NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
December 24, 2025

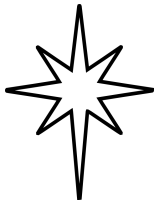


CHRISTMAS EVE

CHURCH ON THE CIRCLE
ST ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025

Welcome to St. Armands Key Lutheran Church! In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illuminate the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we share the light of Christ with the whole world.



PRELUDE MUSIC

Our prelude concert will include selections from the following:

In the Bleak Midwinter	Gustav Holst, arr. Brenda Portman
Gesu Bambino	Pietro Yon
O Holy Night	Adolphe Adam, arr. Clydesdale
Ave Maria	Franz Schubert
Oh, How Joyfully	Sicilian melody, arr. Michael Burkhardt
The Glory of the Father	Egil Hovland
Gaudete	Piae Cantiones, arr. Michael Burkhardt
Chorale	From "*Christmas Oratorio*", C. Saint Saens
Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine	arr. Matthew Robertson
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child	Traditional, arr. Cathy Moklebust
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	Traditional, arr. Linda Lamb
In dulci jubilo	J. S. Bach
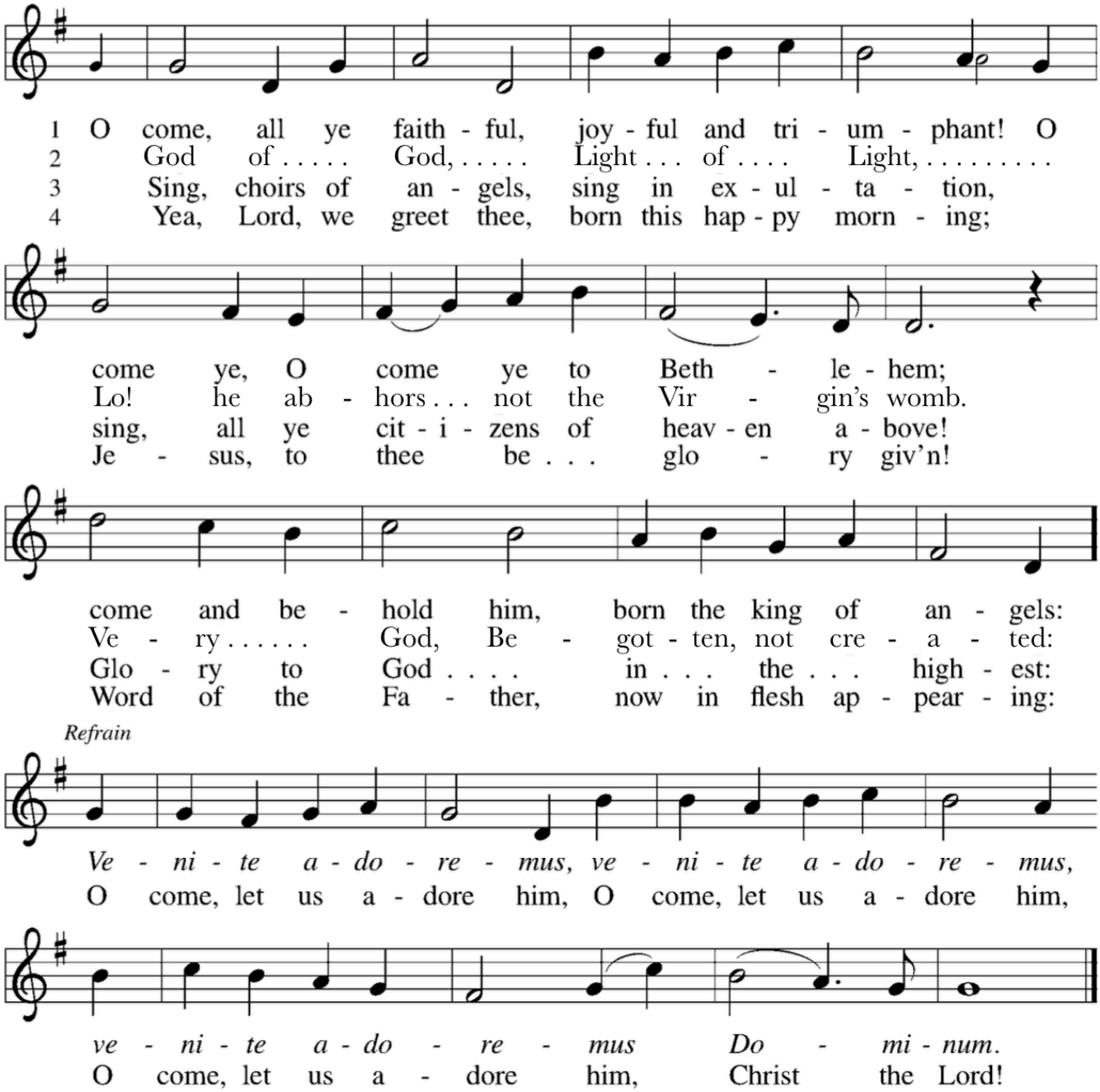
Additional selections may be played.

