

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Sunday, December 24, 2023 10:00 a.m.



Icon 1, Advent 4B, Sundays and Seasons

**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor  
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

*Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.*

## ✦ GATHERING ✦

### Prelude

Denni Arrup

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.*

**C** **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

**P** *Everlasting God,*

**C** **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

**P** *Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.*

**C** **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

## *Hark, The Glad Sound!*

No. 239



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



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

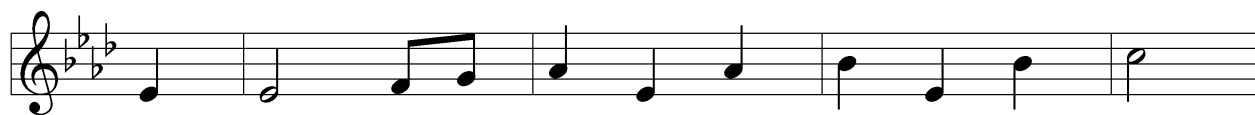


pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

**P** *The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**C** **And also with you.**

# To God Be the Glory



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done;  
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,  
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
 to ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;  
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
 the vil - est of - fend - er by grace may be - lieve,  
 but pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
 that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceive.  
 our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

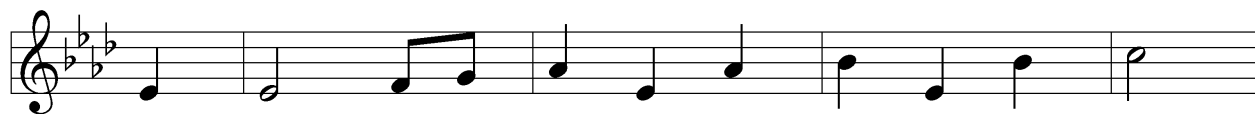
## *Refrain*



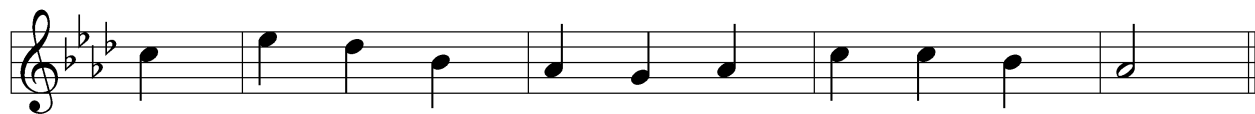
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice!



Oh, come to the Fa - ther, through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done.

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.*

**C** **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ✦ THE WORD ✦

### Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

Read responsively.

**A** <sup>46b</sup>*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,*

<sup>47</sup>*my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

**C** <sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

**A** <sup>49</sup>*you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.*

**C** <sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

**A** <sup>51</sup>*You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

**C** <sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

**A** <sup>53</sup>*You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.*

**C** <sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

**A** <sup>55</sup>*the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.*

**Scripture Reading**

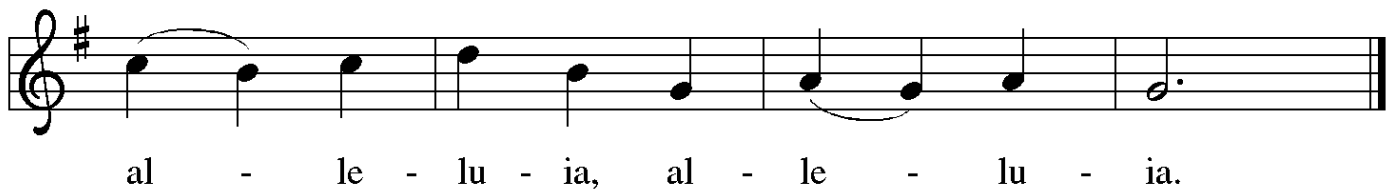
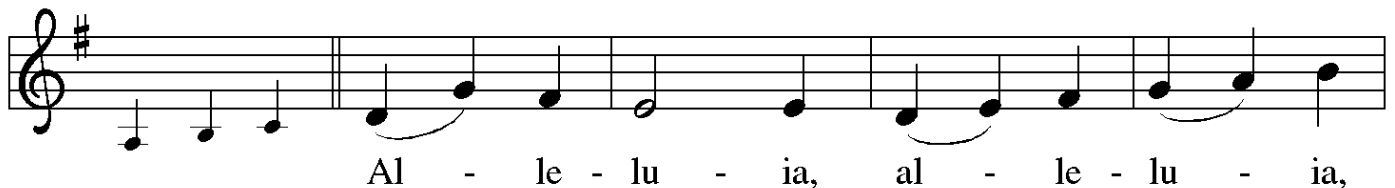
Romans 16:25-27

**L** *A reading from Romans. <sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.*

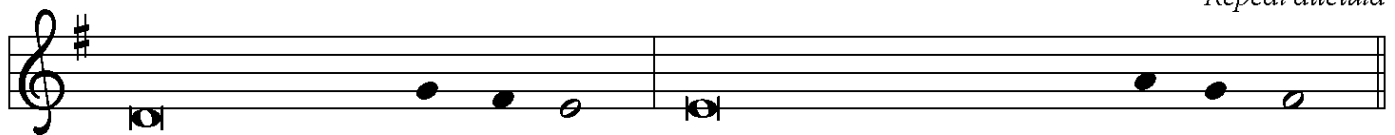
**L** *The word of the Lord.*

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

*Please stand, as you are able.*



*Repeat alleluia*



**P** *The Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.*

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

<sup>26</sup>*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.*

**P** *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

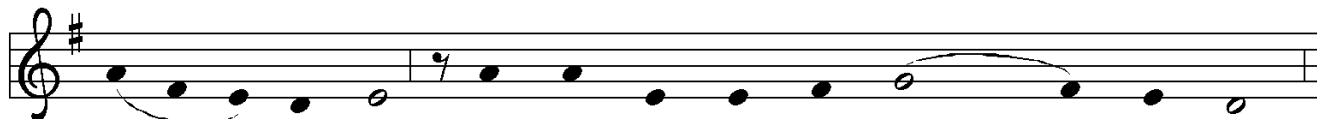
*Please be seated.*

## Advent Wreath Lighting

*Four candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as stanza 4 of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is sung.*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
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  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

## Sermon

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía

*Please stand as you are able.*





1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,  
 who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
 the dawn-ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,  
 The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;  
 God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
 oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

- A** *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*  
**C** **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.**

**A** *With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.*

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *Merciful God,*  
**C** **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** *Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.*  
**C** **Amen.**

**P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*  
**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

## **Offering and Offertory**

*As the gifts are presented, please stand as you are able.*



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv-ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



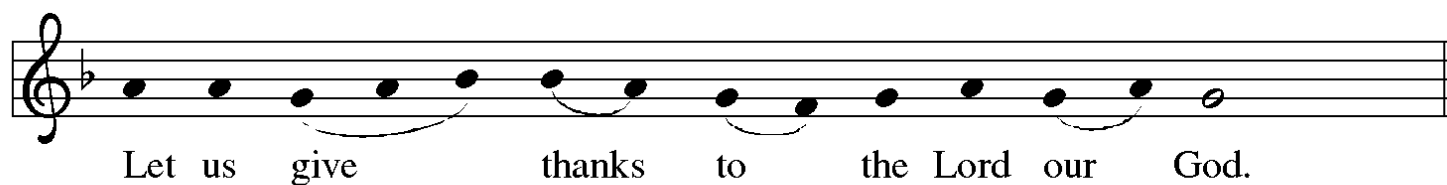
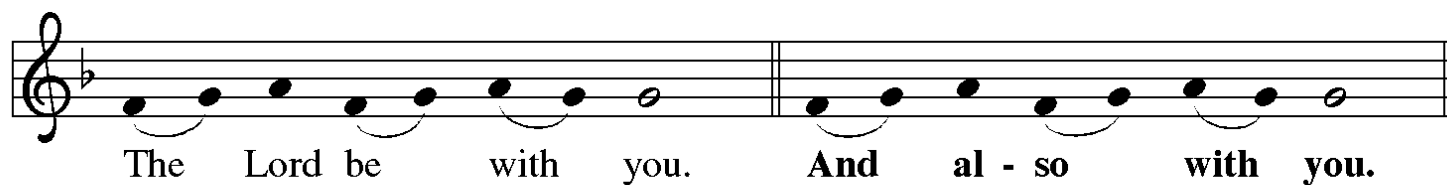
You are the Liv-ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

- A** *Let us pray. God our provider,*  
**C** **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a  
sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through  
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## ✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦



*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



<sup>2</sup>  
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

**P** *Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,  
granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of  
your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.  
Your mercy endures forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing  
them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a  
blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation  
and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures  
forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us  
into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-  
giving love.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed....*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,...*

**P** *With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** *Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.*

*With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior 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.**

**P** *In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.*

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

*Please be seated.*

*We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice. Just let the Pastor or Assistants know.)*

*If you require communion to be brought to you in the pew, please alert an usher.*

*During the distribution of communion, the following is sung:*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.



# Soli Deo Gloria

No. 878



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -  
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and  
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and  
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and  
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the  
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it  
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of  
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate  
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -  
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y  
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic  
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and  
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:  
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:  
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:  
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:  
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

*After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray. Generous God,*  
**C** **in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

**P** *The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.*  
**C** **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*All Earth is Hopeful*

No. 266



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra\_al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

**A** *Go in peace. Keep awake.*

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

## **Postlude**

*We welcome and thank Denni Arrup for leading our music during worship this morning!*

## **Prayers of Comfort**

*for the Messick families and Mary Dietz on the recent passing of Betty and Mary's niece, Lisa, and Brother-in-law, Bill. We pray the blessed hope of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ comforts the Messick and Dietz families.*

## **Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Ray, Darius, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty, Doris, Karen, Theresa, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Marge, Nicholas, Lois, Barbara & Bruce*

## **Announcements**

Christmas Eve Worship today at 4:00 (family service) and 7:30 pm (candlelight service). There is no worship services on Christmas Day or Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

December 31<sup>st</sup> worship at 10:00 a.m. with lessons and carols and a service of the word.

Pastors Aljandro Mejía and Bill Gohl along with the church staff wish you the Merriest of Christmases and Peace and Love in the New Year! The church office will be closed December 25 – January 2, 2024.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Alejandro Mejía, Interim Pastor	pr.mejia@lcgselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Sherman Canapp, OSSD, Deacon	canappsherman501@gmail.com	(M) 443-904-7013
Gina Miller, Office Manager	officemanager@lcgselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Dawn Love, Church Secretary	officesecretary@lcgselca.org	(O) 410-838-8081
Council President, Evelyn Spratt	council_president@lcgselca.org	(M) 410-869-2005
Treasurer, Linda Ruese	treasurer@lcgselca.org	
Communications/Web/E-News	communications@lcgselca.org	
Lois Dobart, Preschool Director	school@lcgselca.org	(O) 410-838-8457
Web address	www.lcgselca.org	
WiFi access	SSID: LCGS_Public	Passphrase: public@LCGS

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## SERVING TODAY

**10:00 a.m.**

Greeters

Gail Fricke

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Communion Assistants

Tina Zimmerman  
Tricia Horst

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Acolytes

Livestream

Shawn Nesaw