

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols



December 24, 2024
7:00 PM

North Riverdale Evangelical Lutheran Church

45 Kurtz Avenue

Dayton, OH 45405

(937) 275-5750 NRLChurch.org

Bridge Interim Pastor Richard Freudenberger nrlcpastor@gmail.com

Welcome to North Riverdale Lutheran Church!

We are honored by your presence with us this morning. A few notes about our service:

- *Our worship service is hybrid – we also have folks participating via Facebook Live.*
- *Please sign the red “Welcome Pad” found in your pew.*
- *We invite you to take an active part in our worship service:*
 - ** marks the places to stand in body or in spirit.*
 - *The Congregation’s spoken parts are **printed in bold print**.*
 - *Hymns and songs are found in the green Lutheran Book of Worship (**LBW**), the blue With One Voice hymnal (**WOV**), or the Praise and Worship Songbook (**PWS**) – all in the pew rack in front of you or at the end of your pew.*
- *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, with no exceptions.*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister

Musician

Altar Guild

Head Ushers

Sound Board

Live Stream

Rev. Richard Freudenberger, Bridge Interim Pastor

Dana Peters

Romona Carver and Sondra Elliott

Denny Wegley and Joe Hasenjager

Tim Roberts

Dick Jones

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*** OPENING DIALOGUE** *Please stand and face the back of the sanctuary.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who have dwelt in deep sadness, a great joy has come upon them.

For we have beheld the glory of the Christ Babe.

To us a child is born, a son is given!

Through him, life has been given to all people! Thanks be to God!

***OPENING HYMN – O Come All Ye Faithful (LBW 45)**

1 *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the king of angels:*

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 *The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **Refrain***

3 *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: **Refrain***

4 *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain***

***GREETING**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Giver of Life, you came as a baby, born into human pain and joy, and you gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us, that all of creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Throughout this season we have lit candles as we've lived, waited, and remembered the hope, love, joy, and peace of God found in Christ.

Today, we gather to light a candle in honor of the Christ child.

The white candle is lit.

With the birth of Christ, God has come down into the chaos of our world. The Word which was with God at the beginning came down and lived with us. While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death, new life burst forth!

On this day, we remember that God has come to us in the Christ child.

Thanks be to God!

WORD

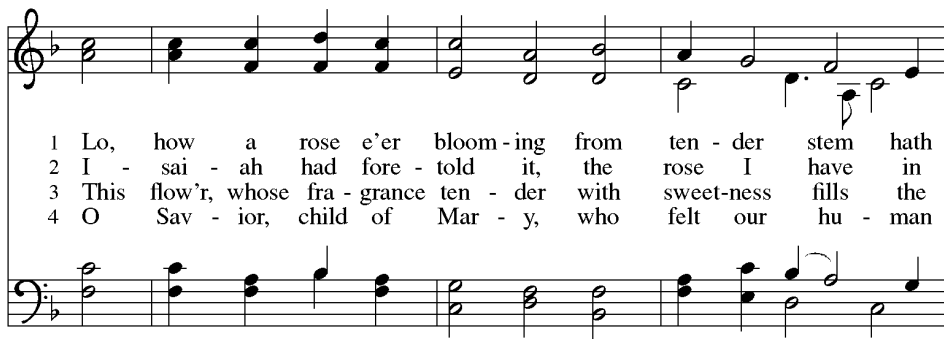
FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7 – God promises a King

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, 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.

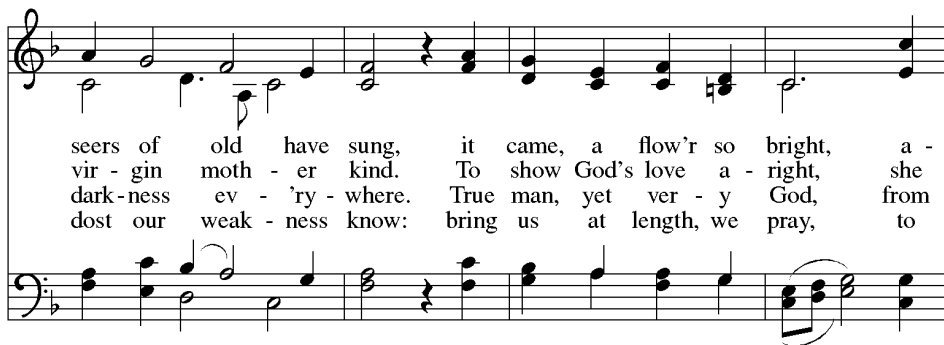
HYMN – Lo, How a Rose is Blooming (LBW 58)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a – The king will come from Bethlehem

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight rulers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN – O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41 verses. 1,3,4)

- 1 *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*
- 3 *How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*
- 4 *O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel*

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 – The annunciation of Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ And (the angel) came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you

will name him Jesus. ³² 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

Please stand.

HYMN – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (WOV 632)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

Please be seated.

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 – *The birth of Jesus*

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN – *Away in a Manger* (LBW 67 verses. 1,2)

- 1 *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
- 2 *The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20 – *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN – Angels, from the Realms of Glory (LBW 50 verses 1,2,4)

- 1 *Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*
- 2 *Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*
- 4 *All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

SIXTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 – The mystery of the incarnation (MSG)

1 ¹⁻² The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. ³⁻⁵ Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. ⁶⁻⁸ There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. ⁹⁻¹³ The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not

flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY – *What Child is This?* (LBW 40)**

- 1 *What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe,
the son of Mary!*
- 2 *Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe,
the son of Mary!*
- 3 *So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is
born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Holy One, fill our hearts with the joy of this day. Stir up your church in every place to join the angel song, praising you for your birth among us and your presence within us. God of love,

hear our prayer.