WELCOME

***CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

(*) Please stand if you are able

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***C.* Amen.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
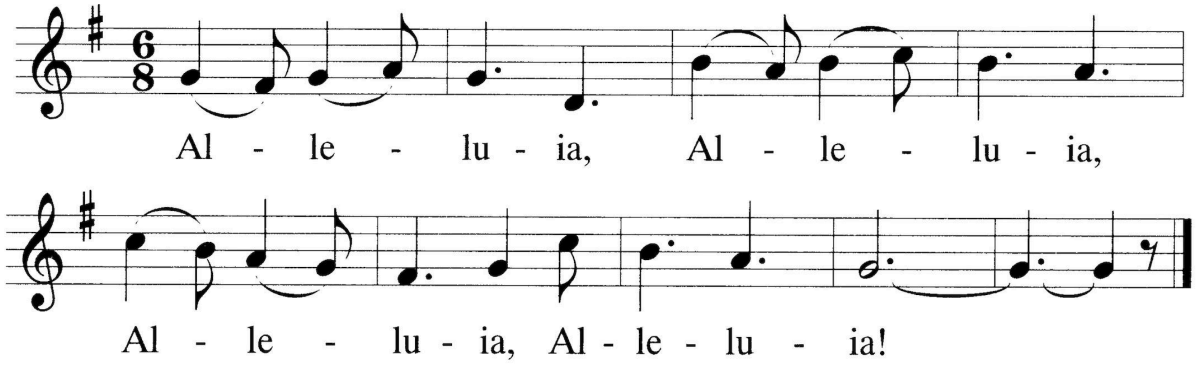
R. Word of the Lord.
***C.* Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R. The Word of the Lord.
***C.* Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Verse will be sung by the choir; please join in singing the refrain above

(*) Please stand if you are able

*GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

P. The holy gospel according to Luke.

***C.* Glory to you, O Lord**

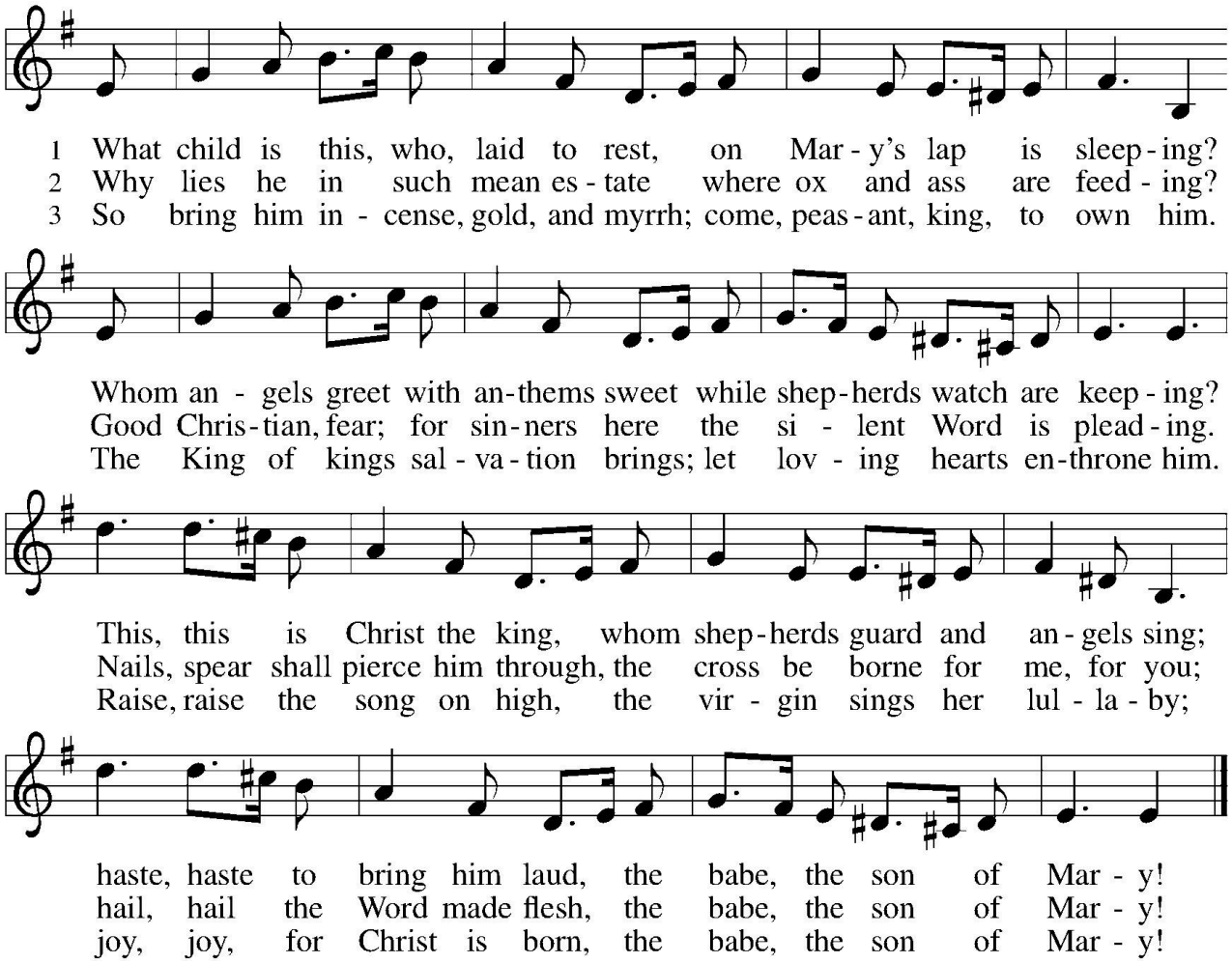
1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to
their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to
Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family
of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a
child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And 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. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping
watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of
the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be
afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this
day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you
will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And 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 favors!" [15 When 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." 16 So they went with
haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they
made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at
what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her
heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it
had been told them.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

