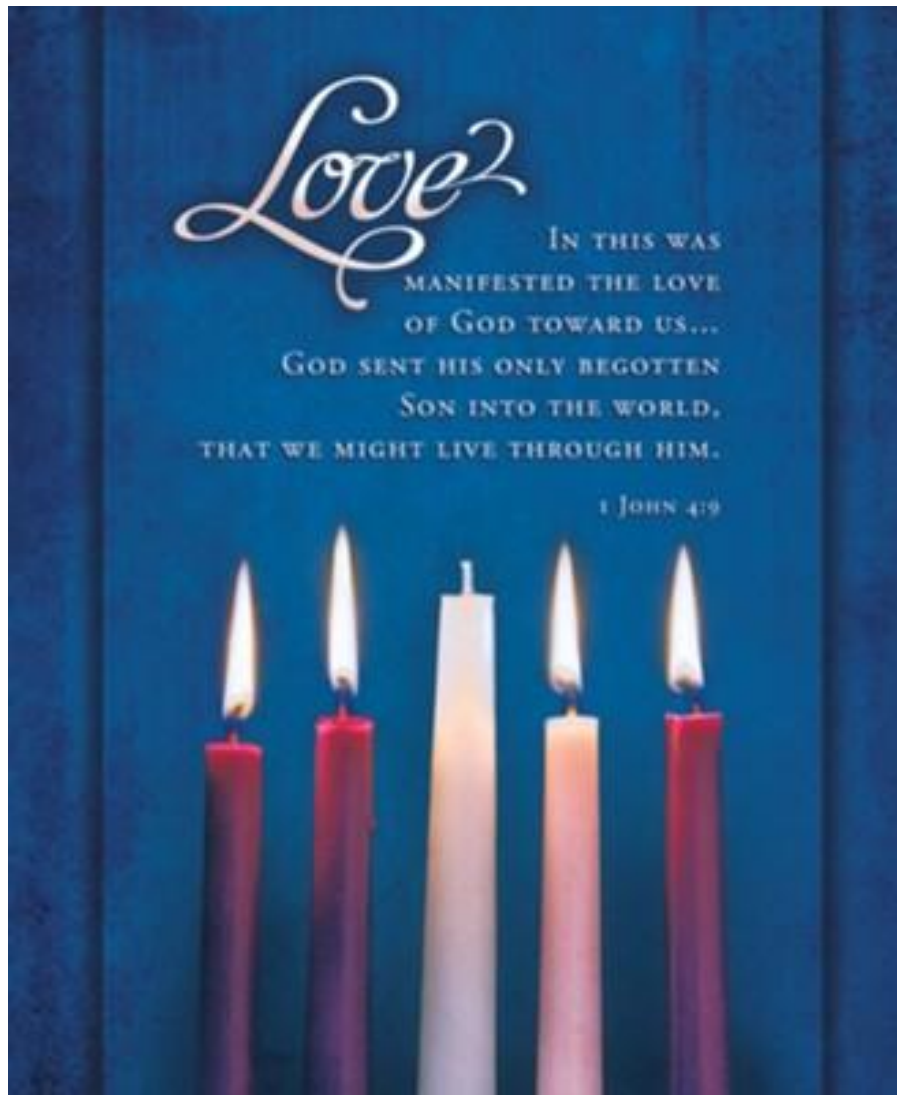


# Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



Sunday, December 21, 2025  
9 a.m. Service Bulletin  
Advent IV, Year A

## THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



**WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, and we seek to make your visit positive! Please scan the QR code to the left or sign the Pew Register located in the red notebook.

**WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS.** Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors. Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

**WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH** is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

**WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE**, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

### HOSPITALITY

**RESTROOMS** - Our Handicap Accessible Restroom is located just outside the door by the pulpit. We also have nearby restrooms downstairs.

**THE CHILD CARE ROOM IS OPEN!** - We have a room for parents that offers a private, quick, and convenient space for caring for children. The room is located just outside of the sanctuary through the door beside the pulpit.