For those for whom the struggles of life seem to overwhelm the joyful good news of this season, we pray, O God. May the weight of financial struggles, addiction,

depression, broken relationships, and vocational uncertainty ease in the knowledge of your enormous love and mercy for all people. God of love,

hear our prayer.

For those whose lives are affected by violence and hatred, whether because of war, domestic violence, or any of the many ways we harm one another in the human family, we pray. Teach us to truly understand what it means to seek peace on earth. God of love,

hear our prayer.

A: As we begin this new year, give us the grace and the wisdom to move beyond the pain and upheaval of 2023, learning all that you would teach us so that 2024 would see our world witnessing more justice, more compassion, and more healing. God of love,

hear our prayer.

A: For all in need of your healing, whether in spirit, in body, in mind, or in soul, we pray all who are grieving, our members who are homebound or in care centers, and deployed U.S. military troops. We pray also for our call committee and the person you are now preparing to become our new pastor. God of love,

hear our prayer.

A: Hear now the hopes and prayers of our hearts at this holy time, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your light among us.

Amen.

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Christ Child be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING and CHOIR ANTHEM

* OFFERTORY HYMN (*sung*)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all. Unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night before he died,
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
he 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.

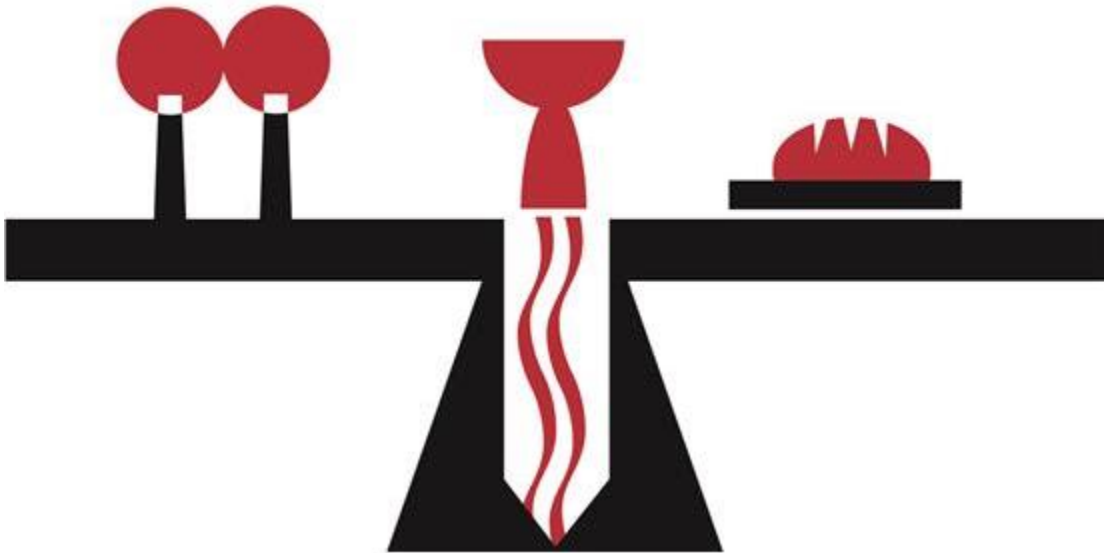
After supper, he took the cup, blessed it, and gave it for all to drink,
saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Gathered as one though in many places on this night, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)**

*Our Father, which 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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE



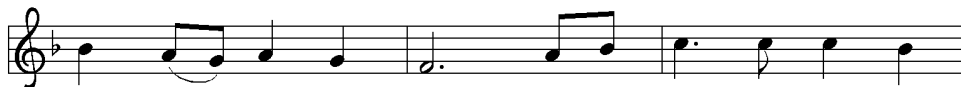
COMMUNION HYMN – All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the living presence of Jesus strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

*** POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us now on the way unfolding before us. And may our lives proclaim the good news of great joy brought to the earth through a child.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

An usher will bring candlelight to the end of each pew. Glow sticks may be broken at this time.

HYMN – Silent Night (LBW 65)

- 1 *Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*
- 2 *Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

Raise your candle/glow stick and hum one time through (without organ).

3. *Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

FINAL SENDING

Go and tell the world: A child has been born!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The poinsettias have been contributed by the following people:

- Donna and Bill Alexander in honor of loved ones
- Cheryl Benson in memory of family and friends enjoying Christmas in heaven
- Karen Burks in honor of Clara and Abrom Burks
- Sondra and Mel Elliott in honor of our daughter, Michele
- Dave and Becky Gruber in memory of our parents
- Janet Ridenour in memory of Deb Still
- Laura and Tim Roberts in honor of Joe Hasenjager's years of dedicated service the North Riverdale Lutheran Church
- EJ and Joe Hasenjager
- Pat and Dick Jones
- Donna and Ron Marsh
- Chris and Jim Martinson
- Joanne and Jim Neef
- Betty and Dave West
- Angie and Mike Wickizer