***C.* Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth*

*CAROL: "What Child is This"



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY: "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies.
He, who throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim!
Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine;
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!
Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild.
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility!

Text: Edward Caswall
Music: John Goss, arranged by John Leavitt

THE MEAL

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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.

P. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.
***C.* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

P. With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
C. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P. Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
C. **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C. **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.

*BREAKING OF BREAD & INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. The Word became flesh and lived among us; and we beheld His glory.
C. **Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.**
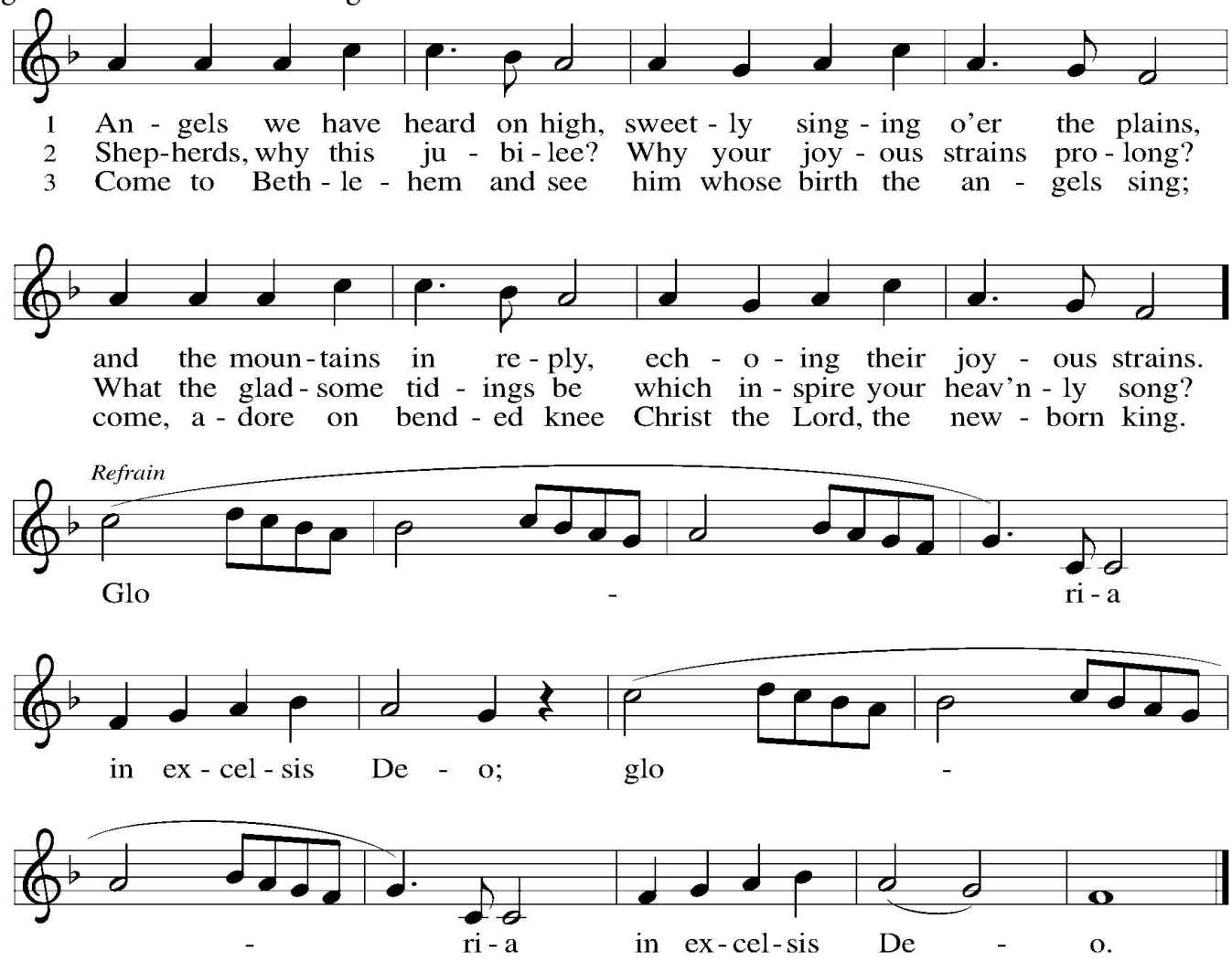
In the bread and wine, Christ is present. More than a sign or symbol, these gifts become his very body and blood. All who love Jesus, regardless of their denominational background or tradition, are invited to join us in this Sacrament of mystery and love.

