



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

December 24, 2024
4 pm and 8 pm – Christmas Eve
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter in prayer, worship in awe, leave to serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed. All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE:

[4pm] "Carol for Advent" – flute: Carmen Blair, vocalists: Kathleen and Michael Keating, piano: Michael Keating
[8 pm] "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" – HTLC Bell Choir



GATHERING WORDS

P: Holy One, open our hearts to receive the true gift of Christmas.

All: May the stillness of your peace wash over us.

P: May we encounter hope born anew.

All: We are here, waiting for you, ready to receive your gift of love.

P: Be with us now,

All: as we come and adore the newborn child. Amen.

WELCOME

Please Stand

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: "Advent's Holy Light"

Choir: As we watch for the dawn of a brighter day,
a candle of love lights the way.

As we look for the signs of the promised birth,
of a Savior who brings heaven to earth.

All:



LITANY: *Christmas Eve*

Candles are lit.



P: As we gather on this sacred Christmas Eve, we light all the candles: the candle of Hope, the candle of Peace, the candle of Joy, the candle of Love, and the center candle, the Christ candle. Together, these candles symbolize the Light of the World coming to dispel the darkness. As we light this Christ candle, may its flame ignite the warmth of God's love within us and spread the message of joy and salvation to all.

Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the source of our hope.

All: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The Prince of Peace has come to dwell among and within us.

All: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The source of our joy and our salvation is here.

All: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: The greatest gift of all, the gift of Love, has been given.

All: Let heaven and nature sing.

P: Gracious Creator, we thank you for the love that brought Christ into our lives, for the hope his birth represents, and for the peace that his presence brings. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may this Christ candle illuminate our hearts and minds, drawing us closer to you and to one another. In the name of the newborn King, we pray. Amen.

All:



Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.
Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.
For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -
nite in the beau - ty and won - der of
Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

Choir: Advent's holy light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the midst of a silent night sky, a star beckons:

All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of a tranquil field, an angel proclaims:

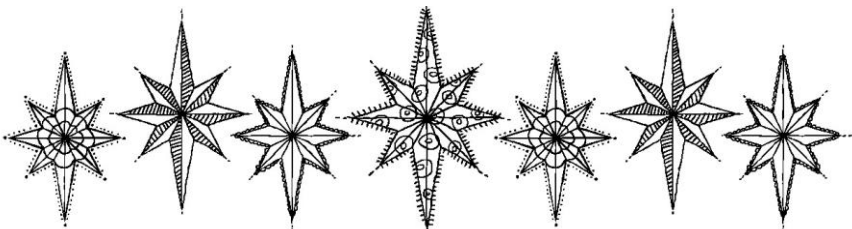
All: Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

L: In the midst of our loneliness and pain, God calls:

All: Rise up, children, and follow.

L: With the promise of new life, Christ whispers:

All: Rise up, children, and follow.



ENTRANCE HYMN: “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” vs. 1,3

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

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

INVOCATION

P: God of light and love,

All: shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead.

P: Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light.

All: May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

L: Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness.

All: Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve,

L: that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ—

All: your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice, and joy.

L: If we walk in darkness and despair,

All: help us see the great light of your presence.

L: If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ,

All: help us offer hope to those around us.

L: Help us see your glory breaking into our lives.

All: as Mary and shepherds before us saw.

L: In the quiet of this night,

All: may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Savior. Amen.

Be Seated

[4 pm] **HYMN:** “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” vs. 1,2



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er-last - ing Lord,



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin’s womb.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king!”

[8 pm] **ANTHEM:** “*Noel*” – HTLC Choir, soloist: Kathleen Keating



Please Stand

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

R: God of love, open our hearts to hear this familiar story with new hope. Speak your wisdom of love and peace.

All: Let your grace flow over us, as new life is born. Amen.

R: The Christmas reading is from the second chapter of Luke.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven.

THE CHRISTMAS READING: *Luke 2:1 – 20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

R: Holy God, you entered our world as a vulnerable infant, bringing hope and peace to all creation.

All: Your hope transforms our despair.

R: Your peace fills us with deep joy.

All: Your presence destroys our fears.

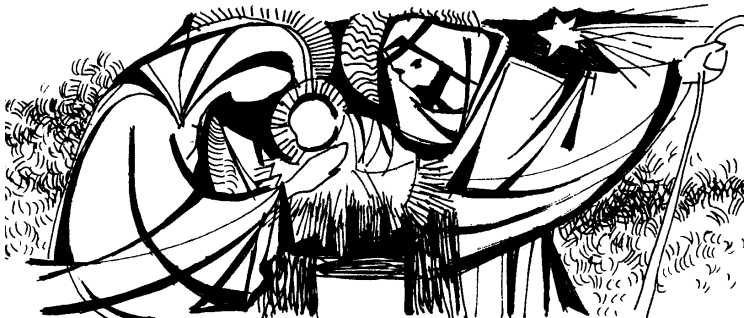
R: As Mary treasured the words she heard, so may we treasure this story.

All: As the shepherds praised God, so may we praise your amazing love. Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME – Pastor Tim

Please Stand



HYMN

[4 pm] "Away in a Manger" vs. 1,2



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look



down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.

[8 pm] "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1,2



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

Be Seated

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – Pastor Tim



INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: After the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger, they returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God.

All: May we too glorify and praise God for all we have seen and received as we collect tonight's offering.

THANKFUL OFFERING

MUSIC DURING OFFERING:

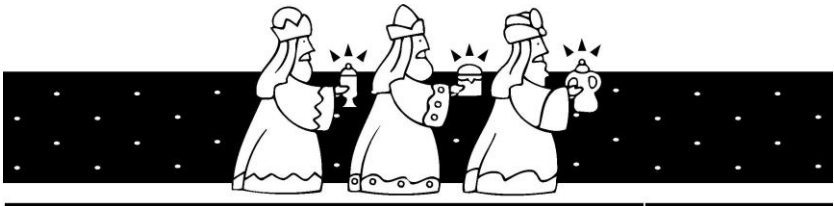
[4 pm] – Michael Keating

[8 pm] “*Do You Hear What I Hear*” – Bell Choir

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: tune – “*In the Bleak Midwinter*”

**All: What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**



OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Light of love, fill the world with the hope of your salvation. As we offer you our deepest gratitude for the birth of your Son,

All: we bring you the gift of our very lives.

L: Join our hearts to the joy of the angels and shepherds,

All: as we send our offering out into the world, that others may share the joy of this holy night. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

L: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of grace,

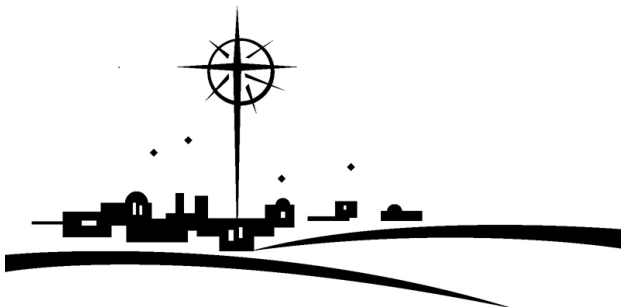
All: receive our prayer.

L: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

All: receive our prayer.

L: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.



A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE: tune – “*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*”

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

All: And may the Lord be with you too.

L: Lift your hearts to God in praise.

All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

L: Let us offer praises true.

**All: It is fitting so to do: Gratefully we sing to the Lord,
our King!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Creating God, in the beginning was the Word. You spoke the Word and the world came into being. The Word you spoke was hope. The Word you spoke was justice. The Word you spoke was love. Throughout the years the prophets echoed your Word, promising a child who would bring light to our darkness, a child who would bring endless peace to our world of violence. With joy we sing . . .

THE SANCTUS: tune – “*From Heaven Above*”

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing your praise
To you, Redeemer of our days,
For we have found in Jesus’ birth
Good news of peace and human worth.**

CONSECRATION

P: In the fullness of time, you sent your Word to us. A child was born in a stable. A star shone, leading the world to the child. Angels came to shepherds with good news and songs of praise.

All: There was great joy for all people, for Jesus Christ was born: Savior of the world, hope of the nations, light for all creation.

P: The baby grew into a man who healed the sick, reached out in compassion, taught your ways, and proclaimed your truth. On his last night with his friends, he gave us one more gift – the gift of a meal for remembering; the gift of a meal for hope and joy. And so, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, sharing the nourishment of body and spirit. He said to them: “Take, eat and remember. I am Emmanuel, God with you.” After supper Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, and shared it with his friends. He said to them: “Drink this. This is a cup of blessing, a cup of forgiveness. This is God’s gift, offered in love.” And so, we ask your blessings on these ordinary things: gifts of the earth, gifts of the bread and fruit of the vines.

All: Make them be for us Jesus Christ, gift of love, Emmanuel, hope of the nations.

P: Send your Spirit upon us this night, that we may be the faithful body of Christ, sharing the gift of your love with grateful hearts and joyful minds.

