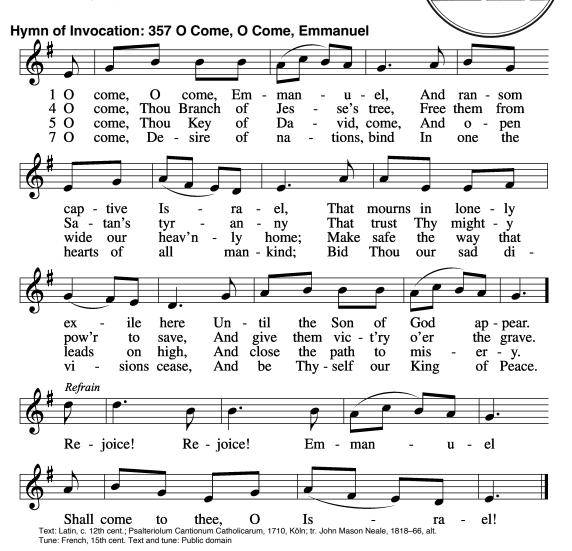
+ Fourth Sunday in Advent +

Dec 24, Year of our Lord 2023 I DS1

+ Confession and Absolution +



The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

Son and of the Holy Spirit. ■ Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit (Spoken)

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

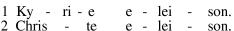
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning.

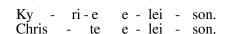
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.





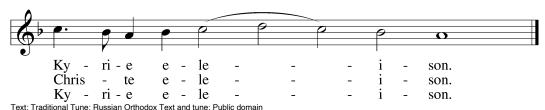
lei son. son.



e - lei

son.

ri - e



Salutation and Collect of the Day

3 Ky - ri - e





Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the

people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Romans 16:25–27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

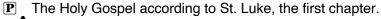
Verse of the Day

Matthew 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia. Alleluia and Verse John 6:68



Holy Gospel Luke 1:26–38





In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be



afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

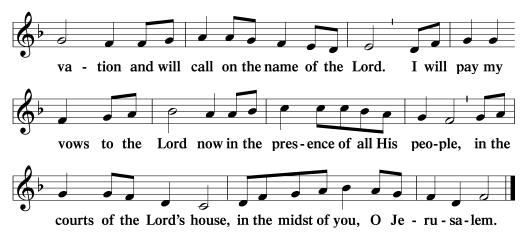
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

→ everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder (see hymnal)





Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).



Prayer of the Church

World: Praying for a quick end to the war between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas**. For an end of the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**. All areas and peoples around the world affected by fires, flood, earthquakes, and the like. Residents and businesses in northern **Nashville** and **Clarksville**, Tennessee recovering from tornado damage.

Church: For missionaries, teachers, and evangelists. For safety and protection for all who will are building a new Sanctuary, narthex, and parking lots for Praise Lutheran Church. For safety for our friends in Kenya (Pastor Jasper and family).

Vocation: For foster children in our community. For veterans and our military (including Carter Felt and Tyler Smith and William Smolter). For those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters. For parents with children and those expecting. For teachers in our community schools. For seminary students at CTSFW: Aaron Wade, Will Bales, and Sam Bohnet.

Loss and Mourning: Family of **Ed Scarano** (former member of Praise, wife: JoAnn). Family of For **Delora Roth** who passed to be with Christ on 11/13. Family of **Greg Nunnink** (98 yrs old, father of Tim Nunnink) who passed on 10/25, Family of **Joan Hoffman** (90 yrs old, faithful friend of Steve & Janice Kaiser) who passed away in

Indiana. Family of **Jeanette** (Deb Wales's sister-in-law) who passed away on 10/7. Family of **Jeanne Lindenfelser** (78 yrs old, passed away 10/3). Family of the **Brekke family's Papa Gary**. Family of **Carylon Dickie** (91 yrs old, passed away 9/24). Family of **Maggie McCarty** (two-year old daughter of Pastor Nathan McCarty from camp) who passed away. Family of **Daidan Lance** (friend of Adam Uebelacker) who died from a motorcycle accident. Family of **Dwight** (Myrna's brother in law) who passed away, especially for Kay (Myrna's sister). Family of **Albert Caspers** (Sally Collver's father in MI) 97 years old who passed away.

