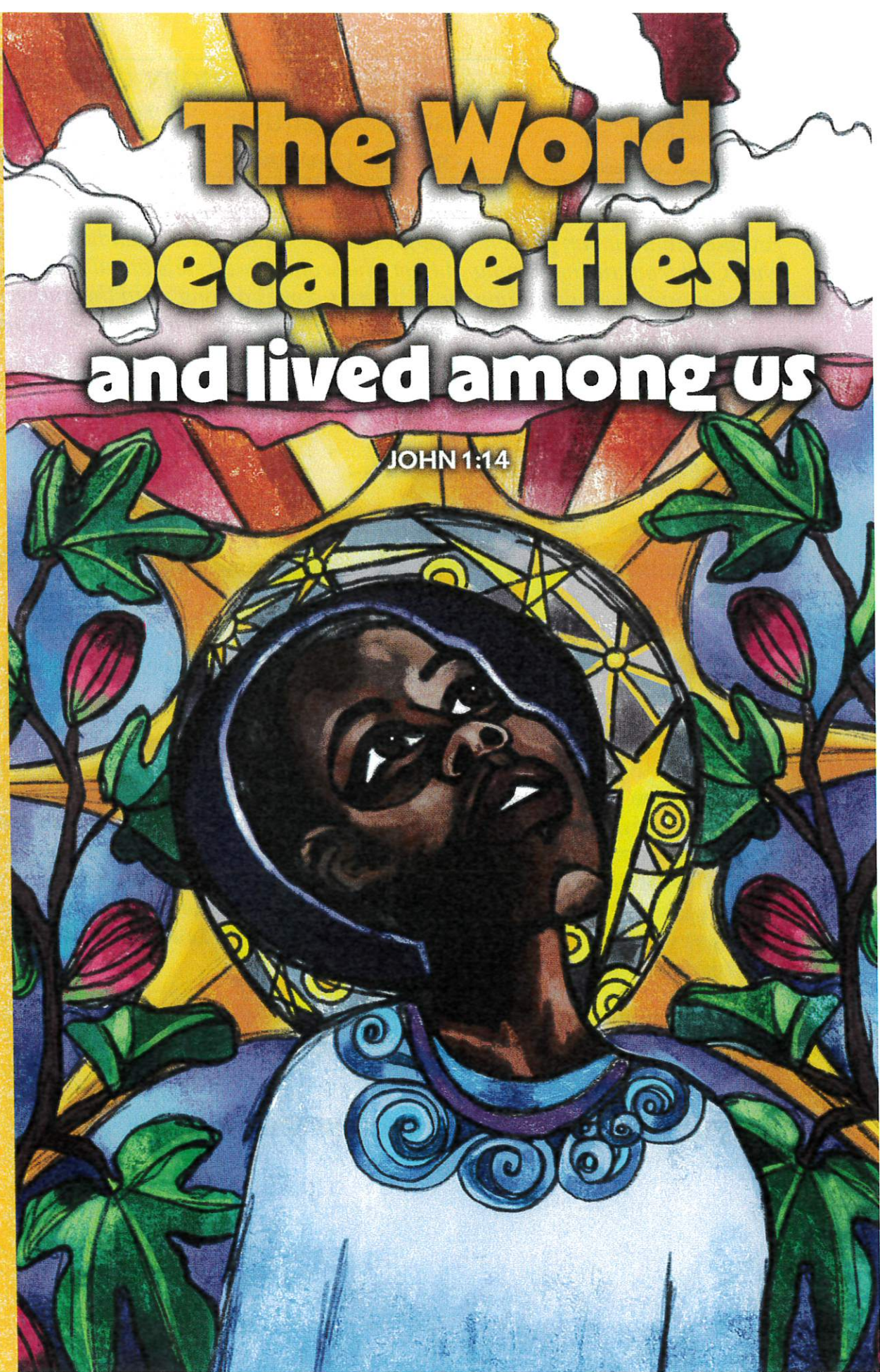
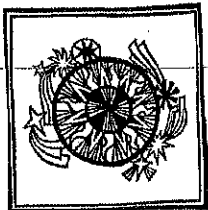


The Word became flesh and lived among us

JOHN 1:14





The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, January 3, 2026 5:00pm
Sunday, January 4, 2026 9:00 am

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

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION 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.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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 HYMN

"The Bells of Christmas"

ELW #298

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

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once

(Continued on the next page)

slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of

God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to

make us peo - ple of God; to make

all things new. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM (9:00 am)

"Fall on Your Knees"

People of Praise

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

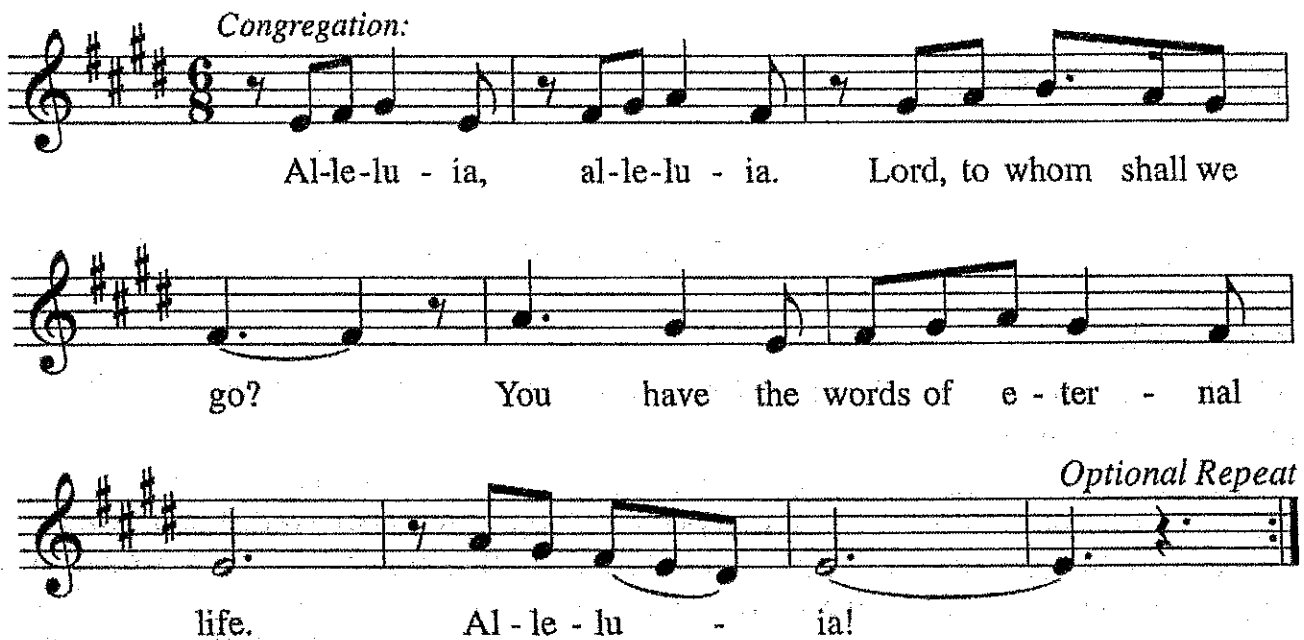
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our

trespasses, according to the riches of his grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The 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. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who 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. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

ELW #510

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each prayer petition will conclude, "Hear us, O God."

The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

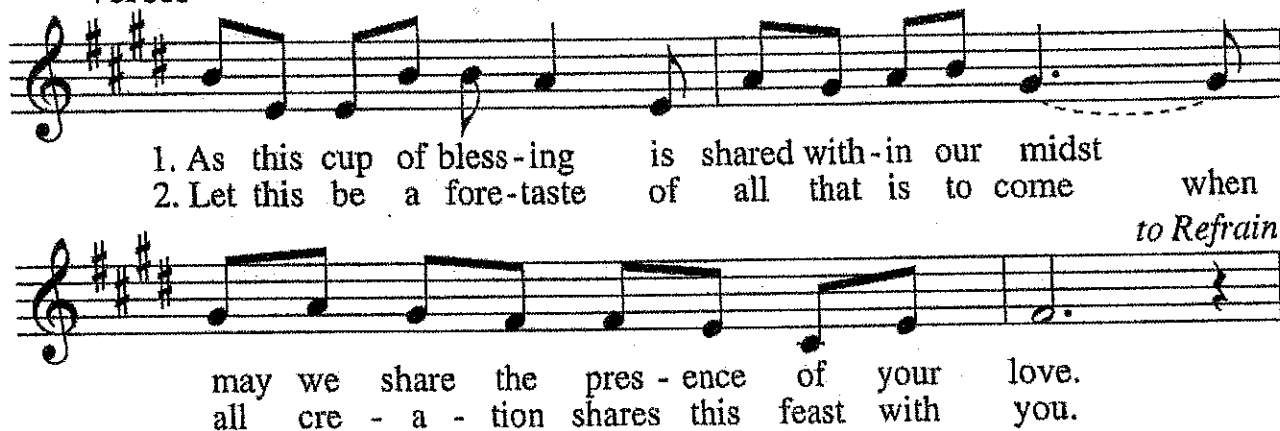
Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE 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.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