All: Bless us this night and forevermore.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



FRACTION RITE

*P: Come to this table. Come with your faith and your doubt.
Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your
grief and your love. Come, there is room for you here.*

All: This is Christ's table. All are welcome.

Be Seated

Holy Communion is open to all.

Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (yellow), or water (clear, center) from the assistant's tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls.



COMMUNION HYMN: "The First Noel"



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
 tin - ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



COMMUNION HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night,
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: On this night, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us.

All: As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people.

P: Let the gladness of this meal have no end

All: as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: tune – “*I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*”

**All: Lord, let Your servants go in peace,
Your Word had been fulfilled:
Our eyes have seen the Light increase
Which for the world You willed,**

**For Israel’s Light, the promised One,
Now shines for all to see.
To God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Be praise eternally!**

Be Seated

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

P: The God who said, “Let there be light,” has caused light to shine in our hearts.

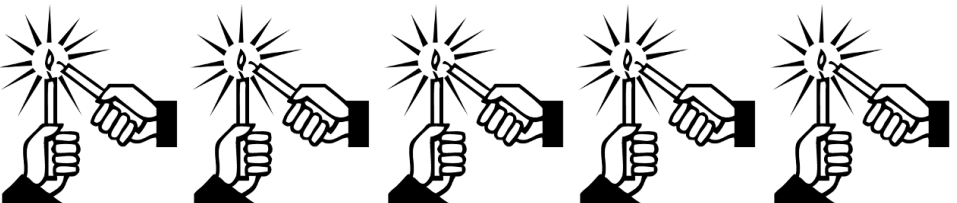
All: That light is the glory of God reflected in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one light of Christ, so may we the people of God reflect Christ’s light and love in this world.

All: Amen. May it be so.

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor’s candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.

The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor’s candle.



MUSIC DURING CANDLE LIGHTING

[4pm] – Michael Keating

[8pm] “*Candle Carol*” – Choir

HYMN: “*Silent Night*”

All: Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav’nly hosts sing, alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love’s pure light

Radiant beams from your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

LITANY

P: God of light, you shine in the deepest darkness.

All: Christ is born!

L: Praise God that the light of our Savior shines so brilliantly in the darkness.

All: Christ is born!

P: Arise! And, may the light of Christ radiate through us to our needy world.

All: In God there is no darkness! Christ is born!

Alleluia! Amen!

BLESSING

P: We have heard the Christmas story of love—love born in a manger.

All: Like the shepherds, we found the Christ child.

P: Like Mary, we hold this story deep in our hearts.

All: Let us join the angels, telling this news of incredible joy.

P: And may God's blessing of peace be ours this night and forevermore.

All: Amen.

Please Stand

SENDING OUT HYMN: "Joy to the World" vs. 1, 2

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.



COMMISSIONING

L: Once we walked in darkness.

All: Tonight we walk in the light of Christ.

L: Once we wandered with no one to lead us.

All: Tonight we follow the Prince of Peace.

L: Once we felt lost and forsaken.

All: Tonight we sing the glory of our salvation.

L: Once we were weary from work and worry.

All: Tonight we are reborn with Christ, through God's glorious love. Merry Christmas!!

POSTLUDE

Special Thanks to . . .

Those who helped decorate the church this Christmas Season;

Those who helped with tonight's worship experience;

Those whose musical talents enriched our services;

YOU for sharing your evening
at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

**We hope to see you at our Service of
Poems and Carols
on December 29th at 9:30 am,
followed by a Christmas Brunch!**

**We invite you to join our regular
9:30 am Sunday Services.**



**The Poinsettias decorating our sanctuary are given
by the following:**

Joann Anderson – *in memory of Richard Charles Anderson,
Elmer & Violet Anderson, Ralph & Marilyn Wieters,
Carmen Blair – in memory of Ed Blair
and in honor of Karyl Blair*

The Blevins Family – *memory and honor of our families*

The Di Paola Family – *in memory of Susan Morgan,
John Di Paola, and Janet Di Paola*

Linda Headrick – *Ann Brannen*

Gina Herman – *in memory of Rusty Warren*

Keith Hillesland & Richard Taylan – *in memory of
Harold & Jeanne Hillesland*

The Huff Family – *in memory of our grandparents and
in honor of our families and HTLC family*

Carmen R. Jorgenson – *Theodore A. Jorgenson*

Cheryl & Art Kuhlmann – *in honor of our families*

The MacFarlane Family – *in honor of our many friends and
blessings of HTLC*

The Miedema Family – *Sandy & Simon Miedema*

Jay & Janice Schaefer – *Ernie Proctor*

Joe & Kellie Smith – *in honor of family and friends*

