

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second

coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26). Because the worshiping members of Jerusalem have a significantly higher vaccination rate than our county that, together with new recommendations from the CDC and other church guidelines, has been prayerfully weighed by our leaders, along with the many different needs and wishes within our congregation. Therefore at this time as we emerge from the Covid pandemic we are worshiping in this way:

WELCOME

- IN-PERSON WORSHIPERS, please leave the first few spaces in the front parking lot for parking lot worshipers.
- IN-PARKING LOT WORSHIPERS, please park in the first few spaces closest to Dock Street and tune your radio to **90.1 FM**.
- VISITORS, we welcome you! In this uncertain time of a pandemic, we
 believe that grace-filled love of God made known in Jesus Christ, and
 proclaimed in scripture, prayer, and worship sustains us even now. We
 are glad that you are here with us, so that together, we all can receive
 the Good News of Jesus Christ, and then be strengthened in daily love
 for God and our neighbors.

LARGE PRINT WORSHIP binders are available in the church lobby.

HOLY COMMUNION

1st Sunday in Advent – November 28th, 2021 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

POLICIES ON MASKS AND DISTANCING

- Vaccinated people are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Unvaccinated people are expected to wear masks, and to seek inoculation if that is medically advisable.
- People without masks need to assume that people wearing masks will want a six-foot distance from others, unless the masked person welcomes a closer distance.
- People without masks can choose a comfortable distance from each other.
- We have lots of space in which to worship, so we can spread throughout the nave for each service, but we will continue to tape off alternating pews as a precaution for people who are masked and need distance.

CURRENT WORSHIP PRACTICES

- We are resuming congregational speaking and singing in the building.
- Hymnals will be available in the pew racks, and distributed to and collected from people worshiping in the parking lot.
- Large print worship binders are available inside at worship stations.
 Those worshipping in the parking lot can request large print from an usher.
- Wine and grape juice are once again being offered from the chalice inside, with intinction being offered outside.
- The offering plates will stay in the back for the time being, until our ushering volunteers are back in full force.

HOLY COMMUNION

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come O Come Emmanuel/Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent Audrey Christ, French horn solo

Stephen DeCesare

The bell rings calling us to worship.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Red Hymnal # 436

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other. 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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, WEEK 1

8:00am Deborah Reed 10:30am Beverly & Phil Kriner

Written for a leader and assembly.

LITANY

L: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel.

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel.

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields.

O Emmanuel.

Wake us up to your coming.

L: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Emmanuel.

Wake us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

SONG

Light the first candle.

,

257, st. 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The assembly inside is seated.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute

justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD,

and teach \mid me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,

for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;

therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly inside stands to welcome the gospel.





GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Rowe

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light
Red Hymnal # 715, st. 1, 2, & 5

The assembly stands. All proclaim the word of God in song.

APOSTLES CREED

We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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 a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

In this advent season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities from local school boards and town councils, to the United Nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind, especially those whom we now raise in prayer before you.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters and the pandemic, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief and health organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \(\psi \) one God,

who alone does wonders.

who lifts up the lowly,

who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God. Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another,

we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

 \oplus your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

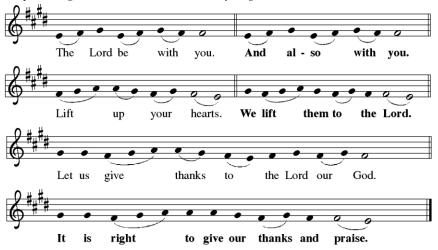
Every Valley Shall be Exalted

Douglas Wagner

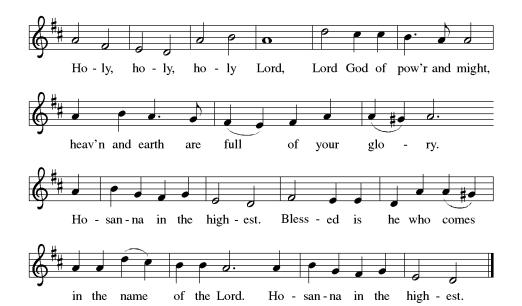
MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.



The presiding minister continues with the communion preface; and then the assembly responds with "Holy, Holy, Holy."



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #3

... 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

INSIDE WORSHIPERS: Ushers will dismiss you by pew, then please give people wearing masks a six-foot distance as you approach the altar by the center aisle. Please take an empty glass if you wish to receive wine, or a glass prefilled with grape juice. The pastor will place the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms so that you may receive the body of Christ. Then proceed to one of the chalices where the wine will be poured, or where you will drink the prefilled glass. Those not receiving Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a no-touch blessing.

OUTSIDE WORSHIPERS: The Lord's Supper will be brought to those outside by a Communion Assistant, who will use an intinction set so that the consecrated wafer can be dipped in the grape juice, in order to receive the loving body and blood of Christ.

COMMUNION CHIOR ANTHEM Advent Gift

Patrick Liebergen

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

DEDICATION OF THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Fling Wide the Door

Red Hymnal # 259

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission. Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may leave immediately after the dismissal, or those wishing to stay to listen to the full prelude may leave later.