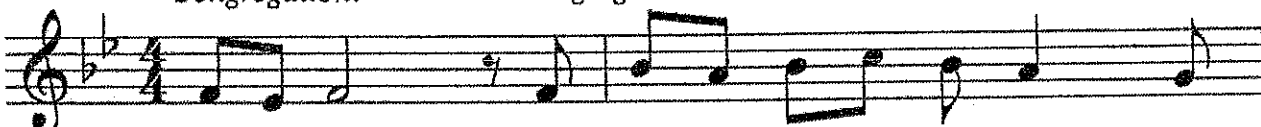
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

COMMUNION SONG

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



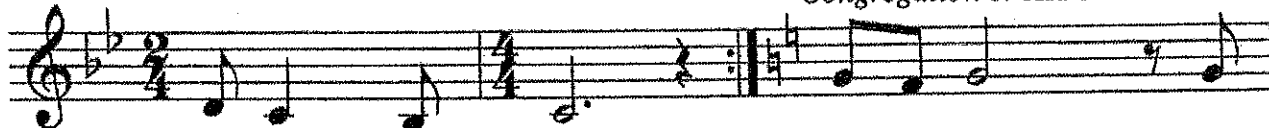
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Saturday, the ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten. Those who are worshipping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

Sunday, communion will be distributed at the rail. Please come forward by the center aisle and go to the right side of the rail. Receive the wafer and the wine (lighter color in the outer rings) or grape juice (darker color in the inner rings) and pause a moment before returning to your seat by the side aisle. Communion will be continuous, so as a space opens up, please fill that space. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten.

There are baskets at the end of the front pews where you can deposit your cups as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMNS “What Feast of Love”
 “Once in Royal David’s City”

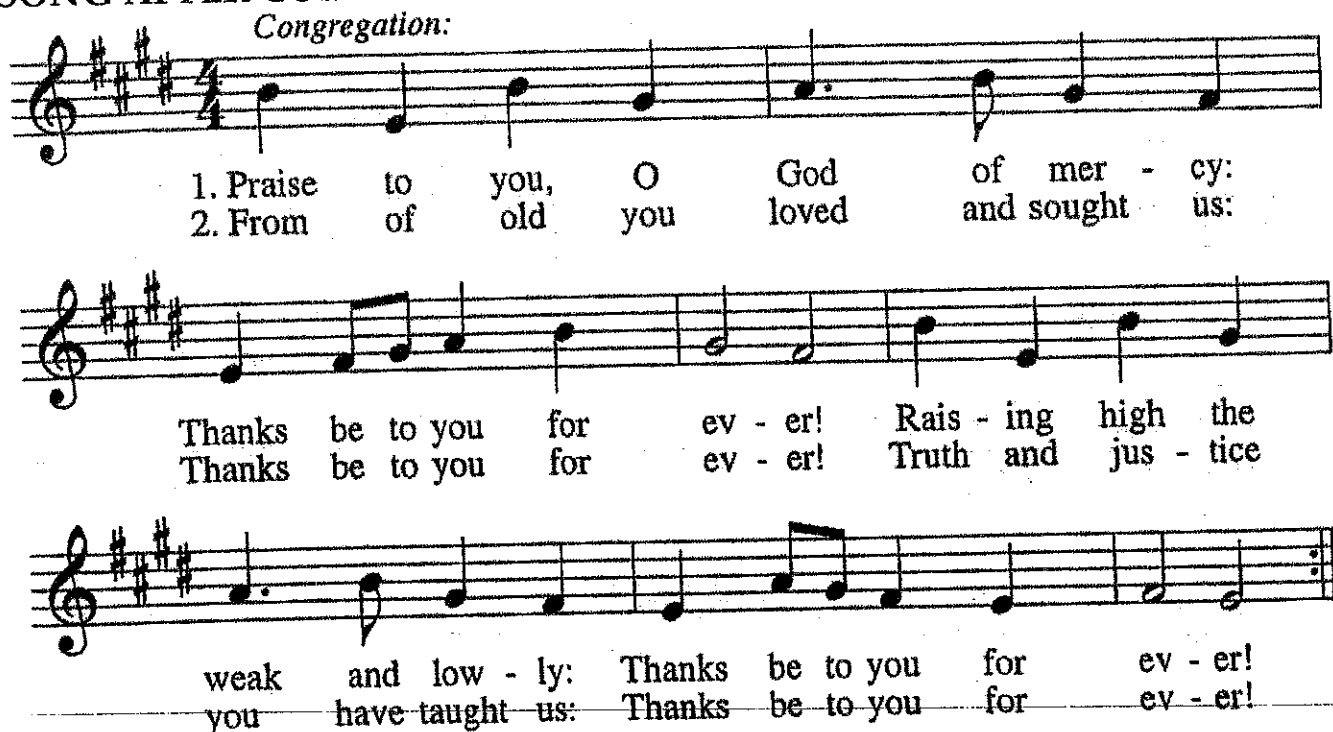
ELW #487
ELW #269

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your
 love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of
 life with us. 3. Praise to you, O
 God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
 Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
 ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“As With Gladness, Men of Old”

ELW #302

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.

POSTLUDE

Liturgical music from Now the Feast and Celebration. © Copyright 1990 by GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense.net A-731185. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012199. Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

SATURDAY	5:00 pm Worship Service
Ushers	Mike and Rita Smith
Reader	Sarah Costello
Communion Assistant	Rita Smith
Counters	Mike and Rita Smith

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service
Ushers	Curt & Carolyn Hulsen
Reader	Michael Strom
Communion Assistant	Michael Strom
Counters	Kenny & Sue Oetzmann

Choir Director	Susan Becker
Organist	Susan Becker
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker
Online Streaming Crew	Craig Bloomingdale, Lucas Golvinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich



A Glimpse of God-Made-Flesh

This gospel text is wordy to the point of feeling almost otherworldly. There's no real story here; there's no narrative to follow. To illustrate this text for children, for example, seems nearly impossible.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). How is this gospel text—this gospel truth—made manifest, here and now? Where do you see God, in the flesh, walking the earth? How do you experience God-made-flesh speaking to you, caring for you, guiding you?

Surely God is present, in the flesh, even in the unlikelyst of places—as unlikely as a baby lying in a manger. Surely God is still here today in some form or fashion. The Word is no longer flesh and living among us, at least not in the same way as when Jesus himself was walking the earth. But *we* are flesh, and *we* are here. Surely *you* are God made manifest for someone; surely *your* presence here on earth is a glorious display of the presence of God for a neighbor or friend or colleague or family member—maybe even for someone you'd never expect to name you in this way.

In baptism, God commissions us to "proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace" (*ELW*, p. 228). This is the work of the Word made flesh; this is the work of providing a glimpse of God to a world in need of grace, hope, and new life.

How blessed we are to live in the promise of God-made-flesh. How blessed we are to live in response to that promise!

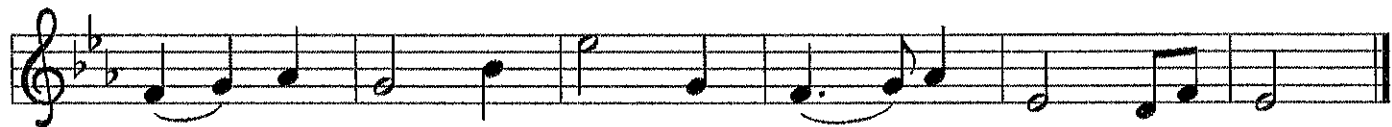
The Bells of Christmas



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

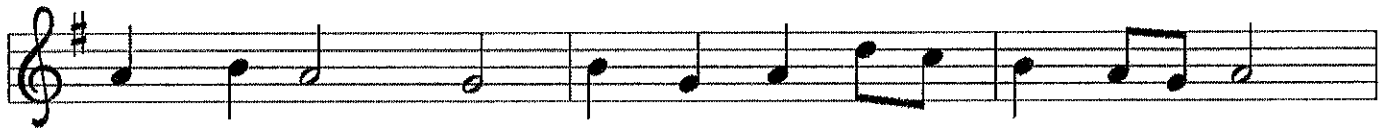
Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.

Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

Word of God, Come Down on Earth



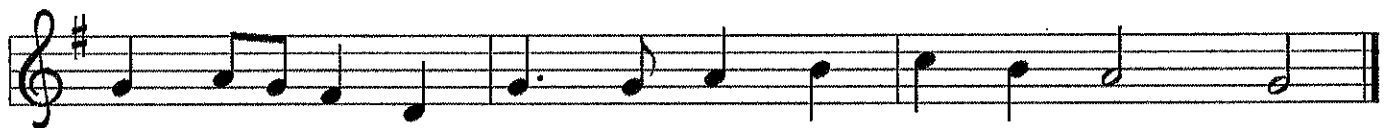
1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

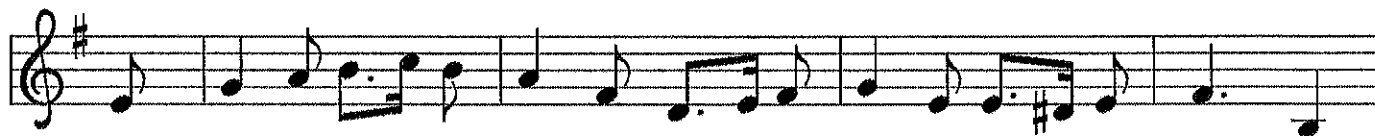
Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

Text © James Quinn, SJ, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

Used with permission of OneLicense.net A-731185.

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant 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 hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word 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 sun 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, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is 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.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Used with permission of OneLicense.net A-731185.

Once in Royal David's City



- 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,



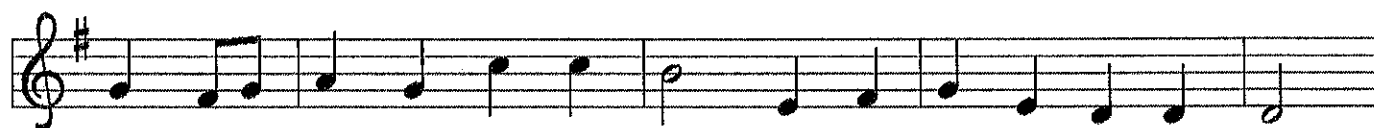
where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



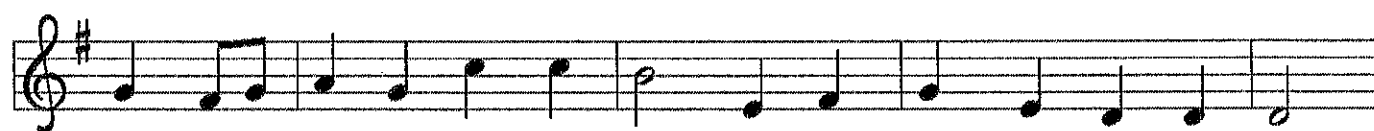
Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

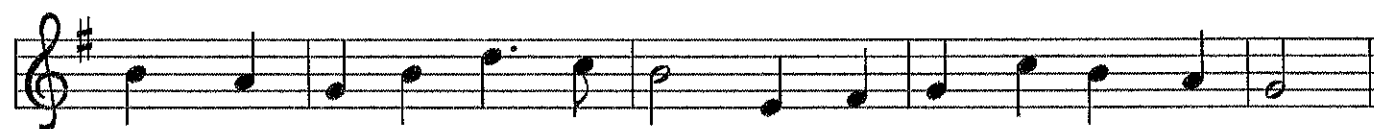
As with Gladness Men of Old



- 1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
- 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
- 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
- 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

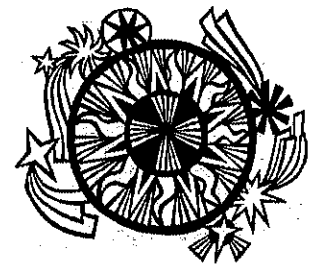


so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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.

The Second Sunday of Christmas
 January 3 & 4, 2026

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 faithlutheranelldridge.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.



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.faithlutheranelldridge.com



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

Steve Mixdorf	Cheryl Torey	Cherri Grimes	Dave
Henry Storjohann	Anderson Sears	Marilyn	Linda
Patty Denner	June Mephram	Kelly	
Sue Braack	Anna Mundy	James	
Barb Conklen	Rebecca Casson	Cindy	
Meyer Mixdorf	Linda Demuth	Thad	

WINTER RALLY DAY celebration

Get ready for some camp fun! On the weekend of **January 3 and 4**, a representative from Lutheran Lakeside Camp will be here to bring greetings from our favorite summer getaway. The rep will be present during the worship on Saturday and Sunday to share a children's message. On Sunday, the rep also will join us during the Congregational Breakfast to give the children a mini-camp experience full of fun, games, and camp songs to get them excited for camp this summer. You will not want to miss this weekend as we prepare for "The Best Week



Join us on **Sunday, January 4**, for our monthly **Congregational Breakfast** following the 9 am worship service. It is our hope that these intergenerational congregational breakfasts will be an opportunity for us to grow in faith and in relationship with one another.



Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? The May 2026 Synod Assembly will be collecting donations of prayer shawls and lap quilts. We would like to send several of these items with our pastors and delegates to the assembly. If you have any questions or need a prayer shawl pattern, contact Linda Szemkus at 563-940-4512.

Feed Our Children

During the month of January we are asking for applesauce and fruit cups.



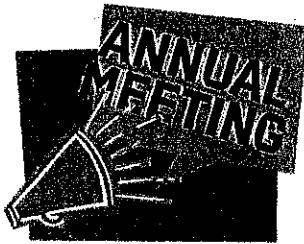
The **2026 Offering Envelopes** are on the Welcome Center counter. Please contact Rhonda Webber if you have not had envelopes before, but would like some for the new year.



Do you love to bake? Bread bakers for the communion loaves are needed for worship services in 2026. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church.



December 24 - 2:00 pm: 101, 4:00 pm: 140, 4:00 pm Online: 88, Total 329
9:00 pm: 140, 9:00 pm Online: 42, Total: 182. **All Dec. 24 Total: 511**
December 27 & 28 - 5:00 pm: 26, 9:00 am: 40, Online: 54, Total: 120



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTIFICATION

January 18, 2026 10:15 am Budget Meeting

January 25, 2026 9:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting ,
following a brief worship service
(Review of Reports, Election of Congregational
Leaders, 2025 Budget Approval)

January 25, 2026 Immediately following the annual
meeting Special Meeting (Election of Officers)

Budgets will be available by January 17 for pick up at church.

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!*



CHRISTMAS Special OFFERING

Our Christmas special offering will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). LSI empowers families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual. It is affiliated with the ELCA and a member of Lutheran Services in America.

More information can be found on their website, <https://lsiowa.org/>. Please have offerings in by **January 11**.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

WEEKLY

Sneak Peek

Saturday, January 3

11:00 am Private Event in Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, January 4 **WINTER RALLY DAY**

9:00 am Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 am Congregational Breakfast with Lutheran Lakeside

Monday, January 5

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 6

1:00 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Food Pantry
6:30 pm VFW
6:30 pm Jubilation

Wednesday, January 7

10:15 am Resounding Joy
5:15 pm Confirmation Meal
5:45 pm Confirmation Conversations
6:00 pm People of Praise
7:00 pm High School Youth

Thursday, January 8, 2026

6:30 om Team Night
7:30 pm Executive Mtg.

Friday, January 9

9:30 pm Food Pantry

Saturday, January 10

5:00 pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online

Sunday, January 11

9:00 am Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary
10:15 am Fellowship
10:15 am Sunday School
4:00 pm 4H Meeting

Lutheran Lakeside Camp



Register NOW!



Bring a friend!

You can also visit our website to give a gift and help support our campers and mission!

www.lutheranlakeside.com/summer-camps/



**PASTORAL CARE
& COUNSELING**

Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office at (563) 285-4501. **For after-hour emergencies**, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.