Health: For Brad (Phil & Carol Barnett's son) lung blood clots treatment. For Michael Brown (Joan Large's nephew) peace knowing cancer has spread. For Billye Raye Smith to build back immunity after multiple myeloma treatments. Myrna Frazier cancer treatment and health. For Mary Ellen Brown (heart health). For Faith (Jerry and Jennifer Kropp's daughter) health. For **Bill Miller** recovery from ruptured appendix surgery. For Tom Williams procedure in January for a spot on the lung. For Rick Gift (recovering from shoulder surgery). Aunt Janeen healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). For Frank Davis (Leah Mohr's father) health. For **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's brother-in-law) terminal cancer. For Marty Smith (Tyler [and Megan] Smith's father) rapidly advancing cancer treatment. For Victor Sebahar (friend of Fred Hansen), cancer in brain, lungs, and bone. For Pastor Phil Young (gall bladder removal) and his wife Amy (cancer treatments). For Jeff Ratliff (Mark's younger brother in Florida) cancer, kidney removal, and cancer in the back. For **Bob Goodrich** adjusting to new pacemaker. For **Steve Clemmer** hip replacement recovery. Alan Tokar shoulder surgery recovery. Charleston Snyder's grandmother Nancy (Sarah Thaemert's mother) in Knoxville, health, For Lyndsie (Levi & Suzanne's neighbor) cancer treatments. Ronnie Riggs (friend of Paul Ruble) declining health. **David** (friend of Jerald Johnston's brother) congestive heart failure. Lawrence McMichael thanksgiving for prognosis from tests and good treatment plan to come. Bill Solomon (Amy Mohr's brother) eye condition. For Marge (Ted Wilson's former wife) valve replacement. Gary Kubin experiencing debilitating back and leg pain. Sharon Yoder recovering from mitral valve prosthesis trial (thanksgiving!). Carol Ehrens diagnosed with Thyroid cancer (slow growing). Bronson Butcher (Mary Schopmann's great-grandson) thanksgiving for successful robotic kidney tract stent and soon follow-up procedure. Deb Wales's father (health). Anna Strege broke arm in three places. Landen (family of Brian and Anna Strege) treating a rare virus. Rick & Lisa Gift's family, Terry & Ann Gift (both with cancer), Terry also fell and fractured his hip. Jules Felt recovery of health. Harvey Booher (Lori Smith's brother) recovering from heart attack and 3 stents. Steve (Lainey from Bible Study's husband) hip surgery recovery. Ed McGillick persistent dizziness caused by abnormal blood pressure fluctuations. Janice Kaiser health. Lee Schuck at home, for her health and mobility. Gary Moehling

recovery of balance and stability. Adam Uebelacker knee injury rehab. Debbie Johnston kidney health. Chuck Pettyjohn recovering from open heart surgery. Mary (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) Legionnaires' disease treatment. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Judy Kalkitis** health and Judy's son in law, Larry (health). Pastor Neil Vanderbush at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. Kay (Myrna's sister) for health. Pastor Ed Maanum of First Lutheran Knoxville, kidney function. For June McDonnell (lung health). Jennifer Morsch (Joel & Barbara's daughter) health. Rachel Ernst's mother: cancer treatments. For Alan Stremsterfer's mother health issues. For Lisa Stremsterfer's father health and stability. Sheila Schnepf (friend of Tom & Lois Schering) back pain. Nancy (Jim Vesper's mother) health. Aurora Stevens back treatments. For Barbara Moyers health. For Kathy Bigger (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Al Reuer health. Ken Payne's health (friends of a friend of Jim Vesper). Tim Smith (heart and back health). Steve Kaiser's mother Louise (age 92) in Indiana. Andrew Hebar's Aunt Kara (struggling from cancer treatments). Clients and friends of Jim Vesper: Myron Farmer (needing liver transplant), Debbie Buckner (peace and restoration), Steve Phipps (recovery from fall that broke both legs).

