FAITH

Your love, O Lord,
forever will I sing;
from age to age my
mouth will proclaim
your faithfulness.

PSALM 89:1

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our worship follows a traditional order inspired by scripture and rooted in ancient patterns. The full order for worship (liturgy) is found in this bulletin.
*Please stand as you are able. Spoken congregational responses are in **Bold.**

GATHERING

Worship begins with the organ prelude. It's a time for silent meditation as we turn our hearts and minds to God.

PRELUDE -
Come, Savior of the Gentiles ..... Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✞ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us take a moment to confess our sin in front of God and one another.
Brief silence

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✞ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

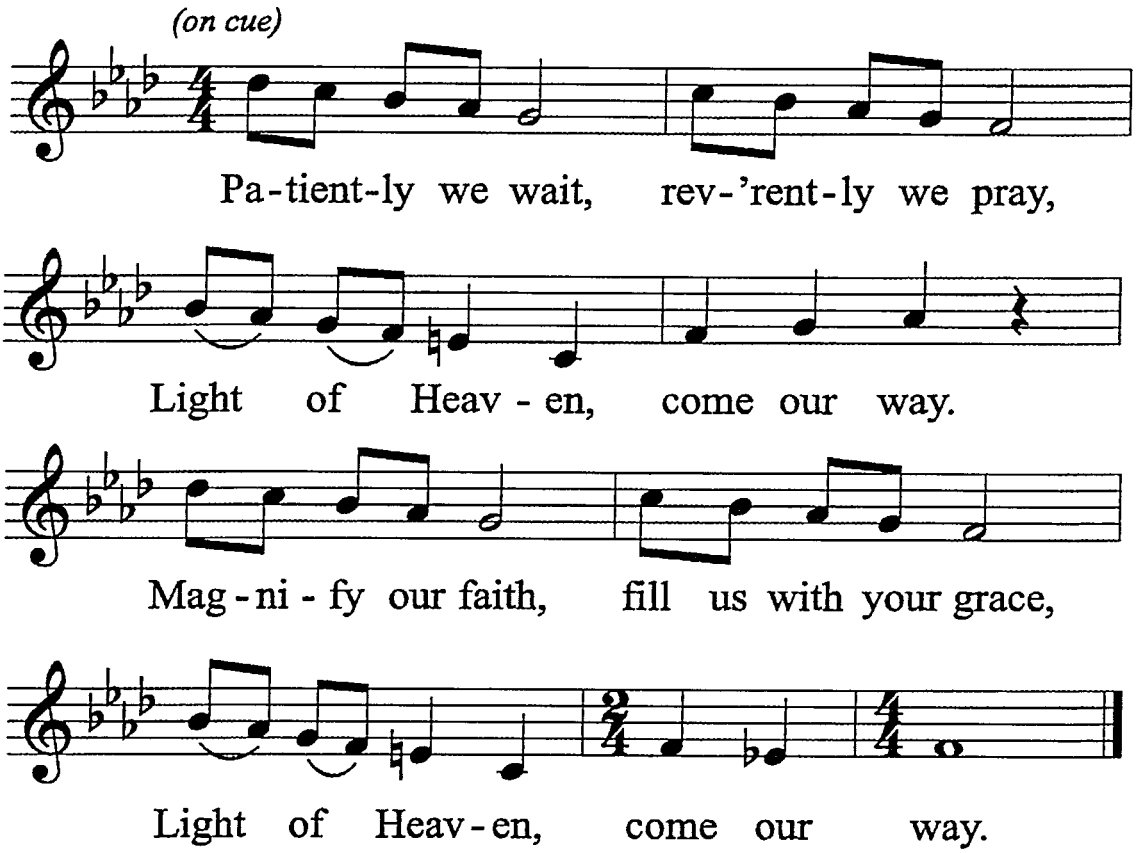
***PROCESSIONAL HYMN -**
The King Shall Come ..... Hymn #260

***GREETING**
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Carol Koehler and Michelle Whitmoyer

CHORUS - Light of Heaven, Come ..... Karen Crane/arr. Joel Raney



INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT - FAITH

Advent begins in darkness with 5 candles awaiting a spark. Today, we light the first one, the candle of hope. We light it with faith, which is the courage to trust that this light will grow. Advent teaches us the discipline of expectation—to watch, to listen, and to slow down and wait, choosing to believe that God is drawing near. Advent faith doesn't look back, but rather leans forward, believing that God keeps his promises, and trusting that the light of heaven will soon shine. *(Lighting of Advent Candle)*

CHORUS

RESPONSIVE LITANY

In shadowed days, we wait and pray,
Asking for God to light the way.
When answers hide and paths seem dim,
We place our faith and trust in him.
The word of God, both sure and true,
We hold our hope, O God, in you.
As we prepare for Christ's own birth,
We walk by faith upon this earth.

CHORUS

ADVENT PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

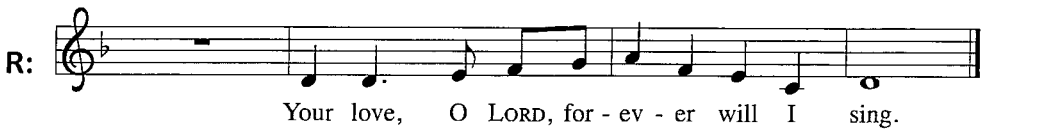
THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

[1] Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him
rest from all his enemies around him, [2] the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See
now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." [3] Nathan
said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."
[4] But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, [5] "Go and tell my
servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live
in? [6] I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel
from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
[7] Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a
word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd
my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' [8] Now
therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I
took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my
people Israel, [9] and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all
your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the
name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for my people
Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be
disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11] from
the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest
from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will
make you a house. [16] Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever
before me; your throne shall be established forever." The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Tone:



R:

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

[1] Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
[2] **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.
[3] "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
[4] **'I will establish your | line forever,**
and preserve your throne for all | generations.' " R
[19] You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.
[20] **I have found Da- | vid my servant;**
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.
[21] My hand will | hold him fast
and my arm will | make him strong.
[22] **No enemy | shall deceive him,**
nor shall the wicked | bring him down.
[23] I will crush his | foes before him
and strike down | those who hate him.
[24] **My faithfulness and steadfast | love are with him,**
and he shall be victorious | through my name.
[25] I will set his hand | on the sea,
and his right hand | on the rivers.
[26] **He will say to me, 'You | are my father,**
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.' R

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

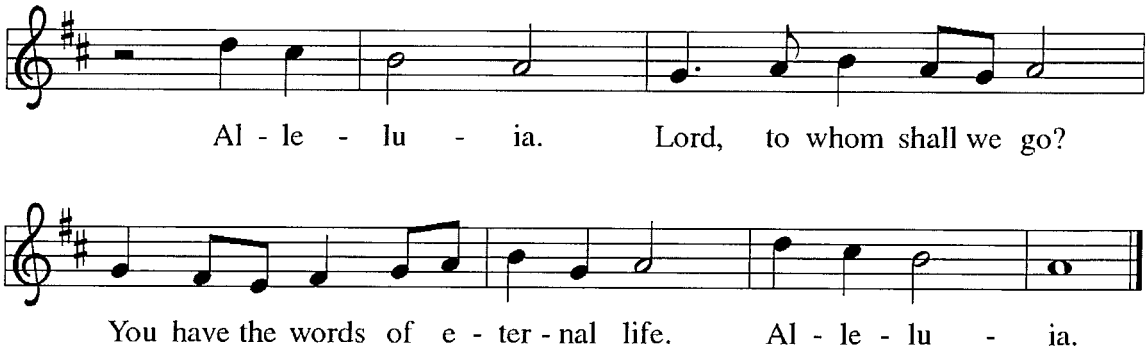
Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

[25] Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and
the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that
was kept secret for long ages [26] but is now disclosed and through the prophetic
writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the
eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—[27] to the only wise God,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. The Word of the
Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SENIOR CHOIR -

Cry Out Zion ..... Carl J. Nygard Jr.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** - ..... Page 151



***GOSPEL** - Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord. *(spoken)*

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

[1] The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.
[2] As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
[3] the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "

[4] so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. [6] Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7] He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. [8] I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ..... The Rev. Althea Seidel

***HYMN OF THE DAY -**
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ..... Hymn #242

***APOSTLES' CREED**
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** (After each prayer) **Amen.**

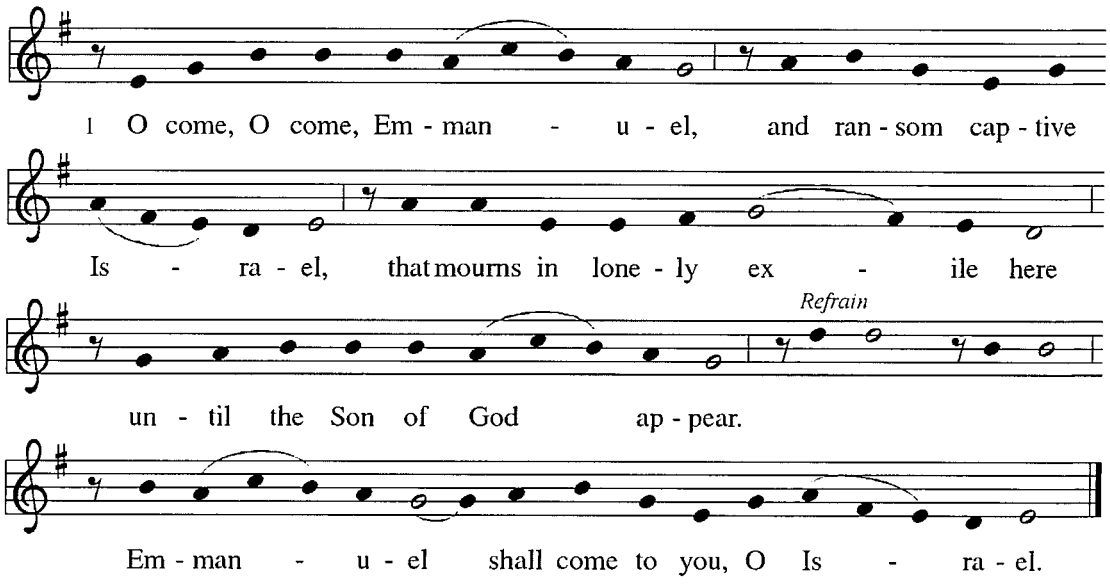
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING - *(Offering plates are located in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.)*

***OFFERTORY HYMN -**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verse 1 ..... Hymn #257

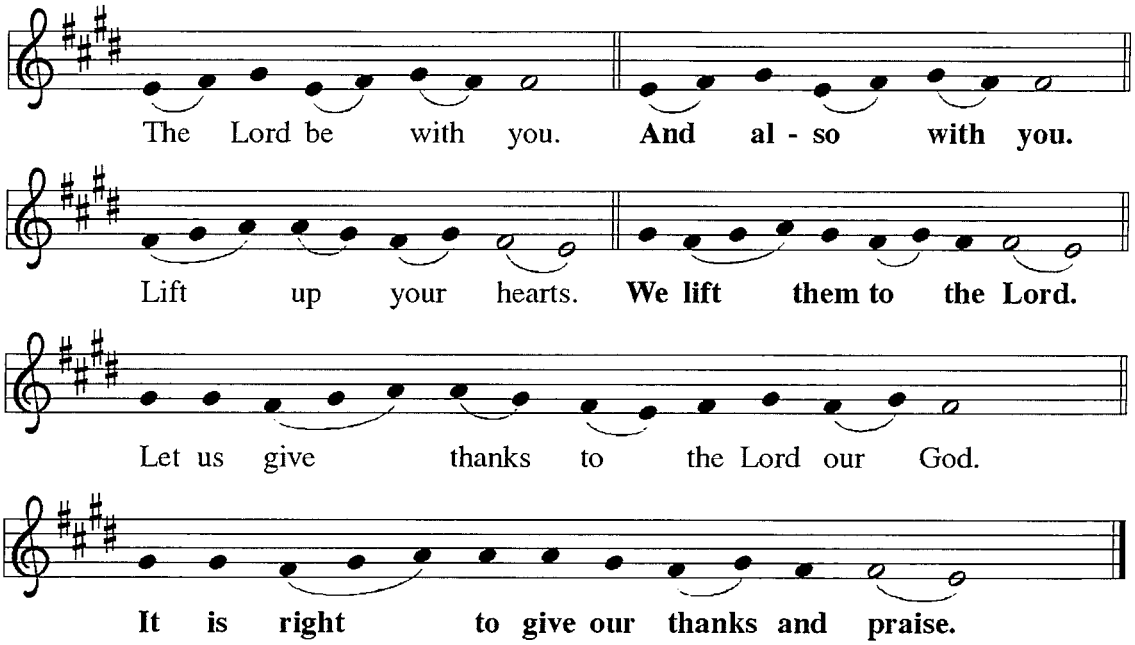


***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of abundance, **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

