

# *Abiding Peace* LUTHERAN CHURCH

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, New Jersey 07828  
973-691-9393 [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)  
Serena Rice, Pastor  
Benjamin Schroeder, Music Director



For He grew  
up before  
Him like a  
tender shoot..

Isaiah 53:2

Sunday Morning — 10:00 — December 5, 2021  
Second Sunday of Advent

## **Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church**

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community, and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ, and nurtured by the Holy Spirit.

This welcome extends beyond all physical spaces and gatherings to include our trust that God's Spirit gathers us in virtual worship, and sends us to share God's message of love and hope even within the restrictions of social distancing.

The ministry of Abiding Peace continues to be supported by the generous donations of our community. While we worship remotely, please consider contributing to our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, or by mailing your offering envelope to the church.

**Sunday Morning — 10:00 — December 5, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

*In this antiphon Isaiah bypasses the glory of David and Solomon and looks to the seemingly dead stump of Jesse's tree to see the divine promise growing. Jesse is humble, imperfect, obscure: just the kind of person God loves to use to build the kingdom.*

**Prelude: ?**

**GATHERING**

*You are encouraged to prepare a small bowl or glass of water so that you may dip your fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross at the conclusion of the call to worship. Please also prepare a piece of bread and a cup of a festive drink for the celebration of communion later in the service. You may also wish to light a candle at the beginning of the liturgy, to remind you of Christ's presence gathered with you in your worship.*

**Welcome**

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Call to Worship**

- P The Spirit and the church cry out:  
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
P All those who await God's appearance pray:  
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
P The whole creation pleads:  
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

- A As we light the Advent candles, we call upon Christ, the Root of Jesse. Christ, come stand as a signal to the people.  
C **Let the nations inquire of you.**  
A Come dwell among us in glory.  
C **Come quickly to us, Christ Jesus.**

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress All worship hymns are reprinted under One License.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P God for whom we wait,

**C We confess the sins that draw us away from your perfect will. We are impatient for your blessings, and so we seek to grasp them for ourselves. We want to make you in our own image, and so we reject the diverse and challenging ways you come to us. We turn in on our own needs, and so we ignore the needs of those around us. Forgive us, Emmanuel, and birth in us again the assurance of your grace. Amen**

P Beloved people, God comes to us in Christ Jesus to restore what has been broken and reunite what has been divided. Through the power of Emmanuel, God with us, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Our Advent hope is realized today.

**C Amen**

*Please be seated*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 All worship hymns are reprinted under One License.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P O Root of Jesse,

C **standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: come quickly to deliver us. Amen.**

# WORD

## Isaiah 53:1-3

*In this "servant poem" the prophet speaks to the people in exile, describing how victory can rise out of apparently unpromising beginnings. After the resurrection, the early followers of Jesus interpreted the words as foretelling his life and death.*

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

A The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Hebrews 11:1-13a

*The author of Hebrews reviews the stories of earlier scriptural figures as examples of the faith that is shared by people of every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allows them to expect God's fulfillment even when they cannot see it.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them.

A The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Time

### Sermon

*(Time for reflection)*

*Please stand if you are able*



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 and music: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948 Text and music © 1992 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. OCP Publications All worship hymns are reprinted under One License.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035*

## The Apostles' Creed

**C 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.**

## The Prayers of the People

A As God's people prepare for the coming of Christ Jesus, let us join together in prayer.

*A brief silence*

A Faithful God, we give thanks for the sacrifice of your righteous servants who have gone before. Though they died, through their faith they are still speaking. Grant us the same faith to see and greet your promise from afar. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Benevolent God, at times it can seem like our world is in the grip of Satan's tyranny. Inspire the people of your church to spread your Word, seeding and nurturing Christlike compassion and behavior for the benefit and freedom of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Ancient God, we understand that the world was created by your word. Temper human hubris and indifference towards your creation, and show us ways to live in harmony with our natural surroundings. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Wise God, as Christians await the advent of your Son, people of other faiths are also observing important holy celebrations. Open the hearts of local and world leaders to support policies of religious tolerance and respect, so that all may worship in peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, bring your saving grace to those experiencing the depths of hell. Be near to the despised, the rejected, the sorrowful, and the grief-stricken, especially the friends and families of the victims of the Oxford High School shooting in Michigan. We ask for your healing and comfort on behalf of all those on our prayer list and those we name before you now. (Pause for silence.) Protect our armed forces, our first responders, and all serving overseas. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Joyful God, pour your Holy Spirit upon the members of this congregation as we prepare our hearts for the Branch of Jesse to take root. Guide us at church, at work, and at home, so that we may understand the true meaning of your coming. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

A Rejoicing in the knowledge and expectation that you receive all our prayers, O God, we entrust ourselves to your care, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen**

## MEAL

### Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Let us greet each other with the peace of Christ by typing in the comments, because God can speak through many means of communication.*

*Please be seated*

This week's prayers written by Benjamin Schroeder

## The Offering

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshipping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God. While we worship remotely, please consider contributing to our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, or by mailing your offering envelope to the church.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

**Offertory:** *Interlude*  
by Johann Gottfried Vierling



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A God of our waiting and watching,  
C 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.

# The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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.”*

P Jesus, give us faith to pray,

C **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.**

P Christ has prepared the table.

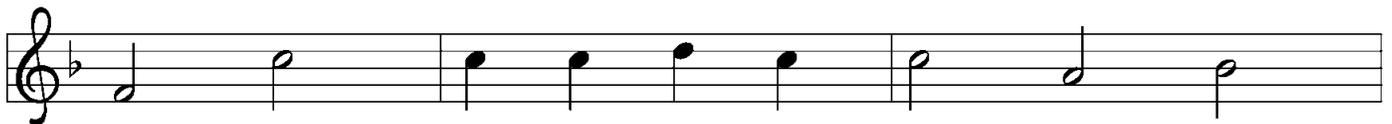
C **We come to feast on God’s gift of grace.**

## Communion Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*ELW Hymn: 272*



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

*continued*

*Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4*  
*Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599 All worship hymns are reprinted under One License.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035*



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.

*Please stand, if you are able*

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

C **Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

A God with us,

C we thank you for coming to us through the gifts of this table. Give us the grace to also carry you with us to a waiting world. Amen.

## SENDING

### Benediction

P As the nights grow longer, may God draw you into mystery. As the days grow colder, may Christ invite you into stillness. As twilight grows deeper, may the Spirit make your roots reach deeper. And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, rest upon you as you await the advent of our Lord.

C **Amen**

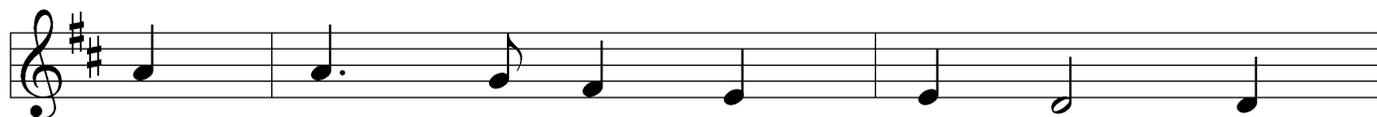
*Please be seated*

### Announcements

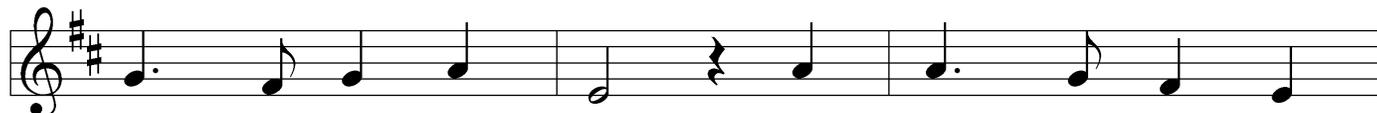
*Please stand, if you are able*

**Sending Hymn:** *A Story for All People (vs. 1, 3-5)*

*W&P Hymn: 2*



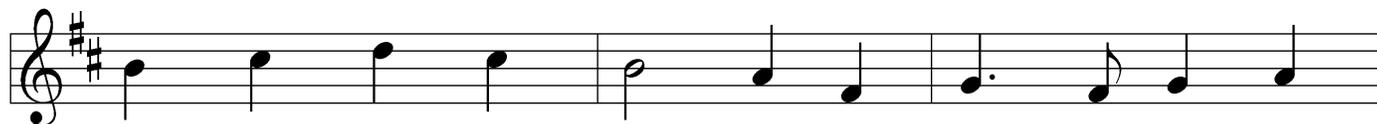
1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in  
3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the  
4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to  
5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of  
guêst is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es  
turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly  
go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -



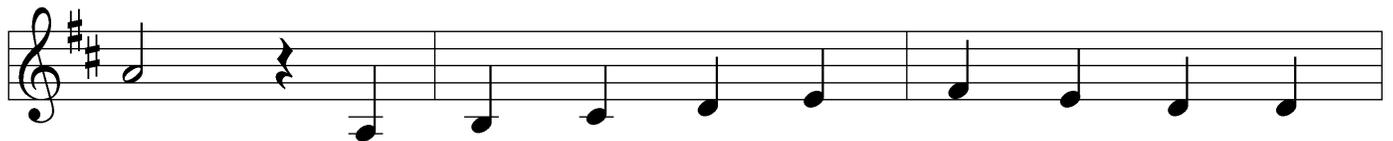
com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The  
crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -  
Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We  
va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,  
pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and  
won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal  
ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful

*continued*

*Text and music: Dori Erwin Collins Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress All worship hymns are reprinted under One License.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035*



poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and  
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our  
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we  
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that



mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.  
 God who is, and was, and is to come.  
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!  
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

*Refrain*



A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -



day. A song of love and heal - ing, a



light to show the way.

A Go in peace, bearing the light of Advent hope.

C Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:** *Praise Band*

The Altar flowers are donated by the APLC congregation  
 In honor of the anniversary of Pastor Serena's installation

**Next Week's Lessons:**

Malachi 4:1-2  
 Luke 1:78-79

**Office Hours:**

Pastor Serena:  
 12/8: 10:00 am—8:30 pm (Off-site meeting from 10:00  
 am—12:00 pm)  
 12/12: 9:00 am—1:00 pm

☩ Serving in Worship		
	Today (12/5)	Next Week (12/12)
Altar Guild	Jackie King	Jackie King
Assistant Minister	Sandy Carlson	Demetria Laird
Usher	Cindy Pawlo	Ken Schwier
Soloist	Paulette Asong	TBD
Livestream Assistant	Nick Senior	Quinn Rice

**Keep These Friends in Your Prayers:** *Those who are sick or in need:* Emily Wager, Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Mickey Gasparine, Sandy Kahler, Kenneth Johanson, Karen Qualls, Nancy Ayotte, Elfriede & Dick Kiesling, Sheeba David, Jim Kosiorek, Cora Pawlo, Richard Biunno, Jim Tangen, Elizabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Mike Squillante, Ryan Manhardt, Dan Scouten, Mary Laird, Evelyn Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis

*Those who are expecting:* Chris and Marie Laird

*Those in mourning:* George & Janet Schroeder on the death of Janet's son Hans, Friends and family of Walter Pasuco, friends and family of Rudy Oeckinghaus, those mourning David Coyne, the VanHouten family, Millie Miller on the death of her sister, The Scalora and Crescenzo families on the death of Jeanne's cousin Sandy, the Scalora family on the death of Pat's sister Sally, the family of Gary Siess, the family of Jim Cook, the family of Bryce Rosen, the family of Betty Curlander, the family of Carla Schechner

**Announcements:**

- ~ **Church office hours:** Pastor Serena has resumed office hours and will be available Wednesdays and Sundays. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means. If you have a pastoral need at any time, please reach out to her by e-mail, phone, or text. Food pantry donations and collections are being coordinated by Sibylle Schroeder. Other lay leaders are in the office at times during the week, helping with bulletins, altar guild, and other tasks. If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.
- ~ **Food Pantry Needs for November:** Peanut Butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot-dogs, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, Mac-and-cheese, crackers, cake mixes, Gluten free Pasta.
- ~ **Want to help your neighbors in practical ways?** If you are able to do shopping/pharmacy runs for sequestered members of the church or Mt. Olive Manor, contact the church office. We can let you know when someone needs assistance.
- ~ **Altar Flowers:** Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Christine Strobel with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ **Interested in hosting a coffee hour?** Not hard. Just bring some store bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

### This Week at Abiding Peace

- Sunday, 12/5**
- 2ND SUNDAY/ADVENT
  - Webcast/In-Person Worship, 10:00 am
- Monday, 12/6**
- Children's Church, 5:45 pm
  - NA Meeting, 7:30 pm
  - Council Meeting, in-person, 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, 12/7**
- Faith Kitchen, 9:00 am
  - Anniversary Committee Meeting (Zoom), 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, 12/8**
- AA Meeting, 6:30 pm
  - Mid-Week Advent Service, 7:45 pm
- Saturday, 12/11**
- NA Meeting, 8:00 pm

### Next Week at Abiding Peace

- Sunday, 12/12**
- 3RD SUNDAY/ADVENT
  - Webcast/In-Person Worship, 10:00 am
  - New Member Class (in-person and Zoom), 11:30 am
  - RIC Core Team Meeting (Zoom), 7:00 pm
- Monday, 12/13**
- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
  - Children's Church, 5:45 pm
  - NA Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, 12/15**
- Service @ Mt. Olive Manor, 4:30 pm
  - AA Meeting, 6:30 pm
  - Mid-week Advent Service, 7:45 pm
- Saturday, 12/18**
- NA Meeting, 8:00 pm

#### Upcoming Events

- ~ December 19: Prayer Partner Gift Exchange, 11:15 am
- ~ December 21: Longest Night Service, 7:30 pm
- ~ December 24: Christmas Eve Children's Service, 4:00 pm
- ~ December 24: Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm
- ~ December 24: Traditional Christmas Eve Service, 10:30 pm

For all live-stream services, click link below  
<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live>

- **\*Reconciling In Christ** is a signifier of a Lutheran church that is intentionally Open and Inclusive of LGBTQ+ and Siblings of Color. Abiding Peace is going through the process of education, conversation, and discernment in exploring the opportunity to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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Your Christmas decorating donation  
provides:



Advent Candles  
Greens & Wreaths

Special Music  
Poinsettias

Plus extras that will make our church beautiful for  
Advent and Christmas

*After Christmas, poinsettias are given to the many people who help our church during the year.*

*Please note: Your donation does not purchase a poinsettia to take home. Instead, it provides holiday beauty for all to enjoy.*

If you would like to give a donation toward the purchase of poinsettias, greens, wreaths, and candles please email Christine Strobel at [aplcbuddlake@gmail.com](mailto:aplcbuddlake@gmail.com). Include in your email your name, amount, envelope number, and your dedication (given to the glory of God, in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for). Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 19.

