



Trinity Times

December
2022

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Northwestern Ohio Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

502 Bardshar Road, Sandusky, Ohio 44870 - 419 626-0204 - www.trinityelca.com

Office...trinityelca@bex.net



Well, here we are in December, the end of another year. It is the time of the year when think of the birth of Jesus. During this time our lessons focus on the signs of his coming. And finally, on December 25, we celebrate his birth.

I have developed a habit of watching the Facebook postings of various churches on Sunday afternoons. Last Sunday, one of the pastors indicated that we were beginning to prepare for Christmas, the birthday of Jesus. One of the little kids popped up with the statement, "Jesus has two birthdays." At the questioning of the pastor, the young kid said that his first birthday came at Christmas, and his second birthday came at Easter. Never thought of it that way before. That might be something we might like to look at as we come to the Lenten/ Easter time of the year.

But for now, we need to concentrate on His coming into the world as the Baby of Bethlehem. We need to again ask ourselves what his coming means to us.

Today, it seems that for many who call themselves Christians, it means law and order. To many it seems as though they see Him as a "my way, or else." They seem to want to impose their understanding of Christianity on everyone else. There is no room for the idea that Jesus was about love and forgiveness. There is no room for the idea that other people see the idea of law and order in a different way. There is no room for compassion and concern for those who are hurting in one way or another. There is no room for being concerned about the underprivileged, or those who have been hurt in one way or another.

It's interesting that the people who were like that in Jesus day were the ones who eventually hung him on the cross. His message was that the way to live was through caring and concern for one another. If we really cared about others, there would be no need for laws, because we would not put our egos ahead of others. We would love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

As we are always reminded this time of the year, it's not how much we can get, but how much we can give. Rather than how much law can we enforce, it is about how much love we can share. And not just for this time of the year, but all year.

Have a blessed, loving, caring Christmas. And may that last throughout the year.

Pastor Ralph



YOUR SERVANTS AT TRINITY

INTERIM PASTORS -

The Rev. Ralph Schibler

The Rev. Catherine Schibler

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Carol Dahs

MUSICIAN: Adele Hoffman

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

COORDINATOR:

Sally Warner - 419 684-7850

CUSTODIANS:

Jim Bertsch - 419 625-4377

Pat Wiedenheft - 419 625-8652

PRESIDENT: Carrie Wiedenheft

TREASURER: Jim Bertsch

DATA ENTRY: Shannon Limberios

OFFICE PHONE: 419 626-0204

OFFICE HOURS: 9 am to 1 pm, M-F

Youth and Family

The youth Sunday School CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 11 during the 9:30 am worship service. Come show our youth your support.



First Communion

There will also be FIRST COMMUNION for those who are participating this year.



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS made by the Sunday School Youth are available in the upstairs fellowship area. Come take a look and get that unique gift for a teacher, bus driver, mailman, or neighbor. All ornaments are available for a donation.



THE HELPING HANDS TREE is up and ready for you. Take a hand(s) off the tree, purchase the item(s), you may wrap the gifts if you want, and bring them back. PLEASE be sure to put your hand back on the gift so we know what is wrapped and return it by December 18. The items will be going to help a needy family in the area.

Again this year we will be asking for Seats and Feets (underwear and socks) for Care and Share and Crossroads Homeless Shelter. The tree is in the back of the sanctuary and ready for your loving donations



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA WORLD HUNGER Tree (Good Gifts Tree)



This is how this works:

Pick an ornament from the tree which you would like to support.

Take it and an envelope with you, fill out the information needed on the envelope.

Place the money in the envelope.

Bring it back next week with you or mail it to the church office.

You get to keep the ornament or give it to the person you have honored or a family member of someone you have memorialized.