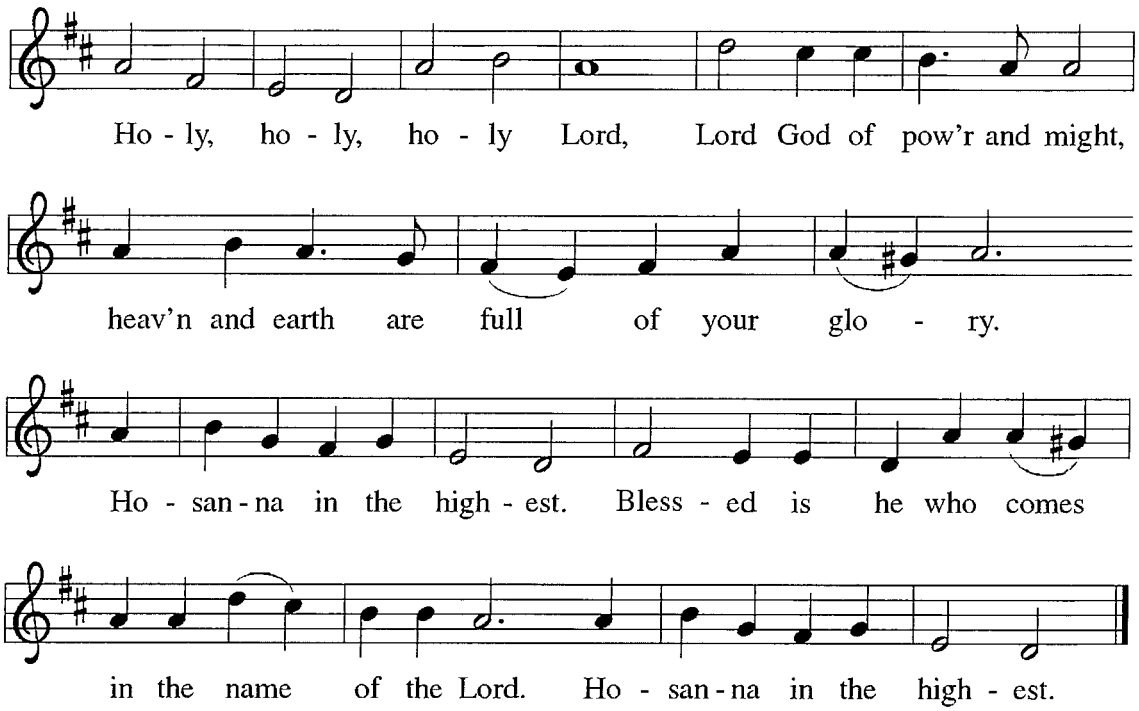
*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Almighty God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new on the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. So, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** - *Holy, holy, holy* ..... Page 153



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel and Word of God incarnate, one God, now and forever. ✞ **Amen.**