### Order of Worship

*As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.*

#### ✙ THE PRELUDE

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

Wilber Held

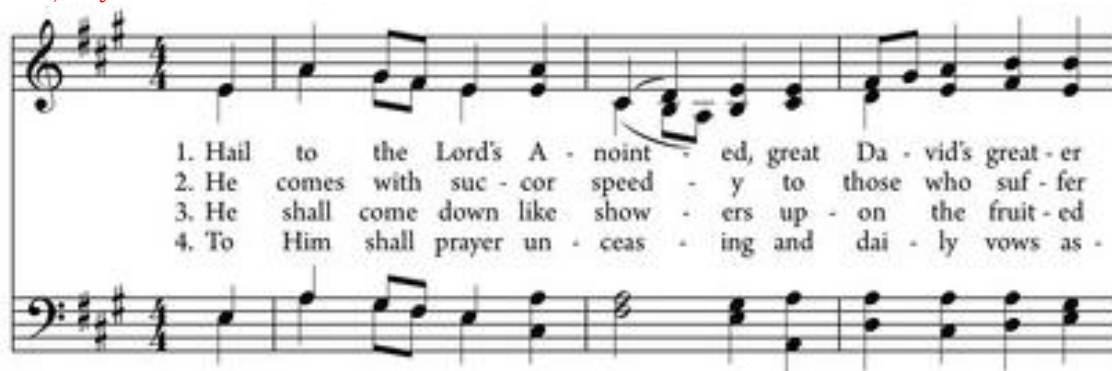
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

#### ✙ THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

# ✠ THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

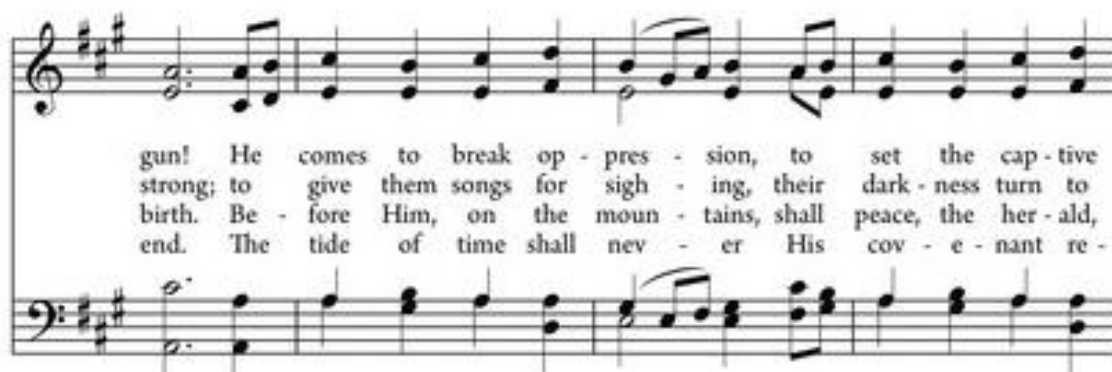
*Please stand, as you are able.*



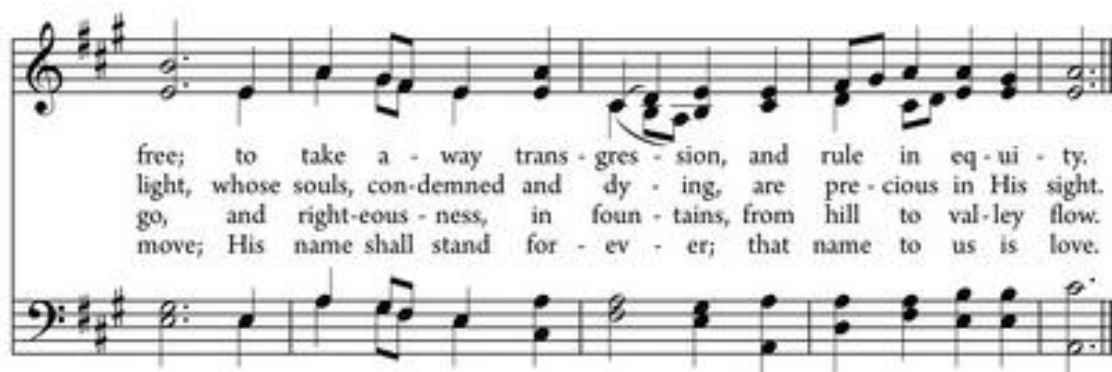
1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er  
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer  
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ed  
 4. To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



Son! Hail in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be -  
 wrong; to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be  
 earth; love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in His path to  
 cend; His king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out



gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 strong; to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 birth. Be - fore Him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald,  
 end. The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re -



free; to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in His sight.  
 go, and right - eous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.  
 move; His name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. W. H. Monk

ELLACOMBE

76.76 D

## ✝ THE WELCOME

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

## ✝ THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Hear the sound of the angels declaring, "Fear not, for behold, I bring good news of great joy that will be for ALL people!"

