

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" Luke 1:28

Reformation Lutheran Church

"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples." 2100 Manor Ridge Dr. Lancaster, PA 17603

Pastor Mark Chavez

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24, 2023



UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Nativity of Our Lord - Dec. 24 (7:00 p.m.) First Sunday after Christmas – Dec. 31 Baptism of Our Lord – Jan. 7 (8:30 am)

WORSHIP LEADERS

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	Dec. 24 (a.m.)	Dec. 24 (p.m.)		
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Ivan Wittel	Dcn. Arica Demme		
Lector	Ivan Wittel	Isaac Demme		
Ushers	Ken & Joan Hollinger	Jack McCarthy/Bob Thomas		
Musician	Dcn. Arica Demme	Joanne Thomas		
Altar Guild	June Kreider	Rose Keller		
Sound Tech.	John Null	Terry Miller		
Offering Counters	Beth Birchall/Ken Hollinger			
Livestream	Ray Kneisley	Ray Kneisley/Lee & Judy Mills		
Communion Prayers	Jerry & Susie Kramer	Lee & Judy Mills		
Nursery/Class ages 4-5	Marianne Burkholder/ Susie Kramer			

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Dec. 31		
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	June Kreider		
Lector	June Kreider		
Ushers	Bill & Rose Bennett		
Musician	Joanne Thomas		
Altar Guild	Kandi Null		
Sound Tech.	John Null		
Offering Counters	John Null/Sandy Tippett		
Livestream	Mark Wisler/Sandy Tippett		
Communion Prayers	Kim & Ivan Wittel		
Nursery/Class Ages 4-5	Rachel Kline/Susie Kramer		

Dec. 17, 2023 ATTENDANCE - 72

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.

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

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.

Mark 16:16: John 1:12

C: Amen



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Let us pray . . .

As we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath, the Angels' Candle, we give thanks to you, O God, for the angels who announced the coming of your Son to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Fill our hearts with their songs of your glory and praise, that we, like them, may be filled with sweet messages and glad tidings 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 For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray | to the Lord.
- C 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.
- C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- G 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. 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 First Reading is from the 7th chapter of 2 Samuel

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

¹When the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." 3And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 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 for my dwelling. 7In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now, 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9And 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. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men 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"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 89:1-5 [19-29]

- ¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- ² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."
- ³ You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"
- ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- [19 Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
 - "I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.
- ²⁰ I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,
- ²¹ so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.
- ²² The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.
- ²⁴ My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.
- ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.
- ²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

- ²⁷ And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.
- ²⁸ My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.
- ²⁹ I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.]

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 16th chapter of Romans

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

 25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he

came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. 36And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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



Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924 Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham Arr. C 1955 E.H. Freeman, Ltd., ren, 1983, admin. Glenwood Music Corp. GABRIEL'S MESSAGI 10 10 12 10

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,

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,

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.

and the life of the world to come. Amen

and his kingdom will have no end.

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**

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; ir. 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

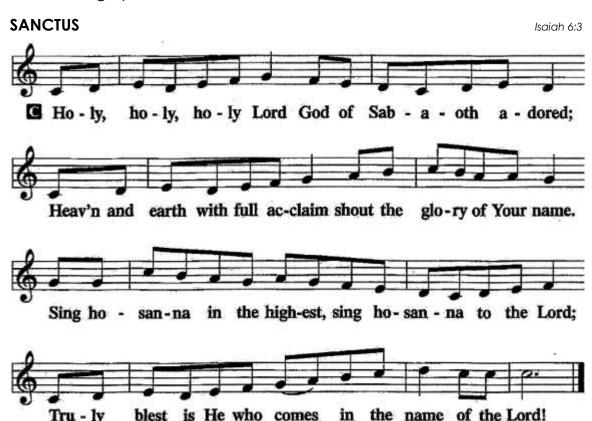
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord. [Colossians 3:1]

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 indeed right and salutary . . . 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

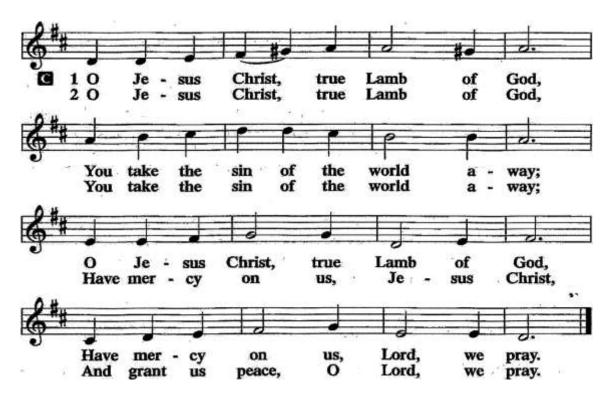
- P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My & body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
 - In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when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

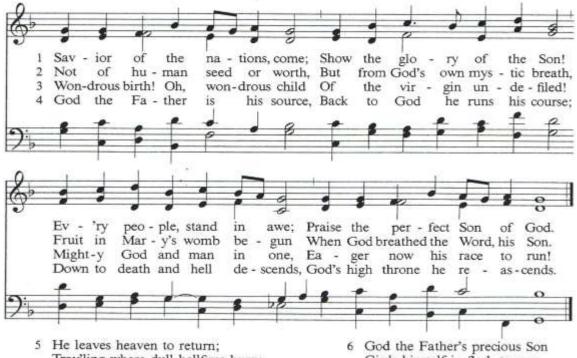
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come



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.

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 77.77

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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[©] Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340-397; tr. compatite Time: J. Walther, Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

In your daily prayers please remember those listed below:

Homebound
Debbie Binder
Donna Hiltebeitel
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

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.ora

"NOTES FROM WORSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL"