ADVENT VESPERS

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

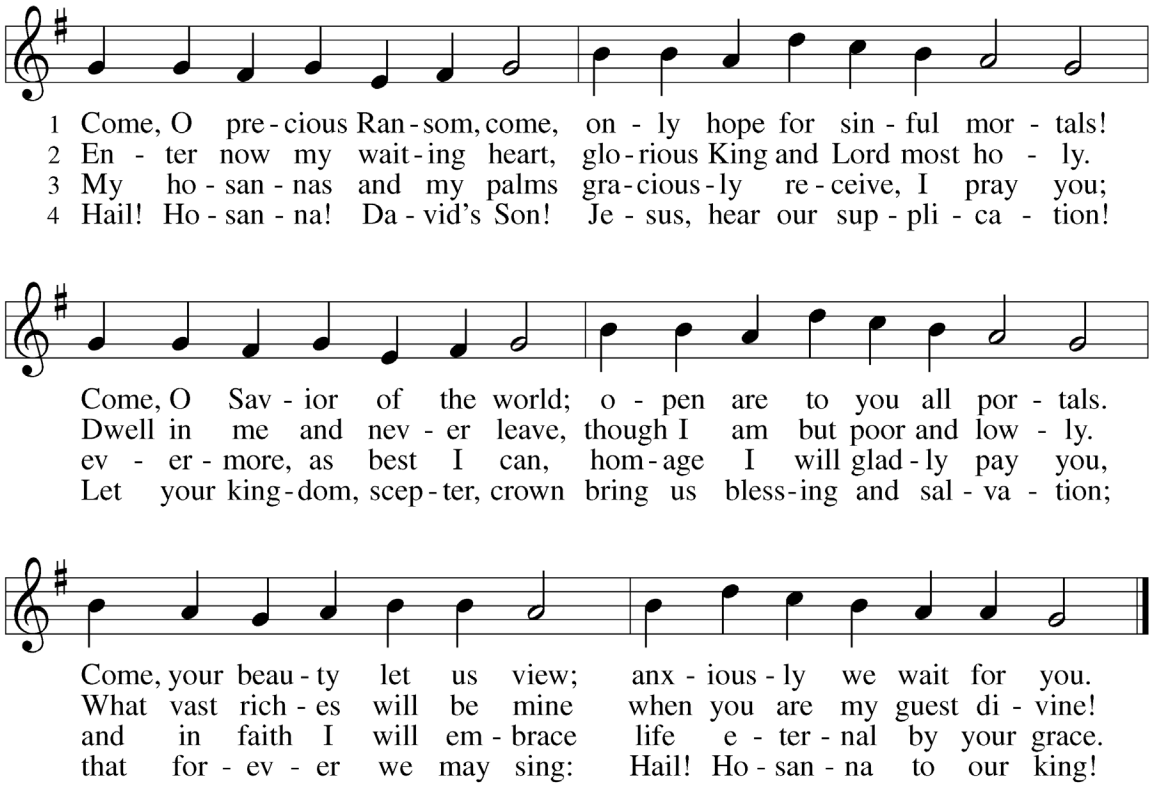
Lutheran Book of Worship

L - Leader **C** – Congregational Response ☩ - make the sign of the cross

Please be aware that worship is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our Facebook/YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. It is best to sit in the balcony or in the last four pews to not be seen on camera. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

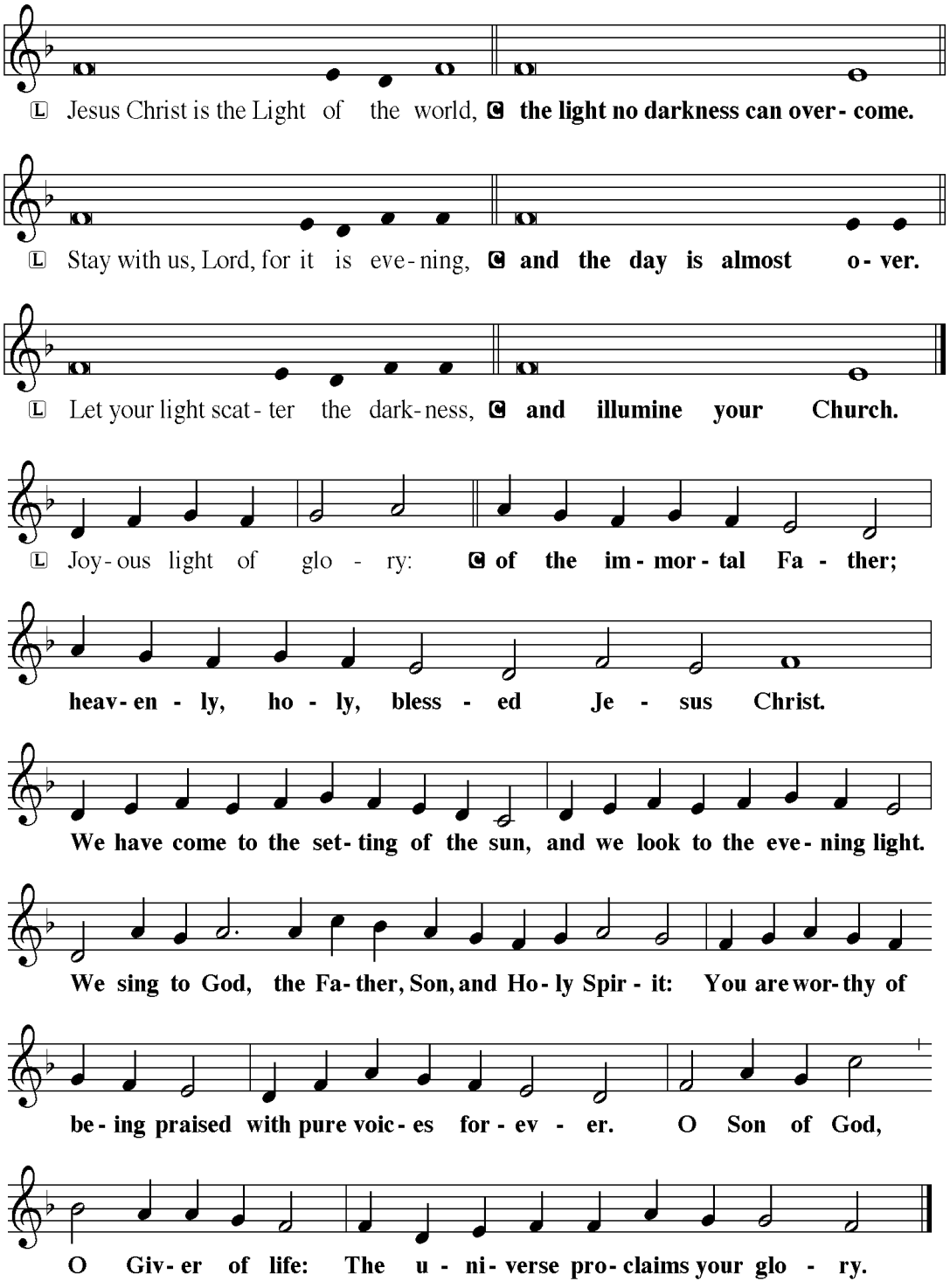
***GATHERING HYMN**

Come, O Precious Ransom

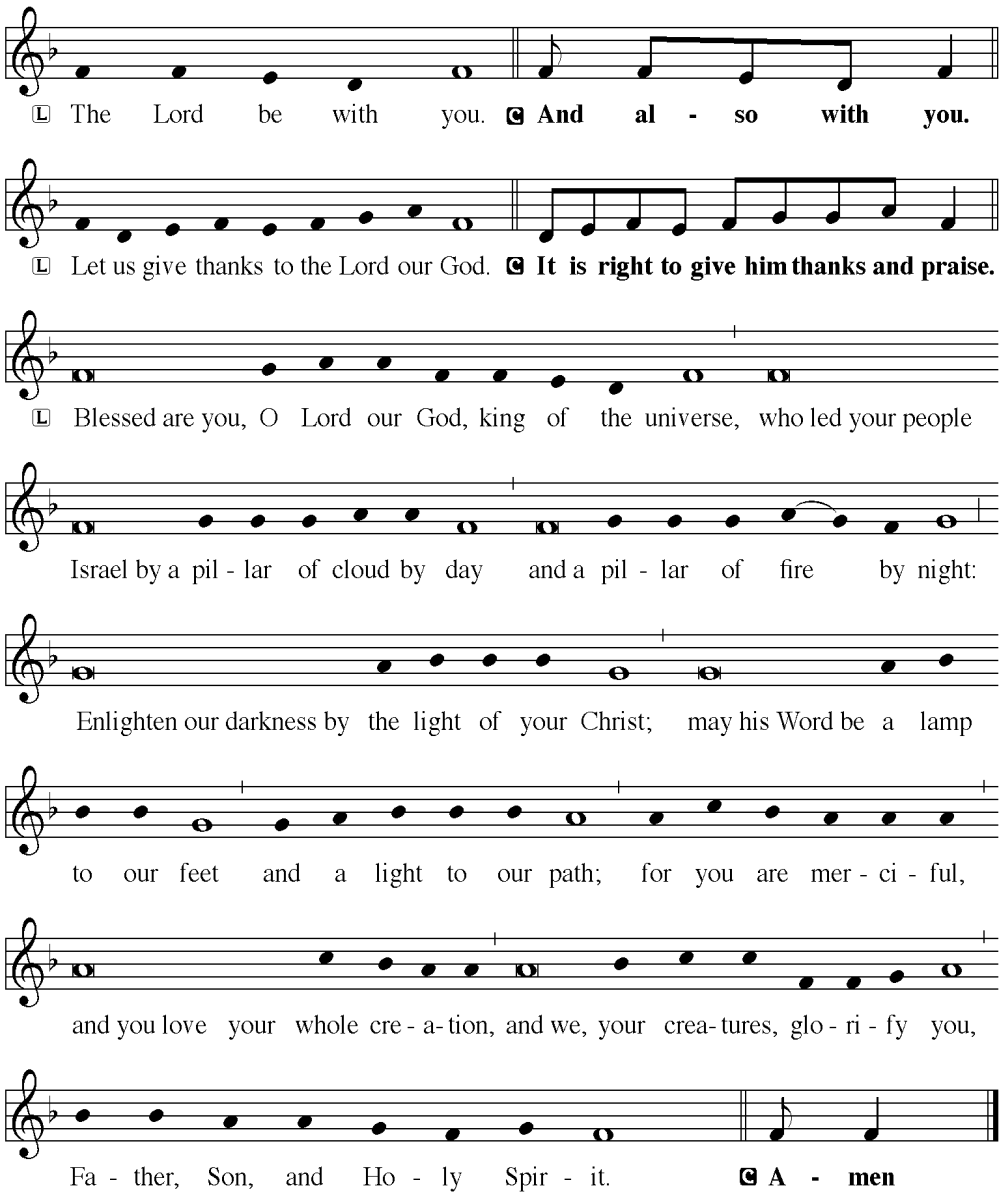


Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: MEINEM JESUM LASS ICH NICHT, *Neuverfertigtes Gesangbuch*, Darmstadt, 1699

***SERVICE OF LIGHT**



***PRAYER**



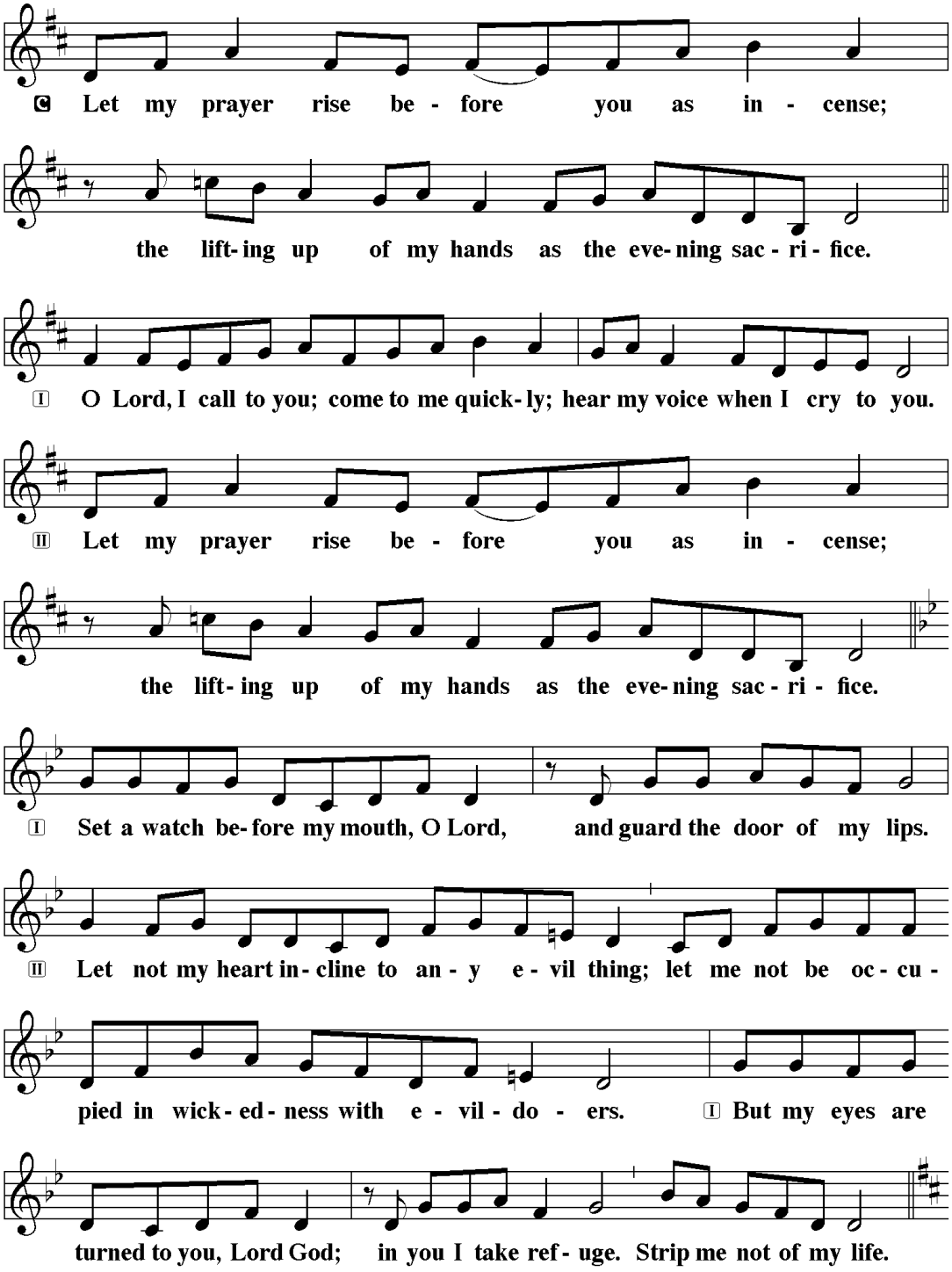
Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come,

C: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

EVENING PSALM



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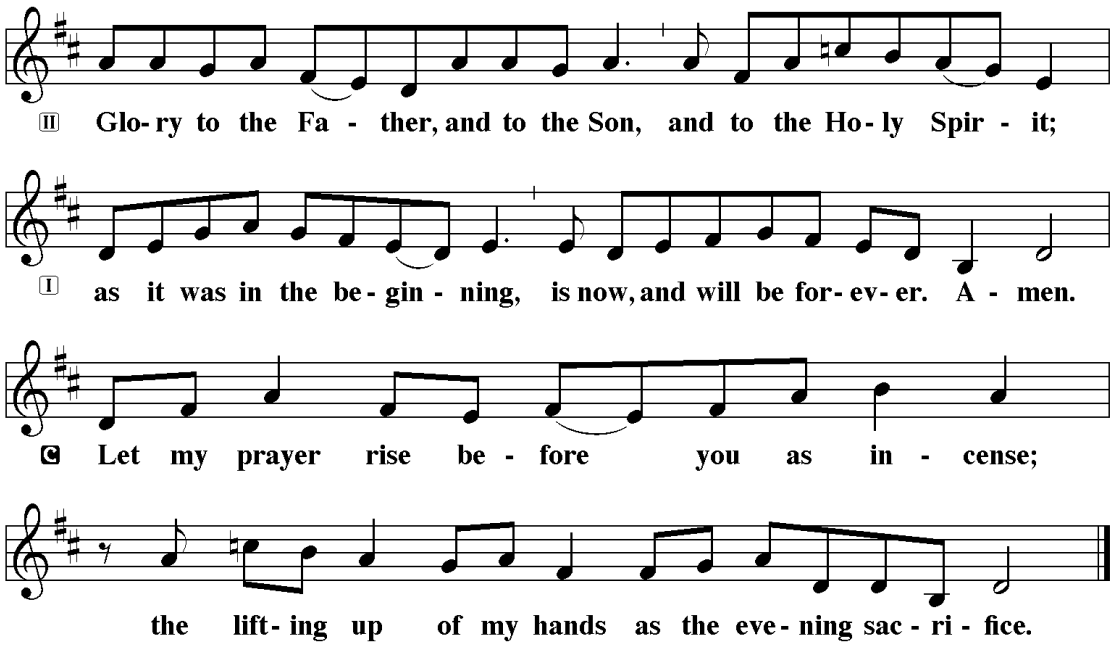


PSALM PRAYER

L: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.
C: Amen.

PSALM 23 *(sung responsively)*

The Lord | is my shepherd;*
I shall not | be in want.
He makes me lie down | in green pastures*
and leads me be- | side still waters.
He re- | vives my soul*
and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;*
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;*
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

PSALM PRAYER

L: Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Matthew 15:29-37

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the maimed, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

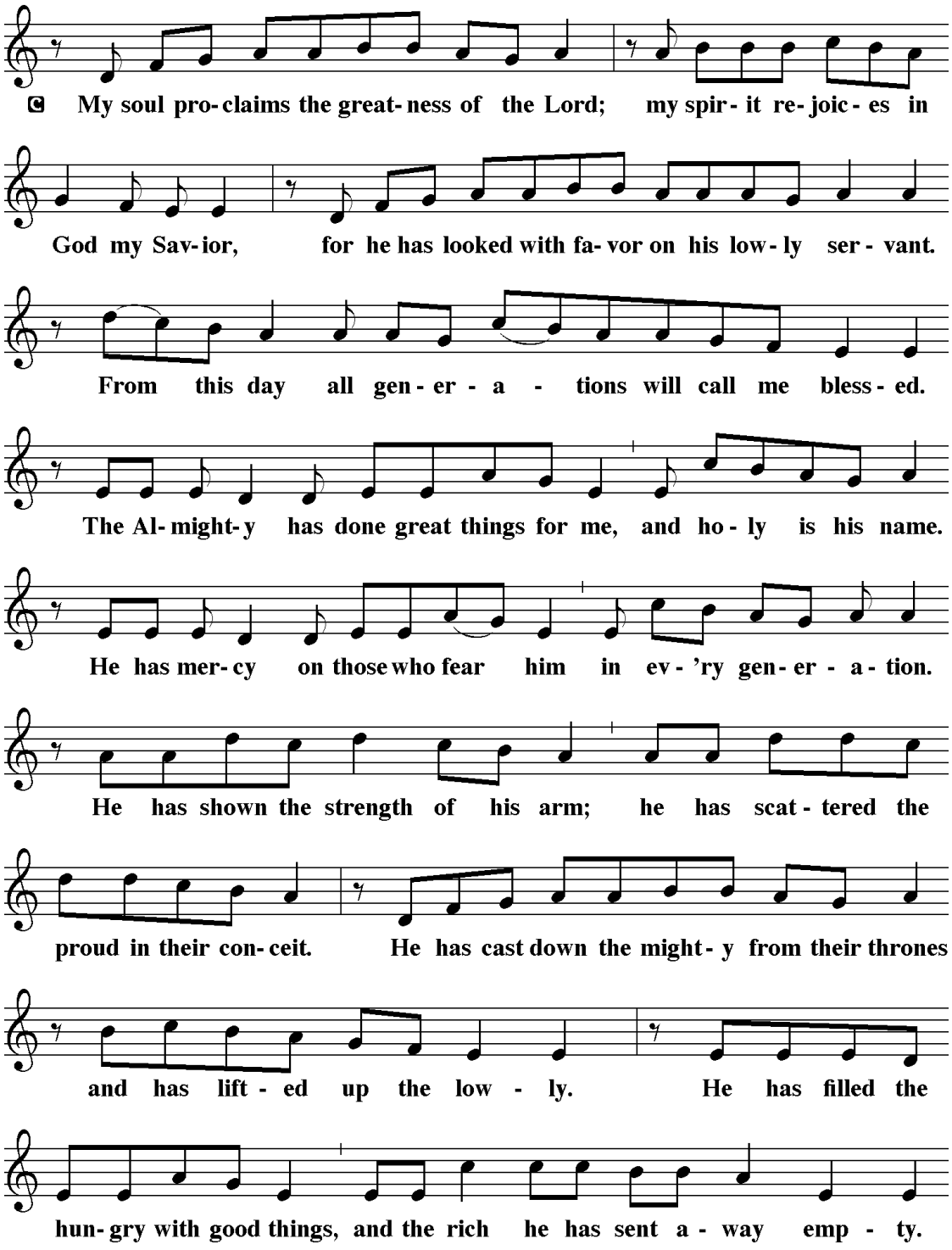
RESPONSE

L: In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

Please stand as you are able.

***GOSPEL CANTICLE**



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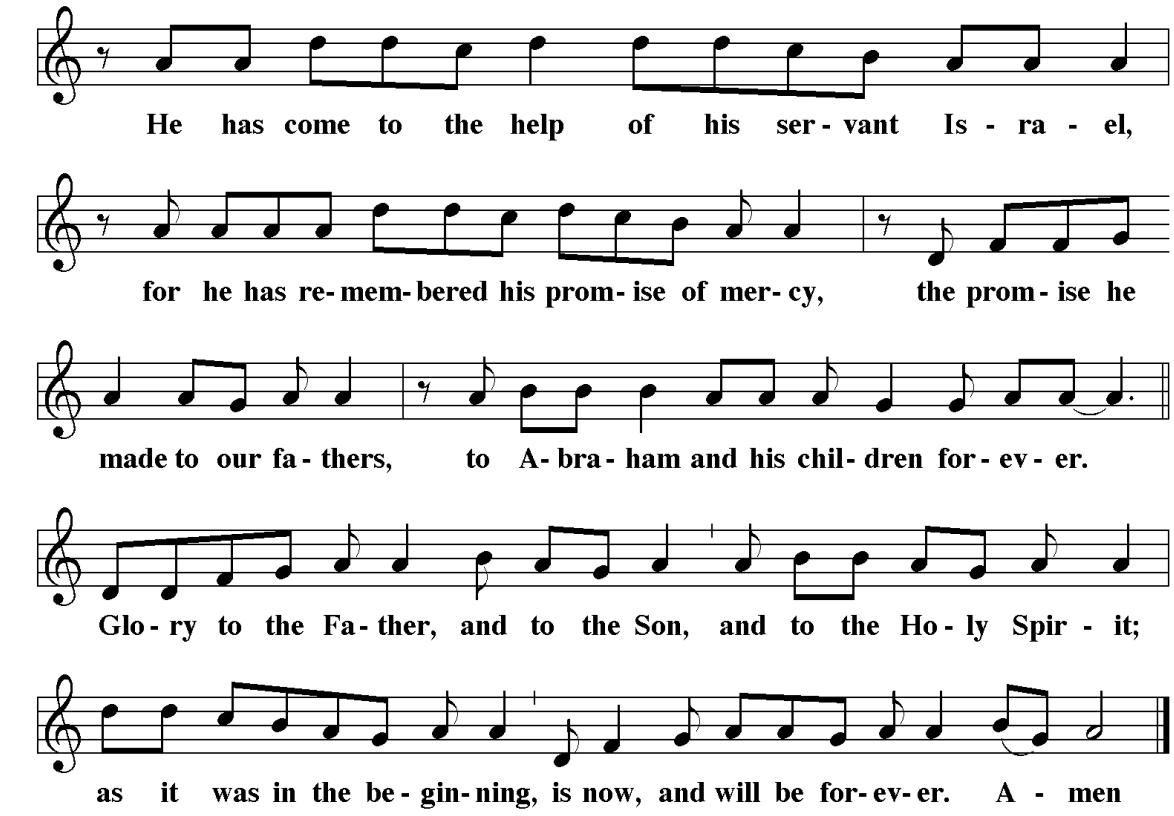
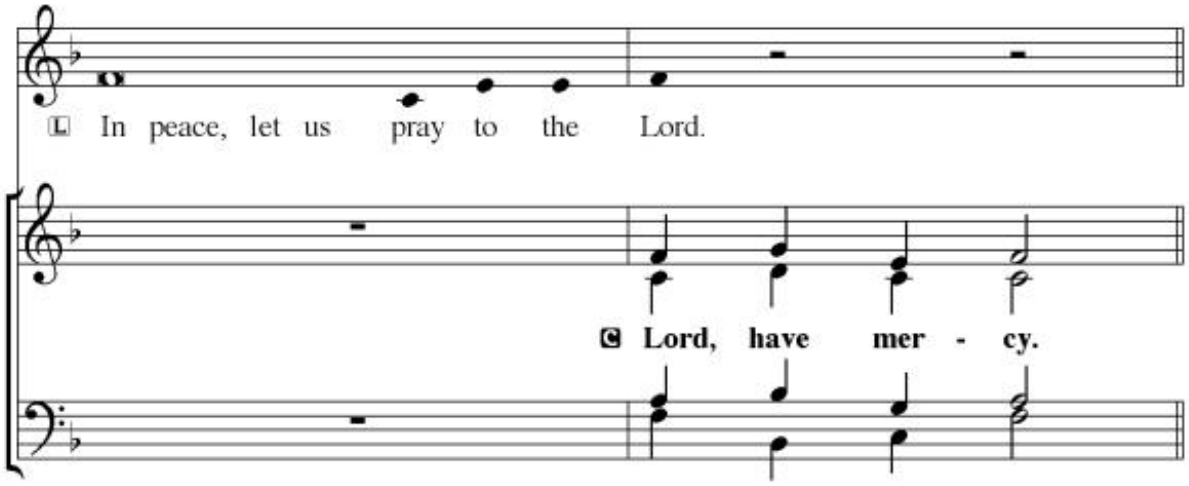

He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,
for he has re - mem - bered his prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise he
made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

***PRAYERS**


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For all bishops, pastors, and deacons in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPOSNE

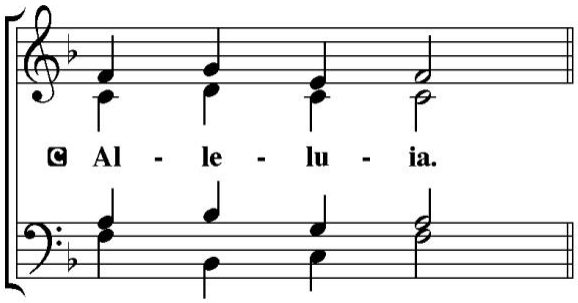
L: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

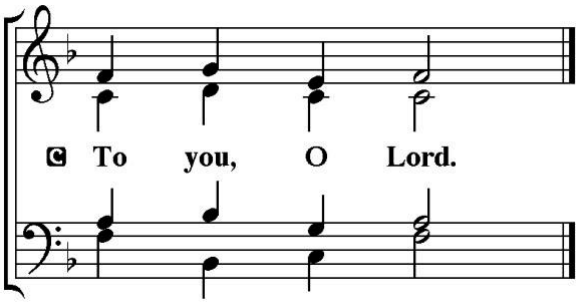
L: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord



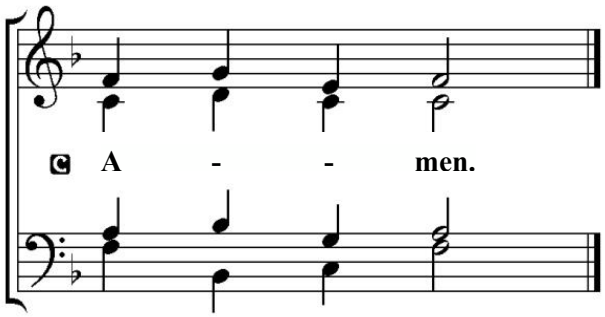
L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for meditation

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



L: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

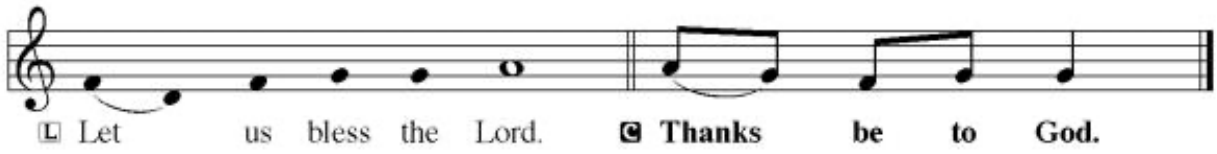


***LORD S PRAYER**

L: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

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.

***BENIDICAMUS**



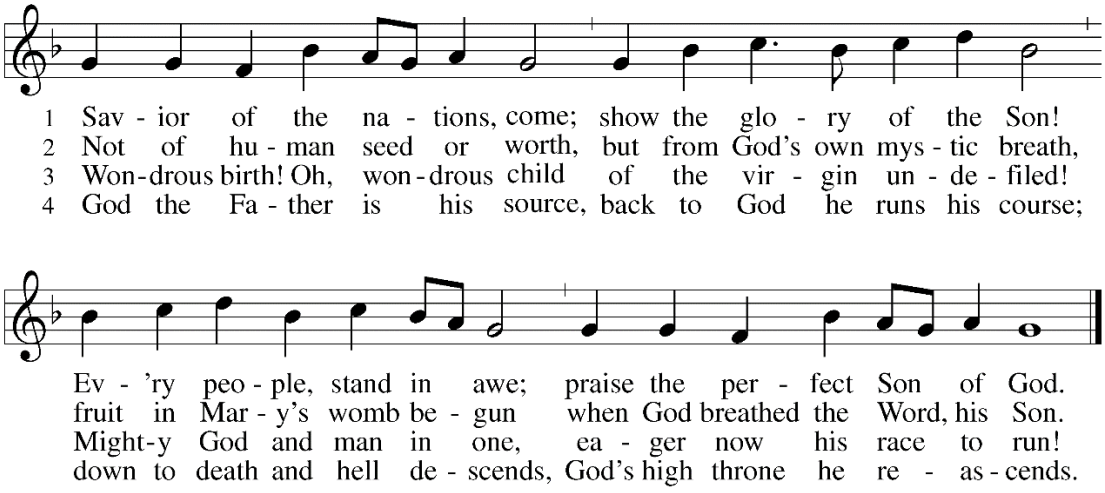
Please be seated.

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

***HYMN**

Savior of the Nations, Come



5 He leaves heaven to return;
trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
riding out, returning home
as the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son
girds himself in flesh to run
for the trophies of our souls,
longer than this round earth rolls.

7 Shining stable in the night,
breathing vict'ry with your light;
darkness cannot hide your flame,
shining bright as Jesus' name.

Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein,* 1524

Text sts. 3–4 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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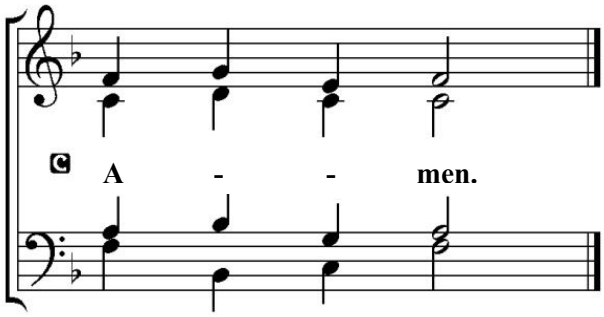
Please be seated.

HOMILY

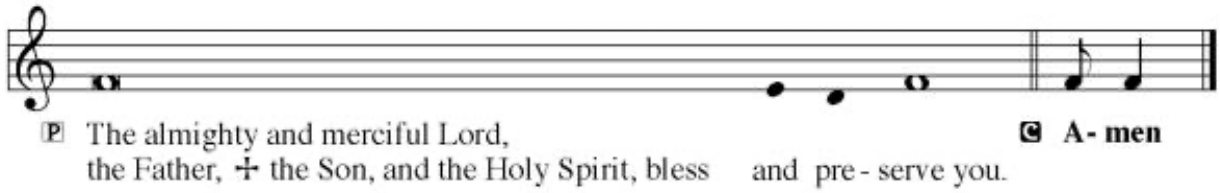
Please stand as you are able.

***PRAYERS**

L: Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

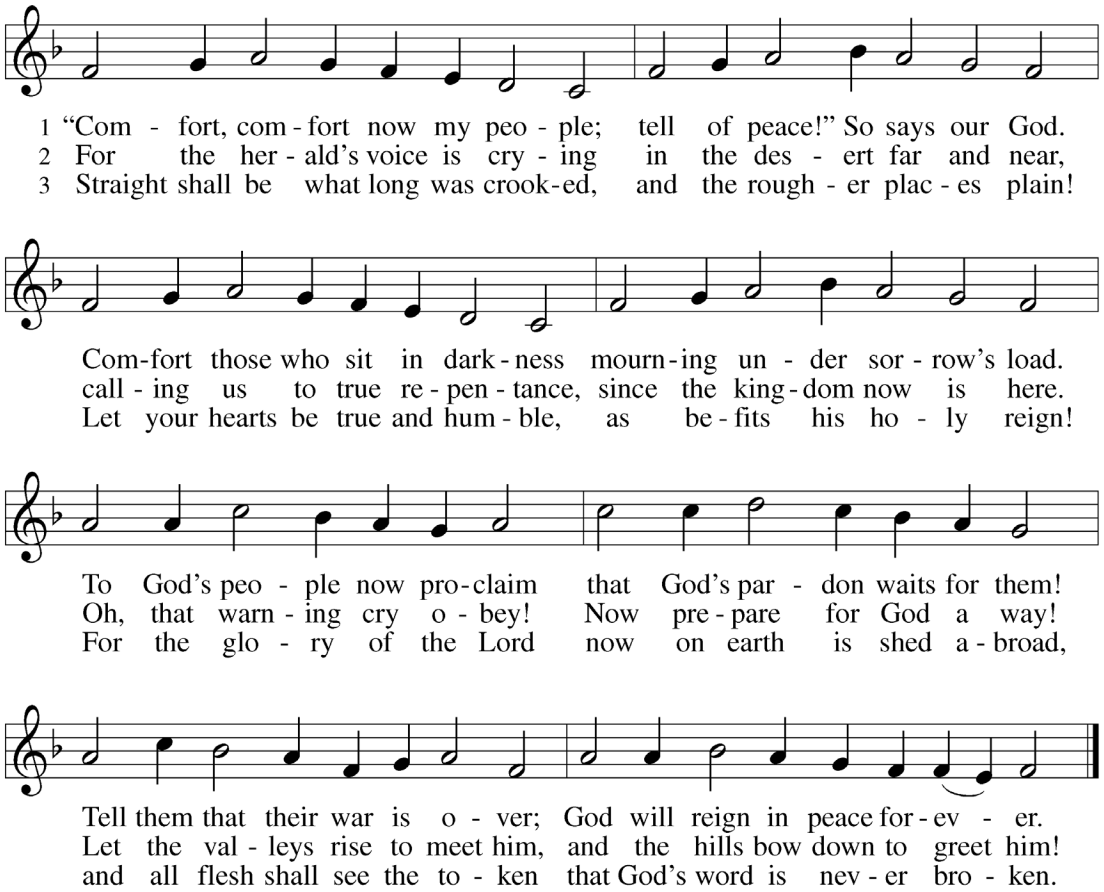


***BENEDICTION**



***SENDING HYMN**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

We invite you to remain and engage in a time of silent prayer and then join us in the Social Hall for food and fellowship.


Shells Lutheran Church
Advent & Christmas 2026
287 Shells Church Road
Grantville, PA 17028
(717) 469-2586 shellschurch.org
Sun., November 29 (Advent 1)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 2
7pm Vespers
Sun., December 6 (Advent 2)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 9
7pm Vespers at Zion Union Deposit
Sun., December 13 (Advent 3)
9am Holy Eucharist
3pm Christmas Caroling
Wed., December 16
7pm Vespers at St. John Hoernerstown
Sun., December 20 (Advent 4)
9am Holy Eucharist
Wed., December 23
7pm Vespers
Thu., December 24 (Christmas Eve)
2pm Worship at Zion Union Deposit
4pm Worship at St. John Hoernerstown
7pm Family Worship
9:30pm Traditional Worship
Fri., December 25 (Christmas Day)
10am Worship w/Brunch

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"We are a community of the Triune God, nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent forth by the Holy Spirit into the Grantville community and beyond to share the life-changing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed."

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Grantville, PA 17028
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Church website: www.shellschurch.org

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Charles Schreiber, Treasurer
Email: charlieschreiber514@gmail.com
Parish Council: Sandy Mader (P), Brenda Frye (VP), Christina Frye (S), Ryan Jaggan (T), Diana Budd, Tom Terry, Steve Espenshade, Mark Stremmel

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We have WiFi!
Network Name: **ShellsLutheran**
Password: **GodIsAwesome** *(case-sensitive)*