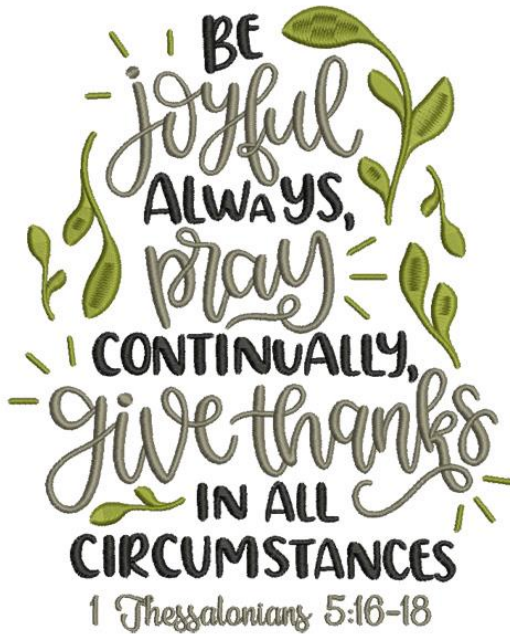




IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS

Third Sunday in Advent



Saturday, December 16, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 7:45 a.m.

“Making more and stronger disciples of Jesus Christ
through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Welcome to Immanuel!

Please turn off your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you!

If you are a guest, please fill out a guests' card located in the cardholder on the back of each pew and then place it in the offering plate. We look forward to meeting you!

Members, please help us love and care for one another by filling out an attendance card. Remember to include all the members of your family who are present in worship today. If you are communing, please check in the appropriate place. Thank you for filling out an Attendance-Communion card every time you attend Church.

We celebrate Holy Communion today! In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. This Holy Communion is also a sign of our shared confession of the Christian faith. If you have not communed with us before, please speak with one of our pastors before doing so.

During the communion service: If you're not able to drink wine, the lighter colored glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups contain water with a drop of wine. These special glasses allow communicants to celebrate the Lord's Supper according to Christ's institution, but have a very small amount of alcohol.

Worship at Immanuel is...

Christ Centered. We believe that at the heart of worship is the Good News that God has rescued us from our sins through Jesus' death on the cross and rising to life again.

Trinitarian. We believe that the object of worship is the only true God—The Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Multigenerational. We believe that it is a great blessing for family members to worship together. Taking seriously Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and so not forbid them" (Mark 10:14), we encourage children to worship with their parents and grandparents and provide resources such as children's bulletins and children's sermons.

Eclectic. Eclectic means, "selecting what seems best of various sources." We believe that we should strive to use the best hymns and practices that the church has to offer. Our worship may include hymns written 500 years ago as well as pieces written 5 months ago.

In preparation for worship we ask that you silence your cell phones and/or paging devices. Thank you. The time before service begins can be a good time to pray and prepare your heart and mind for worship. You will find helpful prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal located in the pew in front of you.

Divine Service, Setting Four

(Lutheran Service Book, pg. 203)

Preservice Music / Bells / Welcome

Opening Hymn, *LSB* 347, “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Please stand

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. (Matthew 28:19b; [18:20])

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (Psalm 130:3-4)

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. (Luke 18:13)

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit of the Day (Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13, 7; antiphon: v. 7)

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not
turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie

(Mark 10:47)



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Advent Hymn, “We Light the Advent Candle” [Tune: *LSB 343*]

Text: Lisa M. Clark. Text: © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 1102860

- 1 We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God’s favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**
- 2 We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

- 3 We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message—
A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you! (2 Timothy 4:22)
C And also with you!
P Let us pray...
C Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . . ⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

(John 20:31)



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



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



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



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

Holy Gospel, John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . . ¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the

Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 the life + everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Children's Message (Parents of young children may also come forward with their children.)

Hymn of the Day, *LSB* 345, “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Sermon

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P (*Special petitions...*) Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Offering (*You can place your offering in the plate in the narthex or mail it to the church anytime.*)

Please stand

Offertory, LSB 955, “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80. Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010. Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001526



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. 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 the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)

C 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!

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

- 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.

Words of Our Lord (Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. (John 20:19)

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

(John 1:29)

C 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 us, 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.

Please be seated

Distribution Hymns

LSB 527, "O Savior, Precious Savior"

LSB 625, "Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread"

Please stand

Dismissal

P The body and blood...Go in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

(Luke 2:29-32)

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 it, 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 lead 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.

Post-Communion Collect



Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord. (Psalm 103:1)
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. (Numbers 6:24-26)
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance on you and + give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, *LSB* 398, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Bells / Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. *Kyrie*, Text: Public domain; Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. *Alleluia*, Text: Public domain; Setting: © 1972 GIA Publications, Inc.; © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. *Verses*, Setting: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. *Sanctus*, Text: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House; Setting: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. *Agnus Dei*, Text: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House; Setting: Public domain. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

We invite you to take the service folder and announcements home with you as you leave today so you can see what's happening this week as well as meditate on the Scriptures, prayers, and hymns from today's service as you go through the week. You can also find helpful information on our church website: immanuelwaterloo.org.

Worship Helpers

Saturday, December 16, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Howard Shive

Altar Guild - Susan Starbuck

Pianist - Ron Jones

Acolyte - Tyler Major

Media - Will Hanks

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 7:45 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Bob Polansky

Acolytes - Nolan Prather & Olivia Rusteberg

Ushers - Roy Unterseh, Jim Stueve, Ed Arras, Maddy Prather

Media - Don Birrittier

Music Director - Ann Frank

Lector - Daniel Niemeyer

Altar Guild - Barbara Altes

Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 10:15 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Ushers - Lee Eggemeyer, Adam Eggemeyer, Chase Richey, Jakson Gregory

Media/Facebook Live - Lisa Clamors

Music Director - Ann Frank

Ushers - Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00 a.m. - n/a

Acolytes - Sunday, December 24, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Gwen Wiegand

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - n/a

Servers - Sunday, December 24, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Greg Wiegand

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - n/a

Media - Sunday, December 24, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Melissa Wiegand

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Lisa Clamors

Lectors - Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - n/a

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - n/a

Altar Guild - Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Marilyn Collette

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Pastor

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Rodney Clamors

Acolytes - Myla & Henry Eggemeyer

Ushers - Allen Jacobs, Don & Gina Birrittier

Altar Guild - Debbie Olsson

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media - Lisa Clamors

Crucifer - Ayda Eggemeyer

Worship Helpers – Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Warren Frank

Acolytes - Jacob Dethrow & Nash Bradley

Ushers - Alan Jacobs, Tom McDaniel, Paul Broske Sr., Collin Dethrow

Altar Guild - Carol Kassel

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media - Lorelei Griffin

Crucifer - Keaton Roberts

Worship Helpers – Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Pastor - Rev. Merritt Demski

Server - Dean Harbison

Acolytes - Colton Glessner & Michael Evers

Ushers - Elden Niemeyer, Wayne Hargrave, Warren Frank, Daniel Niemeyer

Altar Guild - Susan Hargrave

Music Director - Ann Frank

Media - Ashlyn Whelan

Crucifer - TJ Joellenbeck

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL – WATERLOO, ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

immanuelwaterloo.org

e-mail: immanuelwaterloo@gmail.com

Rev. Merritt Demski, Pastor

Mr. Ben Biegler, 1st year Field Education Student

Mrs. Lisa Clamors, Office Secretary

Mrs. Ann Frank, Music Director

Mrs. Linda Polansky, Preschool Director

939-6480 or 847-254-9666

939-6480 or 618-719-4954

939-6480 or 618-282-6597

939-6480 or 618-980-3475



Reminder

*PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 17TH
KIDS MUST BE IN THEIR
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS
AT 8:45 AM*

AN ADVENT SERVICE OF
Lessons & Carols

Wed., Dec. 20

**Dinner 5-6:30 p.m.
Service 6:30 p.m.**



Christmas Cards of Love

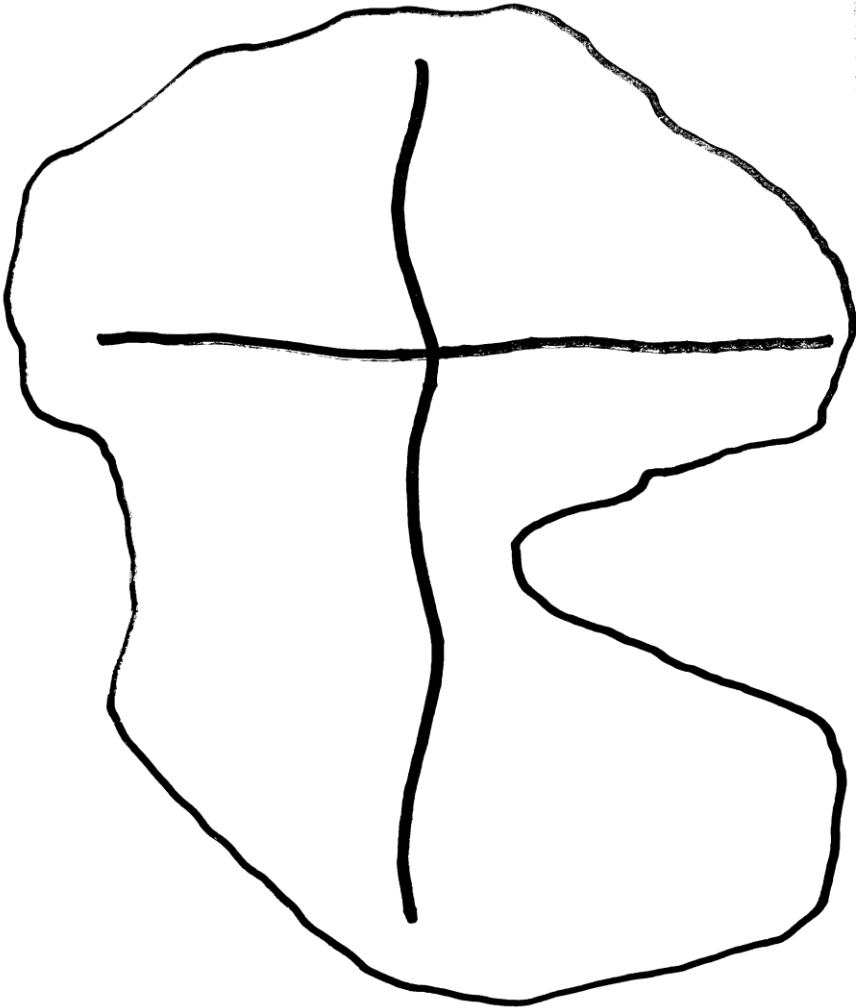
The Board of Social Ministry invites the congregation to join them in brightening the Christmas season for our shut-in and homebound members. They will be delivering goody bags to each shut-in and homebound member on Sunday, December 3rd. In addition to this gift, we are asking the members of Immanuel to remember them as well.

Please consider sending a Christmas card during this Christmas season. Your help will brighten their Christmas and extend the love of Immanuel to them.

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
Altes, Gary	419 Sycamore Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Binder, Nina	406 Avington Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Chitty, Donna	5326 Konarcik Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Clamors, Helen	6703 Susewind Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Dietzel, Marie	832 Cheshire Dr	Waterloo, IL 62298
Henry, Marvin & Carolyn	411 Janice Drive	Waterloo, IL 62298
Hitzemann, Judy	611 Morrison Ave.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jarvis, Beverly	Magnolia Terrace, 623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Jones, Pat	246A Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Knoke, Gloria	1038 Gall Road	Waterloo, IL 62298
Lloyd, Charlie & Phyllis	2658 State Route 156	Waterloo, IL 62298
Menke, Millie	1052 Country Club Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Mesnarich, Iva	Cedar Trails, 490 Urbanna Dr	Freeburg, IL 62243
Moore, Sandy	1602 Berkley Lane	Belleville, IL 62226
Netzeband, Jack & Kathy	624 Hartman Lane	Waterloo, IL 62298
Orsech, Edith	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Rabbermann, Lois	1020 Turtle Dove Trail	Waterloo, IL 62298
Bush, Rosemary	526 Legacy Dr.	Waterloo, IL 62298
Ruff, Gladys	735 Columbia Ave, Apt 32	Waterloo, IL 62298
Prigge, Arnold	835 Circle Drive	Red Bud, IL 62278
Prigge, Jackie	623 Hamacher St.	Waterloo, IL 62298

Connected to Christ:

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5



River Touchton