At the direction of the ushers, please move to whichever of the two stations on your side of the sanctuary is free. You will receive a host in your hand, which you may dip into the cup of wine in the center of the bowl from which you received the host, and then return to your seat. Each of the four stations offers the option of a gluten-free host. The stations on the far right and left offer grape juice while the center stations offer wine. If you or your child are not communing today, please make your way to the pastor and ask for a blessing instead.

(*) Please stand if you are able

*MUSIC AT COMMUNION

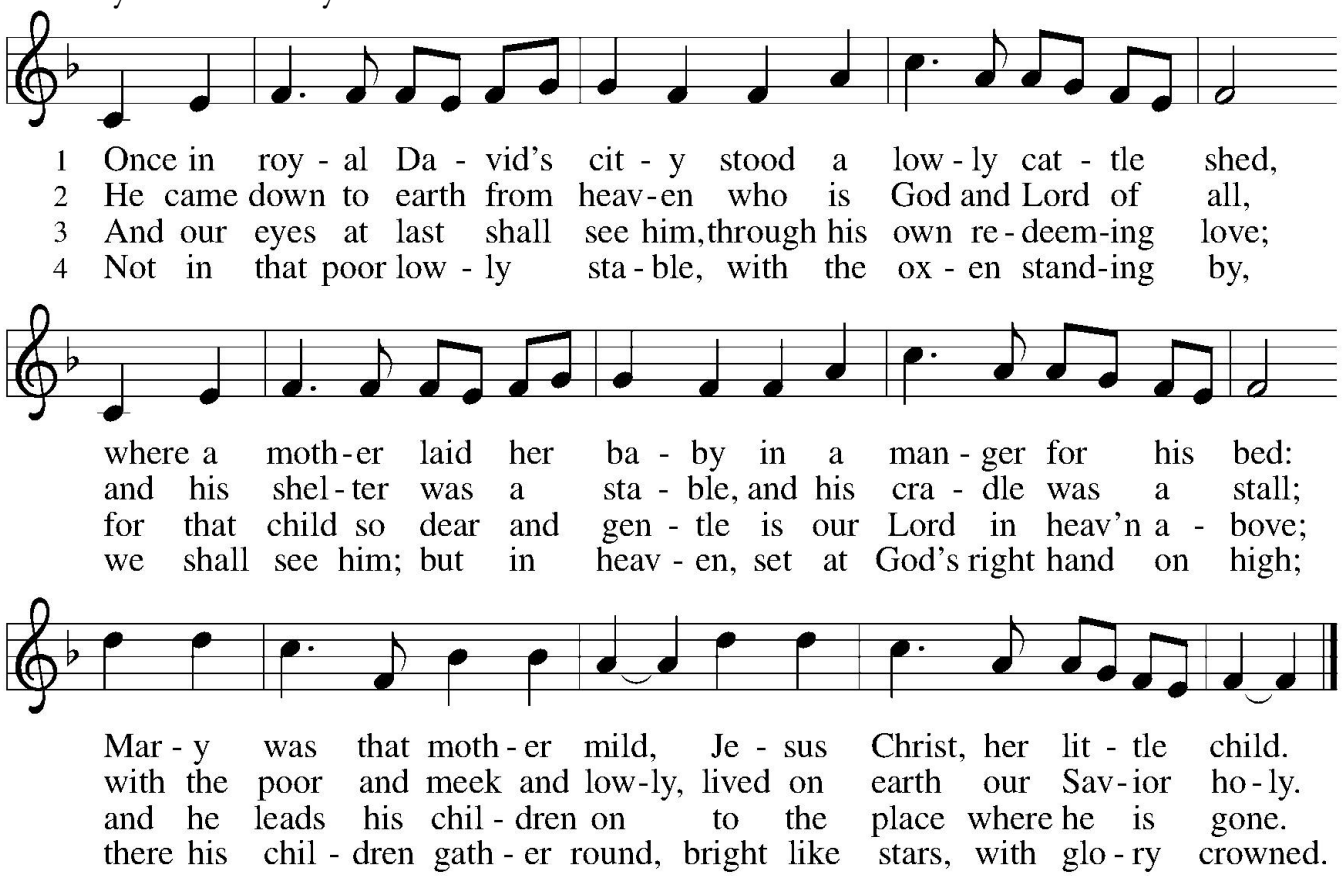
"Angels We Have Heard on High"



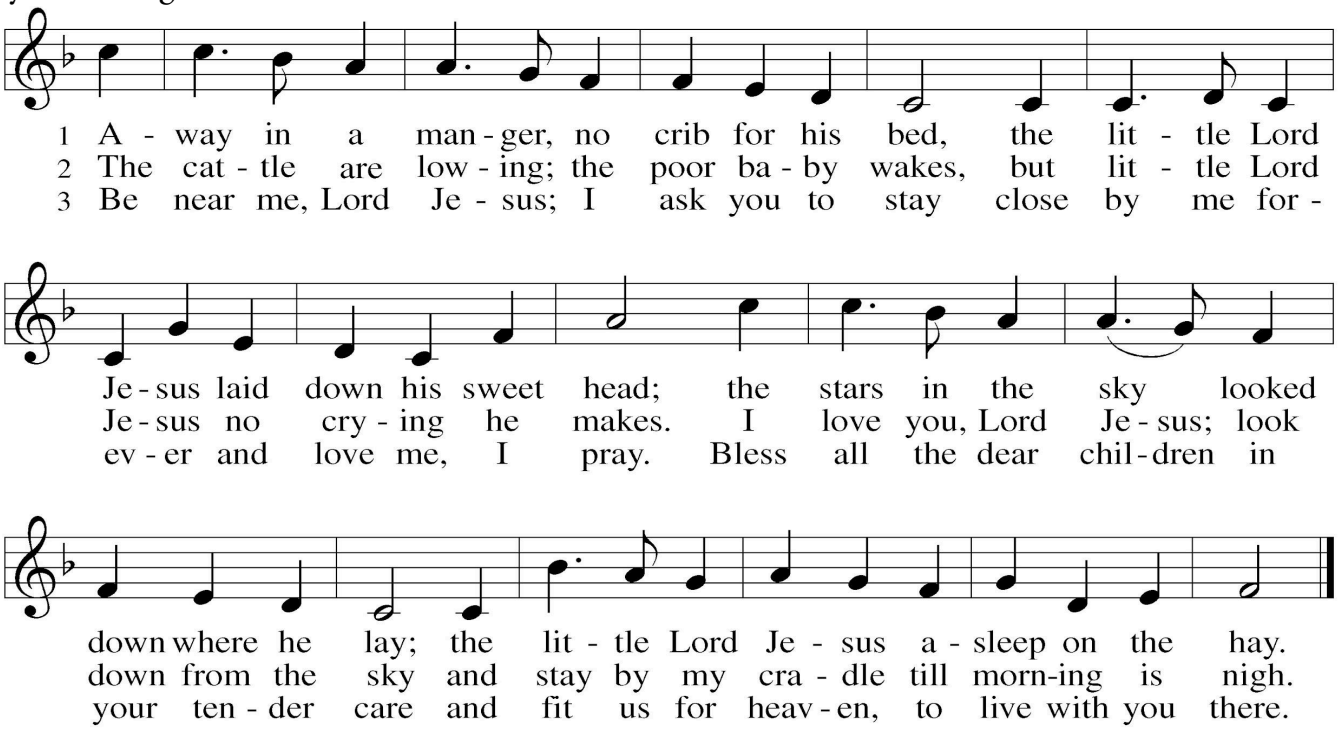


(*) Please stand if you are able

"Once in Royal David's City"



"Away in a Manger"
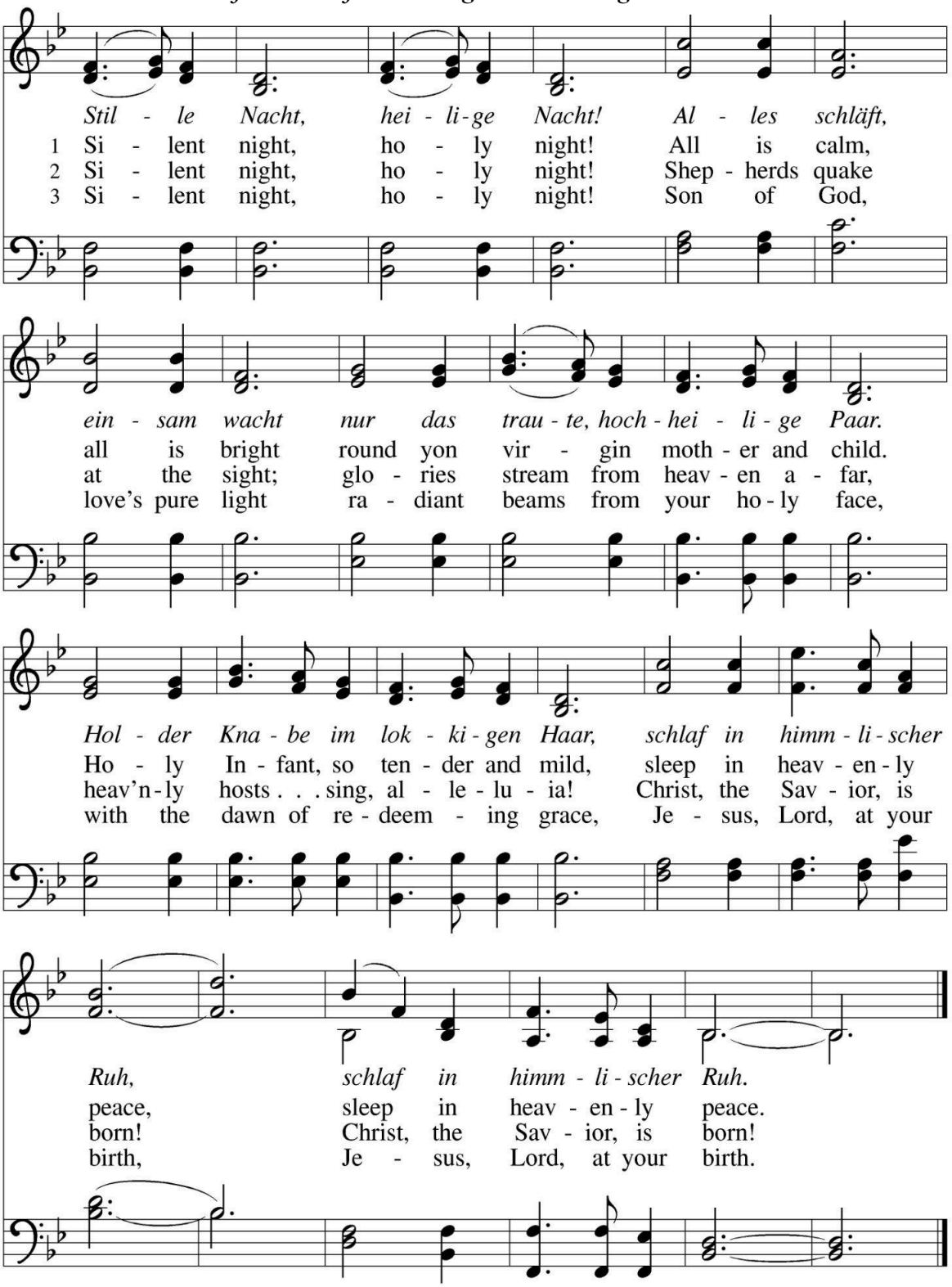


(*) Please stand if you are able

THE SENDING

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Following the prayer, the congregation will join in singing "Silent Night" as the candles are lit. The light from the Christ candle is shared with the entire congregation to signify the light Christ brings into all our lives. At the end of the hymn, please extinguish your candle.

The first verse of "Silent Night" will be sung in German.



(*) Please stand if you are able
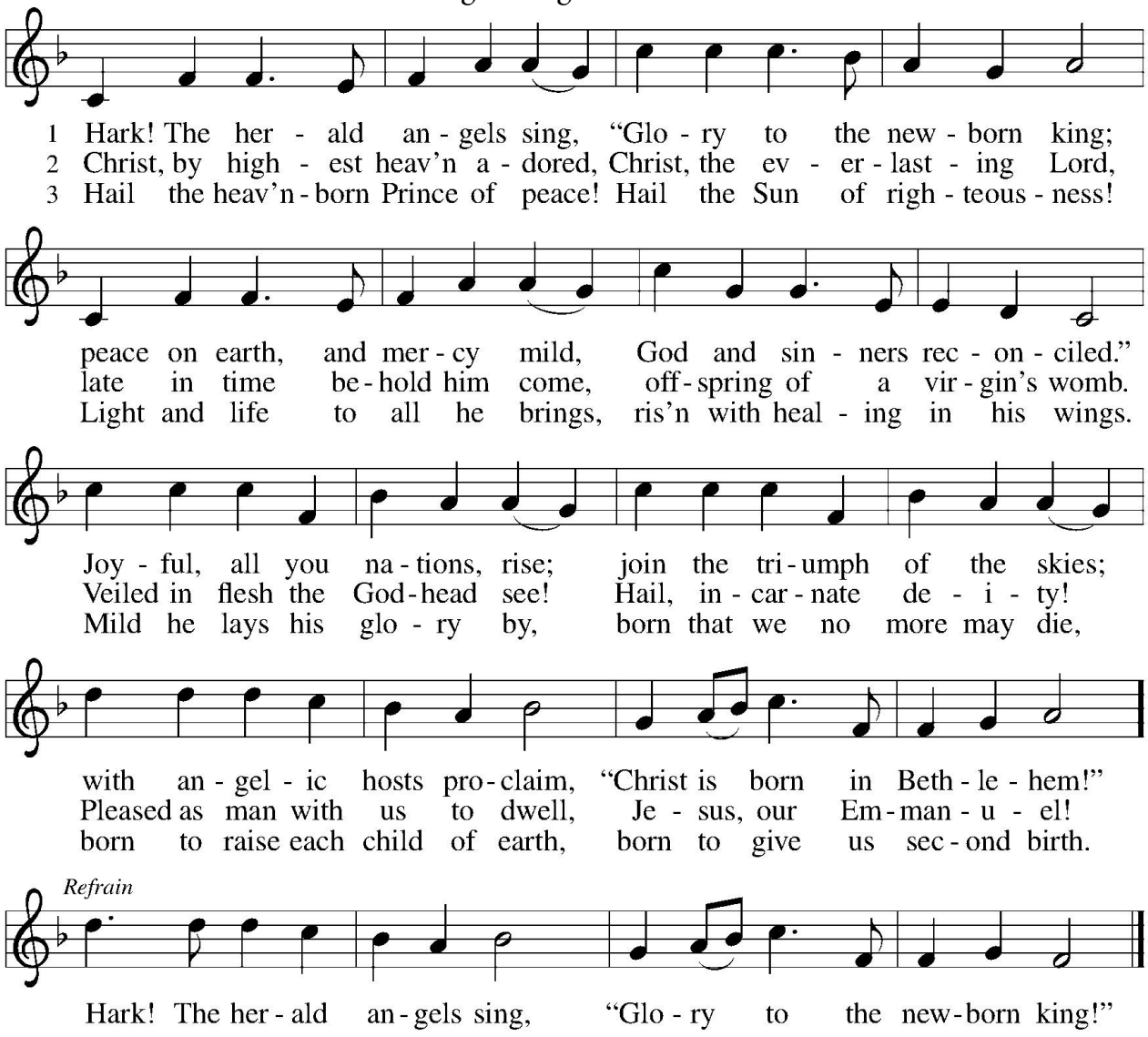
*PRAYER

P. Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. ***C.* Amen.**

*BLESSING

P. May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ☩ the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. ***C.* Amen**

*SENDING HYMN "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"



DISMISSAL

P. Glory to God in the highest!

***C.* And peace to God's people on earth!**

P. Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

***C.* Thanks be to God.**

(*) Please stand if you are able

POSTLUDE
"Flourish on Joy to the World" Robert Hobby

Need to Step out of Worship?
Our worship service is streaming live in Fellowship Hall.



Christmas offering envelopes are included in your bulletin this evening. They may be placed in the offering baskets located at the entrances to our Sanctuary. Online giving is also available at saklc.com/give, or by using the QR code below to make a contribution. The ministries and programs of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church are funded by the offerings of our members and friends. We sincerely thank you for your generosity.



SAKLC would like to express our deep appreciation to Home Depot for the donation of all our Christmas trees! Our sanctuary looks beautiful

(*) Please stand if you are able

Thank you for helping us beautify our sanctuary!

Don & Darla Anthony- In Memory of Duane & Ruth Donovan and Donald W. and Marjorie Anthony

Charles Armbrecht- In Memory of Carol Wunder

Helen Beljean- In Honor of Pastor Ken & Amy Blyth and Michael Bodnyk

Laura Berger- In Memory of Frances Berger, Ronald Burke, Cathleen O'Connell & Harris Berger

Michael Bodnyk- In Honor of All the Musicians of SAKLC

Michael Bodnyk- In Honor of Sandra Bodnyk; In Memory of My Dad, Rev. Michael J. Bodnyk Sr. and My Grandparents, Dolores & Harvey Smith and Dorothy & Metro Bodnyk

Sandy Bodnyk- In Honor of Michael Bodnyk; In Memory of Rev. Michael J Bodnyk Sr.; In Memory of Harvey & Dolores Smith and Metro & Dorothy Bodnyk

Art Borman- In Honor of Art Borman Jr. and Sharon Cote; In Memory of Jean Borman, Art Borman Sr. & Betty Borman

Pastor Ken & Amy Blyth- In Honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ

David, Nancy & Matt Cooperrider- In Honor of Fran Cooperrider

Judy & Bill Cox- In Memory of Rosemary Bond

Alexandra DiNicola- In Memory of Rev. Elwood & Elisabeth H. Culp, Alfred DiNicola Sr., Anna DiNicola and my loved ones that have passed on

Marcia Eckardt- In Memory of Doris Van Kurin

Donald & Susan Farrell- In Honor of Our Family

John & Janet Forstrom- In Memory of Paul & Lauren Forstrom, Kelly & Norma Forstrom, and Roger Tipka

Gayle Galloway- In Memory of Mabel Hor

Audrey Ganzel- In Memory of Roy E. Ganzel

Ann & Larry Garberding

Rod & Connie Graber- In Memory of Pamela Dawn

The Gregalots

Steve Gunderson & Ethan Ngo- In Memory of Steve's Parents and Ethan's Brother

Joyce & Jeff Hart

The Hilt Family- In Memory of Bob & Jane Huff

Marge Jeffers- In Memory of Tom Jeffers, Thomas E. & Marian Jeffers, Mel & Eldine Willie, Tom Willie, and Tom Svoboda

Diane Jensen- In Memory of Inez, William & Bill Getzelmann and Aage Jensen

Karl & JoAnne Kaminski- In Honor of all our children and grandchildren; In Memory of Our Parents

Kathy Kussy- In Memory of Lewis, Dorothy & Alan Wood

Lisa Macciocchi- In Honor of Carol Hoeft; In Memory of Roger Hoeft

Vince Macciocchi- In Memory of Arlene Macciocchi

Jan & Lynda Menuez- In Honor of all our granddaughters and great grandchildren; In Memory of Kyle Menuez and Sharon Menuez Cape

James & Anita Oberwetter- In Memory of Our Parents: Albert & Hilda Oberwetter and Ernest & Lena Dennison

Jeff & Linda Olesen- In Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren; In Memory of our Parents

Susan & Tom Pluss- In Memory of Georgia Strickland and Beverly & Neal Sinclair

Paz Family- In Memory of Luis Rodrigues & Mercedes Rivera

Kay Peterson & Mark Strollo- In Memory of Michael & Edna Strollo, David Gill & David Peterson

Larry & Patty Poole- In Honor of our Family

Cynthia Postma- In Memory of Norm Postma

Doug & Brenda Saunders- In Honor of Our 5 Grandsons; In Memory of Our Parents & Brothers

Eleanor & Robert Schaefer- In Memory of Scott Schaefer

(*) Please stand if you are able

Helga & Reinhard Schwartz- In Honor of our children and grandchildren; In Memory of our parents and my sister, Waltraud

Mary Siegfried-Borman- In Honor of Irene & Irwin Brucker; In Memory of Walter Siegfried

Cheryl & Ladd Skelly- In Memory of Ardis & David Skelly and Clyde Batzer

Ernie & Karyn Smith- In Honor of Miles & Molly Smith, our grandchildren

Mary Lynne Smith- In Honor of Our Six Great Grandchildren; In Memory of Dr. Raymond Smith

David & Rebecca Taylor- In Honor of our family; In Memory of Philip Gatlin Taylor

Barbara Teller- In Memory of My Loving Parents, Joan & Lyle Sledge

John & Barbara Teller- In Memory of Our Grandparents

Ashley & Jim Templeton- In Memory of June & Bob Brown and Marge & Elira Templteton

Larry Sohn & Karen Timmerman- In Honor of Our Families

Paul Thurner- In Memory of Charles & Lennita Thurner

Ann Walborn- In Memory of Ray Walborn and Haven & Elisabeth Witmer

Michelle Walborn Jones & Andrea Walborn Haynie- In Honor of our mother, Ann Walborn; In Memory of our father and grandparents

Joe & Jackie Whalen- In Honor of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Kurt & Marlene Wilkening- In Honor of the Wilkening Family in the Glory of God

Fred & Jane Wittlinger- In Honor of our Grandchildren; In Memory of Kimberly Wittlinger

Bebe & Bert Wood- In Memory of Our Parents

Jura C. Zibas- In Memory of Horace R. Zibas

Rachelle Zimmerman- In Honor of Rachel Zimmerman; In Memory of Edward Zimmerman and Leopold & Hulda Stebner

The new Moravian Star at the back of our Sanctuary was lovingly given to SAKLC by **Chris Sturm**.



A Moravian Star (Herrnhuter Stern) is a distinct, illuminated, multi-pointed star decoration, originating from 19th-century German Moravian boarding schools as a geometry lesson, now a beloved symbol for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, representing Jesus as the "bright Morning Star" and the star guiding the Magi. These stars feature intricate geometric designs, often with 26 points, made from paper or plastic, and are hung to symbolize hope, light, and faith.

(*) Please stand if you are able

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, *Pastor*
Michael J. Bodnyk, *Minister of Music*
Kris Soderman, *Assistant Musician*
SAKLC Singers & Choral Scholars
SAKLC Bell Ringers
Bengt Lindblad, *Guitar* & **Kevin Randolph,** *Bass*
Jane Hoffman, *Flute*
Victor Mongillo, Alyson Rozier, Dan Burdick, Robert Moore & Jeff Lego, *Brass Quintet*
Andrea Tafelski, *Timpani & Percussion*

Sincere gratitude to all our volunteers who have given their time to assist us with worship this evening.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth, Pastor	pastor@saklc.com
Michael J. Bodnyk, Minister of Music & Director of Operations	michael@saklc.com
Steve Gunderson, Congregation President	steve@saklc.com
Maggie Dougherty, Office Administrator	maggie@saklc.com
Michelle Jones, Growth & Engagement	michelle@saklc.com
Barbara Hilt, Bookkeeper	barbara@saklc.com
Dave Drechsler, Maintenance Technician	dave@saklc.com

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Doug Engebretson, Steve Gunderson (president), Judy Matthies, Lynda Menuez, Lois Robinson, Tom Siegfried, Ernie Smith, Ryan Smith (secretary), Ann Walborn (vice president) Chris Williams, Michael Bodnyk, & Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth

PASTORS EMERITI

Rev. Robert J. L. Zimmer & Rev. Eric Wogen

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