All memorials or honoraria will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Sandusky, Ohio - Sandusky OH
Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2022

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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Assets

1.100.102	Checking Account	71,473.01
1.100.104	Petty Cash Fund	20.00
1.100.106	Thrivent Bond Fund Checking	57,703.02
1.200.114	Thrivent Money Market Account	835.00
1.220.116	Endowment Savings Thrivent	85,598.39
1.220.118	Mission Plus Investments (3 CD's)	3,885.87
1.220.120	Edward Jones Mutual Fund	255,177.10
1.400.110	Thirvent Moderate Fund (Reserve)	49,470.95
1.400.112	Thrivent Moderate Fund - Pavement	2,454.15
Total Assets		<u>\$526,617.49</u>

Liabilities

2.100.216	Ohio Treasurer of St	42.00
2.100.218	R.I.T.A.	44.96
2.100.219	Ohio Department of Taxation	7.53
Total Liabilities		<u>\$94.49</u>

Fund Balances

3.100.300	Current Fund Balance	56,263.22
3.210.300	Community Mission Fund Balance	3,710.95
3.220.300	<i>Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>	
3.221.300	Memorial Fund Balance	35,632.57
3.222.300	Endowment Fund Balance	89,484.26
3.223.300	Building Improvement Fund Balance	34,329.80
3.225.300	Pavement Fund Balance	2,454.15
3.227.300	Charity Fund Balance	255,177.10
<i>Total Designated Giving Fund Balance</i>		<i>\$417,077.88</i>
3.400.300	Reserve Fund Balance	49,470.95
Total Fund Balances		<u>\$526,523.00</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		<u>\$526,617.49</u>



The Call Committee has no current updates to share.

Please continue to pray for our new pastor to find their way here.

COUNCIL UPDATE

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL Meeting Highlights - October 20, 2022 - 7:00 pm (These are unapproved meeting minutes)

Attending: Jim Bertsch, Candy Beatty, Nancy Vollmer, Pat Wiedenheft, Millie McCready, Betsy Stierhoff, Carrie Wiedenheft, Pastor Cathy, and secretary, Carol Dahs. Not in Attendance:

Meeting called to order by President – Carrie Wiedenheft, Opening devotions were given by Carrie Wiedenheft

Minutes of previous meeting (October 2022) were reviewed. Jim made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes. 2nd by Millie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report for October 2022 was reviewed. Jim stated that the new Charity Fund is slowing gaining again. Candy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. 2nd by Betsy. Motion passed.

President's Report: Carrie reached out to Gayle Thompson about being on the Call Committee. She accepted the position. A meeting of the Call Committee needs to be held soon along with the mock interview. Carrie updated the MSP as after three years it was to expire. Pastor Henry has handed out our information to a couple new candidates. Candy will be done at the end of 2022 in her Congregational Life position. She, however, will stay on to chair the Bereavement Committee. The Congregational meeting minutes were passed out. Council filled in what was discussed by Sally. Carol will edit the minutes. Shannon Wilson invited Trinity to participate in Christmas in the Village in Castalia the first weekend of December.

Pastor – Pastor Cathy will do a memorial service for Viola Liptok in Danbury in the next couple of weeks. P. Cathy is looking at doing more shut-in visits during the second week of December. Trinity will need a pastor to cover on February 26, 2023, as P. Cathy will be unavailable. First Communion will be on December 11 at the 9:30 am service. (Tyler Wiedenheft, Lincoln Smith, Maci Berg)

Congregational Life – Candy Beatty – There will be a free catered luncheon on December 4 following service.

Faith Builders – Pat Wiedenheft – Pat reported that the youth sleepover went well. Ms. Kelly gave a presentation on Project Noelle. The kids took a donation for Project Noelle on December 20 and raised \$308.00. During the overnight the kids made ornaments that will be for sale in December. Three or four fleece blankets were made and donated to Project Noelle. There will be a Senior Thanksgiving on November 27 after the 10:30 service.


Mission Service – Betsy Stierhoff – The remaining shoes for the shoe drive have been picked up. Waiting to see what the final total earned is. Betsy would like to put some more information on the ELCA Good Gifts project, that can be done year-round, on the bulletin board upstairs.

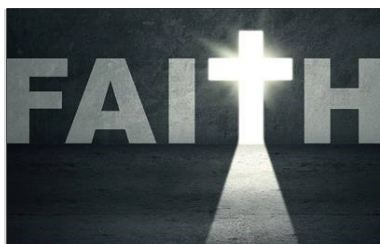
Property – Candy shared that there are a couple spots that appear to be new water damage. Carol will send photos to Mike and see what he thinks.

Stewardship and Finance – Jim Bertsch – Council agreed to send the \$500, agreed upon at the July 24 meeting to NWOS for the Leadership Training in honor of Bishop Daniel, out of current expenses since the plate offering was not announced it was being done on October 30. The new rental agreement was reviewed, and some updates were recommended. Carol will get those done and send a copy to council.

Witness and Welcome – Millie McCready – The letter to the inactive members was sent and feedback is starting to come in.

Worship and Music – Nancy Vollmer – Committee met on November 2. Nancy has the Usher, Acolyte, and Lector schedules updated. 2023 will continue with a lay-led one service on any 5th Sunday of any month. They are looking into using a prerecorded sermon from Scott Sessler for the January 29th service. Carrie will check with her brother also about covering that Sunday. Looking at joining Zion, Grace, and Trinity together for a midweek Lenten service on Tuesday's at Zion.

6  Old Business – Carol will get together past financial audit members and see if she can get everyone together on a Saturday morning in January.



FAITH Member Ministry

Friends and Family **A**biding in Christ **I**n **T**heir
Homes/Hospitals/Healthcare Centers

“You never know when a moment and a few sincere words can have an impact on a life forever.” – Zig Ziglar

FAITH Members (as of 11/17/2022)

At the Commons of Providence Assisted Living Building, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky

At the Commons of Providence, 5000 Providence Drive, Sandusky

Ruth Sieb	Apt #107	Birthday - Sept. 19
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At the Commons of Providence Memory Care Unit, 4901 Providence Drive, Sandusky

Ruby Stierhoff	Rm #114	Birthday - July 26
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At the Willows of Bellevue, 101 Auxiliary Drive, Bellevue, Ohio 44811

At Providence Care Center, 2025 Hayes Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870

At Heritage Village, 700 Helen Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410

At The Meadows of Osborn Park, 3916 Perkins Avenue, Huron, Ohio 44839

Shirley Miller	Birthday - April 3
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Danbury Senior Living, 33770 Bagley Rd., North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd, Sandusky OH 44870

Ray Remy	Apt. 112	Birthday - Feb 9
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In their homes:

Brian & Mary Ann Hickman	51 N. Harbors End, Port Clinton	419-732-7398	B: May 25 MA: July 10
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Dan Miller	5708 Bogart Road, Castalia	419-684-5274	Birthday: May 24
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Bernie Neidler	1305 Ogontz St, Sandusky	419-625-4839	B: Nov. 16 MA: Dec. 30
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Pat Nielsen	1502 Martins Point Road, Sandusky	419-684-5627	June 6
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Judy Welser	5619 Debra Drive, Castalia	419-684-7232	Feb. 11
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Paul Wiedenheft	4216 Homegardner Rd., Sandusky OH	44870	Oct. 11
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Should you like to join our team in making home visits, where we offer conversation, prayers and communion, please contact Patty Swartz at 419-626-4970.



Crossroads Homeless Shelter Meal for December 21, 2022

**Turkey & Gravy
over Mashed Potatoes
Creamed Corn
Salad
Bread with butter
Pumpkin Squares**

Jim is still cooking monthly meals for Crossroads. If you would like to support this ministry please send your donation to the church and mark it Homeless Meal.

Thankoffering Boxes or Envelopes

Are out and ready for you to pick up



Trinity did not do a Pork and Sauerkraut Meal this year. This event was one of our big money makers for the Community Mission Fund.

With this change we encourage you to pick up a box or envelope to put donations in for the Community Mission Fund. These funds go to the local organizations that were approved on page five of the budget.

