# **Grace Lutheran Church**

1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road Woodstock, IL 60098 www.gracewoodstock.org December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve 4:00 & 7:30 P.M.



## CHILDREN'S RECITAL - 4:00 P.M.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
"The Little Drummer Boy"
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"The First Noel"
"What Child Is This"

arr., Pentatonix, Maddy Emery & Annie Gibbs Trad., Johanna Bergstrom Davis, Onorati & Simeone, Norah Thomas arr., Carlin, Grace Orchestra arr., Burndrett, Grace Orchestra arr., Jeremy Young, Sonia Brzezinski

# PRESERVICE MUSIC - 7:30 P.M.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
"Come, All Ye Shepherds"
"He Is Born"
"What Child Is This"
"Angels We Have Heard on High"

setting, Robert A. Hobby setting, John Ferguson setting, James D. Kimball setting, Kenneth Kosche setting, Michael Burkhardt

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **PRELUDE**

"Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring" Johann Pachelbel (Public Domain)
"The First Noel" settings, Christopher Uehlein/Neil Harmon (One License)

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.





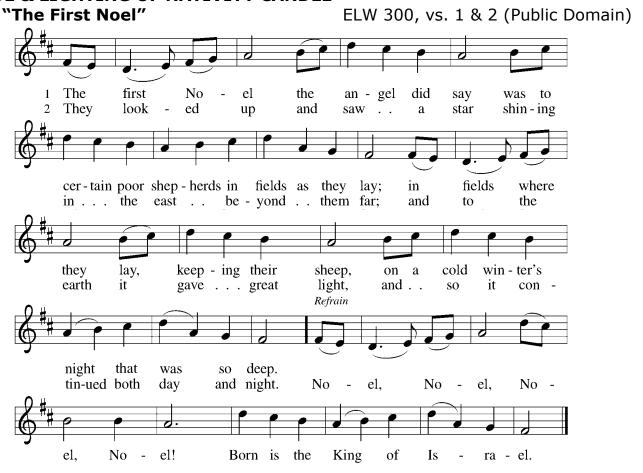
Please be seated.

### **WELCOME**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

### **CAROL & LIGHTING OF NATIVITY CANDLE**



### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

### **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Luke 2:1-20

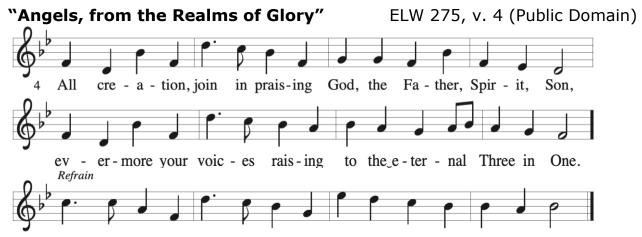
# Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 



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

Please be seated.

# **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

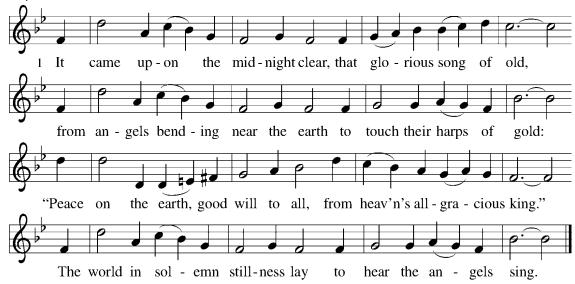
Please stand as you are able.





### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

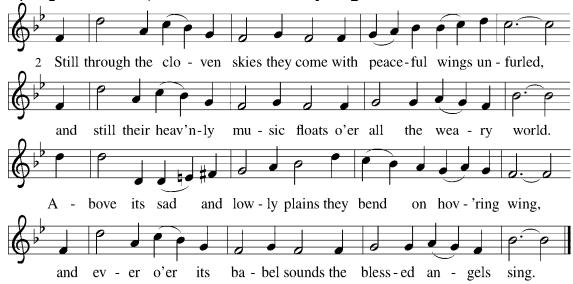
Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.