Birthdays: Tina P 12/25, Jeff B 12/26, Janice K 12/26, Tim N 12/26, Judy T 12/27, Rose B 12/30, Audrey F 1/4, Theresa L 1/4

Anniversaries: William & Kimberly S 12/30, David & Kenna C 1/4

Benediction for those worshipping on the livestream.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

p. 160; 2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

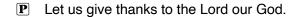


C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



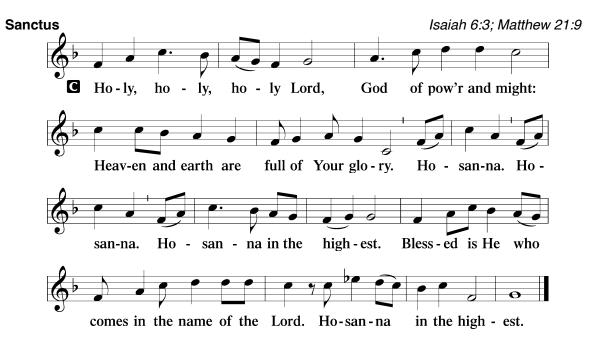
C We lift them to the Lord.





Proper Preface ~ Altar Book (appropriate to the day or season)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.
- Amen.

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9–13

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

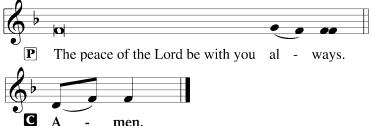
The Words of Our Lord

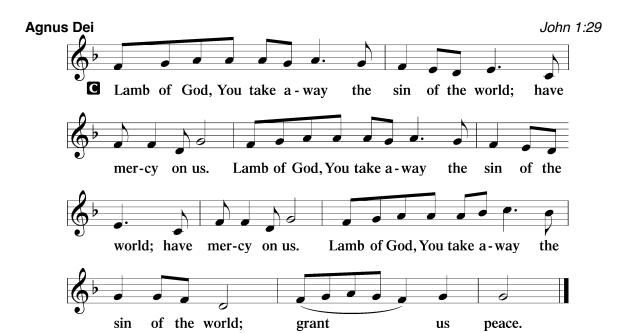
Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini John 20:19







Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn 1: 370 What Child Is This

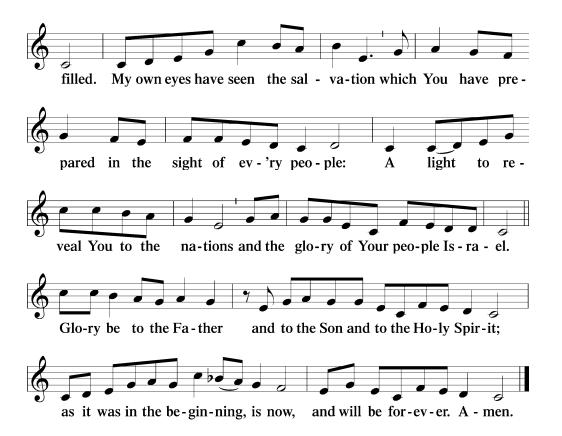
Distribution Hymn 2: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Distribution Hymn 3: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Distribution Hymn 4: 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Distribution Hymn 5: 393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly





Post-Communion Collect

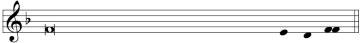
p. 166

Let us pray.... one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Acknowledgments

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 1850 Big Springs Rd. Maryville, TN 37801 Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: **praiselutheran.com**

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 229-6024 (Day off: Fridays)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179 Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Capital Campaign Info: Ed Hannah; Joel Morsch

Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Two Large Print Hymnals are available in the back of church. Please ask those who are helping usher, play music, or manage the livestream equipment in the back of church.

