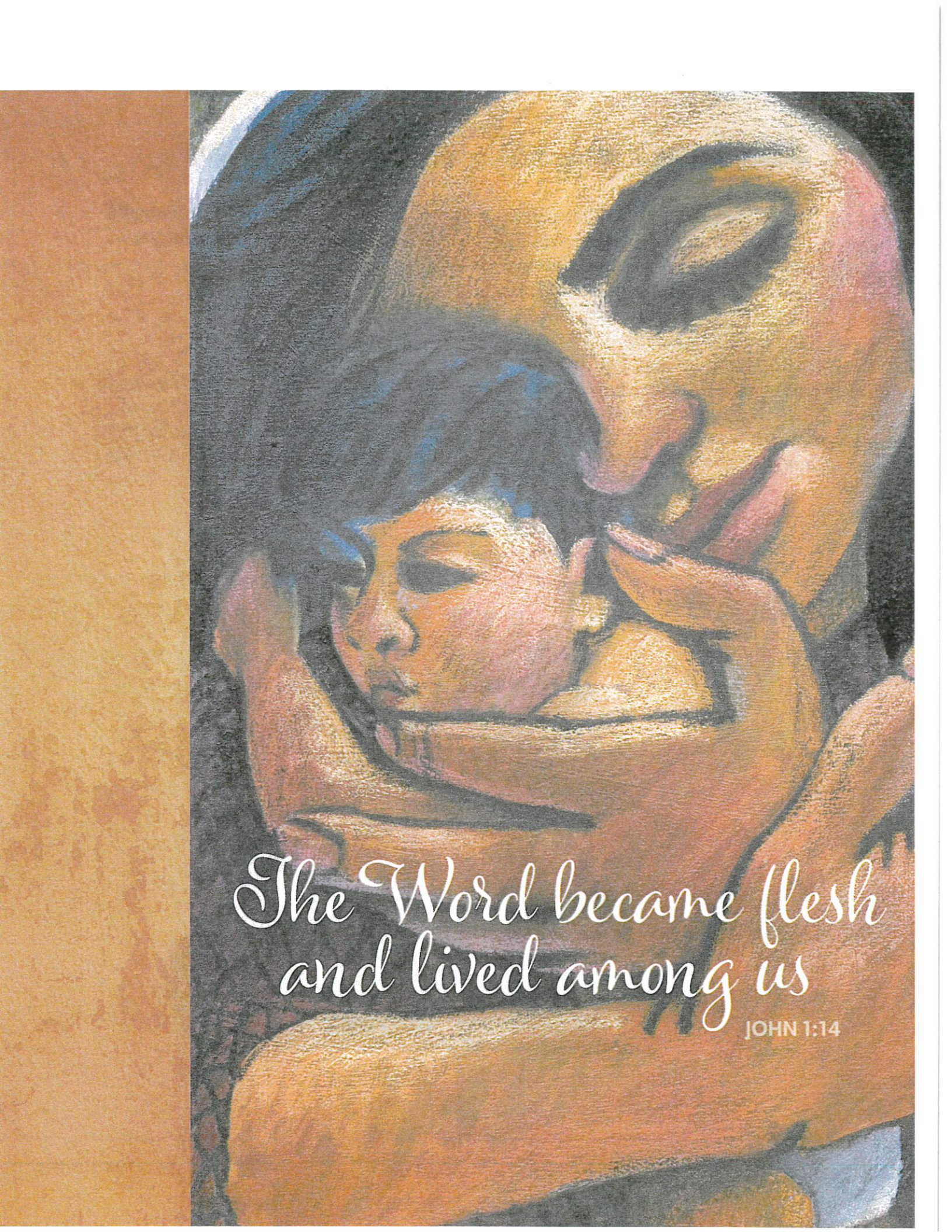


A pastel painting depicting a man and a young child in a close, intimate embrace. The man's face is in the upper right, looking down at the child with a gentle expression. The child is nestled against him, looking slightly away. The colors are warm and soft, with a palette of yellows, oranges, pinks, and blues. The texture of the pastel is visible throughout the work.

*The Word became flesh
and lived among us*

JOHN 1:14

From Heaven Above: A Service for Christmas Day

Martin Luther based his carol "From Heaven Above" on a refrain used for a sixteenth-century singing game. In the game, the song sets up a riddle to be solved. Within the nativity story, who would have proclaimed this text?

*"From heaven above to earth I come
to bear good news to every home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing."*

In the hymn, the stanzas in quotation marks become the words of the angels rejoicing at Jesus' birth, while the other stanzas offer commentary and prayers. By sending Jesus into our world, God answers the riddle of sin and our human condition. We are set free to proclaim with the angels: "Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given."