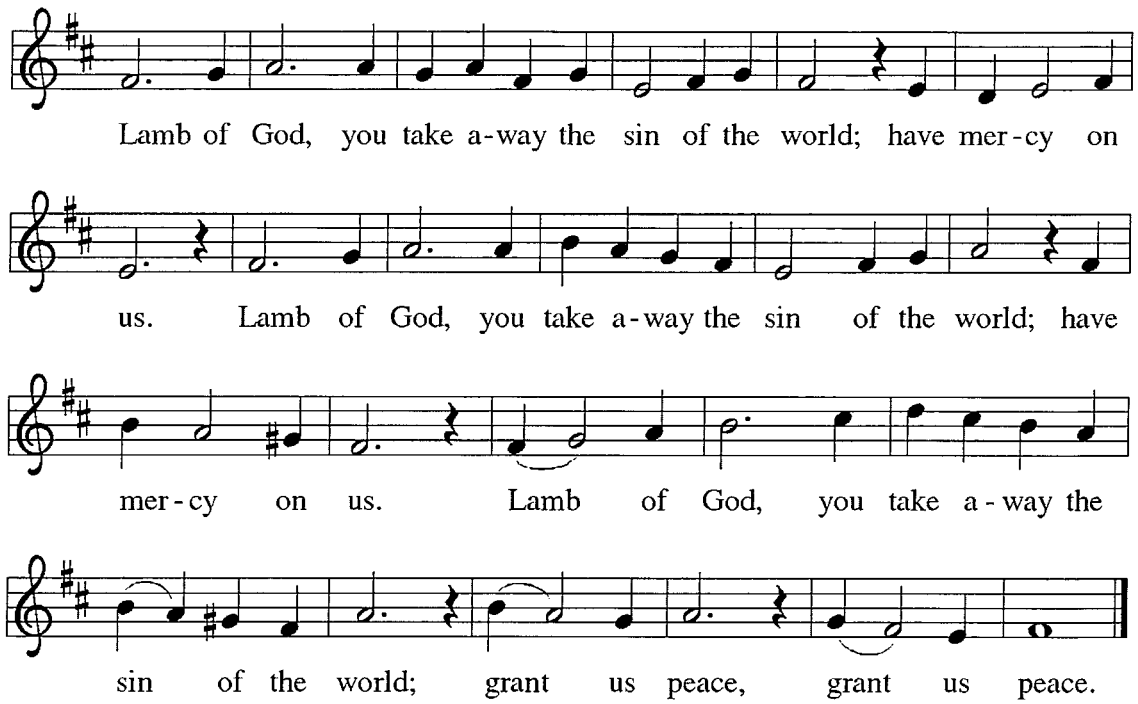
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and meet with Christ in this meal. **Amen.**

***AGNUS DEI** - *Lamb of God* ..... Page 154



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After receiving Communion, please do not hesitate to come forward to the altar for a time of prayer.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and bring you hope. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, **in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE SENDING

***BLESSING**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit ✞ **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN** -
All Earth Is Hopeful ..... Hymn #266

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Spread the hope of the Advent season!
Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE -
Freu Dich Sehr..... arr. Paul Manz

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PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Althea Seidel

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music
Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director
Judy Cassel - Lector
Lynn Kern & Denise Rhoade - Greeters
Dan Shuman - Organist
Sue Ann Houser - Lay Assistant
Karen Fitting - Acolyte

****

♿ *Elevator access to upper and lower levels is located at rear entrance of church.*

Remember to silence cell phones & other electronic device

****

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:

Sunday, November 29 - Christian Education (all ages) 10:30 a.m.
Monday, November 30 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.; Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.;
Psalm Ringers 7 p.m.
Tuesday, December 1 - Senior Choir 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 2 - Social Ministry Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5 - Cub Scout Pack 408 Pancake Breakfast
7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

PRAYER UPDATE: We have been asked to keep Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, Monique Derfler, Deb Dobson, Donna, George & Susie Eckert, Dan, Dan Fox, Fran, Gloria, Moe Gockley, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Jennifer, Joan, Jane Kalbach, Joe Kalbach, Bart Keip, Kevin, Donna Kullman, Jim & Judi Light, David Maguire, Ann Mark, Robert Moore, The Omstead Family, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Robert, Margaret Reese, Pastor Althea, Sam & Marie Smith, Betty Troxell, Rick Warner, and Mary Yeagley.

PRAYER CONCERNS: If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: www.trinityleb.org. Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: facebook.com/htlclebanonpa. The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: Did you know that we open up the Church once a month for a community clothing giveaway to those in need? Donations are accepted year round. ***URGENTLY NEEDED*** **-** gloves, socks, men's clothing, winter jackets, blankets and pillows. Please bring your items and place them in the cart located in the Giving Place. If you would like to help with the distribution or have questions, please contact the Church Office.

GREETERS & LECTORS NEEDED: This is a simple way to help out! Arrive on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and greet anyone who enters the Narthex door. Lectors are also needed. The text is given ahead of time for you to get comfortable. Sign-up sheet is located at the parking lot Welcome Table. Questions? Please contact either Denise Rhoade or Stephanie Kaylor.

