

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## First Sunday after Christmas

Divine Setting Service Four-Page 203

December 31, 2023—8am

We celebrate the Lord's Supper today! Please prepare yourselves using these questions as a guide:

- Have I been baptized in the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit?
- Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope for eternal life except in mercy of Jesus Christ?
- Do I believe in Jesus as My Savior?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally present in communion with His body and blood to forgive my sins, as the Bible teaches?
- Do I desire and strive by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a God-pleasing life?

As you come to the Lord's Supper you are affirming with each communicant that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and that the Lutheran Church's confession of Jesus Christ and His Supper is your confession as well.

White grape juice is now available in the center of the communion tray for those who cannot partake of alcohol.

### Prelude

### AS WE GATHER

This week's scripture readings deal with time and the New Year. What will the New year bring? 2023 was a year full of surprises and we are sure God has great plans for all of us in the future. In our opening responsive readings we have included first lines of famous books. Today marks the opening of another year of God's grace and blessings. We look forward to what God has planned in 2024.

Welcome: Pastor Dave / Pastor Miguel

### Hymn: #379 "O Come All Ye Faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_\_\_ ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee\_\_\_ be\_\_\_ glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God\_\_\_ In\_\_\_ the\_\_\_ high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

#### Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text and tune: Public domain

**The Invocation** (Please rise)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As we start this new year.

People: **Help us to pray, for each other, and for all people.**

Pastor: Help us to live by faith in You Lord, for You never fail. You are the Lord of Years and the potentate of time.

People: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** (Hebrews 13:8)

Pastor: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

People: **“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”**  
(“A Tale of Two Cities,” Charles Dickens)

Pastor: While God never changes our seasons in life do. Lord, help us fix our lives on Your eternal promises.

People: **“It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.”** (“1984” George Orwell)

Pastor: In ominous seasons help us to see your light in the darkness.

People: **Call me Ishmael.** (“Moby Dick” Herman Melville)

Pastor: Help us to be on a quest this year to know you more.

People: **All children except one grow up.** (“Peter Pan” J. M. Barrie)

Pastor: Help us to grow in wisdom and knowledge and mature into the people you call us to be.

People: **“There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it.”** (“The Voyage of the DawnTreader” C.S. Lewis)

Pastor: May we know who we are at all times in our relationship to You. We are children of God and Heirs of heaven in Christ Jesus.

People: **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. We confess that in the past year we have failed you. We have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have also not loved each other the way we love ourselves. Lord forgive us and help us in 2024 to grow in faith, in love, and in service.**

(Silent reflection)

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. In every generation and in every year You are a God who forgives. By the promise of the cross and Jesus your sins are forgiven this day and even forevermore.



**Kyrie** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**The Salutation**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **The Collect for The Day**

Pastor: Let us pray:

**People: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**People: Amen. (Please be seated)**

### **The Old Testament Reading – Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (*The seasons of life*)**

<sup>1</sup>There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, <sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, <sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, <sup>5</sup>a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, <sup>6</sup>a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, <sup>7</sup>a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, <sup>8</sup>a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What do workers gain from their toil?

<sup>10</sup>I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

<sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

<sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.

<sup>13</sup>That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Epistle Reading – Romans 8:31-39 (*St. Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus*)**

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

<sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

<sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

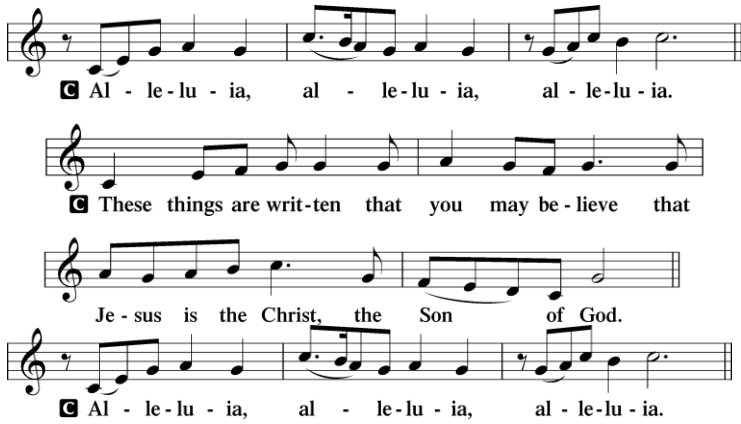
<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Sermon: *Pastor Dave***

## Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## The Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel is written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of St. Luke beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse.