POSTLUDE

Lift Up Your Heads

J.S. Bach/arr. Richard Slater

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PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Cecelia Kacmar, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Clarence Zweizig, Melvin Rodriguez & family, JoAnn Baker Copley, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards, Lester Aungst III, Christa Miller, Cathy Covach-Hale, Rev. Bruce MacLaughlin, Nancy Blank, Mary Miller, Rose Martin-Fuls, Earle Kull, Trent Johnson, Nancy Cooper, Dave Reager, Kevin Seibert, Mary Rauch, Tom Lokitus, Albert Tripp, Dorothy Moyer, Helen Fath, Diana Vasquez, Dorothy & Dan Ness, Theodore Karabetsos, Shawn Card

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary, Harold & Fay Sausser

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Ministers	Karen Ochenrider	Philip Kriner
Lectors	Julie Coleman	Rebekah CdeBaca
Children's Sermon	Mary Rowe	
Communion Assistants	Joy Heffner	Linda Covert
Ushers	Faith Batz	Luke Hale
	John Macnutt	Noah Hale
Video Recorder		Linda Covert
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Danika Kuhar
Counters	Linda Collins & Rob Baessler	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

8:00am 10:30am
Assisting Ministers Karen Ochenrider Rebekah CdeBaca
Lectors Connor Roeder Philip Kriner
Children's Sermon Linda Covert
Communion Assistants Ellayna Boyer Linda Covert

Ushers Faith Batz Frank Mahoney
Donald Nettles Donald Boyer

Video Recorder

Sound Board Melissa Boyer Rick Heckrote Counters Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy & Isaac Gehrig and Phyllis Trapani, by the Trapani family.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FLOOR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Milford D. Foose by granddaughter, Stephanie, and daughter, Bonnie Jean.

JERUSALEM'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY is being dedicated this morning during worship. The Little Free Library (LFL) is located near our labyrinth. The mission of our LFL is to empower individuals by offering them books to read at no cost and with no timeline to return them. If you have a book you'd like to donate to our LFL, bring it to church and drop it off at the office. Or see, Jean Loose who is our LFL Book Steward. Thank you!

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed tomorrow, Monday, November 29th. For Pastoral care, please call Pastor Rowe on his cell phone, 570-933-5511.

GODS BARNYARD SALE is happening now through December 12th, 2021. Do you have someone on your Christmas gift list who is hard to buy for? How about buying something in their honor or in memory of a special loved one? Purchase items in person following Sunday worship services, or purchase items online by visiting our website (www.jerusalemlutheran.com) and clicking on the "Events" tab. A wish list for GOD'S BARNYARD/ELCA GOOD GIFTS can be viewed by clicking the "Wish List" button; gifts range from farm animals to health clinic supplies. We hope you will join in our fight against hunger and poverty across the globe!

PLEASE SIGN-UP! November 28th, 2021 is the first Sunday in Advent; the season preparing us for the birth of Jesus. We need volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during the 8 and 10:30 services. A sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table for individuals or small groups to volunteer to do the lighting!

SOCIAL MINISTRY WILL BE SELLING DIVINE CHOCOLATE BARS

after worship services starting November 28th. Serry's collection of delicious Divine Chocolate comes from the Kuapa Kokoo Cocoa Cooperative in Ghana---the first farmer-owned chocolate company in the world. The large 3.5 oz bars are \$3.00 each. Buy for yourself to enjoy, or for a sweet gift this Christmas!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th at 9:15 am, with a snow date of December 12 (or the closest possible Sunday thereafter). We will be adopting a Plan for Ministry for 2022 and electing people to church council.

WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON

DECEMBER 5, immediately after the 10:30 service and will be serving pizza for lunch. If you are able to join us, see the sign-up sheet in the lobby. We will also need help after the second service on **January 2**, **2022** to take down the decorations.

EXPOSURE TO COVID AND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE – if you are exposed to someone with Covid (within 6 feet, for over 10 minutes), please stay away from church activities until you either have a negative Covid test taken 3-5 days after exposure, or you have gone for 10 days without symptoms. Although you have been vaccinated and are both much less likely to contract Covid and have a much lower risk of a severe or dangerous illness, you still can get it and spread it (we have had four fully vaccinated members of the choir get Covid). Thank you for showing loving one another and caring for yourself as a child of God.

WEATHER CANCELLATION OF SERVICES! If there is no electricity during the winter, services will automatically be cancelled. *With snow and ice, please use your best judgment about your travel, because conditions do vary by neighborhood.* If services are cancelled they will be announced by 6:30 am on:

- The church answering machine message. Call the church office at 570-385-2657.
- Facebook and the church web page will announce Sunday closings if the administrator can get internet access from home.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CONVOY will make a stop in Schuylkill Haven on Thursday, December 16th, 2021. They will participate in a ceremony at St. Ambrose R.C. Church, 201 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA at noon. The ceremony will last 30-40 minutes. All are invited to attend.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

MONDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY 11:00am Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

6:00pm Child Care Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY 6:15pm Bell Rehearsal

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, Pastor

610 987 9798(H) 570-933-5511 (C) pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com

Audrey Christ, Music Director

musicdirector@jerusalemlutheran.com

Tanya Cartwright, Director of Faith & Families Ministries

Rachel Kramer, Parish Administrator

Jill McCloy, Treasurer

Karen Ochenrider, *Financial Secretary* Gina Cappel, *Child Care Director*

Mike Sausser, Sexton

Deborah Reed, President of Church Council

faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com mail@jerusalemlutheran.com treasurer@jerusalemlutheran.com karenochenrider@comcast.net jccckids@jerusalemlutheran.com linknomad@hotmail.com

dreed1955@comcast.net



Orders are being accepted from those who would like to adorn our church with the placement of poinsettia flowers for Christmas. Cost per plant is \$10.00. All plants must be paid for through the Church. Please make checks out to **Jerusalem Lutheran Church**. Please fill out your order on this sheet. Make sure the Church Office receives your order and money by Monday, December 13th. Thanks!

NAME	
NUMBER OF Plants	
IN MEMORY OF	
IN HONOR OF	

AMOUNT ENCLOSED_____(\$10.00 each)