



**November 27, 2022**

## **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

### **First Sunday in Advent**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Audio/Video Techs: .....Justin Brown & Zach Hereza  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

### **Introduction to the day**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice”

arr. Robert Benson

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God’s name forever.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

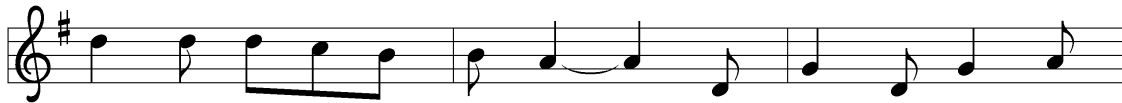
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## 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.**

Setting by Cynthia I. Gonzales  
512-644-6475

### Kyrie Eleison

Lord Have Mercy

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ELW 276

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The first staff is for the Leader, and the second is for the All. The third and fourth staves are for the congregation. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first two staves have two lines of lyrics each, and the last two staves have one line of lyrics each. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord have mer - cy on\_\_ us, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord have mer - cy on\_\_ us, Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Christ have mer - cy on\_\_ us, Chri\_\_ ste e - le - i - son, Christ have mer - cy on\_\_ us, Ky - re - e e - le - i - son, Lord have mer - cy on\_\_ us, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord have mer - cy on\_\_ us.

### First Sunday of Advent

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
You call all nations to walk in your light  
and to seek your ways of justice and peace;  
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

**Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

*(We light the first Advent candle)*

## Gloria

"The First Noel" ELW 300

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We\_ wor - ship you, we\_ give\_ you thanks.

We\_ praise you for\_ your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Gospel Acclamation

"Creator of the Stars of Night" ELW 245

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare our hearts, our minds, our souls

To hear your word, to know your truth, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

**SERMON**



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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## CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

"A Carol for Advent"

(arr. J. Jerome Williams)

Chancel Choir

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

"In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second staff contains: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.". The third staff contains: "Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes". The fourth staff contains: "in the name — of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.".

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes  
in the name — of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

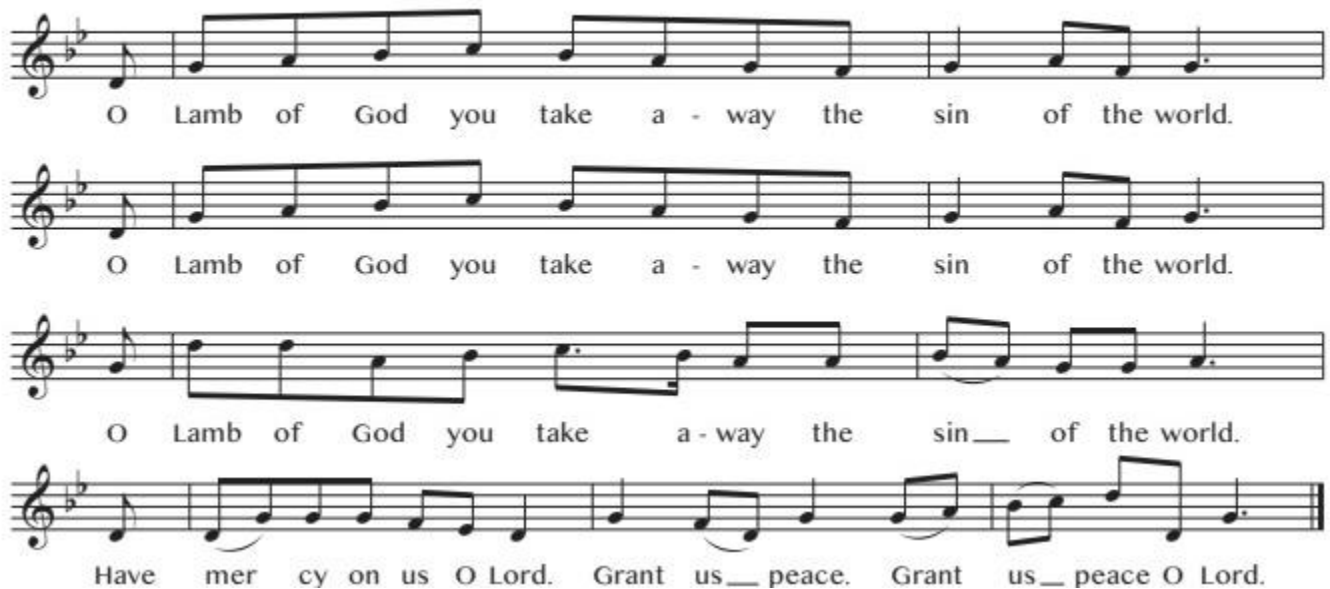
## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG

### Agnus Dei

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" ELW 284



O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin\_\_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us\_\_ peace. Grant us\_\_ peace O Lord.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"Forest Green"

arr. Dale Wood

*Please stand if you are able.*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Wachet Auf”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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Altar Care: Rich Weingartner

Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza

Nursery: Connie Nelson

Coffee Hour: Nelson/Amb

Reader: Jon Harrison

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Greeter: Mike Eschelbach

Acolyte: OPEN

### 11/13

Loose Cash \$ 35.00

Loose Checks \$ 75.00

General Fund \$ 1,045.00

Memorials

    Dorothy Rush \$ 300.00

Building Rental \$ 300.00

Pantry Fund \$ 285.00

Parish House \$ 75.00

Sunday School \$ 5.00

Subtotal \$ 2,120.00

Vanco

    General Operating \$ 615.50

    Pantry \$ 25.25

    Parish House \$ 25.25

**Total \$ 2,786.00**

### 11/20

Loose Cash \$ 38.00

Loose Checks \$ 155.00

General Fund \$ 825.00

Memorials

    Dorothy Rush \$ 300.00

    Hugh Mead \$ 300.00

Poinsettias \$ 60.00

Pantry Fund \$ 25.00

Parish House \$ 25.00

Subtotal \$ 1,728.00

Vanco

    General Operating \$ 2,487.00

    Building \$ 25.00

**Total \$ 4,240.00**

### Year to Date

### January 1- October 31, 2022

Income \$250,229.00

Expenses \$266,687.00

Net Income (Loss) \$(16,458.00)

## Upcoming Events:

Sunday, November 27  
Sunday, November 27  
Monday, November 28  
Thursday, December 1  
Wednesday, December 7  
Sunday, December 11  
Sunday, December 18  
Sunday, December 18  
Monday, December 19  
Saturday, December 24  
Sunday, December 25

7:00 P.M. Via Zoom  
7:00 P.M.  
6:00 P.M.  
10:00 A.M.  
9:00 A.M.  
  
7:00 P.M.  
4 P.M. & 8 P.M.

Last day to order Poinsettias  
No Adult or Children's Sunday School  
Green Team Meeting  
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group  
Middle School Youth Activity Night  
Christmas Pageant  
Sunday School Christmas Party  
Stuff the Stocking Food Delivery  
Church Council Meeting  
Christmas Eve Services  
No In-Person Worship

## Recurring Events

Children's Sunday School  
Adult Sunday School  
Worship  
Noon Bible Study  
LWR ACTION and Quilters  
Confirmation Class  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
Bell Choir Rehearsal

Each Sunday at 9:00 A.M.  
Each Sunday at 9:00 A.M.  
Each Sunday at 10:00 A.M.  
Each Tuesday at Noon  
Each Wednesday 9:30-11:30 A.M.  
Each Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.  
Each Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.  
Each Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.





Today is the **LAST DAY** to order your Christmas Poinsettias. Order forms are available in the Narthex or in the back of the worship folder. Poinsettias may be taken home following the 8 P.M. Christmas Eve Service.

The Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Children will be fitted for costumes on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, during Sunday School. There are no lines or rehearsals.



*Christmas Program*



Christmas Eve Services this year will be held at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM. There will NOT be a late service this year. We invite you to join us to celebrate Christ's birth among us at 4:00 PM or 8:00 PM. The choir and brass quartet will participate in the 8:00 service. The nursery will be available at the 4 P.M. Service only.

There will be NO in-person service on Christmas Day, the Sunday morning of December 25. On that day, we invite you to access the Synod's 2022 offering of Lessons & Carols. This service will be posted on our Facebook site for access that morning.







Please print name of person(s) dedicating:

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Number of each color plant: \_\_\_\_\_Red \_\_\_\_\_White

Cost: \$20/plant

Checks should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church  
and placed in the offering plate.

Please mark envelope and check "Poinsettia order."

**LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH**

Place this form in Katie Love's church mailbox or in the church office.

You may take your poinsettia(s) home  
after the 8 pm Christmas Eve worship service.