And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Mark 13:27



Reformation Lutheran Church

"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples." 2100 Manor Ridge Dr.

Lancaster, PA 17603

Pastor Mark Chavez

www.reformation-nalc.org

Phone: (717) 947-4284

Email: pastor@reformation-nalc.org

First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 3, 2023



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Second Sunday of Advent – Dec. 10 Third Sunday of Advent – Dec. 17

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Mark Wisler	Melissa Cuff
Lector	Mark Wisler	Ken Hollinger
Ushers	Bill & Rose Bennett	Fred & Crystal Lepley
Musician	Dcn. Arica Demme	Joanne Thomas
Altar Guild	June Kreider	Barb Wisler
Sound Tech.	Terry Miller	Chaz Stroup
Offering Counters	Lee Mills/John Null	Ken Hollinger/Fred Lepley
Livestream	Mason Tippett/ Sandy Tippett	Mark Wisler/ Marianne Burkholder
Communion Prayers	Terry & Kathy Miller	Sandy Tippett/ Marianne Burkholder
Nursery/Class	Diana Hebda/	Deb McCarthy/
ages 4-5	Susie Kramer	Susie Kramer

Nov. 26, 2023 ATTENDANCE - 53

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.

"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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first candle which we light today is called the Prophets' Candle. In Hebrews 1, the author writes, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets." (Hebrews 1:1)



Likewise, Peter says in his second letter: "We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19)

The prophets spoke messages of repentance and destruction, of hope and future glory. Most importantly of all, the prophets foretold of the coming Messiah or Christ of God. Both of these titles mean "The Chosen One."

The Chosen One of God was to come from the family of Jesse, and would be king in the lineage of Jess's son, David. The prophets' message calls us to return and be renewed in our relationship with God through our worship life, putting him first in all things.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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: AmenMatthew 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.

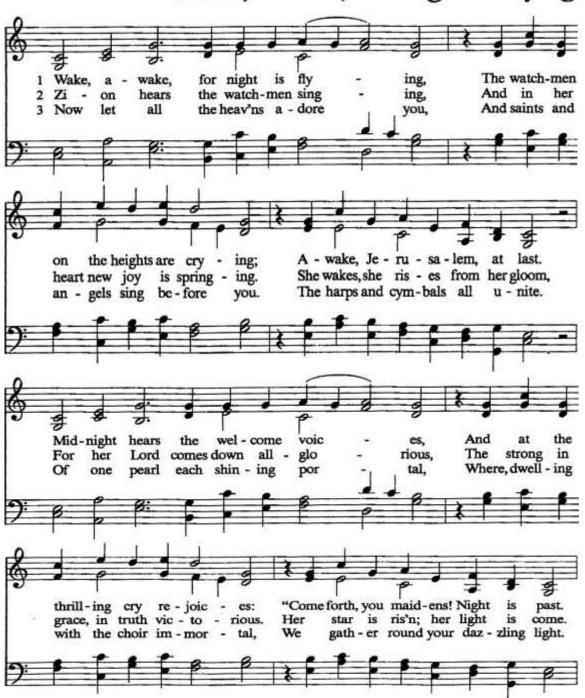
Psalm 32:5

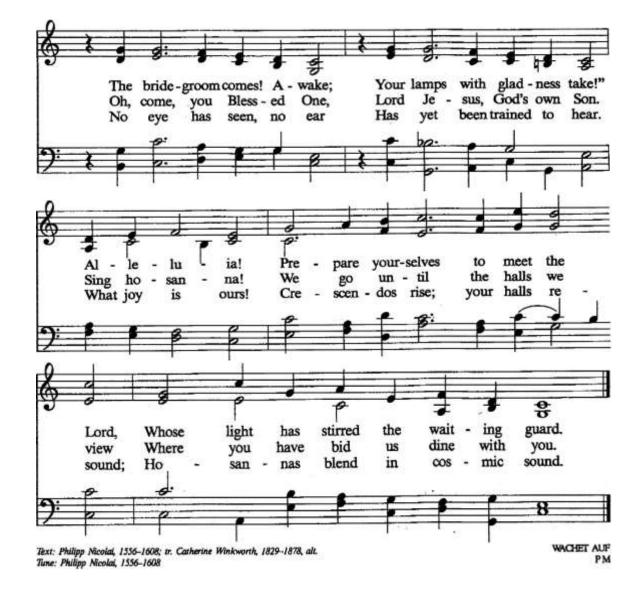
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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.

C: Amen

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Let us pray . . .

As we light the first candle of our Advent wreath, the Prophets' Candle, we give thanks to you, O God. In obedience to your will, the prophets of old have shown us our need for a Savior. They direct us with hopeful expectation to the manger and the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

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

- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray | to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray | to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray | to the Lord.
- Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us | gracious Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

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, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; 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 First Reading is from the 64th chapter of Isaiah

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might auake at your presence — 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. 5You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? 6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. 8But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 80:1-7

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 4 O LORD God of hosts,
 - how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴{Jesus said,} "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning - ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

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).

Fling Wide the Door





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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

The assembly is seated.

RECEPTION OF LUTHERANS BY TRANSFER

P: These persons have come to us from another Lutheran congregation and desire to transfer their membership into our community of faith.

Their names are read. The new members may come forward.

A representative of the congregation welcomes them.

We welcome you as members of Reformation Lutheran Church to join with us in worshiping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

The assembly stands (if able).

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



Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; in: Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878 Time: 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

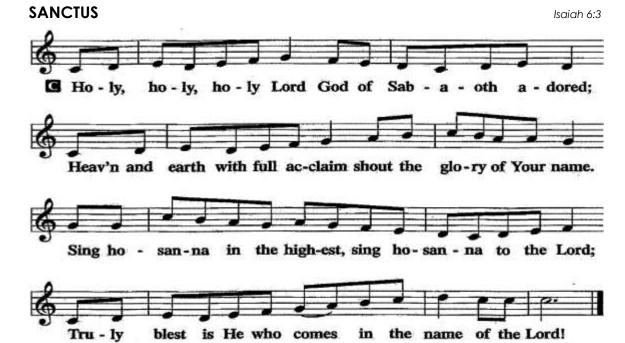
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord. [Colossians 3:1]

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 that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

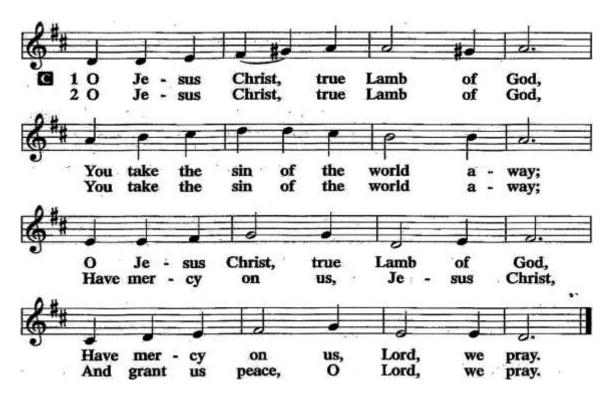
- P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My & body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
 - In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when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

AGNUS DEI John 1:29



INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

We invite you to pray silently for someone in the congregation while sitting in the pew before or after receiving Communion or while in line waiting to receive. Two people will be at the back of the sanctuary praying for everyone at this time.

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



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.

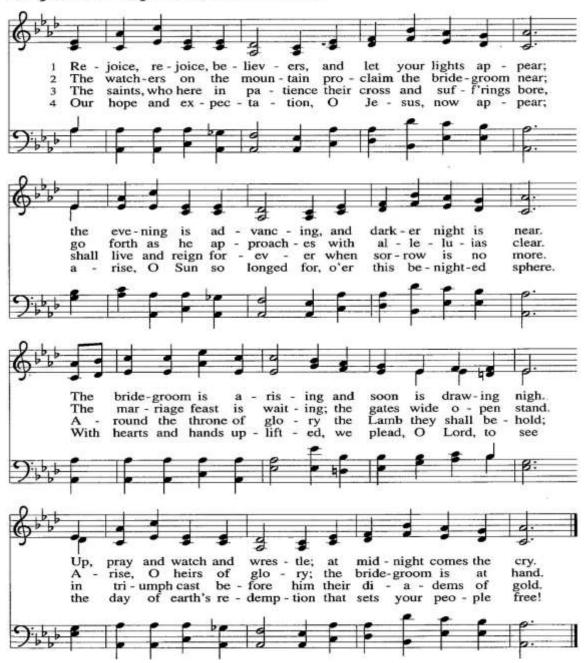
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: Swedish folk tune HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG 76 76 D

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

In your daily prayers please remember those listed below:

Homebound

Debbie Binder
Donna Hiltebeitel
Elizabeth Larsen
Sonya LaGamba
Earl and Janet Harry

<u>Additional prayers</u>

Tom Scherer - ALS

Pr. Ted Hummel – bone marrow cancer **Brittany Merrill** – chemo, radiation & surgery

Donald Moyer – chemo

Shirley Kneisley – suitable care facility

Meghan Mills – colitis remission

Chuck Landis - cancer

Courtney Tito – kidney transplant

Lauren Didyoung – brain cancer

Jo Zimmerman – dementia

Dorothy Mills - bleeding esophageal

varices

Patricia Stroup – pulmonary disease

Anthony Riggi – custody of daughter

Jeanne Zeller – pancreatic cancer

Pr. Amy Schifrin – bone infection

BJ Wolfgang – broken arm

Anne Gleason – rehab for broken leg

Pat McDermott – securing a diagnosis

Josephine Benny – finding a care facility

Candy Whitney – recovering from shingles

Rose Keller - chemo

Christine Caporaletti – recovering from

back surgery

Bill Seigford - recovering from a fall

Family of Don Graybill – mourning his death

Cathy Holford – find housing or shelter

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES (conti.)

- **To request a prayer** during today's worship for a person not on the list above, "print" the name on the prayer request form on the table in the back of the nave before worship.
- Names on the additional prayers list will be printed for one month.

 Contact Rose Keller (717) 333-1448 or (rose.a.keller@gmail.com) or
 Pr. Mark at (pastor@reformation-nalc.org) to keep a name listed for
 another month, to add a new name, or to remove a name.
- **Prayer Chain participants** are emailed prayer updates. Contact Judy Mills (pabluebird1242@icloud.com) to be included in the updates, or request removal from the chain.

STEWARDSHIP

Offering plates are not passed during the service. They are on a table in the back of the nave. You may also mail checks to Sandy Tippett (3377 Horizon Drive, Lancaster PA 17603) or make a donation online at https://www.reformation-nalc.org/giving/.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Altar guild	June Kreider	717-285-3241
Announcements	Ray Kneisley	717-449-9155
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	717-823-7739
Prayer Requests	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Purls 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.



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Website address: www.thenalc.org

"NOTES FROM WORSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL"