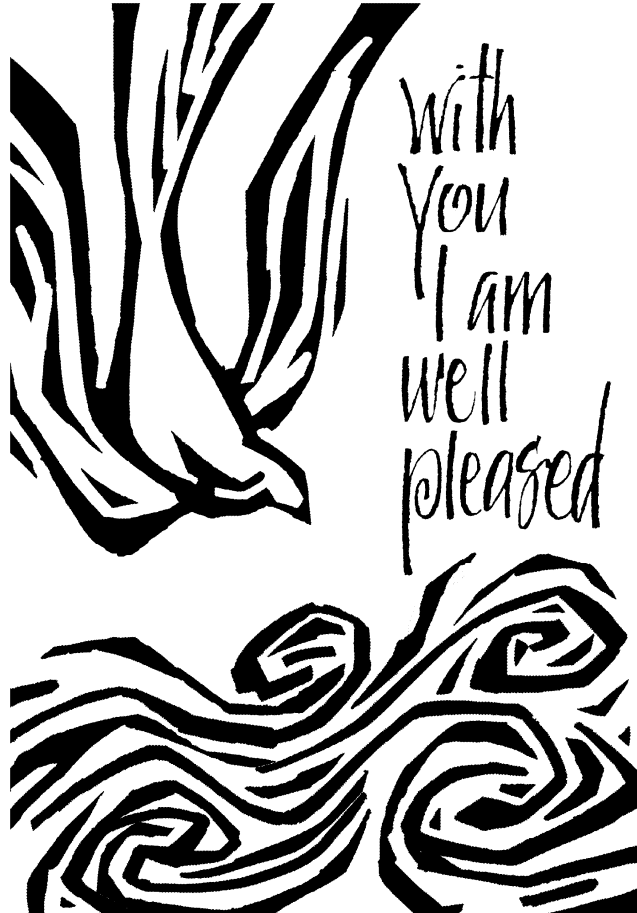


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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L u k e 3 : 2 2

*"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."*

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**  
**JANUARY 12, 2025**

**January 12, 2025**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**

*Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**    *Voluntary on a Welsh*    **Tune - Kevin Hildebrand**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (ELW 310)**



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph - et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak - ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

**\*GREETING**

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

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - men.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*Shall We Gather at the River - Robert Lowry*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 29

- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the <sup>l</sup>LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo-<sup>l</sup> ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory <sup>l</sup> due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beau-<sup>l</sup> ty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of <sup>l</sup> glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the <sup>l</sup> mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow-<sup>l</sup> erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a <sup>l</sup> voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the <sup>l</sup> cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce-<sup>l</sup> dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip <sup>l</sup> like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a <sup>l</sup> young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup> The voice <sup>l</sup> of the LORD  
bursts forth in <sup>l</sup> lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD <sup>l</sup> shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder-<sup>l</sup> ness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the <sup>l</sup> forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are <sup>l</sup> crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a-<sup>l</sup> bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for-<sup>l</sup> evermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength <sup>l</sup> to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless-<sup>l</sup> ings of peace.

## SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

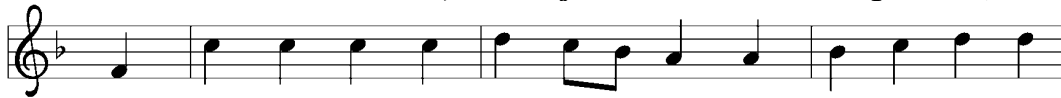
<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *Great Expectations!*

**\*Please stand as you are able for the final verse**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (ELW 304)**



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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**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.**



**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** (*Please respond*)

*P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.*

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**\*OFFERTORY** *In the Bleak Midwinter* (ELW 294)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, 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.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
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 all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

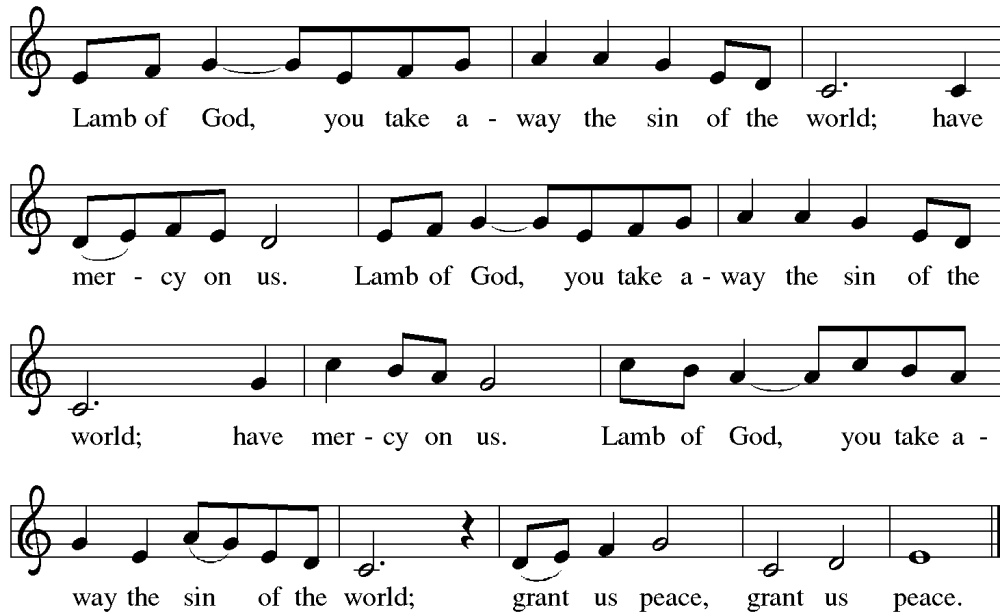
## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, share in this meal of gladness.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 112)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Crashing Waters at Creation* (ELW 455)



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age — chan - nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, atr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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## \*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (ELW 543)



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE      *Fugue in G Major - Dietrich Buxtehude***

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**SERVING TODAY**

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Organist .....	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher .....	Ron Coldsmith
Acolyte .....	Janice McEntire
Lector.....	Patricia Yetter
Securing Offering .....	Brian Coldsmith & Janice McEntire
Communion Set-Up.....	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Clean-Up .....	Jerry & Ilona Laney
Communion Bread .....	Janice McEntire
Communion Assist .....	Janice McEntire
Attendance last Sunday .....	38

**Glimpses of Vibrancy**

This week we give thanks for the many gifts Solomons Lutheran continues to share into the surrounding community. Today we lift up the gift of *Volunteers hours*. May this gift continue to be a significant **Glimpse of the Vibrancy** of the love of Jesus Christ!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in honor of the January birthdays of son, Wes Bedsworth and daughter, Susan Warner given by Mary-Jo and Chuck Bedsworth.

**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!

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Angela Puchalo, Katelyn Mary Dodge, Jim Troutman, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.*

**Please Be Aware:** *We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.*

**Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

January 13 - Council 7pm  
14 - Christian Ed 7pm  
16 - Choir 7pm

**There will be a Congregation Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>** after the worship service to approve the 2025 annual report.

**Communion Cards** – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

**Copies of The Lutheran Journal are available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.**

**Choir rehearsal - Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM.** New members are most welcome to join us. We usually rehearse for an hour. See Mary-Jo Bedsworth or any choir member if you have questions.

**The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room.** 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.

**The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room.** Please sign up for as many as you can.

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each.** Lots of great recipes! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** - Pastor Mike 's Bible study is held every Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We conclude at 9:50 a.m., to prepare for worship. We look at one of the Scripture texts for the following Sunday. If you cannot join us every week, please join us when you are able! The Bible is our Book of Faith!

**Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space.** Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**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.

### **Hymn Notes**

Our gathering hymn this morning, "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," is found in the "Time after Epiphany" section of our hymnal. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" of Christ in the world. The text was written by Christopher Wordsworth, with the harmonization in our hymnal written by Johann Sebastian Bach. Wordsworth used the word "manifest" eleven times (my source said he used it twelve, but I only found 11) to describe Christ's birth, baptism, appearance at the wedding in Cana, healing the sick, and his powers over evil. The hymn is not only one of praise to God, but a time for learning more about Epiphany and about Christ himself. (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins; Austin Lovelace).

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing," was written by Rev. Jaroslav Vajda. It was published in 1983 and appeared in *With One Voice*, the songbook supplement of the ELCA in 1995. This hymn has special meaning to Mary-Jo Bedsworth, as Pastor Vajda was her pastor at her home church near Pittsburgh. After leaving her home congregation, Pastor Vajda went on to Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, and it was while he was there that he began writing hymns of his own, instead of just translating hymns into English from another language, in his case, Slovak. He published several collections of hymns after retiring from Concordia Publishing, *Now the Joyful Celebration* (1987) and its sequel *So Much to Sing About* (1991). This hymn was set to the tune "All Through the Night," making it an instant hit. People love this hymn for its "healing language and blessings, a benediction for life." (Hymnfortheworld.com). The hymn truly blesses us with God's grace. If you look in our ELW, Pastor Vajda has several hymn texts included: 285, 460, 543, 602,740, and 795. It is interesting to note that he served on several hymnal committees, including our former LBW, and the *Lutheran Worship* hymnal of the Missouri Synod when it broke off from the LBW.