



She will bear a son,
and you shall call his
name Jesus, for he
will save his people
from their sins.
Matthew 1:21

Reformation Lutheran Church

"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples."

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Lancaster, PA 17603

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 18, 2022



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES
 Christmas Eve service – Dec. 24 @ 7:00 pm
 Nativity of Our Lord – Dec. 25
 First Sunday after Christmas – Jan. 1

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Dec. 18
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Kandi Null
Crucifer	Nathaniel Cuff
Acolyte	Joshua Cuff
Lector	Kandi Null
Ushers	Ken & Joan Hollinger
Musician	Rosemary Keller
Altar Guild	Kathy Miller
Sound Tech.	Terry Miller
Offering Counters	Sandy Tippett/Lee Mills
Livestream	Ray Kneisley/Judy & Lee Mills

	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Dcn. Arica Demme	Isaac Demme
Crucifer		
Acolyte		
Lector	Isaac Demme	Isaac Demme
Ushers	Jack McCarthy/Bob Thomas	Bill & Rose Bennett
Musician	Rosemary Keller	Dcn. Arica Demme
Altar Guild	Rosemary Keller	June Kreider
Sound Tech.	Chaz Stroup	Terry Miller
Offering Counters		Beth Birchall/Ken Hollinger
Livestream	Mark Wisler/Judy & Lee Mills	Ray Kneisley/Sandy Tippett

Dec. 11, 2022
ATTENDANCE - 69

“CRY ROOM AVAILABILITY”

For parents with children younger than one year, there is a “Cry Room” near the front entrance if you would need to use that during the worship service.

Please maintain silence for meditation as soon as the candles are lit until the beginning of the service.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The fourth and final candle that we light on the Advent wreath is called the Angels' Candle. The Greek word that is translated as “angel” also means “messenger.”

Four times in the Christmas story, angels of the Lord appeared with messages from God:

In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announces to her that she is pregnant with a child from God.

In Matthew 1, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream with a message of encouragement to carry out his engagement to Mary.

In Luke 2, an angel appeared to the shepherds out in the fields with a message announcing the birth of Christ and then with that angel appeared a multitude of angels singing praises to God.

Finally, in Matthew 2, it was an angel that again appeared to Joseph in a dream with a message of warning concerning Herod's intent to kill the newborn King.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Mary, Did You Know?*

arr. Carol Tornquist

The assembly stands (if able)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

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

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

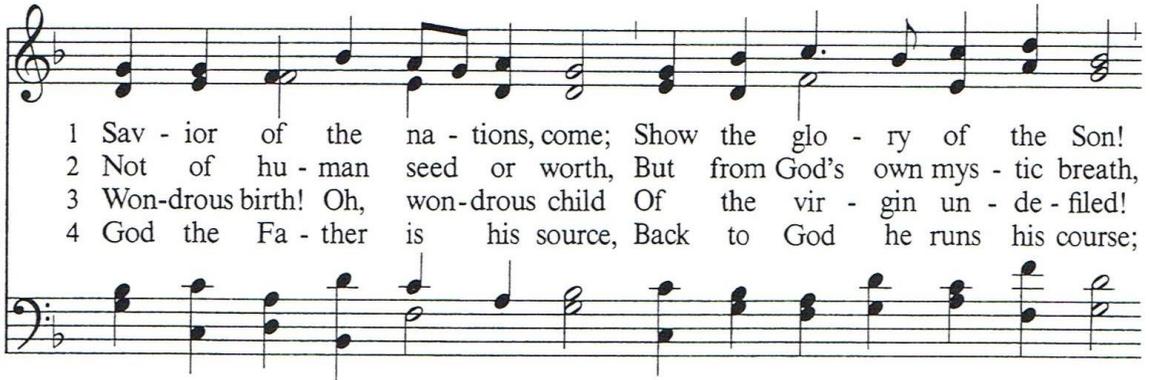
P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

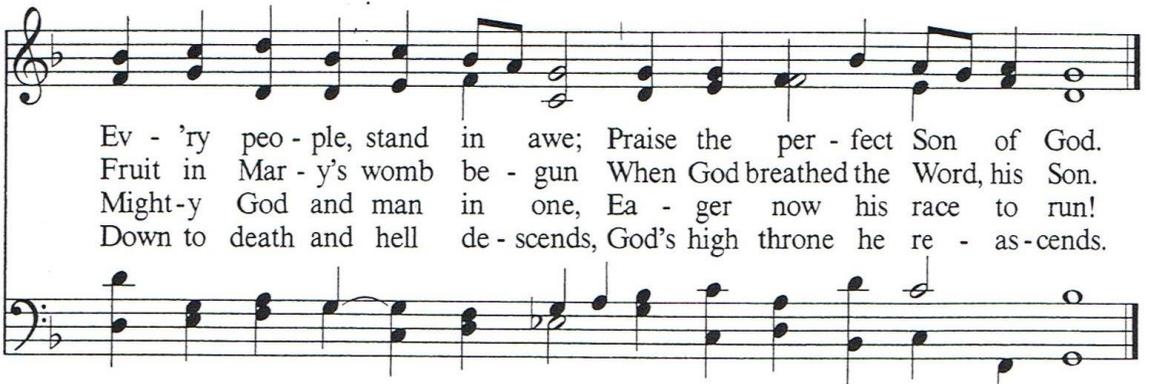
C: Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!
2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,
3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.
Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!
Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;
Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
Riding out, returning home
As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
Girds himself in flesh to run
For the trophies of our souls,
Longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
Breathing vict'ry with your light;
Darkness cannot hide your flame,
Shining bright as Jesus' name.

© Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397; tr. composite
Tune: J. Walther, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
77 77

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The
Word
of God

The First Reading is from the 7th chapter of Isaiah

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!"

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

² **for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ **He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ **Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of Romans

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all

those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Brief silence for reflection.

The assembly stands (if able) to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ **These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that**



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. John 20:31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands (if able).

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"

Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
 Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham
 Arr. © 1955 E.H. Freeman, Ltd., ren. 1983, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
 10 10 12 11

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NICENE CREED

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin
Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3

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

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and

voic - es, Who won-drous things has done, In whom his world re -

joic - es; Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Has blest us on our

way With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
67 67 66 66

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P: It is truly right and salutary we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3



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!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. **C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.



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 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

HOW WE COMMUNE: When you come forward the pastor will first give you bread to eat. Then, take a cup from the tray. The assistant will pour in wine to drink. Afterward, you will place the empty cup in the water in the plastic container at the side aisle, and return to your seat.

If you are unable to consume wine, you may commune with only the bread. Unbaptized and those who have yet to receive first communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Signify by holding your hands to your chest instead of reaching out for the bread and wine.

The assembly stands (if able) when everyone has received the sacrament.

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. C: Amen

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of a series of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: 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 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 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.

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 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 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 PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, we thank you for feeding us with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood – that which strengthens us in faith and assures us of new life now and in eternity. As we wait and watch for the return of the Messiah in these last days, continue to feed us with the life-giving bread and the cup of salvation.

C: Amen

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: Amen

Word of God, Come Down on Earth



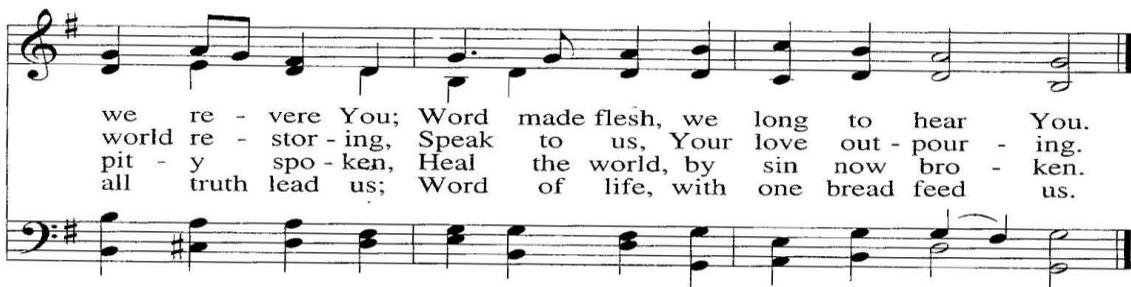
1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Alternate setting: 592

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010
 Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER
 78 78 88

Text: © James Quinn; admin. Selah
 Music: Public domain

John 1:1–3, 10, 14

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Altar guild	June Kreider	717-285-3241
Announcements	Rose Keller	717-333-1448
Assistant ministers	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Coffee Time	Joan Hollinger	717-684-8584
Funeral Luncheons	Rose Bennett	717-468-8106
Lectors	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Luther Lager League	Pastor Mark	717-947-4284
Prayer Requests	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Purl's Shawl Ministry	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Sound	Chaz Stroup	717-684-2760
Ushers	Rose Keller	717-333-1448

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND LIAISONS

President	Ken Hollinger	717-951-0323
Vice President	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Secretary	Kim Wittel	717-468-7917
Treasurer	Fred Lepley	717-629-6371
Christian Ed	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Communications	Betty Scheich	717-464-6759
Mission Team	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Fellowship	Ken Hollinger	717-951-0323
Finance/Stewardship	Fred Lepley	717-629-6371
Property	Jack McCarthy	717-471-5855
Social Ministry	Terry Miller	717-898-0001
Worship & Music	Kim Wittel	717-468-7917

CORE VALUES OF THE NALC

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



NALC

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