*(The song of Simeon upon seeing the child Jesus)*

**People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

<sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

<sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup>“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup>For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## The Apostles Creed

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen**

**Hymn: #733 "Our God our Help in Ages Past"**



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon: "A Year to Remember" Pastor Haara**

**Offertory**

**#781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own" Verses 1 & 2**

1 We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: Public domain

**Offerings are gathered**

**The Prayers**

Healing for the grandmother of the Cripple family, friends of Bryan Becknel  
Healing from a stroke for Fred Weimer, friend of Larry Habeck  
Healing from heart problems for Don Swisher, friend of Larry Habeck  
Good test results and Dr's wisdom for Pam Murphy

**The Lord's Prayer** *(Please stand)*

**All: 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.**

*(Please help us keep our attendance numbers accurate by filling out the attendance cards and giving to Ushers at communion.)*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly meet, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

### The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

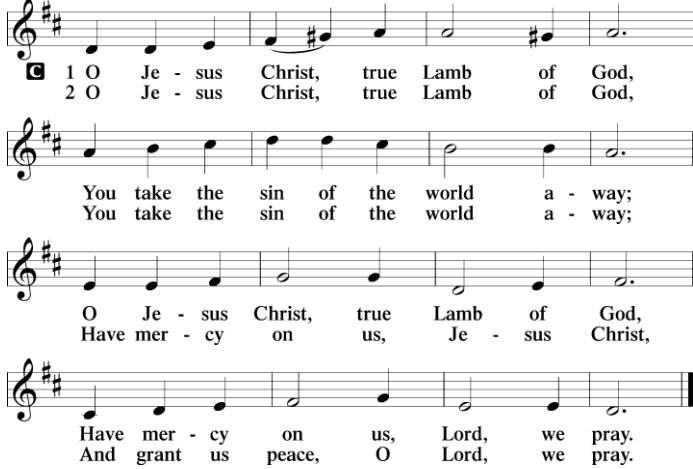
### Pax Domini

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

# Sharing the Peace – Greet One Another with the Peace of the Lord

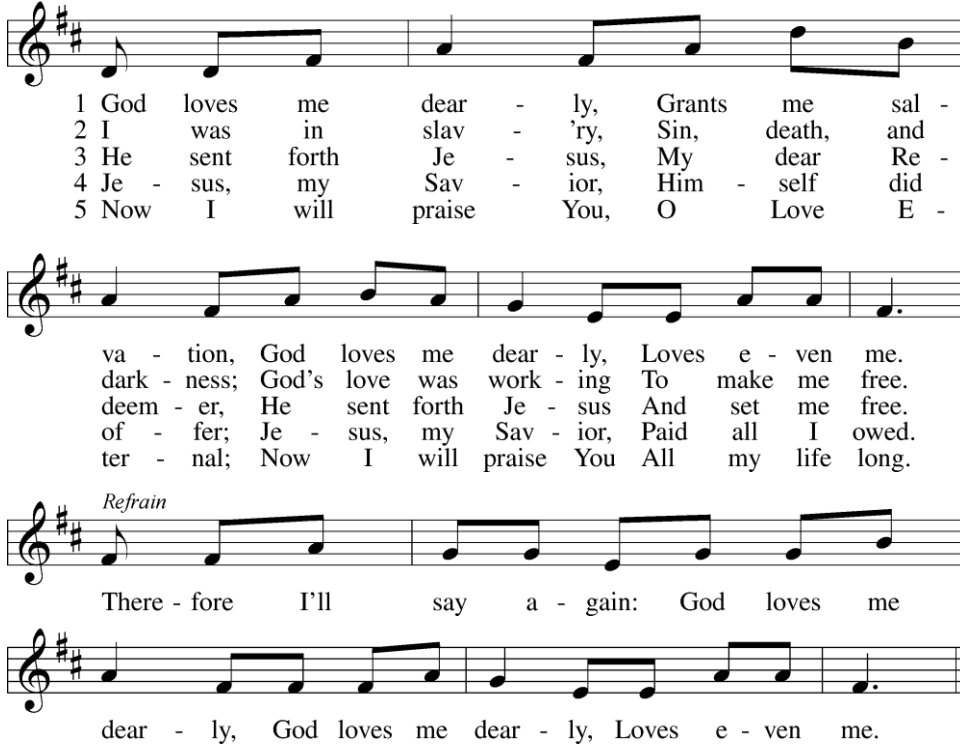
## Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn: #392 "God Loves Me Dearly"



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -  
va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.  
*Refrain*  
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me  
dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Nunc Dimittis** (Please stand)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**The Benedicamus and Benediction**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**People:** Amen.



