

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 for them in the inn.

Luke2:7

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2017 10:30 A.M.

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Four The paraments are white today, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in Him.

+ GATHERING +

ACCLAMATION Timothy Olsen

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

OPENING VOLUNTARY Of the Father's Love Begotten

John Blackburn

We stand.

ACCLAMATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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.

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

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.

GATHERING HYMN 275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

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.

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

+ WORD+

WELCOME

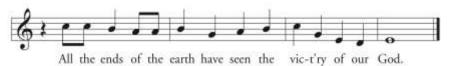
FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 Thomas Pavlechko

Refrain (Sung once by the choir, repeated by the assembly)



Verses sung by the choir

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

▼

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;

lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,

the world and those who dwell therein. **X**

⁸Let the rivers | clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the

⁹The LORD will judge the [|] world with righteousness and the peo- [|] ples with equity. **№**

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1-4

earth

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 1:1-14

The holy gospel according to Saint John.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.



We sit.

SERMON Pastor Wollner

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Created in the image and likeness of God, we pray for the light of life in all people, for new birth among us, and for communities that long for new life.

You, O God, form your church as the body of Christ. Reshape our hearts to know your grace, open our vision to see your truth, and make our mouths ready to proclaim your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

You speak and the creation comes into being. Call us by a new word to live in harmony with the fragile planet that is our common home. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

You announce peace and salvation to all the earth. Inspire our leaders to find achievable paths toward greater comfort, justice, and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

Your years never end. Sustain those whose increasing years make them weary, console the young who have already known struggle, and protect newborns whose years are just beginning. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

Your voice resounds among us. Give sufficient breath and abundant resilience to those who lead our praises in these festive days. We especially pray for: Rose Sydeman, Jon Vickers, Deana Vickers, Hank Farrar, Terri Cota, Violet Fowler, Paul Martin, Brooks Forsell, Melanie Denny, and for all of those we lift up on our lips and in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

You are changeless from generation to generation. Anoint us with the oil of gladness and number us with your saints, who with angels and archangels know you and your majesty to be boundless love. We especially remember: Jeanie Rudisill, Jack Horn, Donnie Eubanks, Pastor Tim Glenham, Abner Harrington, Charles Talton and Dot Gantt. Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

Please be considerate of those who may be reluctant to shake hands in this flu season.

We sit.

+ MEAL+

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM The Secret Flower music: William Stevens text: 17th century German, paraphrased by Eleanor Farjeon

This child was born to men of God: Love to the world was given; In him were truth and beauty met, On him was set At birth the seal of heaven.

He evil fought and overcame, He took from death the power; To all that follow where he goes At last he shows The kingdom's secret flower.

The secret flower shall bloom on earth
In them that have beholden;
The heavenly spirit shall be plain
In them again,
As first it was of olden.

Daniele Olsen, soprano William Stevens, tenor

We stand.

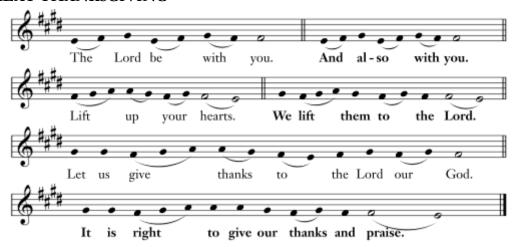
OFFERTORY HYMN



Let us pray.

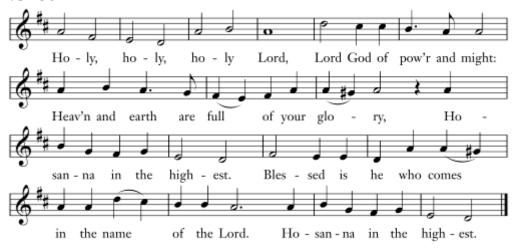
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

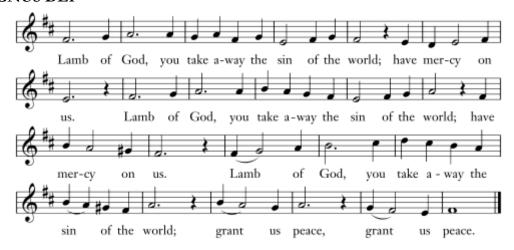
The presiding minister lifts the bread and cup and says

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

The assembly responds

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI



We sit.

COMMUNION

Today we will be communing by intinction. Receive the bread and dip it in the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available on the organ side of the church. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who have never communed and would like to are encouraged to talk to a pastor. All who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM O Magnum Mysterium

T.L. de Victoria

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,

that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger!

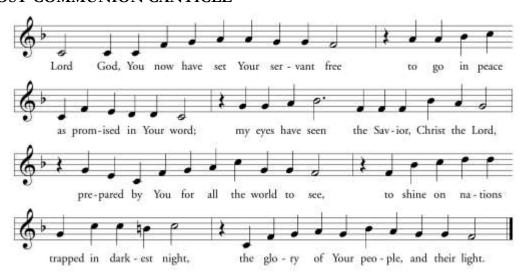
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

The Lord bless you...and + give you peace.



The assembly faces the cross as it leaves the sanctuary, following the cross as we follow Jesus into the world. All remain facing the cross for the dismissal.

SENDING HYMN 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Hodie Christus natus est! Today Christ is born!

The liturgical texts and music printed in today's bulletin are reprinted from the LBW, WOV and ELW, © 1978, 1995 and 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14658 - LIT. Anthem texts are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A – 707232

Announcements

Our worship begins with an acclamation or a brief piece sung by the choir which introduces the Gospel message or another theme of the day. This is a time to quietly begin our worship in ways that are meaningful to us, through listening, prayer, meditation on the scriptures to be read, the hymns or anthems to be sung, the art and paragraph on the cover of the bulletin, or to simply still our minds and spirits in preparation for an hour that is different from the hectic life outside the doors of our sanctuary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of our parents, Stella and Fred Hasecke and Bernice and H. W. (Chris) Vaughan by Keith and Lydia Vaughan.

Flowers on the Altar. Thank you to everyone who contributes the beautiful altar flowers every week. If you are interested in giving flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, call the church office for more information. Open dates are December 31; January 14; February 25 and March 11.

Sunday, January 7, will be the 1st Annual Epiphany Chili Cook-off at 5:30 P.M. in the Family Life Center. Please bring a crock pot of chili to share!

Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate Epiphany with an Epiphany Vespers service at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary. Join us as we read and sing about the revelation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and all nations. Music will be led by the Adult Choirs and Jubilate Choir.

The Efird L. and Maria F. Hine Fund committee will meet for its Winter Quarter meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. All requests for financial grants should be directed to The Hine Fund and should be in the church office no later than 12 noon on Friday, January 12. Agendas will be ready for members to pick up in the Work Room on Sunday, January 14. Please call or email the Hine Fund secretary if you are unable to attend the meeting. The general purpose and intent of the Hine Fund is to "put into effect a ministry of Christian mercy and concern in meeting human needs as the Church thinks Jesus Christ Himself would have them met."

The Charity Reserve Fund is used to assist people in the community (basically working through Crisis Control Ministry). This important fund has helped hundreds of people since 1954 when it was created. The Fund is replenished each year by gifts received in special envelopes stamped Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas in your envelope packet, together with designated gifts throughout the year by members of the congregation. Contributions received in the special envelopes will be credited, unless otherwise designated, to the Charity Reserve Fund and used to assist those in need in the community.

The Pastors' Discretionary Fund is the confidential fund used by the Pastors to assist those in need, both members and non-members. These funds are administered by the Pastors (at their discretion) to address needful situations. Contributions to this fund may be made throughout the year. Please make checks payable to: Augsburg Lutheran Church, and note on the memo line "Pastor's Discretionary Fund."

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Offerings. All undesignated money received in the offering plate will be used for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The Pastors' Discretionary Fund is the confidential fund used by the Pastors to assist those in need, both members and non-members. These funds are administered by the Pastors (at their discretion) to address needful situations.

Contributions Note: In order to receive credit in 2017, contributions should be in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2017.

Readings for Sunday: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

Worship attendance for services last week: 134 at 8:30; 180 at 11:00; 17 visitors.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist Joe Nicastro Liturgist William Stevens Lay Reader William Stevens

2017 FESTIVE DECORATIONS

The poinsettias in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God in honor of

My children Kenneth, Alan, & Karen, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren

	Eleanore Regenthal
Karla and Dan Simmons	Helen DeLooper
Chris & Melissa Vaughan	Keith & Lydia Vaughan
Fritz & Elizabeth Vaughan	Keith & Lydia Vaughan
Our grandchildren: Maggie, Hardy, Waverly and Winnie	Keith & Lydia Vaughan
The staff of Augsburg Lutheran Church	Don & Mary Armitage
The Olsens: Cantor Tim, Daniele, Ethan, Zachary & Jakob	Don & Mary Armitage
The many musicians & artists of Augsburg Lutheran Church	Don & Mary Armitage
Gene S. Hill and Sue Hill (Sharon Schoderbek's parents)	Charles and Sharon Schoderbek
Our 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild	Bob and Jean Deaton
Our children and grandchildren in Doran and Robinson Families	James and Vera Robinson
All of Augsburg's Outreach Programs	Lara Eppert Carter
	san, Craig, Sarah and Will Peatross
My children and grandchildren: Darin, Gwen & Daniel Nolting and Kimberly, Kirk & Drew Milhoan	
	Margee Nolting
The Wollner Family	The Grossnickle Family
Our children and grandchildren, Rick, Beth and Rusty; Hanna, Niels and Frederick	
	Fred and Mary Elizabeth Newman
Cantor Tim, Bruce Tippette and the Augsburg Choirs	Anne Bishop
Alayna, Ava, Maddie and Arabella (my granddaughters)	Mary Lou Leonard
Joyce Sills	Joyce Holton
Nanette Shutt	Joyce Holton
Jay and Barbara Wise	Joyce Holton

The poinsettias in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of

Katie Fitzgerald
Rod Clampitt
Mike, Karen and Sarah Fitzgerald
Mike, Karen and Sarah Fitzgerald