Praise Lutheran T-Shirts order Please submit payment and indicate T-shirts.

Lutheran Witness 2024 Subscription Sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please submit check or gift of \$15 and indicate *Lutheran Witness*.

Youth and Families

Encourage your kids of all ages to attend **Sunday morning Bible study.** Younger children meet in the Sunday School Classroom across from the mailboxes while students from 6th grade through 12th grade (or equivalent) will meet in the Social Hall.

Middle and High School Youth Groups on Wednesdays

Dec 27 on Christmas break; we meet again January 3.

Youth Catechesis Schedule

with Pastor Roberts after church, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Sun, Jan 14 Apostles' Creed Sun, Jan 28 Apostles' Creed

Announcements



Christmas EVE Candlelight Vigil TONIGHT, Dec 24, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas DAY Divine Service TOMORROW, Dec 25, 10:30 a.m.

Elders will lead a Service of the Word next **Sun, Dec. 31** at our normal service times of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (First Sunday after Christmas).

Pastor Roberts will be out of town Dec 26 through Jan 3. Please contact head Elder Chuck Pettyjohn (865) 223-3471 if any pastoral emergencies while pastor is away.



Progress on our build

Visit **praiselutheran.com/build** to see a video on the progress! Current projects: Electrical in Sanctuary ceiling, drywall, steeple installation.

Building Fund Update	2023 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$330,320	\$956,115
Pledged	\$277,877	\$1,065,270
Remaining	-\$52,955	\$109,223

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 36% funded).

Adopt a College Student or Young Military servant (members of Praise): please see Linda McMichael or Pastor Roberts about how you can help show care and love all year round and specifically before this Thanksgiving. *Needed: 2 more families to adopt.* Thank you to all of you who have already.

Youth Group on Christmas break until Jan 3. No Choir this Wed (resumes Jan 10). Men's Bible Study on break until Jan 10. Ladies Bible Study on break until Jan 11.

Worship chairs: If you're asking, "What can I help fund?" we are in the process of ordering 116 new chairs in the same fabric and similar frame to complete the new Sanctuary. Cost is approx. \$100 per chair with shipping. Please specify: Worship Chairs with your gift. Status: \$3,300 (33 chairs) have been given to date.

Poinsettias given in memory of / in honor of...

Loved Ones 1 Memory of Marleen Baerns Phil & Carol Barnett Memory of Loved Ones Loved Ones Larry & Phillis Bembas Memory of Laura Bisconte Memory of Elnora Mace Ann Brown Memory of **Loved Ones** The Gift of Jesus Gift Family Memory of Fred Hansen Memory of Erna Hansen Hebar Family Memory of Loved Ones Renee Hickman Memory of Parents Bailey and Jude Hicks Hicks Family Memory of Ole & Mavis Johnson Honor of Military and Law Enforcement Steve & Janice Kaiser Memory of Richard Haynes McMichaels & Haynes Memory of Delora Roth Amy Mohr Memory of Dick Mohr Larry's Parents: Howard & Alice, Janet's Parents: Larry & Janet Moore 2 Memory of Harry & Marylou Lillemoen, and Sister: Linda Julio **Betty Narveson** Memory of Clayton Mark Ratliff 2 Memory of Megan and Barbara Ratliff Paul Ruble Memory of Loved Ones in Glory Sharon Schenk Memory of Charles Schenk Smith-Sebrights Memory of Taryn Sebright Jim & Valerie Vesper Memory of JoAnn & John Boling and Jim Vesper, Sr. Sandra Wendland Memory of Albert Edward Wittkopp (Son) Tom Wittkopp Memory of

Marcy Gaugert

Memory of

Sharon Yoder