viewed on Immanuel's Facebook page: Immanuel Lutheran Washington Iowa.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a service of Lessons and Carols adapted from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been celebrated annually at King's College, Cambridge, for almost a century. The Scripture lessons are those traditionally used at the festival, while the carols that accompany each passage have been selected from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book. Join us as we worship together, on Sunday, January 1st, 9 a.m. and again on Wednesday, January 4th, 6 p.m. to hear and sing the promises of Christ's birth. Welcome in the new year through welcoming our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Epiphany Party ~ Celebrate the Arrival of the Magi!

Join us on Friday, January 6th, 6 p.m., as we begin the Epiphany season with a PARTY! We'll begin the celebration with a baked potato bar supper; bring your favorite potato topping or dessert to share. After we enjoy fellowship over a delicious supper we will go into the sanctuary to hear the journey of the wise men to the child Jesus (Matthew 2:1-15). The children will then place the wise men and camel figurines with Jesus. The Epiphany party will conclude with the undecorating from Christmas and preparing the sanctuary for the season of Epiphany. A sign-up sheet for the potato bar supper is on the hallway table.

Youth to Quake in Cedar Rapids

Jason Taylor and Aaron Six will be taking Ryan Jones, Lucas Kroll, Ajay Six, Avery Six, Aden Six, and Rob Taylor to the Quake in Cedar Rapids Friday, January 6th – Sunday, January 8th. The theme for the Quake is "Found": 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost'. Quake says participants will have the opportunity to: Praise and worship God, experience a caring community, develop healthy



relationships with other youth, grow deeper in faith through focused workshops, discuss issues of interest, package life-saving meals, and learn about global hunger. The participants will sing and dance to the music of Lynn Stoneking and will be moved and inspired by the presentations of Brian Wallace. We look forward to an exciting weekend as we each deepen our faith in Jesus Christ. We ask that you surround this group in prayer for safe travel and that the weekend is a blessing to all whom attend.



Time/Date	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Acolyte
January 1	DeAnn Hakert Sherry Ives	Mike Howard, Gary Fischer, Tom Gaughan	Linda Brown Tricia Kroll	Caitlin Kroll
January 8	8 am Ken & Susan Baker 10:30 Scott & Laurie Pemberton	8 am Rich, Deidra & Marty Baker 10:30 Yaro & Mary Chmelar and Bob Coker	8 am Deidra Baker 10:30 Mary Chmelar	8 am Cody Jones 10:30 Emma Lueck
January 15	8 am Don McAvoy and Ray & Alta Poe 10:30 Sherry Ives and Dale & Judy Venzke	8 am Brad Kroll, Gary Fischer and Steve Vetter 10:30 John & Peg Harris and Mike Howard	8 am Gary Fischer 10:30 John Harris	8 am Lucas Kroll 10:30 Mikaila Matheson
January 22	8 am Yvonne Buster and Phyllis Hagensick 10:30 Linda Six and Andy & Danielle Six family	8 am Stan & Kristin Jones and family 10:30 Aaron & April Six and family	8 am Kristin Jones 10:30 Jon Runaas	8 am Ryan Jones 10:30 Ajay Six
January 29	8 am Vi Kruse and Jane Kruse 10:30 Mike & Virginia Jorgensen	8 am Ray Poe, Katie McWhirter, Tom Gaughan 10:30 Brian & Carrie Lueck and Laurie Pemberton	8 am Tom Gaughan 10:30 Mary Gail Lyons	8 am Caitlin Kroll 10:30 Kylee Statler

Poinsettias in the chancel are from the following people:

Stephen Bay- For Charles Munford

Alan & Vicki Rebling- In Memory of our Grandparents

Jane Kruse– In Memory of Louis & Maria Kruse, Robert & Margaret Jones. In Memory of Pastor Alfred Kruse and William Adams

Ray & Alta Poe- In Glory to God

Ron & Linda Brown – In Memory of our granddaughter, Paula KaDawn Brown and her great-grandparents. In Memory of our son-in-law, Gary Bray

Betty Warren- In Memory of my good friend, Rose Childs

Phyllis Hagensick- In Memory of husband, Duane Hagensick

Don McAvoy– In Memory of wife, Sandy McAvoy

Vi Kruse- In Memory of Ted Kruse

Lois & Lee Buchholz– In Memory of parents, Dewey & Ruby Bremer and Otto & Anna Buchholz

Deb Tisor– In Memory of parents, Don & Leona Tisor and sister, Cindy Tisor **Howard Family**– In Memory of Al Howard and Clara Mulcox

Rose Lloyd- In Memory of Ricky Shaw

Kate, **Ike & Bethany**, **and Peter Glinsmann**– In Memory of Peggy Moss and Don Moss

Lori Seubert - In Memory of Greg Seubert

Tom & Mary Gail Lyons– In Memory of Mary Gail's mother, Ruth Dankof and Tom's uncle, Jerome Devanne

Poinsettias can be picked up anytime after January 1st