

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"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
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
DECEMBER 28, 2025**

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SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Partita on “Irby* (Once in Royal David’s City)* John A. Behnke

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

***CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**
**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**
**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**
Amen.

God’s grace upon grace flows over you.

☩ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

*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.

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

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

*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.

THE PRAYER RESPONSE CAROL *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (ELW 295) VS 1,3,5

1 Of the Father's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -

3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,

one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets

Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that

promised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -

and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,

pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ ¹⁰He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ ¹¹He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ ¹²The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this,

 cursed are you among all animals

 and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,

 and dust you shall eat

 all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,

 and between your offspring and hers;

he will strike your head,

 and you will strike his heel.’

FIRST CAROL *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (ELW # 257) VS. 1, 4, 6, 7

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON**ISAIAH 9: 2-7****Martie Veilleux**

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SECOND CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

(ELW #272) VS. 1,2



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from the ten- der stem hath in
 2 I - - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have have in



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the



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



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

THIRD LESSON

MICAH 5: 2-4

Barbara Aldrich

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 labour 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;

THIRD CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW #279)

**Choir only, vs 1,2
Congregation joins as directed**

**4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

Marjorie Dale

²⁶ In 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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with 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.

FOURTH CAROL

***The Annunciation and Magnificat* Marty Haugen
Choir only
Soloist: Sally Gayman**

FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

Becky Pecha

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

FIFTH CAROL

Away in a Manger

(ELW #277)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-16

Bonney Coldsmith

⁸ In 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 Saviour, 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 favours!’ 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.

SIXTH CAROL

The First Noel

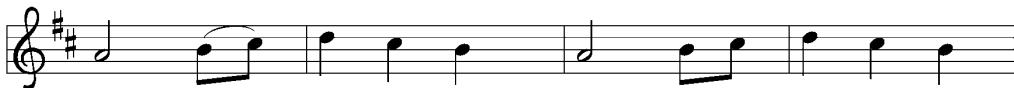
(ELW #300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

SEVENTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

Pastor Julia

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.

⁶ There 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.

¹⁰ He 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.

¹⁴ And 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.

SEVENTH CAROL

Love Has Come

(ELW #292)



Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the

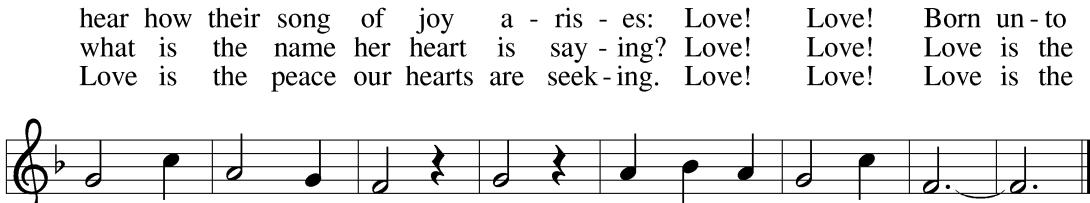
Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



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

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CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature, and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270)



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



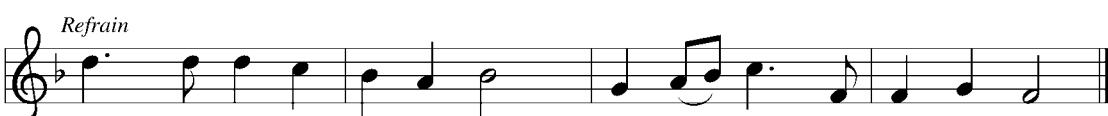
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

*DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* *John Innes*

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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	Janice McEntire
Readers	Rich McEntire, Martie Veilleux, Barbara Aldrich, Marjorie Dale Becky Pecha, Bonney Coldsmith, Pastor Julia Brown
Lector	Martie Veilleux
Securing Offering	Sarge Weaver
Attendance last Sunday	28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the glory of God in honor of my family given by Kathy Bowen.

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!

A special thanks to our readers this morning for their part in our Lessons and Carols service.

Many thanks to our choir for all their hard work and special music during the Advent and Christmas season. Due to the New Year holiday this Thursday, there will be no choir rehearsal this week. Our next rehearsal is tentatively set for Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 PM in the choir room.

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS is a tradition of long standing from the Anglican heritage. Originally designed by Archbishop Benson, then Bishop of Truro, for use in the cathedral, it was later simplified and modified for use in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, in 1918. Since that time, it has been sung annually on Christmas Eve and has been broadcast worldwide by the BBC since 1928. The traditional service has nine lessons which have been modified to seven for our purposes today. As you can see, the progression of texts links the ancient prophecies and experiences of God's people to the birth of Christ. This service emphasizes the continuity of Christianity through the ages. The carols bring to the Word an artistic and subjective sense of the miraculous in God's incarnation. We are grateful to our readers, our choir, and you, the members of the congregation here with us today.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

January 5 - W&M 6pm
8 - Finance Noon

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: *Carol Locke, Carole Rau, Peggy Weller, William Brindle, Patricia Yetter, Kaityn 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.*

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.

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

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: This morning's prelude is longer than ones played on most Sundays. The piece consists of 4 selections, starting with a soft organ and gradually building to a fuller sound in the final selection. A partita is defined as an instrumental suite, a set of variations on a given tune, in this case, the tune name "Irby."