**Make a daily contribution
Thanksgiving Day through
Christmas Eve
Return on Christmas Eve**



DECEMBER MILESTONES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tara Jones
- 2 Janis Miller
- 4 Regan Patten
- 5 Jeffrey Wright
Jack Wright
- 7 Joseph Miller
Alinor Stephens
- 9 Robert Moser
Sharon Swartz
- 11 Edward Grahl
David Warner
- 14 James Bertsch
- 15 Joshua Miller
- 16 Nancy Vollmer
Larry Velliquette
Connor Swartz
- 17 Carrie Lemert
- 19 Patsy Troike
Lilah Werner
- 20 Alice Kuns
- 21 Rachel Haynes
Ryan Patten
Lincoln Smith
Remy Schenk
Dawn Smith
Mark Wiedenheft



- 22 Jeffrey Miller
Mary Miller
- 23 James Yantz
- 24 Jan Jenkins
- 25 Barry Gill
- 26 Mackenzie Todd
- 27 Shelby Stallard
Douglas Stierhoff
- 29 Jacob Stierhoff
- 30 Ross Patten
Jason Hemmer
Krista Schill
Mary Ann Neidler

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft - 13th
- 6 Russell & Leigh Howard- 25th
- 7 Chet & Penny Solem - 15th
- 28 Gary & Jody Eckler - 38th
- 29 Weston & Laura Miller - 10th



Robert & Alice Bertsch, Jim Bertsch, Larry & Pat Wiedenheft, Dennis & Valarie Grahl, Kathleen Helfrich, Robert & Michelle Reardon, Jeannette Eggert, Fred Wobser, Diane Durica, Patty Swartz, Melvin Conyer, Greg & Susanne Lemert, Gary & Bonnie Lieb, Jack & Brenda Ried, Dave & Sally Warner, David & Cathy Wobser in memory of Viola Liptok



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Gary & Bonnie Lieb, Linda Gantz, Chuck & Sandy Paseka, Paul & Barb Wiedenheft, Larry & Pat Wiedenheft, Jim Bertsch, in memory of Phyllis Lopez

PASTOR RALPH would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. They have been really appreciated.

THE FAMILY OF VIOLA LIPTOK would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and lovely funeral service and dinner that was given by all at Trinity for Viola.



On behalf of the people of Trinity, our Congregation Council thanks:

- Anne Dunn for making the main dish for the November Crossroads Meal
- Ms. Kelly for giving the presentation about Project Noelle at the youth overnight
- To all the helpers and kids who were at the youth overnight
- Guy Miller Family for the turkey donated for the Senior Thanksgiving Meal
- Denise Casanova for making the pumpkin rolls for the Senior Thanksgiving Meal
- To all the adults and kids who helped serve at the Senior Thanksgiving Meal
- To Candy Beatty as she ends her tenure on Council for the last six years. Thank You!



DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 NA 11:00
4 Second Sunday of Advent Communion Service 9:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Holiday Brunch following service	5 Dartball 7:30 pm	6	7 NA 7:00 pm	8	9	10 NA 11:00 am
11 Third Sunday of Advent Communion Service 9:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am S.S. Christmas Program during service First Communion during service	12 Dartball 7:30 pm	13	14 NA 7:00 pm	15 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	16 Office Closed (Carol on Vacation)	17 NA 11:00 am
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Communion Service 9:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am	19	20	21 Crossroads Meal 1 pm NA 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm NA 11:00 am
25 Worship Service 9:30 am	26 Office Closed (Carol on Vacation)	27	28 NA 7:00 pm	29	30	31

HELPERS AT WORSHIP - December 2022 and January 2023

Altar Care: Ann Streat and Sally Warner

Date	Chancel Flowers	Memorial Flowers	9:30 Service in Dec. & Jan. 1 / 8:00 Service on Jan. 8, 2023			10:30 Service starting on January 8, 2023		
			Ushers	Lector & Communion	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector & Communion	Acolyte
December 4	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft	Tal & Ann Strean	Mark Wiedenheft	Russ Stephens	Carlie Wiedenheft			
December 11	Larry & Pat Wiedenheft		Gary Lieb	Candy Betty	Natalie Thompson			
December 18	Mark & Carrie Wiedenheft		Roy Patterson	Joyce Patterson	Mason Russell			
December 24	Dave & Sally Warner		Sally Warner Carrie Killingsworth	Jim Bertsch	Erica Miller			
December 25	Rex & Charlene Stierhoff		Roy Patterson	Guy Miller	Ryan Wiedenheft			
January 1			Cindy Norman	Guy Miller	Tyler Wiedenheft			
January 8			Cindy Norman	Joyce Patterson	Mya Smith	Ken Schenk	Candy Beatty	Claire Conner
January 15			Rich Miller	Millie McCready	Zane Warner	Sonny Schonhardt	Cathy Wobser	Mason Russell
January 22			Rich Miller	Russ Stephens	Lincoln Smith	Sonny Schonhardt	Gayle Thompson	Elie Conner
January 27 9 or 9:30 am only			Rich Miller	Natalie Thompson	Emma Killingsworth			

Prayers, Readings and Psalm for the month of December

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 - *From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace*

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 - May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

Romans 15:4-13 - *Live in harmony, welcoming one another*

Matthew 3:1-12 - *A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord*

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 - *The desert blooms as God's people return from exile*

Psalm 146:5-10 - The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

James 5:7-10 - *Patience until the coming of the Lord*

Matthew 11:2-11 - *The forerunner of Christ*

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 - *The sign of Immanuel*

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 - Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

Romans 1:1-7 - *Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

Matthew 1:18-25 - *A God near at hand*

Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 - *Light shines: a child is born for us*

Psalm 96 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

Titus 2:11-14 - *The grace of God has appeared*

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] - *God with us*

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

December 25 - Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12 - *God comes to restore the people*

Psalm 97 - Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. (Ps. 97:11)

Titus 3:4-7 - *Saved through water and the Spirit*

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 - *The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds*

Prayer of the Day: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Inclement Weather Conditions Reminder

Below is Trinity's By-Laws on how services will be dealt with if there is inclement weather this winter.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE:

The front sanctuary doors **will not** be unlocked and the sidewalks to them **will not** be cleared.

Please use the south entrance or the portico door



CR2009.01. A policy regarding cancellation and postponement of worship and other events is hereby established.

- a. Worship and Sunday School - It is the intention of the pastor and people of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation to hold worship as regularly scheduled. When weather is inclement, and when roads conditions are less than optimum, worship will be held, but worshipers should not feel compelled to venture out if they believe they may not be able to do so safely. However, in the event that:
 1. weather and/or road conditions are such that the pastor cannot get to the church,
 2. the pastor and parishioners would clearly endanger themselves by trying to do so,
 3. there is some other situation, such as
 - (a). a declared national, state, or local emergency,
 - (b). a serious problem with the church building, such as loss of heat or waterthe president of the congregation (or vice president, should the president be unavailable) and the pastor shall confer with one another, and, upon their agreement, worship may be canceled. If Sunday worship is cancelled, Sunday School shall be deemed cancelled as well. Efforts will be made to make the cancellation known to as many parishioners as possible by phone or e-mail. Parishioners should be informed that, if they question whether worship is being held, they should call the church office. A special message will be placed on the church telephone's answering device if indeed worship has been cancelled.



Firelands Chorus, Inc.

presents

Songs for the Season



Directed by Jeffrey Kearney
Accompanied by Morgan Noon

**Friday, December 9th &
Saturday, December 10th, 2022**

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Concert at 7:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

503 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio

FREE CONCERT ★ FREEWILL OFFERING COLLECTED





FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Free and open to anyone in the community!

Grace Lutheran Church
203 S. Washington St.
Castalia, OH 44824



- Wed., Dec. 14th
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (or until gone)
- Drive-thru pickup (free) in the back of church

Delivery is available for shut-ins, call 419-357-3672 to schedule a delivery.



MENU:

**GOULASH,
LETTUCE SALAD,
ROLL,
AND DESSERT**

POINSETTIAS FOR OUR CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Use this order form, attach payment, and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. **Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church.** All orders must be received in the office **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at NOON!**

Plants may be taken home following worship service on Christmas Eve.

INDICATE NUMBER AND COLOR OF PLANTS ORDERED
(all are 6" pots)



Check # _____ or Cash

RED	WHITE	PINK	OFFICE CHOICE	TOTAL NO.OF PLANTS	Amount at \$11.00 each

Name: _____

DEDICATION for CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETIN:
