



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*

Reformation Lutheran Church
"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples."
2100 Manor Ridge Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Pastor: Pastor Mark Chavez
www.reformation-nalc.org
Phone: (717) 947-4284

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.



Assistant Minister / Communion Assistant – Dcn. Arica Demme

Lector – Isaac Demme

Ushers – Jack McCarthy / Bob Thomas

Musician – Joanne Thomas

Sound Technician – Terry Miller

Altar Guild – Rosemary Keller

Livestream – Ray Kneisley / Lee and Judy Mills

Communion Prayers – Lee and Judy Mills

“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.

THE CHRIST CANDLE



Though all the candles of the Advent wreath have now been lit, there still remains one candle to light, the candle to which all other candles have been pointing and leading up to: the Paschal or Christ candle.

The word *paschal* is derived from the name of Passover. At the first Passover, a perfect, unblemished lamb was sacrificed and its blood spread on the doorposts of the homes of God's people so that, when the angel of death came, it would pass over the homes of God's chosen people – sparing them from death and allowing them to journey out of bondage in Egypt and into the Promised Land. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb, who came down to earth and gave his life so that, by his blood, we would be delivered from sin and death and be made fit for the Kingdom of God.

This candle is the largest of the candles because what it represents is the greatest, Christ himself. The white color of the candle sets it apart from the others, symbolizing the purity of Christ. This candle stays lit during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. It is lit again during the Easter season to remind us that the darkness of his death on the cross could not overcome him.

We light this same candle at Baptisms and on All Saints Day to remind us that Jesus said we, too, are the light of the world. Jesus said the Church is “a city set upon a hill” (Matthew 5:14), and that we are called to “let our light so shine before others so that they may see out good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:6)

Finally, the candle is lit for funerals and on Christ the King Sunday, to remember the final victory of Light over darkness, the eternal life promised to all who have confessed faith in Christ in this life.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands (if able)

INVOCATION

(led by pastor)

RESPONSIVE DIALOG

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

(Isaiah 9:2A)

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

(John 1:5)

P: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness: on them light has shined.

(Isaiah 9:2b)

C: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14b)

P: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

(Isaiah 9:6)

C: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

(John 1:4)

P: Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared!

C: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

(Luke 2:14a)



Angels, from the Realms of Glory

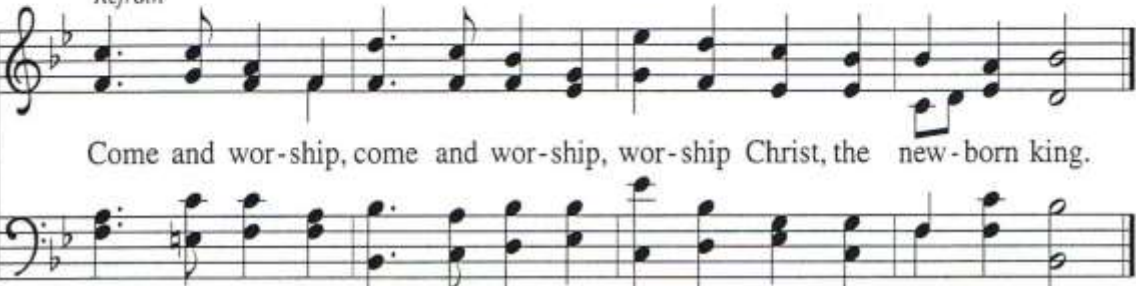


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in pfa - is - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4
 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

REGENT SQUARE
 878787

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Let us pray . . .

Heavenly Father, as we light this final candle of the Advent procession of light, we give thanks to you for fulfilling the promise of sending your Son into the world. May the light of his candle be a reminder for us of the light we share in him, of victory over the posers of darkness that he came into this world to accomplish, and of the promised eternal life that awaits all those who walk by faith in him. We pray this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus," 1862
Tune: French carol

GLORIA
 7777 and refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

O God, you have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of his joys in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



The First Reading is from the 7th chapter of Isaiah

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

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.”

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 110:1-4

¹The Lord says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

²**The Lord sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.**

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power, in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.

⁴**The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,**

“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 4th chapter of 1 John

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The assembly stands (if able).

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

The assembly stands (if able)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

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.
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

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!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

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!
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

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

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 HYMN

What Child Is This

Em D G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Em^{sus 4} Em

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em B Em^{sus 4} Em

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

PREFACE

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

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of Heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**



O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 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!

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.:
 Spanish tr. Juan Bautista Cabrera, 1837–1916
 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; setting: *The Hymnal* 1940

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular meter

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 you
and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

POST COMMUNION HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

1 God rest ye mer-ry gent-le-men, Let no-thing you dis-may, For
Je-sus Christ our Sav-ior was born up-on this day, To save us all from
Sa-tan's pow'r when we were gone a-stray. O ti-dings of com-fort and
joy, com-fort and joy; O ti-dings of com-fort and joy!

- 2 The shepherds at those tidings
Re-joic-ed much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding
In tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The blessed babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you came to earth to live among us. You revealed to us your glory and grace. You have forgiven our sins and nourished our spirits with your bread of life. Fill us with the joy of your salvation that we may live as witnesses to your life-giving Spirit and bring glory to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his holy and precious Name we pray.

C: Amen

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor lights the ushers' candles, who in turn light the first candle in each row. Hold lit candles upright.) After extinguishing your candle, hold it upright until the wax hardens.



Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85;
 Spanish tr. Federico Flückner, 1845–1901
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863; setting: Traditional

Text and music: Public domain

STILLE NACHT
 66 88 66

Luke 2:7–16; Col. 1:13

BENEDICTION

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. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -

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
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

ANTIOCH
 C M and repeat

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and let the light of Christ shine forth!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

In your daily prayers please remember those listed below:

Homebound

Debbie Binder

Donna Hildebeitel

Elizabeth Larsen

Sonya LaGamba

Earl and Janet Harry

Additional prayers

Tom Scherer - ALS

Pr. Ted Hummel – bone marrow cancer

Brittany Merrill – chemo, radiation & surgery

Donald Moyer – chemo

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

Family of Josephine Benny – mourning her death

Candy Whitney – recovering from shingles

Rose Keller – chemo

Christine Caporaletti – recovering from
back surgery

Erin Viozzi - healing

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

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 Tippet (3377 Horizon Drive, Lancaster PA 17603) or make a donation online at <https://www.reformation-nalc.org/giving/>.



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Dec. 31, 2023 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Jan. 7, 2024 – Baptism of Our Lord

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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