A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 



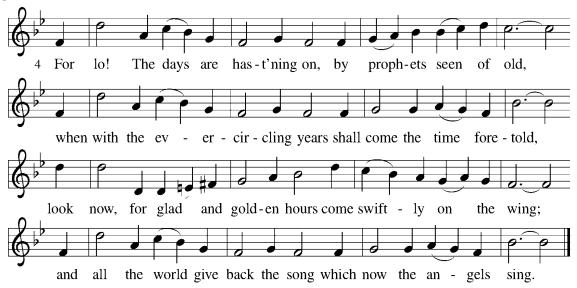
Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling, especially for those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 



Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 



With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.** 

### **PEACE**

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a sign of God's peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.** 

### **OFFERING**

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.



# **OFFERING ANTHEM**

4:00 p.m. – "Gloria" Anne McNair, arr. William McNair (Augsburg Fortress) 7:30 p.m. – "A Carol of Hope" Don Besig & Nancy Price (One License)

# **OFFERING HYMN**

# "What Child Is This"

ELW 296 (Public Domain)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

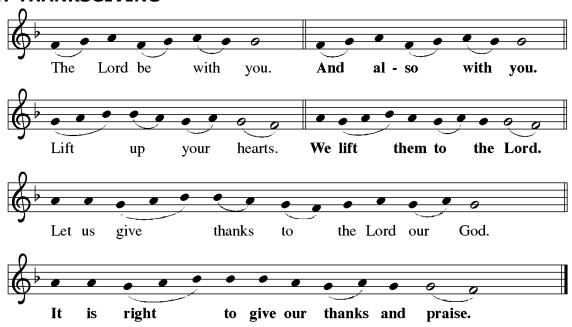


This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

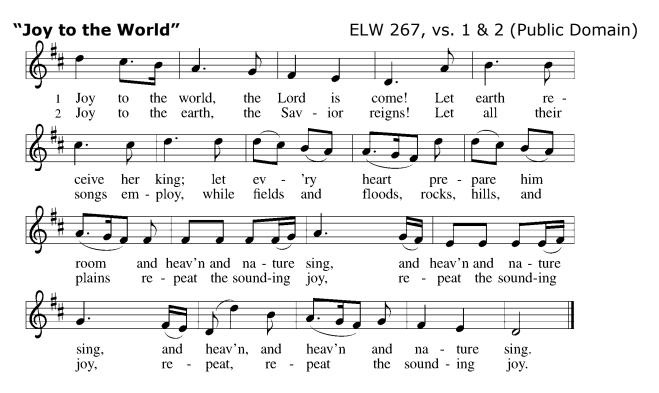


haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y! joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:



### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All are welcome at the Lord's table. God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.

### **DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM**

7:30 P.M. - "What Sweeter Music"

Mary Lynn Lightfoot & Robert Herrick (One License)



## "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

## ELW 279 (Public Domain)



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.



thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. yet in Ö morn-ing stars, to birth, geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly 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 years are thee to - night. The hopes and fears of all met in prais - es God the king, and sing to peace to all 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!

# "Away in a Manger"

# ELW 277 (Public Domain)



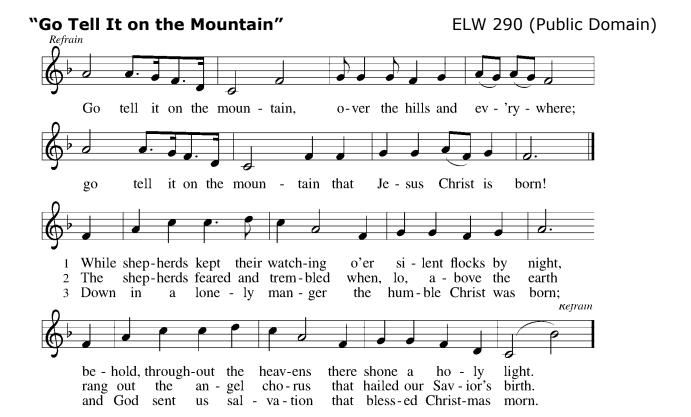
- 1 A way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit tle Lord 2 The cat tle are low-ing; the ba by a wakes, but lit tle Lord
- 3 Be near me, Lord Je sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked you, Lord Je - sus; look Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love pray. Bless the dear chil - dren in ev - er and love me, all I



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh. your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.** 

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  $\pm$  bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.** 

## **CANDLE LIGHTING & SILENT NIGHT**

Ushers will come forward following the Blessing, altar lights will be turned off completely and nave lights dimmed. The pastor gives "light" to the ushers and the ushers to the first person in each pew. Please use caution with children holding candles. The lighted candle is never tilted but is held upright.

### **HYMN**

# "Silent Night"

# Mohr & Gruber, ELW 281 (Public Domain)

Silent night will be sung as a duet/solo in German as candles are lit. Congregation stands as able and joins in singing and raises candles on the  $3^{rd}$  verse.



### **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

# And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

### Thanks be to God.

Candles may be extinguished and placed in a basket as you leave the sanctuary.

### **POSTLUDE**

"Joy to the World"

Setting, Michael Burkhardt (One License)

# **Worship Team:**

# A/V Team:

4 & 7:30 P.M. Bill Nattress

### **Communion Assistants:**

4:00 P.M. Michelle Anderson, Robin Gibbs, Kim Lanham,

Eleanor Wedoff, Jamielynn Wedoff

7:30 P.M. Robin Gibbs, Mike Phillips, Marylee Steinwehe,

Madeline Thomas, Tanya Thomas

Acolytes: 4:00 P.M. Riley Poremba, Norah Thomas, Adalynn Wedoff

7:30 P.M. Norah Thomas

**Greeters:** 4:00 P.M. Anne Johnson, Erica Poremba

7:30 P.M. Robin Gibbs, Mike Phillips

**Readers:** 4:00 P.M. Janice Laird

7:30 P.M. Paul Lockwood

**Ushers:** 4:00 P.M. Kevin Jarnecke, Carrie Jarnecke, Faith Metze, John Widmayer,

Al Wilson, Fay Wilson

7:30 P.M. Nancy Kreznor, Bill Kreznor, Bob Teuber, Kathy Zank, Ken Zank

**Children's Sermon:** 

4:00 P.M. Jamielynn Wedoff

7:30 P.M. Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

## **Nativity Candle Lighting:**

4:00 P.M. Wedoff Family 7:30 P.M. Thomas Family

Altar Guild: Michelle Anderson, Tammy Baier, Brian Gerloff, Carole Gerloff

**Musicians:** 4:00 P.M. Cherubs, Joyful Sound, Jan Burns, Cindy Meyer,

Scott & Tammy Baier, Jon Bergstrom & Hannah Wilson

7:30 P.M. Laudate, Chancel Choir, Jan Burns, Carrie Filetti

### **Decorating Coordinators:**

Karen Reinhard & Judy Reilly

**Lead Pastor:** Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In memory of our grandson, Alex; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

In memory of Marlene L. Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber; given by Robert B. Teuber.

To the glory of God; given by Marylee & Don Steinwehe.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day. You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

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Thank you for sharing in worship this Christmas!
We hope to worship God with you again.
Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a
New Year filled with peace and grace.

The entire staff of Grace Lutheran Church

## **GRACE STAFF**

| Rev. Amanda Bergstrom                 |
|---------------------------------------|
| Kim Smith                             |
| Carrie Fiorina                        |
| Kari Gippert                          |
| Nyjiela Sirreayah                     |
| & MusicJanice Burns                   |
| Terry Aavang                          |
| rCindy Meyer                          |
| Jon Bergstrom                         |
| Carrie Filetti                        |
| Ken Zank                              |
| m Ethridge, Chris Ethridge            |
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# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – 2025

WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE LISTED BELOW WHO HAVE HELPED MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS SEASON MORE FESTIVE:

### IN MEMORY OF:

- MY GRANDPARENTS, KAY & MARY STATLER; GIVEN BY ERICA POREMBA
- MARLENE L. TEUBER: GIVEN BY ROBERT B. TEUBER
- OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS; GIVEN BY KEN & KATHY ZANK
- OUR GRANDSON, ALEX; GIVEN BY KEN & KATHY ZANK
- OUR FATHER, AUGUST JAPP; GIVEN BY HIS FAMILY
- OUR MOTHER, ESTHER HUGHES; GIVEN BY HER FAMILY
- ALL OUR LOVED ONES; GIVEN BY JOE & JUNE PIENSCHKE
- MARY FIGARD, HAZEL POSTMA, AND FRANK HOLY; GIVEN BY TERRY FIGARD & FAMILY
- LEO & ELAINE HAULOTTE, LEONARD HAULOTTE, AND LINDA WILSON; GIVEN BY LAURA BOAL & FAMILY
- BOB UNGLAUBE: GIVEN BY BOB'S FAMILY
- Joan & Stanley Russell, Susan & John Moyer, and Tom Conover; given by the Conover Family
- Bob & Joyce Shook; given by Robin Gibbs
- HAZEL KNIEBUSCH, DOROTHY & WALLY THOMAS; GIVEN BY TANYA & ANDREW THOMAS
- CAROL PHILLIPS; GIVEN BY MIKE PHILLIPS
- MY FRIEND, JUDI KOELLER; GIVEN BY CARYL DIERKSEN
- MARION SMITH; GIVEN BY DAVID J. RICE
- BETTY SMITH; GIVEN BY DAVID J. RICE
- MARILYN L. RICE; GIVEN BY DAVID J. RICE
- OUR LOVED ONES IN HEAVEN; GIVEN BY KEN & TAMMY HANSING
- ELAINE BURCHAM; GIVEN BY FAY AND AL WILSON
- Our parents bob & Agnes Hess and Ferd & Carol Raffel; given by Dan & Janette Hess
- CLARK PHILLIPS AND MARLIN MEYER; GIVEN BY CINDY & PAUL MEYER
- DAVID E. FISH; GIVEN BY HIS MOTHER, MILLIE LUALLEN
- DIANE BAKER-LOCKWOOD, HARLEY & ELOISE BAKER, AND REV. GEORGE & HELEN LOCKWOOD; GIVEN BY PAUL LOCKWOOD
- ROBERT 'DUTCH' & ELAINE STEINWEHE; GIVEN BY KEITH STEINWEHE
- FLOYDD & RUTH ROSENQUIST; GIVEN BY THE BECKMAN FAMILY
- MAX &TEDDY BECKMAN; GIVEN BY THE BECKMAN FAMILY
- MR. & MRS. KENNETH SWAN, MR. & MRS. LYLE GIVEN, AND VIC & KAREN DEHMLOW; GIVEN BY STUART & ANN GIVEN AND FAMILY
- JAMES REINHARD AND MILTON & ELIZABETH ROTH; GIVEN BY KAREN REINHARD

### In Honor OF:

- ROBERT W. TEUBER; GIVEN BY ROBERT B. TEUBER
- Lucielle & Fred Campana, Kay Werle, and Geraldine Wilde; given by Tanya & Andrew Thomas
- MY PARENTS, ROGER & CAROLE LONG; GIVEN BY MARK & BETH MILLER
- Our granddaughters Caileigh & Hanna; given by Mary & John Widmayer
- OUR GRANDCHILDREN EMMA & HARRISON; GIVEN BY KEN & TAMMY HANSING
- MY AMAZING PARENTS; GIVEN ANONYMOUSLY
- OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW GRANDBABY, ELENA; GIVEN BY ANDY & MARY BETH BELLAVIA

### TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

- GIVEN BY DOUG & MARY NOE
- GIVEN BY DON & MARYLEE STEINWEHE
- FOR TWO SUCCESSFUL CROSS COUNTRY MOVES; GIVEN BY MILLIE LUALLEN & MARY ANN FISH
- GIVEN BY JUDY REILLY