SPREAD THE HOLIDAY CHEER!: Take time today to stop in Luther's Place and fill out a holiday card for one of our members who can't make it into Church as often as they would like. You can grab an address list and mail a card or fill one out and drop it in their bag. Cards will be delivered on December 13. Volunteers will be needed to deliver cards. Happy Holidays!

COME JOIN THE CAROLING: We will be Christmas caroling on Friday 12/11 at 6:00pm. We will be meeting at the home of Ed and Sue Kulakowski. After we are done you are invited back to the Kulakowski's for some holiday cheer. Please consider joining us this year to bring some holiday cheer to members of our Church. Any questions, please talk to or call PJ Copenmhaver at 717-507-8247.

POINSETTIAS: For those who wish to provide a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use either the envelope included in your November envelope packet or include a note in your donation. **$7.00 provides one Poinsettia. Please remember to include the name of the person(s) presenting the poinsettia.** Place the envelope in the offering plate or in the envelope slot. **Deadline for acknowledgement on the Poinsettia List is Sunday, December 13.** *Please note: poinsettias will be distributed to members 80 years of age and older by the Social Ministry Committee.*

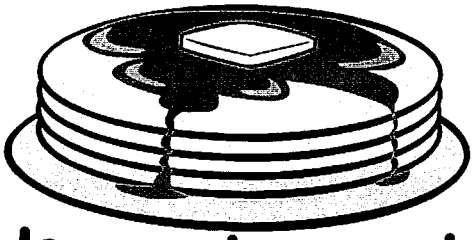
ADVENT FOOD DONATIONS: Bags are now available in Luther's Place. The list is a suggestion. Please feel free to fill your bag or bags with whatever donations you like. When you are done, please return the bag to Luther's Place. We will be taking the donations to Lebanon County Christian Ministries in January. Thank you for your participation.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: Help prepare the hearts and minds of your Church Family for the celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas and take part in the Advent Wreath Lighting. Sign-up your family or grab a friend! It's a simple way to celebrate the season. The readings will be given to you ahead of time. If you have any questions, please stop by the Welcome Table off the parking lot or call the Church Office.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING: The church continues to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Please bring the aluminum cans **(rinsed & flattened)** to the church weekdays during church office hours, or bring them along to church, Sunday School, or any other church function. A container for them is located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther's Place). This initiative has raised $79 year to date.



Pancake Breakfast



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
408
CUB PACK
LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

Support Cub Scout Pack 408

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
723 Lehman Street, Lebanon
Saturday, December 5
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

All You Can Eat Pancakes, Sausage,
and Assorted Drinks
$10 per person
Children 4 and under Free



Santa will be there with goodie bags
for all children. Bring your camera!



November

Lutheran Disaster Response

In a flood-prone village in **Bangladesh**, seasonal flooding contaminates drinking water sources. Thanks to a Lutheran disaster preparedness program, the community has access to a rainwater harvesting system that allows residents to collect and store clean water before the floods arrive, which helps them to stay healthy and supports their crops' growth.

In **Venezuela**, two mighty earthquakes struck this June within seconds of each other. They caused horrific devastation. Lutheran responders were able to equip rescue teams with clean water, food, medical supplies and temporary shelters. Your caring gifts are needed to continue to help these families rebuild their lives after such a heart-wrenching loss.

In the **United States**, Tropical Storm Arthur hit the Gulf Coast this summer, dumping more than a foot of rain in some parts of Mississippi. "The storm was very devastating...' says Pastor Edward Dillon, who was instrumental in the recovery efforts within his community, "it displaced a lot of people." Lutherans brought supplies and comforts when it was needed most, but the recovery is far from over. "Long-term recovery is what is needed," says Pastor Dillon.*

These are just three examples of Lutherans responding to disasters with your financial support. Help continue to support the work **of Lutheran Disaster Response** through your November Special Offering.

Special Offering envelopes can be found at either Welcome Table or in the pews (green envelopes.) You can also mark your donation "Lutheran Disaster Response."

*These stories were taken from *ELCA Good Gifts Catalog* and *Lutheran World Relief Emergency Response*



There are many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, give back to the Lord. Many of us share our gifts, talents, and money in order to have our many ministries flourish. Your support, in whatever ways it is shared, is always appreciated.

Scan to donate online:

Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - October 2026

	Month of October	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	$37,834	$220,446	$268,797
Expenses	($25,988)	($252,731)	($272,556)
Net Income	$11,846	($32,285)	($3,759)



Building & Maintenance Fund

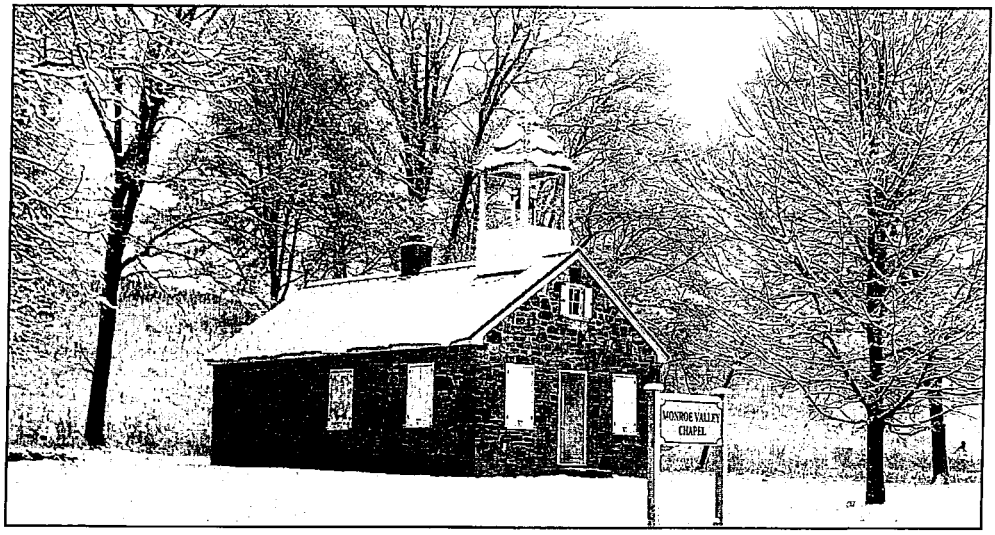
Major Projects 2026-2027 Appeal

Estimated Total Expenses	$145,000
Church Fund Starting Balance	$55,000
Goal for Members to Raise	**$90,000**
Member Giving to Date	$22,665
(As of Oct 31, 2026)	
Remaing Balance to Raise	**$67,335**
Total Expenses to Date	*$5,175*

Monroe Valley Chapel

Christmas Program

Sat Dec. 5th at 7pm



Die Shwadore Schalle Singers

A German - English Christmas Program

Directions:
From Lickdale, go north on Rt 72 about 9/10 mile, turn right onto Monroe Valley Drive. Travel 1.5 miles to chapel on your left.
GPS - 449 Monroe Valley Dr, Jonestown, PA 17038

THANK A VETERAN THIS CHRISTMAS



WELCA is collecting comfort items for our veterans at the VA. We would appreciate your help and support in providing the following items:

- Chapstick
- Puzzle books (word search, crossword, etc.)
- 3 in one body wash
- Regular size toothpaste

If you would like to contribute, please place your donations in the WELCA barrel located in The Giving Place.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support as we share a little Christmas and care with those who have served our country.



BE AN ANGEL THIS CHRISTMAS!



Again, this year the Social Ministry Committee has committed to support the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. We would like to invite you to join us by sponsoring a child's Christmas wishes. An Angel Tree will be set up in the Narthex on November 15th decorated with 45 angel tags. You can help by \choosing a tag or two from this tree and go shopping for the items on the tag. Remember to sign the master list when you select your angel. Then bring the unwrapped gifts in a bag back to Holy Trinity along with the angel tree tag attached to the bag and place them around the tree or in the box with the big red bow. All gifts are due back by November 29th. Bonnie Battistelli is coordinating this campaign and will make sure that all of the gifts are delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution to the children.

Please prayerfully consider helping to make Christmas a little brighter for a child this year here in Lebanon County.

Thank you,
Social Ministry Committee



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046
Telephone - 717-273-8567 www.trinityleb.org
YouTube: Holy Trinity Lebanon PA www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa

Pastor Althea Seidel: pastoralthea3@gmail.com • cell: 484-345-0399
Office Hours by appointment, also available by phone, email, or text message

Stephanie Kaylor: stephanie@trinityleb.org
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.