ALL **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!**

Pastor Hear the announcement of God's promise delivered: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

ALL **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!**

Pastor Hear the song of angels and ALL together praising God:

ALL **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!**

## ✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray: Heavenly God, tune our hearts and open our eyes to receive the message proclaimed by the children whom you sent to bring us the joyous message of Jesus' birth.

ALL **Provide us with a new insight into the Christmas story and inspire us to Worship with a sense of awe and joy. AMEN.**

## ✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES **HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE**

*Please be seated*

I've got the hope and faith in God, hope and faith in God, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the hope and faith in God, hope and faith in God, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

# ✚ THE PAGEANT

## Amazing Grace in a Manger

Presented by the Children / Youth and family members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Graham Bowen, Hendricks Bowen, Walter Bowen, Brent Delgado, Sophia Delgado, Taylor Delgado, Delaney Kinard, Finley Kinard, Hudson Kinard, John Kinard, Parker Kinard, Beckham Waters, and Bella Waters

### The Introduction

Reader 1



*mazing grace! How sweet the sound. We all know the hymn. It's been a favorite of Christians for a long time. You may be thinking, "That's nice, but what does this song have to do with Christmas?" The truth is, the birth of Jesus is God's amazing grace. Jesus is the embodiment of God's underserved love (that's what grace means), lying in a manger, sent to save a wretch like me, like you. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to open the eyes of the blind, whose vision of God is clouded by worldly ideals and ungodly ways because of sin.*

*He came to crush fear and restore our reverence and awe of almighty God. He came to protect us from the power of Satan who wants to pull us away from God's grace. He came to give hope to the hopeless with the promise of eternal life with him where there will be no more crying or pain. And he came to tune our hearts toward him and put a new song in our mouths—a song of praise to our God—a song that all who believe in him will sing around his throne in heaven for eternity. So, what does the hymn "Amazing Grace" have to do with Christmas? Everything! Now let's listen to this good news of Jesus' birth—God's amazing grace in a manger.*

### Verse 1 only



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## I. Amazing Grace that Opens Eyes

Reader 1 *Today is the day! The Savior God promised will soon be born. Bethlehem has waited a long time for this moment. God's prophet, Micah, told everyone that something big would happen here.*

Reader 2 *O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)*

Reader 1 *Something big is about to happen here. Or should I say, something small. And God has put everything in place for it to happen.*

Reader 2 *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, who was with child. (Luke 2:1-5)*

Reader 1 *While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)*

Carol

Once in Royal David's City

Verses 1 & 2 only



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



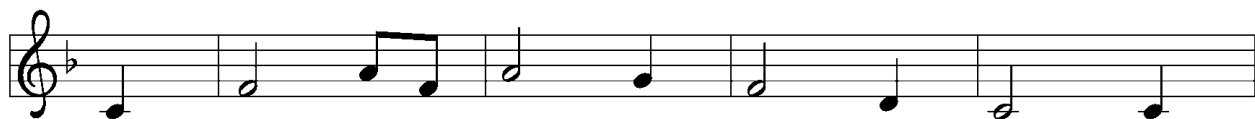
Reader 2    *Here he is. Baby Jesus, God's amazing grace in a manger. How sweet the sound of this baby's cry. His cry is a reminder that he will suffer the punishment for all people's sins in order to save them. People have wandered from God's ways. Because of their sin, they're lost and separated from God. They are blind to God's goodness and don't know how desperately they need him. But this child has come to open their eyes and lead people back to God's loving arms, where they will be safe forever. It's just like God's prophet Isaiah said.*

Reader 1    *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped ... and the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing. (Isaiah 35:5, 10a)*

Reader 2    *Amazing grace indeed! Here for ALL to see.*

## II.    Amazing Grace that Crushes Fears

Verse 2 only



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
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now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Reader 1 *In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*

Reader 2 *Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*

## Carol

### *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*



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



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

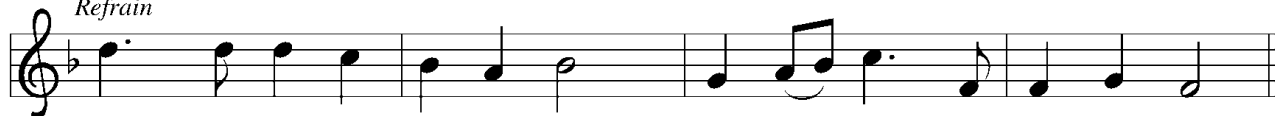


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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

#### *Refrain*



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

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



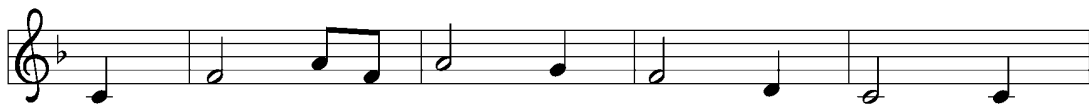
Reader 1 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (Luke 2:8-16)

Reader 2 The shepherds will get to see just how precious God's amazing grace is when they meet baby Jesus. Jesus is the one who has the power to crush everyone's fears. They will learn what it's like to live in awe of God's mighty power and unconditional love. Pretty soon, all of Bethlehem will hear the Good News.

Reader 1 When they saw Jesus, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. All who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told unto them. (Luke 2:17-20)

Reader 2 Now all of Bethlehem can celebrate. God's amazing grace through Jesus crushes fear!

### Verse 3 only



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

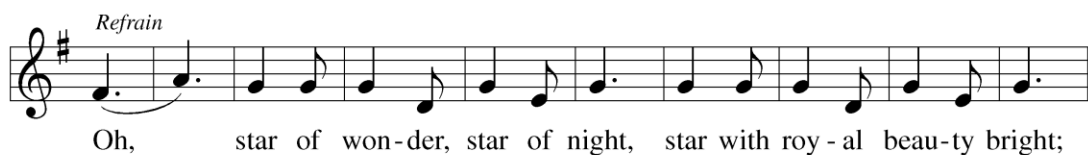
### III. Amazing Grace that Protects

Reader 2     *Look! It's God's special star that he sent to lead other people to Jesus.*

Reader 1     *Behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*  
*(Matthew 2:1-2)*

Carol

*We Three Kings    Verses 1 and 5 only*



Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.  
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

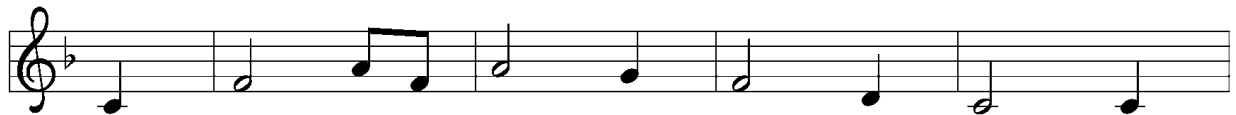
Reader 2    *God wants everyone to know Jesus as their Savior. What amazing grace! But, like that star, Jesus is God's Light that has come to protect people from Satan's power and to lead them safely to live in God's grace. It's like the prophet Isaiah said.*

Reader 1    *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the Earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1-2)*

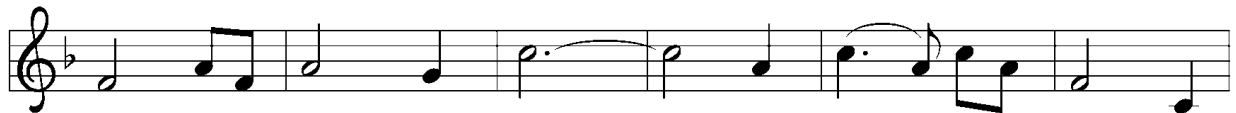
Reader 2    *The wise men have made it safely to Jesus. Jesus is God's amazing grace that protects. ALL people can safely come to him. Jesus overcame the dangers, toils and snares of this world so that even in times of trouble, those who trust in Jesus can sing his praise.*

#### IV. Amazing Grace that Secures Hope

Verse 4 only



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
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 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Reader 1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1; 14)*

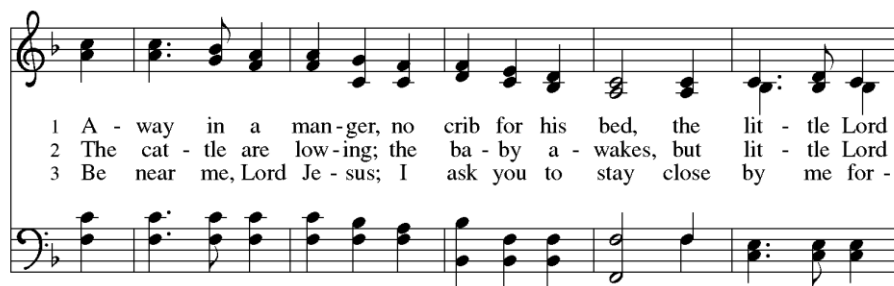
Reader 2 *The amazing birth of Jesus took place in a stable with smelly animals. Jesus will give up so much for us. Even his own life to save people from the sin and eternal death Jesus' sacrifice secures a real hope for God's people! He freed them from sin so they can enjoy his goodness in this life, and forever.*

Reader 1 *From his fullness we have ALL received grace upon grace. (John 1:16)*

Reader 2 *God's amazing grace in this manger is exactly what he promised. How wonderful it is for ALL those who put their hope in Jesus.*

## Carol

### Away in a Manger



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



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



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

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
 Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Reader 1     *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. (Isaiah 9:6-7)*

Reader 2     *Jesus promises eternal life for ALL who believe in him. Even though their earthly bodies will die, he will raise them to life, where they will live in peace with God forever and ever. Now that really is amazing grace!*

## V.     Amazing Grace that Tunes Our Voices

Verse 5 only



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
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now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
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 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Reader 2     *People from every nation will join us around Jesus' throne in heaven, singing praises to him forever! God's amazing grace in a manger. That's Jesus. Let heaven and nature sing!*

## The Closing Pageant Prayer

Reader 1 On that first Christmas, Jesus ushered in the light of hope for this world.  
ALL The light from that first Christmas day has never and will never dim.  
Thank you for sending these children to deliver your message to us  
today. AMEN.

## ✝ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

*Love Has Come*

*Please stand, as you are able.*



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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# ✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION    AM = Assisting Minister

*Please be seated or kneel.*

AM            In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*Silence for preparation*

AM            In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

ALL           **hear our prayer.**

AM            The Earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

ALL           **hear our prayer.**

AM            You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

ALL           **hear our prayer.**

AM            When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill. God of grace,

ALL           **hear our prayer.**

AM            Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

ALL           **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*



AM We give thanks for ALL who have treasured the Gospel and lived in faithful service.  
Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at last, your face shines upon us and we are  
held in your love. God of grace,  
ALL **hear our prayer.**

AM Draw near to us, O God, as we commend ALL for whom we pray, trusting in your  
mercy through Jesus Christ, Immanuel.  
ALL **AMEN.**

## ✝ THE CONFESSION

Pastor Let us pray: Long-expected God,  
ALL **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can  
provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways  
of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

## ✝ THE ABSOLUTION (Declaration of Forgiveness)

Pastor God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝ You  
are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.  
ALL **AMEN.**

## ✝ THE PEACE

*Please stand, as you are able.*

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
ALL **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshiping with us on-line and on the radio  
and say together,  
ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

*Please be seated.*



\*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website [www.ilcgreenwood.com](http://www.ilcgreenwood.com) and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

## ✠ THE OFFERTORY

*Light the Light, the Fire of Life* David. W. Music

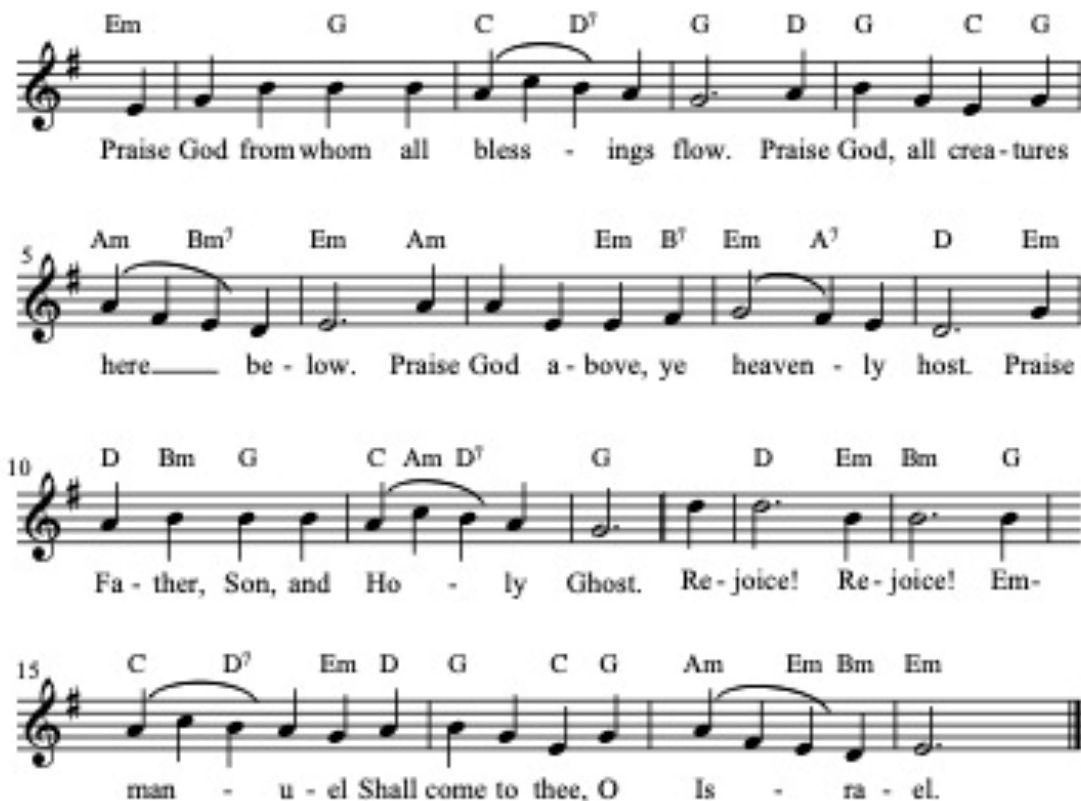
The Chancel and Hand Chime Choirs / Dr. Keith Jameson, Guest Director

## ✠ THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

VENI EMMANUEL



Em G C D<sup>7</sup> G D G C G  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm<sup>7</sup> Em Am Em B<sup>7</sup> Em A<sup>7</sup> D Em  
here — be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D<sup>7</sup> G D Em Bm G  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D<sup>7</sup> Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: 15th Century French

VENI EMMANUEL  
LM with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## ✝ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor      Let us pray: Nourishing God,  
ALL          you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal,  
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your  
kingdom come. AMEN.

## ✝ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor      The Lord be with you.  
ALL          And also with you.  
Pastor      Lift up your hearts.  
ALL          We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
ALL          It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.*

## ✝ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor      Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
ALL          Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy  
will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us  
not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

## ✝ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

*ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.*

## ✝ THE COMMUNION MUSIC

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*     Robert MacGimsey  
Stacy Robinson, Guest Soloist

## ✝ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand, as you are able.*

Pastor     The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in  
              God's Grace!

ALL        AMEN!

## ✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor     God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager  
              to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

ALL        AMEN.

## ✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see page 23.*

## ✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor     May God who comes among us, Creator, ✝ Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, grant you  
              patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and Good News to share today and  
              always.

ALL        AMEN.

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## ✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

*Lift up Your Heads*

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 \*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner  
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

## ✝ THE PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION AND DISMISSAL

AM We proclaim together:  
 ALL By the grace of God, we are disciples growing in faith, serving our communities,  
 and connecting others to Christ.  
 AM Go in hope, peace, joy, and love.  
 ALL We will. Thanks be to God.

## ✝ THE POSTLUDE

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed!*

J.Wayne Kerr

\*After Worship, please join us downstairs in the Old Fellowship Hall for refreshments and Adult Christian Education.

## ✝ THE PRAYER LIST

\*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names.

If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

**Those in need of healing:** Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Nancy Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Michael Gagné, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Judith Mutter, Chandler Patterson, Steve Presley, and Betty Weeks.

**Those with long term needs:** Gail Bouknight, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Brenda Donahue, Latrosha Fuller, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Rodine Russell, Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and Deanna Whitt.

**Those in the military:** Daniel Darling and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

**The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest:** Spencer Franks and Lorraine Moeller

**THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!**

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chris Christopher
Lector / Assisting Minister	Sue Frantz
Communion Assistants	Kat Finkbeiner, Irene Price, and Danny Kinard
Organist and Pianist	Dr. Will Cleveland
Sound and Video Technician(s)	Larry Hammond and George Beveridge
Ushers	David Rosenbaum and Elaine Rosenbaum
Altar Guild	Sue Frantz
Officer on Duty	Will Stroup

\*Altar flowers are given today by Leisa Hotchkiss. The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her grandmother, Dot Wise, as well as in honor of Immanuel's Handbell Choir and ALL musicians.



## ✝ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS (Week of 12/21/2025)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Worship Service** - TODAY at 4:30 p.m.
- **Festive Carols** - TODAY at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center.
- **Pickleball** - Monday, December 22, 6 p.m. ALL are invited. If interested, please contact Larry Hammond at (landkhamm@gmail.com) or just show up.
- **Chancel Choir Practice** - Monday, December 22, 4 p.m.
- **Church Office** - Closed 12/24/25-1/05/26
- **Christmas Eve Services** - Wednesday, December 24, 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.  
\*Music starts at 10:30 p.m. for the late service.
- **Quarter Devotionals** - now available in the Narthex.
- **Christmas Bags** - Christmas bags for the Homebound are in the Welcome Center. Please bring a card for our shut-in congregational members.
- **Offerings** - For tax purposes and closing out the end of year records, please have all offerings to the church by **noon on New Year's Eve, December 31.** As a reminder, we do have a locked mailbox for security. THANK YOU for your generosity!
- **Weekly Bible Study** - Beginning Tuesday, January 6, at 1 p.m. Pastor Chris and Daniel Kinard will be leading a Bible study. You may bring your own lunch. Please register in the Narthex or e-mail Pastor Chris.
- **ILC Mail Cubbie**- Cubbies are located on the right wall of the Welcome Center, as you enter from the parking lot. Cubbies are labeled somewhat alphabetically with names posted on the right side. There are two special group mailboxes: Homebound on the top right and Wesley Commons on the bottom right. These cubbies are intended to provide communication among active congregational members, especially for cards on special occasions, thinking of you, etc. If you have a question about cubbies, please contact Courtney Christensen at 704-277-8616. We welcome corrections on labels, missing names etc. Please be patient as we implement this new option for congregation communication. Please note that some family groups share a cubbie. Also, we have grouped our Homebound and Wesley Commons members to facilitate delivery.  
Homebound Members: Peggy Davis, Lois Kuntz, Sue Nickerson, Krumwiedes  
Wesley Commons Members: Ferqueron, Russell, Shealy, Huckaby, Zaenker, Bowman



Please make sure you are registered to receive Immanuel's electronic communications and weekly newsletter by scanning the QR code. **Announcements for the Sunday bulletin and the weekly newsletter are due to Dr. Will by Wednesday at 10 a.m.**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

501 East Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646  
864-223-0590, Church Web Site: [www.ilcgreenwood.com](http://www.ilcgreenwood.com)  
[office@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:office@ilcgreenwood.com)

**Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**\* Closed on Mondays**

**\*Closed 12/24/25-1/05/26**

## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor**  
[pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com)

**John Kinard, Congregation President**  
[jlkinard29@yahoo.com](mailto:jlkinard29@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music**  
[will@ilcgreenwood.com](mailto:will@ilcgreenwood.com)

**George Beveridge, Parish Sexton**  
[glblsb@outlook.com](mailto:glblsb@outlook.com)

**Trey Morris, Campus Ministry Coordinator**  
[treyorville@icloud.com](mailto:treyorville@icloud.com)

**Sammy Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians**

## SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

**The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA**  
**The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod**