

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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AND THE
WORD
BECAME
FLESH
AND LIVED
AMONG
US

J O H N 1 : 1 4

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 1, 2023

January 1, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Opening Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GATHERING SONG (verses 1&3)

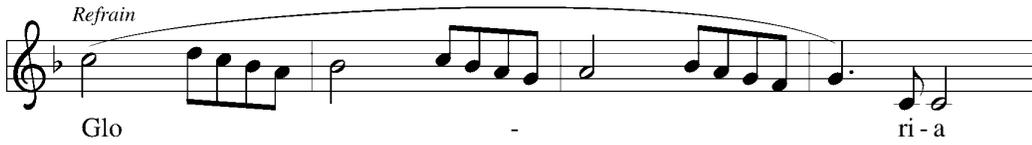
Angels We Have Heard on High



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;

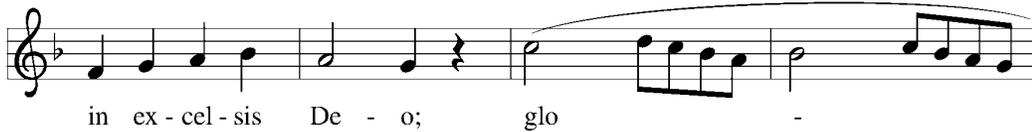


and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
You have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness-
A beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis. ¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

CAROL: *I Wonder As I Wander* (verse 1)

I Wonder As I Wander

642



1 I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, how
 2 When Mar-y birthed . . . Je-sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je-sus had . . . want-ed for an-y wee thing, a
 4 I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, how

Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like
 wise men and farm-ers and shep-herds and all, and high from the heav-ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an-gels in
 Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like

you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom-ise of the a-ges it then did re-call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure-ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a:

A reading from Micah. ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1&4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38:

A reading from Luke. ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (verses 1&4)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

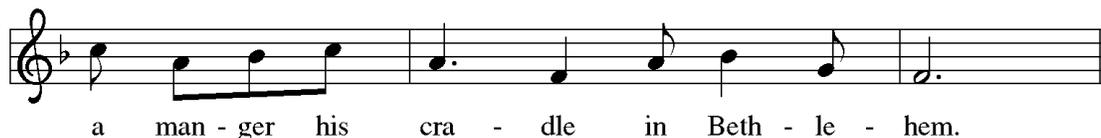
Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25:

A reading from Matthew. ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CAROL: *That Boy-Child of Mary* (verses 1&4)

That Boy-Child of Mary



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

Lesson: Luke 2:8-20:

A reading from Luke. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (verses 1&4)

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 prais - 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.

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11:

A reading from Matthew. ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL: *What Child Is This* (verses 1&3)

What Child Is This



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.



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.



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;



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!

Lesson: John 1:1-14:

A reading from John. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL: *Love Has Come* (verses 1&3)

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856
Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY (*intro*)

In the Bleak Midwinter

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast
love

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all
people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the
age.

**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or
homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to
all the world.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember when we gathered with the community in worship last Sunday:

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, Jesus 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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Receive Jesus, the light of the world.

COMMUNION CAROLS

We will sing 1st and last verse of the hymns listed on the board

COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.
A tiny child, born in a manger, a gift of peace to troubled souls, a gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives. We thank you for Jesus, present today in the bread and wine of this Holy Communion. Glory to God in the Highest. Amen.

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
You are the shepherds telling the story.
We tell it in the streets and across the land.
You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
**We worship with gifts of song and service,
talents and treasures.**
You are the angels announcing peace.
We live with joy and go now in peace.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (verses 1&4)

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions 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

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Liturgist	Peggi Norman
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Wayne Norman
Acolyte	Sam Mull
Lector.....	Sam Mull
Securing Offering	Edna Harris & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Clean-Up	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Bread	Marjorie Dale
Communion Assist	Marjorie Dale & Ilona Laney
Attendance last Sunday	36

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

For now, the offering plate will continue to be placed in the back of the church in front of the Baptismal Font. Thank you for your continuing support of the ministries of Solomon's as we join God in the work of sharing Christ's love.

Prayer requests for the following *Kathy Wishard, Peggi Norman, John Fickling, Doc Ensinger, Chole, Jan Horst, Sr. Barbara Barry, Greg Steinour, Betty Amt, Tana Vance, Jim and Carole Darr, Tracy Fredericks, Lanny Haugh, Heather Carman Shull, Jenny Barnes, Ray Rotz, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Patricia Furry, Tina Smith, Nancy Marshall, Milissa Fogle, Marie Dovey, Beth Floyd, Jean Jackson, David Johnson, Joe and Karen Wolfinger, Jennie Matthews, Patricia Yetter, Carol Locke, Linda Wepking, Frances Kramer, Darrell Veilleux, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware: At the beginning of the year, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.**

Office Hours for Pastor Barb are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon or call for an appointment.

Pastor Barb will be on vacation December 26 - January 1. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, notify Ron Coldsmith, congregation president.

No Kids or Adult Sunday School today, January 1st.

To Pastor Barb and members and friends of Solomon's, I would like to thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent lengthy hospital admission and home recovery. The food from individuals and kitchen committee were very much appreciated.

Tana Vance

Service in case of inclement weather - The Worship and Music team asked that a service be taped in the event worship needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather. You are invited to join members of the choir on **Wednesday, January 11 at 10AM**, for taping the service. A bulletin entitled "Bulletin for Inclement Weather" will be added to the website in case of a cancelled service. If the need arises, the service will be downloaded to Facebook and YouTube.

Cancellation Notification: In the event of inclement weather, Solomon's will announce worship services are cancelled on the following platforms: Solomon's Facebook page, Solomon's Website, and on the church voicemail **BY 7:30 AM**. Remember for events like Mid-Week Bible Study, if the schools are closed for weather, then the event is cancelled. Please always use your own judgement about whether you feel safe driving given the road conditions in your neighborhood. One part of the county may be cleared while another is not!

Spiritrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has Discount Cards available for \$3.00 each. The cards are good through June 30, 2023. If interested see Becky Pecha.

Youth Party Sunday January 29, 2023 - We will have a Youth Party after Church on January 29th. Lunch Menu: Make your own pizzas, chips, veggie tray, cookies, chocolate covered pretzel rods and drink. We will make a craft. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the Sunday School room.

Apple Butter - We still have Apple Butter for sale. Please see Zoe Mummert if you're interested.

2023 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. If you would like to save money by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly.

You are invited to Bible Study from 10 to 11 each Wednesday in the Conference Room of the Fellowship Center. This year we are praying through the Psalms. Each week is stand-alone so come when your schedule permits. Christian Ed is a life-long journey of discovering who God is and who are as followers of Jesus. Making time to learn God's Word is a mark of discipleship. Hope to see you there!

Hurricane Relief: In response to Hurricane Ian, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is partnering with the Florida-Bahamas, Southeastern, North Carolina and South Carolina synods, as well as Lutheran Services Carolinas, to provide both immediate and long-term support. LDR anticipates relief will include water, food supplies, tarps, cleaning materials and other needs for those who have lost or damaged homes. **Please hold the victims and relief workers daily in your prayers.** Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to provide aid. **Prayerfully consider a generous donation to provide tangible support. Make your check out to Solomons Lutheran Church with the memo space clearly marked "Hurricane Relief." If you are using cash, clearly mark the envelope. Thank you for your care and support of God's people.**

Choir Practice - Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Sunday School is in Session - Adult Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday School room. Children's Church will be held during morning worship and will meet downstairs at 10:20 a.m. Confirmation Class will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Fellowship Center.

Power Pack Meals: The Power Pack Meal program at New Franklin Elementary School is up and running. Currently 24 students are being sent home each Friday with food to last them through the weekend. The need for donations is great. Any individual size container of vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc.), juice pouches, Yahoo chocolate drink, 8 oz. bottle water are welcome. Please place your donation in the gray Social Ministry tote in the Sunday School room. Monetary donations are welcome, make your check payable to Solomon's with Power Pack Meals in the memo line.

Sign-up Sheets for worship assistants for 2023 are on the side table in the Sunday School room. Communion: bread, set-up, clean-up, and assistant will be on a monthly basis. If you can't commit to the entire month, please see if you can share the month with someone else. Acolytes and Lectors are on a weekly basis. If you find you can't fulfill a chosen date, please call someone to take your place. Let Kimberly in the office know so the bulletin and newsletter info stays up to date. Thank you for your commitment to help provide opportunities for meaningful worship at Solomons. Kimberly will publish the schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.



JANUARY 1, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Jesus enters our world of fears and insecurities.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:1-7	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Isaiah 41:2-10	Israel assured of God's help
Friday	1 Chronicles 28:19-21	David encourages Solomon
Saturday	Psalm 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." **Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Redeeming God, give us comfort to know your love and compassion to care for others as you love us through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks and praise for your goodness, mercy, and steadfast love that brings forth food from the earth to give us strength and health. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the presence of God fill you with mercy and steadfast love. (Isaiah 63:7-9)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you tend to treat others when they are worried or afraid?
- How do others help you move beyond your fears and worries?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Go Tell It on the Mountain



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:1-13.

The Christmas season deals honestly with our broken world and lives. Jesus and his parents experience a world that displays fear, threat, pain, and death, even for little children. The coming of Jesus makes it clear that it is in suffering that God's perfect work of love takes place (Hebrews 2:10). Joseph has to flee with his family to protect them from political powers that want the status quo, not salvation. The holy family experiences a life similar to all refugees who know too well what it means to leave their own homeland to seek refuge. Even the family's return to Bethlehem gets derailed by ongoing threats that redirects them to a new residence in Nazareth. Our Savior experiences the instability, fear, hate, and insecurities all too common in life. There is a judgment here on all of us when we contribute to the fears and insecurities of others while we seek our own advantage, our own security. Our Savior comes to save us from our misguided longings and fears.

Discuss: How does faith in Christ free you from your fears and insecurities that get in the way of caring for others?

Pray: **Merciful God, we thank you that you enter our world and our lives to turn our fears into compassion and insecurities into trust through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help refugees and others who live without enough food or shelter?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As you read Psalm 148, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. On a separate piece of paper list all those things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148, for instance, the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters! Think or talk about how each of the things from God's creation on your list can praise and glorify God (for example, the sun and moon by shining and sea monsters by splashing with joy).

Say: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 148:1)