

FOR THE ADVENT SEASON - 2011

Donations to the Christmas Decorations were made by—in memory of:

Marilyn Auer – James Auer
Vera Buczkowski – Charlotte Staab
Phil, Anne, Erin, & Bryn Callen – Walter Cave and Philip & Dorothy Callen
Sandy, Cindy, Brian, Kristi, and Piper Davis – Stewart Davis
John Erdahl & Family – Eunice Erdahl
Jim & Dede Forester/Nancy & Steve Hayes – Grace & Richard Forester
Patricia & Thomas Gregory – Our parents
Don & Arleen Haas – Christine Bartoszewicz and Kathy Haas
Peter & Peggy Haesler – Our parents
Eleanor Holub & Family – Don Holub and gratitude to God for family memories
Kathryn, Julia, Ryan, & Phillip Jacobi – Roger Jacobi
Cathy Kebbekus – Margaret Denzine
John Markel – Jacquie Markel
Mac & De McDermott – Our parents
Diane Miller – Marvin Miller
Dave & Barbara Raetz – Our parents, Alvin & Alberta Lange
Nancy Siefert – My husband, Bill Siefert
Mary Beth Stevenson – Barbara Eddy
Rev. Barry & Sue Szymanski – Our parents
Charlie & DdG Wakefield – Beth Wisland
Sally Wells – George Wells
Wiegand Family – Our dad & grandparents
Nancy & Thomas Winkel – Howard & Gertrude Koehler

Donations to the Christmas Decorations were made by—in honor of:

Dick & Sandy Buchman – Our ten beautiful grandchildren
Phil, Anne, Erin, & Bryn Callen – Joyce Cave
Marj Fowler - The Choir of First Church
Bob & Jackie Hipke – Our grandchildren: Tyler, Connor, Brenna, Chase, Abi, & Thomas
Jean Millard – Colonel & Mrs. Mark Millard
Cindy Payette - Hailey, Maddie & Gunner
Gloria & Jim Walsh – The Schalmo family
Sally Wells – The Merrick Wells family
Nancy & Thomas Winkel – Willard & Phyllis Winkel

Donations were also received from:

Marianne King
Carrie Laubenheimer
Virginia McClellan
Rita Morawetz
Jim & Sharon Petrie
Alida Smith

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHRISTMAS DAY December 25, 2011
MORNING WORSHIP 10 AM

PRELUDE

CHIMES AND TOWER BELLS

*HYMN 111 *[verse 1]* *O Little Town of Bethlehem* St. Louis
*HYMN 132 *[verse 1]* *Away in a Manger* Away in a Manger

*THE GREETING OF CHRISTMAS PEACE

*God's people share greetings and peace with those around them.
[Please continue to stand for the prayer.]*

Pastor: The Lord is with you. Pastor Barry W. Szymanski
People: And also with you.

*INVOCATION Leader: Let us pray together. Pat Reddy

**Ever-present God, we join with all the host of heaven
in singing glory and majesty
and praise and honor to your holy Name.
We thank you that in your mercy
you have chosen to dwell among us
and to fulfill the promises you made long ago.
You have opened to us the riches of heaven
and the vision of eternal life
in the birth of Jesus to be our Savior.
Your self-giving is beyond our wildest imagination.
Let us be the messengers of the great good news
that you have come to save your people.
Fill us with your Spirit
so we may come to realize the birth of Jesus, our Christ,
with the same excitement as the shepherds
that we may go forth with joy.
As Jesus came to minister to us,
so fill us with compassion so we may minister also in His Name.
Lord God, we offer glory to you in the highest,**

I Saw Three Ships

Elizabeth Goudge

I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, I saw three ships
come sailing in, on Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three? On Christmas day, on Christmas day, and what
was in those ships all three, on Christmas day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, our Saviour Christ
and his lady, on Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three? On Christmas day, on Christmas day, pray
whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas day in the morning.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, oh, they sailed into
Bethlehem, on Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, and all the bells
on earth shall ring, on Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, and all the
Angels in Heaven shall sing, on Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, and all the
souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice, amain, on Christmas day, on Christmas day, then let us all rejoice,
amain, on Christmas day in the morning.

Special Music

You, who hear and answer us in ways
that we cannot even imagine
when we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

In the Bleak Midwinter

setting by Holst

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 558)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pat Reddy

*The lighting of the candles surrounding the Christ Candle symbolize Hope, Peace, Joy,
and Light – and now the time of waiting is over – our Lord is born!*

After lighting the candles, the Candle Lighters lead the Prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary. Upon Him rests all Your loving grace. Through Him comes all Your loving mercy. As the light shines from these candles, so may the light of Jesus shine within our hearts. We pray that you help us to make Your church, this church, the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosha, a holy light in this greater community in the world. We pray this in the Holy Name of the One born in Bethlehem.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

Bible, page 669
Children's Bible, page 1039

PSALMODY [*Responsive*]

Psalm 98

Hymnal, page 679

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Hebrews 1:1-4, 5-12*

Bible, page 1089
Children's Bible, page 1711

*HYMN 100 [*verse 1 & 2*]

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

Bible, page 966

Children's Bible, page 1511

MESSAGE Christmas! Dr. Szymanski

SOLO *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Christiansen
Jillian Bruss, Mezzo Soprano

THE CALL TO PRAYER and TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

SOLO *I Saw Three Ships* arr. Christiansen

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE COMMUNION OF ALL

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O blessed and ever-giving God,
the world and all that dwell in it
are your creation made new in Jesus Christ.
As we celebrate his birth,
may we sing to you our new songs in our new life. Amen.**

*HYMN 121 [verse 1] *Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria

*HYMN 140 [verse 1] *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* God Rest You Merry

*THE CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE REPOSE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

CHRIST IS BORN! THANKS BE TO GOD! AMEN! ALLELUIA!

POSTLUDE

***The congregation is invited to stand, if able.**

*The Christmas decorations are provided by the Board of Deacons
and through the generous donations of members in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones.*

The offering is a retiring offering – plates are available at the doors of the Nave.

We will gather for worship on **Sunday, January 1 at 10 AM.**

Todd Davison will present the message

Thomas Gregory is the organist.

Eleanor Quint will provide the special music.

Caring Corner
Friday, December 23, 2011

BIRTH **Caleb James Porter**, son of Dale & Kimberly Porter, born
December 8, 2011

RECOVERING **Jim Benz**, at home
Audrey Danielson, at Lutheran Home
Nancy Harris, at Lutheran Home

DEATH **Martha Haagensen**, mother of Holly Krull, died
November 28, 2011. A memorial service will be held
at a later date.

IN OUR PRAYERS **Dick Koch**
Heather Hjortnaes
Edna Milne
Lynn Kuss