My parents; husbands Bill Regenthal and Pastor Troutman and granddaughter, Kenna Angell

Eleanore Regenthal

Norman B. DeLooper Helen DeLooper Our parents Sid and Linda Schneider Nellie Metzger Don & Mary Armitage Charles parents: Mabel Paige Murray and George Angus Stephens Charles and Linda Stephens Linda's mom: Barbara Hall Charles and Linda Stephens Lisa Wallace Chris Wilkie Carol Bernasek Ann and Mark Cordell and Mark Cordell, Jr. Edward Bernasek Ann and Mark Cordell and Mark Cordell, Jr. Our parents Jill and Lee Fowler Clarence and Loretta Karlen Sanford and Yvonne Beard Sanford and Dolores Beard Sanford and Yvonne Beard Suzanne Hill Freeman (Sharon Schoderbek's sister) Charles and Sharon Schoderbek John and Lydia Schoderbek (Charlie Schoderbek's parents) Charles and Sharon Schoderbek Vernon Carlton Jean and Bob Deaton Jean and Bob Deaton Jack Horn Our parents – Robinson and Saline Families James and Vera Robinson Walter and Johnsie Crowell Walter and Elisa Barger Clyde and Jeroline Barger Walter and Elisa Barger Helen Myers Joel Myers Clarence & Jean Dixon Jean's parents - Alicegene & Floyd Carver Clarence & Jean Dixon Clarence's parents - Ruby & Clarence Dixon, Sr. Rober and Dott Covington Craig and Betty Covington Eldon and Maxine Utt Craig and Betty Covington Randy Ronald Friend, a true friend, brother and uncle Colette, Bruce, Stephen and Samantha Griffin "Oma" Hildegard Weidinger and "Opa" Fritz Strobl, forever in our memory and heart Colette, Bruce, Stephen and Samantha Griffin Elly Burns Frye Jamey Lynn Miller: daughter of Elly Burns Frye Kaitlin Burns: great niece of Elly Burns Frye Elly Burns Frye H. Brown Kimball and Sue Peatross Susan, Craig, Sarah and Will Peatross Rodney and Bobbi Baker Mr. and Mrs. Howard and Ann Baker Gary L. Baker, M.D. Rodney and Bobbi Baker Rodney and Bobbi Baker Harvey H. Baker Ginger J. Baker Rodney and Bobbi Baker Irish Family of Carol Kainz Carol and Arthur Kainz David Nolting Margee Nolting and Family Our parents: Fred and Alma Nolting and Fred and Claire Nichols Margee Nolting Kathie's parents: Jesse & Barbara Albritton Don & Kathie Eppert Don's parents: Ken & Virginia Eppert Don & Kathie Eppert

George and Susan Little

George and Susan Little

George and Susan Little

James Franklin and Martha McAllister Misenheimer

Bus and Jean Little

Fred and Sara Lee Pollard

Cathryn Pollard Nealy George and Susan Little Helen K. Misenheimer George and Susan Little Tom and Peggy Sturgis Tom's brother, Roger Wayne Sturgis Peggy's brother, John Daniel Froneberger Tom and Peggy Sturgis My father, Frank Lewis Anne Bishop Allen Leonard Mary Lou Leonard David and Ruth Kinley Louis and Anna Louise Witker and J. Coty Nelson J. D. and Ella Mae Kinley, Sr. David and Ruth Kinley John and Margaret Deuble David and Ruth Kinley

Monetary donations are given to the Glory of God in memory of

Shelter Ministry in memory of our parents, sister and brother
Music Ministry in memory of Carol and Edward Bernasek

Fred and Mary Elizabeth Newman

Anna and Mark Cordell and Mark Cordell, Jr.

Music Ministry in memory of Dave NoltingNanette ShuttMusic Ministry in memory of Vernon CarltonNanette ShuttMusic Ministry in memory of Jack HornNanette ShuttMusic Ministry in memory of Pastor Tim GlenhamNanette ShuttKen ThorntonCarol Thornton

Monetary donations are given to the Glory of God in honor of

Rev. and Mrs. Darrell Norris Youth Gathering in honor of John and Emily Norris Music Ministry in honor of Margee Nolting Nanette Shutt Music Ministry in honor of Helen Carlton Nanette Shutt Nanette Shutt Music Ministry in honor of Lucille Horn Music Ministry in honor of Joyce Holton Nanette Shutt Music Ministry in honor of the 11:00 Choir Nanette Shutt Music Ministry in honor of the 8:30 Choir Nanette Shutt Nanette Shutt Music Ministry in honor of Paul and Judy Martin Music Ministry in honor of Pastor Paul and his family Nanette Shutt

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

845 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101 E-mail addresses available at www.augsburglutheran-ws.org (336) 722-8144

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor
Rev. Lori Carter, Pastoral Care Associate
Emily Norris, Dir. of Student & Social Ministries, Seminarian
Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor
Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Bruce Tippette, Youth Music and Handbell Director
Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator
Bruce Xu, Music Intern
Michaelene Lineberry, Parish Secretary
Reggie Jackson, Sexton

Michaelene Lineberry, Parish Secretary Stephanie Hickman, Sexton

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation