

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4856 WAYNE ROAD
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202
(717) 267-2266

EMAIL: info@solomonslutheran.org
WEB SITE: www.solomonslutheran.org
FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



"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."

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

CAROLS SING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* – John Leavitt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

***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.

***THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH "LOVE'S PURE LIGHT"**

Responsive Litany

In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.

Love's Pure Light

Congregational part

"Gesù Bambino"
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by
JOEL RANEY



Let us pray.

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife. We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that tells us you are in control, so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve as you would have us serve and make us willing instruments of your peace. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM *Creation Will Be at Peace** - Anna Laura Page

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

(read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

² **that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Gospel Acclamation (Taizé)* (ELW 175)**

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
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***GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON Rev. Julia Brown

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (ELW 249)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

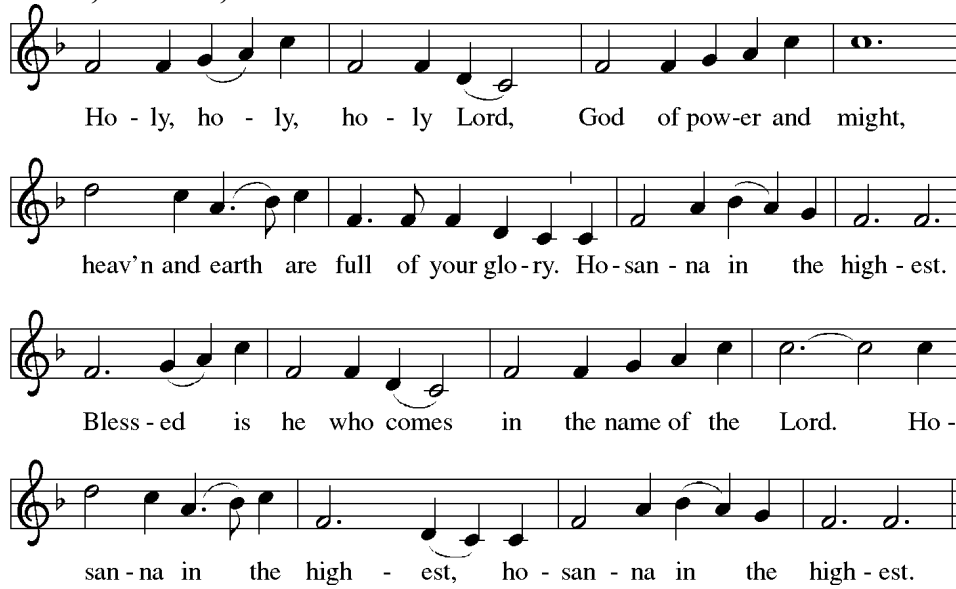
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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**



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

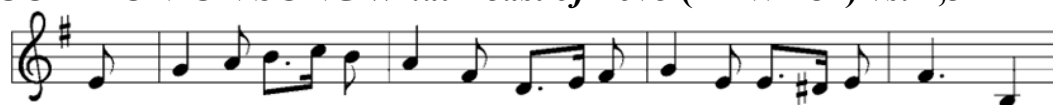
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

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 *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487) vs. 1,3



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?

3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?

What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.

This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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COMMUNION HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (ELW 256)



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

*BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG** *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

***EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER**

POSTLUDE *O Blessed Emmanuel* - J.S. Bach (arr. by Thompson)

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SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor	Rev. Julia Brown
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Mary-Jo Bedsworth
Head Usher	Sarge Weaver
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector.....	Judy Johnson
Securing Offering.....	Sarge Weaver
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky Pecha
Communion Clean-Up	Becky Pecha
Communion Bread	Linda Berberich
Communion Assist.....	Martie Veilleux
Attendance last Sunday.....	24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in loving memory of Edward and Ruth Keck given by Mark, Sally, Abby, and Joy Gayman.

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!

Communion will be served on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in addition to all church holidays.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

- December 8 - Council 7pm
- 9 - Christian Ed 7pm
- 11 - Choir - 7pm

Today, and for the remaining weeks of Advent, we will gather at 10:35 AM to have a chance to sing Christmas carols together prior to worship. We will begin with one carol already chosen and then give you a chance to choose your favorite carol from our hymnal, #267-300.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: We will be using the devotional *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr. We will be gathering on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Locations: 12/10 - Solomon's Lutheran, 12/17 - Solomon's UCC.

Any pastoral care or concerns can be addressed to Pastor Julia Brown by email jlouisebrown@msn.com or phone 703-434-9220.

Prayer requests for the following: *Carole Rau, Peggy Weller, William Brindle, Patricia Yetter, Kaitlyn Dovey, Norm Kuykendall, Phil Johnson, Nancy Deardorff, Susie Bingaman, Patsy Wildeson, Glenn Wildeson, James Bersch, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Charles Carl, Marty Wenger, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Becky Ensinger, 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.*

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 21st following the church service. Pizza will be provided prior to leaving to visit and share Christmas carols with our homebound residents. If you can join the carolers to bring joy to the residents, please contact Bonney Coldsmith. There is a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Room.

Christmas worship at Solomons: Christmas Eve worship will start with special music beginning at 7:10 PM, leading into the Christmas candlelight service at 7:30 PM.

Once again, this year there are two Sundays after Christmas. On Christmas 1, December 28, we will once again worship with the Service of Lessons and Carols...a great opportunity to hear scripture foretelling the birth of Christ, the story of the birth of Christ, the coming of the Three Kings, and the wonderful passage that begins, "In the beginning was the Word." You will have the opportunity to sing many Christmas carols as part of this service.

Finally, on January 4 we are going to observe The Feast of the Epiphany with the gospel reading of The Three Kings to close our Christmas season. Mark your calendars and invite family and friends to worship with us during this special season of the year.

Choir rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings at 7 PM. The choir continues to look for additional voices to help lead our worship services. Experience is not necessary!

The 2026 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$60.00 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 \$60.00 with the bulletin information.

Weekends of Wonder: Weekends of Wonder is a children's Christian education program offered by Solomon's UCC. On the second Saturday of every month, children ages 3 years and older can join Solomon's from 9:30 AM until noon for stories, songs, and activities designed to teach about God and God's love. Meanwhile, our hope is that guardians are enjoying a well-deserved sabbath! For more information and to download the registration form, visit <https://www.mysolomonsucc.org/childrens-ministry.html>. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Julia to get connected.**

SpiritTrust Lutheran has discount cards for sale, \$5 each good through August 2026. If interested, they can be purchased from Bonney Coldsmith, Marjorie Dale, Becky Pecha, and Frances Reichard.

Power Pack Meals: We are once again collecting nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need during the 2025-2026 school year. Please place the items you donate in the tote in the Sunday School room. 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.

The 2026 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.

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.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

Our gathering hymn this morning, "Hark the Glad Sound," was written by Philip Doddridge in 1735. Doddridge was a pastor of a Dissenting church, which means that he did not accept the authority of the Church of England. He wrote this hymn and many others—perhaps 400 in all—not for publication but to be sung by his congregation. His congregation didn't use hymnals, but instead had someone sing the hymn line by line from the pulpit with the congregation repeating each line in turn. Most of Doddridge's hymns were inspired by a particular scripture, and that was true of this hymn, which was inspired by Isaiah 61:1-2. When Jesus spoke in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth, (Luke 4: 18-19) he quoted those verses from Isaiah and then said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). In other words, Jesus was saying that he had come to preach

good news, to bind up those who were broken, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to comfort those who mourn. It is in celebration of this work of Christ that we sing this hymn. It is interesting to note that Doddridge was one of 20 children, founded an academy where he taught Hebrew, Greek, philosophy, logic, algebra, trigonometry, and theology. It is said he died from overwork, the result of tuberculosis! (Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins: Austin C. Lovelace, pg. 44; sermonwriter.com/hymns).

Today's Hymn of the Day, *On Jordan's Banks, the Baptist's Cry*, was originally written in Latin by Charles Coffin and published in 1736. It was later translated into English by John Chandler and included in his hymnal. The text has undergone many revisions, and today it is hard to find two hymnals where the text is the same. Almost all hymnals include the same five verses, but the wording changes significantly from hymnal to hymnal. The overall theme is evident, regardless of the version used. Stanzas one and two are a message to us, instructing us to prepare the way of the Lord today. In stanza three, we confess our need for salvation, in stanza four we pray for healing and love, and stanza five serves as a doxology. Since this hymn calls us to make way for Christ, it is most fitting for Advent. It references John the Baptist, a key figure in the narrative of Christ's birth, and addresses the theme of Advent...to prepare for Christ's second coming. (Hymnary.org).

*This morning's anthem, "Creation Will Be at Peace," is based on our first reading this morning, freely adapted from Isaiah 11: 6-9 by J. Paul Williams, with Anna Laura Page composing the music.