From Heaven Above: A Service for Christmas Day
December 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

Dialogue

- P Who are these angels who come to earth,
C **bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?**
P Who are these shepherds who run to see,
C **and worship the babe on bended knee?**
P Who is this child so small, so slight,
C **of whom the angels sang that night?**
P Who is this king, a manger his throne,
C **who humbles himself to make us his own?**
P Who is this God who sends a Son
C **into our midst, the promised one?**

Greeting and Prayer

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.
Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives.
C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

Luke 2:8-14

- P Glory to God in highest heaven,
C **who unto us the Son has given.**
From Heaven Above (stanzas 1-3)

Carol

ELW #268

Luke 2:15-20
Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?
 P Glory to God in highest heaven,
 C who unto us the Son has given.
From Heaven Above (stanzas 4-6) ELW #268
 Carol

Hebrews 1:1-4
Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight?
 P Glory to God in highest heaven,
 C who unto us the Son has given.
From Heaven Above (stanzas 7-9) ELW #268
 Carol

Isaiah 9:2-7
Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?
 P Glory to God in highest heaven,
 C who unto us the Son has given.
From Heaven Above (stanzas 10-11) ELW #268
 Carol

John 1:1-14
Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son?
 P Glory to God in highest heaven,
 C who unto us the Son has given.
From Heaven Above (stanzas 12-14) ELW #268
 Carol

Meditation

Hymn of the Day *In the Bleak Midwinter* ELW # 294

Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of the Church

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.
 Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.
 You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.
 Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.
 You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.
 Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.
 You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.
 May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Please be seated.

Offering

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1)

ELW #270

Offering Prayer

P God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(sung to the tune for "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence")

C **Holy, holy, Lord most holy,
God of pow'r and God of might:
Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.
Hail, Hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior.
Hail, Hosanna, Lord of Light.**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Please be seated.

Distribution

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.

Communion is distributed by continuous distribution. Today we will be using two stations. Please come forward by the center aisle to receive the wafer from the pastor, and then, receive a cup of wine (light colored drink in the outer rings of the tray) or grape juice (darker colored drink in the center of the trays) from the communion assistant. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten. You may place your empty cups in the baskets at the ends of the front pews as you return to your seats by the side aisles.

(During the distribution, we invite you to participate in singing the following songs.)

Communion Song Lamb of God (sung to the tune for "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve")

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin
of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save:
have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin
of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave:
have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin
of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made:
give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Song

The Bells of Christmas

ELW #298

Please stand as you are able.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy:

C Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given. Amen.

Blessing

P May the God who comes from heaven above be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Love Has Come

ELW #292

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Christ is with us.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

Ushers:

Communion: Madelyn La Plante

Counters: Ken & Sue Oetzmann

Organist: Susan Becker

The Way God Speaks

It all begins with a word. The author of John's gospel invites us to step back in time, all the way back to the very beginning, to the space before and beyond the binary poles of night and day, sea and sky, flying birds and swimming fish. When all creation was yet a formless void, God coaxed order and beauty into being with just the sound of a word. By a word, the world was created, and by *the Word*, the world is reconciled and restored.

God speaks—through the messengers on the mountains, “in many and various ways by the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1), and through John, the witness in the wilderness. God tells the world that it is created for good, that all things are made from and for love, and that “grace upon grace” (John 1:16) continues to abound and overflow from the trusted voice and hand of our creator. Are we listening?

The narratives of Advent and Christmas include a host of unlikely voices: divine messengers, childless women, shepherds, stargazers from foreign nations, a locust-eating prophet clothed in camel hair. All are preparing us to hear the hopes and dreams of God's kingdom from the voice of a carpenter and, later, from some fishermen and tax collectors.

Who are the many and various voices through which God is speaking today? Who are the witnesses to God's saving work in both the darkness and the light? It might not be the voices we would think. Can we trust that God speaks to us through a variety and diversity of voices, even the ones that disarm or challenge us the most?

Listen. Listen to the witnesses. Listen to the powerless and overlooked. Listen to the voices speaking words of liberation and love, despite desperate circumstances. These are the words of the Word creating a new world, the words of eternal life for all the children of God.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am
Telephone: (563) 285-4501 Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

GRACE - GIFTED FAITH - LIFTED
CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.

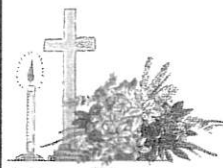


Christmas Day
December 25, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at faithlutheraneldridge.com.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



Altar Flowers

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, www.faithlutheraneldridge.com



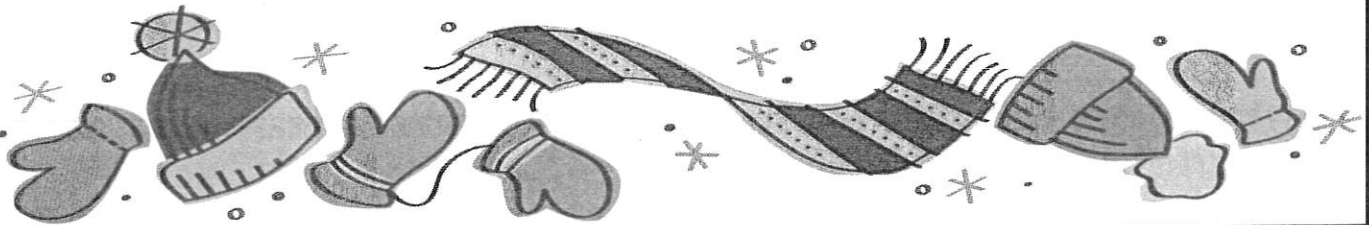
Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Ron McFate	Janet Bowman	Sue Vogel	Glen
H.O. Nelson	Kathy Stoltz	Andrew Arp	Mary
Sheila Baustian	Gary King	Norman Harms	Kelly
Sally Puls	Roger Lewis	Kim Pierce	Mike
Jensen Spencer	Ed Stoltz	Jeanette Myers	Vaughn
Ann Kuehl	Judy Knoer	Bill Lind	
Carol Judge	Jan Kluever	Lincoln Regnier	
Carolyn Scheibe	Bob Morehead	Ed Precht	
Madison Russo	Melissa Alden	Hugh Lickiss	

On behalf of Humility Homes and Services, I would like to thank the members of Faith Lutheran church for your very generous donations of winter clothing. Over the course of the last several weeks, the congregation has been donating items for this drive. I have made three trips to drop off these items to Humility Homes. Each time the back end of my car has been heaped with coats and other winter clothing. The congregation has donated: 32 adult coats, 27 kids coats, 51 pairs of kids and adult gloves, 38 kids and adult stocking hats, 10 blankets, 3 neck scarves, 3 kids winter vests, 1 kid snow pants, 1 adult winter vest, 2 sweaters and 1 pair of winter boots. Your generous donations have been very appreciated.

Thanks again, Betty Strom

Thank You!



Our Christmas Special Offering this year will be split equally between Humble Dwellings and Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

Humble Dwellings is an Eldridge based non-profit with the mission "To restore dignity and hope to those less fortunate by transforming their living space into a warm and inviting home, using gently donated furniture and household items."



Faith has been associated with Lutheran Lakeside Camp since its founding in 1960. Hundreds of our children, youth, and adults have experienced God presence and growth in faith through Lutheran Lakeside.

**THE WORD
IN SEASON**
Daily
DEVOTIONALS
Available

Please note—we are no longer mailing The Word in Season devotion books. They are available for pick up at the church, inside as well as in the bulletin boxes outside. If you are in need of a copy of The Word in Season book and unable to come to the church, please call the church office at 563-285-4501 to make arrangements to get one to you.

Give something unexpected this Christmas!

Thank you for your support of the ELCA Good Gifts program. It is a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with gifts that make a difference in the world. Choose from more than 50 gift-giving options, each with the ability to make real, lasting change in the life of someone in need. You may give on-line using this link goodgifts.elca.org or in-person at Faith Lutheran Church.

In-person giving is easy:

1. Select an ornament with a symbol of the item you wish to purchase, write your names on it and place it on the tree.
2. Place your donation in the drop box, please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church.
3. Select a card to let friends and loved ones know about the ELCA Good Gifts that have been given in their honor.

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



*Thank you for your generosity during the holidays to
help abate world hunger!*



Stewardship Gifts

Thank you for your generous giving to Faith Lutheran Church throughout 2022. You have helped make all the ministry in and through this place possible. As you consider your end of year gifts, please note that all contributions that you wish to have counted for 2022 must be received in the office by **noon on December 30th**. Thank you!





THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Sunday, December 25	9:00 am	Worship
Monday, December 26	<i>Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, December 27	5:30 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday, December 28		
Thursday, December 29	9:00 am	Ambassador Folding
Friday, December 30	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	12:00 Noon	DEADLINE FOR 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS
Saturday, December 31	5:00 pm	Worship
Sunday, January 1, 2023	9:00 am	Worship

**WELCOME
2023**



We are raising funds to replace our aging roof over Fellowship Hall and the Education Wing. Our goal is \$50,000.

Please contact a Council Member with any questions regarding our campaign. More information will be in the December Ambassador.

Thank you for helping us Replace the Roof!



5 pm: 30, 9 am: 67, Online: 46 , Total: 143