**Closing Hymn: #386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"**



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

**Our Vision**

**Pastor:** As a reminder of the reason why we exist as a church let us speak our vision statement together.

**All:** **Through Word and Sacrament ministry, we share the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ among ourselves and with those around us.**

**Pastor:** Our worship has ended, our service now begins.  
 Let us go in peace.

**All:** **And serve the Lord.**

**Altar flowers are placed to the glory of God**

*"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." 2 Thessalonians 1:3*

**Our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the ways you remembered us during Christmas. We received many beautiful greetings, hugs, and gifts and then on Christmas Eve the congregation gift was presented. We are truly grateful for all of you and thank you so much for all your love and support, all to the glory of God.**

**In Christ, Pastor Miguel and Katherine**

***We want to extend our love and appreciation in thanks for all the gifts and greetings and Pastor's Purse. We are grateful for all of you and wish you all many blessings in the coming year.***

***In Christ, Pastor Dave & Karen Haara***

*Services will be live-streamed and a recording of service will be posted by the end of the day. You may watch these on Facebook, YouTube or go to website under Worship or scroll down on home page and find the latest services.*

**Please keep the church office updated on prayers that have been asked to be kept on indefinitely, military and ones for continued healing or cancer treatments.**

**Continued Prayers**

Praise and thanks that God led Pastor Phil to accept our call as Sr. Pastor, and that He has provided him & family with the home they need! Bless them with good health over the holidays.

We pray to God our Lord for Pastor Miguel and our Hispanic Ministry in Immanuel

**Healing or Good Test Results**

Kyle Hawkins

Ted, brother-in-law of Bill & Jackie Anton

Michael Launikitis

Cristian, diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, son of friend of Alejandro Guerrero

Christine Garrett

Adam, nephew of the Kelp's

**Battling with Cancer or Serious Illness**

Alan Conidin, friend of Cindy Szczesny

Andrew Hynick, father of Aaron Hynick

Gloria McNail, aunt of Susan Tumlin

Heather Boatwright, friend of Cindy Szczesny

Tammy Granger, friend of Danielle Farnsworth

David, son-in-law of Nancy Christianson

Cassandra, niece of Pat Cook

Walt Nea

DeeAnn Cook, sister-in-law of Steve & Pat Cook

Christine Van Etten

Barbara LaVere

Cathy Nichols with terminal cancer, mother of Cathy Wilson

Tom Meyferth

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

**Safety for... and strength for families:**

Kincaide Green, stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Robert Lowry

Joshua Littrel, stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division, 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans

Luke Buchholz, Navy, grandson of Ann Donahue, stationed at Norfolk, VA

Matthew Reikowski as he is deployed on the Carl S. Vinson

Logan Crouse, US Army, great-nephew of Joan Crouse, stationed at Ft. Campbell in NC

Samuel Drake, Captain stationed at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, son of Kerry Drake

Cpl. Xander Ritter, USMC, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA

Gavin Mattson, para-rescue man, stationed in the Panhandle of FL, grandson of Edith Mattson

**ALSO, FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

**PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILIES**

Sunday: GraceAnn Sierra, Christian, Benjamin, Daniel, Christian Jr

Monday: Ted & Angie Simon

Tuesday: Lynda Smith

Wed: Tom & Trish Smith

Thurs: Edie Sparks

Friday: Bill & Kathy Steele

Saturday: Sue Steenis, Jim

**PRAYERS FOR OUR SCHOOL STUDENTS & FAMILIES**

Sunday Kenna Parkinson

Monday: Skylar Paulen

Tuesday: Elijah Perez

Wed: Nathan Pirozzi

Thurs: Korina Pittman

Friday: Gianna & Dominic Ponzi

Saturday: Aubrey Postell

**PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS**

*Gracious Father, in Your great love for the world You have given us the gift of Your only Son as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel. Open our hearts to receive Him and sanctify our lives to proclaim Your grace through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. Amen.*