

**EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2025, 3 PM, 5 PM\*, & 10 PM**  
Far Hills Campus Traditional Worship (\*Livestreamed)

Gather

**3:00 PRELUDE**

*IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER* (arr. Craig Courtney)

Pr. Julie Reuning-Scherer, John Benjamin

*WEXFORD CAROL* and *ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH*

(arr. David Schwoebel)

John Benjamin, piano

*SILENT NIGHT* (arr. Gary Lanier)

Nick Hess, saxophone

**5:00 PRELUDE**

*John Benjamin*

organ

*BESIDE THE CRADLE HERE I STAND* (Martin Luther)

Kathleen Wilson

*ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH* (arr. David Schwoebel)

John Benjamin, piano

*RISE UP EARLY* (Richard Kountz)

Epiphany Chorale

*WEXFORD CAROL* (arr. David Schwoebel)

John Benjamin, piano

*JOY TO THE WORLD* (arr. Valerie W. Stephenson)

Jubilate Bells, Jill Byers, director

**10:00 PRELUDE**

*Do You HAVE ROOM* (Shawna Belt Edwards)

Martha Armstrong-Benjamin

*CHRISTMAS BELL MEDLEY* (Christine Anderson)

Sarah Juhasz, handbells

*RISE UP EARLY* (Richard Kountz)

Epiphany Chorale

*AWAY IN A MANGER* (Nicole Pinnell & Rebecca Pacheco)

Andy Lewis, cello

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: On this holy night we come

C: Dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels

P: On this holy night we come

C: Eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds

P: On this holy night we come

C: Quietly and tenderly, ready to worship alongside Mary

P: On this holy night we come

C: Singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming

Good news is louder than fear

Let us worship our good news, Emmanuel, God with us

**OPENING HYMN: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

#283



1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Family of faith, on the night of Jesus' birth, a crowd of angels appeared before a group of rag-tag shepherds to tell them the good news.

The angels' message was clear: This is good news of great joy for all people. It is good news of love freely given, grace radically extended, belonging never restricted. The good news of this night is for you too.

*(light Christ candle)*

P: On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

### PASTORAL WELCOME

### Word

#### **WELCOMING THE CHILDREN: A Very Noisy Christmas**

Written by Tim Thornborough, Illustrated by Jennifer Davison

Published by The Good Book Company, Available to order at [thegoodbook.com](http://thegoodbook.com)

#### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

*<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.*

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

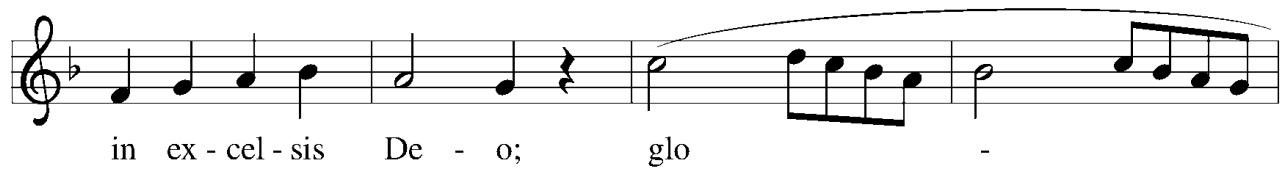
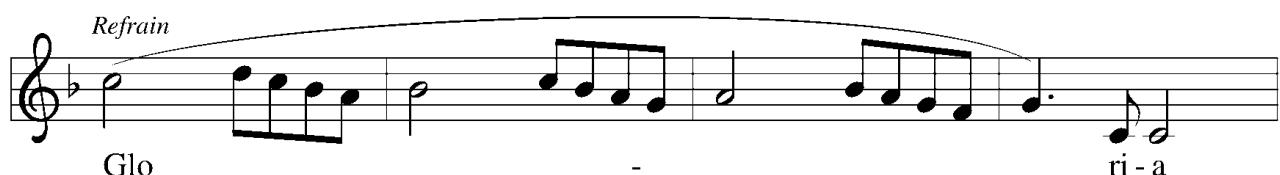
## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (vv. 1,3) #289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

## GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20

*'In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.*

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>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**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

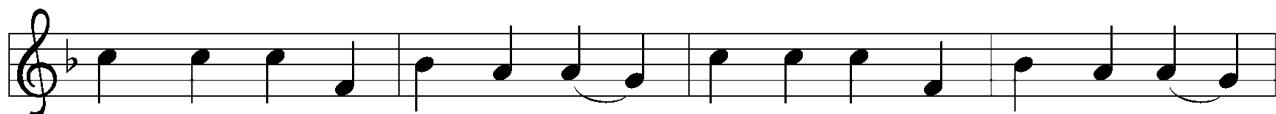
#270



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!



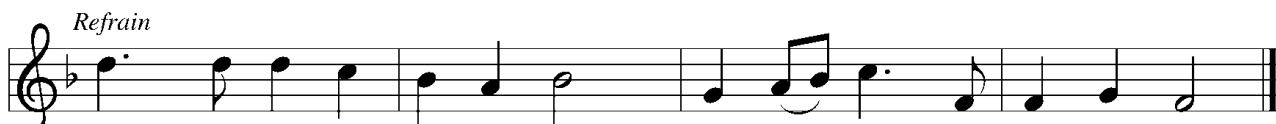
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

## NICENE CREED

A: Together with the whole church, in every time and place,  
let us confess our faith.

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (after each petition...)**

**A: God of hope,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **Meal**

---

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P: At the birth of Christ the angels sang a song of peace and goodwill.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING

(3) *CHRISTMAS BELL MEDLEY* (Christine Anderson)

*Sarah Juhasz, handbells*

(5,10) *I WONDER AS I WANDER* (arr. Kyle Pederson)

*Epiphany Chorale, Charlotte Richard, violin*

**OFFERTORY: WHAT CHILD IS THIS (vv. 1,3)**

#296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, born this holy night.  
And so, with believers on earth and the choirs of angels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS: ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (vv. 1,4)**

#275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*If you are unable to attend worship due to health concerns, please contact the church office to be included on the homebound list.*

*Christ welcomes you to the meal of grace! All who desire to receive Christ's nourishment and grace may join us at the Lord's Table. Please come to the table by the diagonal aisle and return to your seat by the front or side aisle. Communion is by intinction; dip the wafer in the red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available at the center front aisle.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC:

(5) *THE COVENTRY CAROL* (arr. Noel A. Piercy)

*Jubilate Bells*

## COMMUNION HYMN #1: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

#279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## COMMUNION HYMN #2: *IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR*

#282



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world.  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-’ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.  
and ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road and hear the an-gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## COMMUNION HYMN #3: LOVE HAS COME

#292



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 noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

### THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: JOHN 1:1-14

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

*<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## HYMN OF REFLECTION: *SILENT NIGHT*

#281



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh,  
peace,  
born!  
birth,  
schlaf in  
sleep in  
Christ, the  
Je - sus,  
himm - li - scher  
heav - en - ly  
Sav - ior, is  
Lord, at your  
Ruh.  
peace.  
born!  
birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## Send

---

### BENEDICTION

#### CLOSING HYMN: JOY TO THE WORLD

#267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns!  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

### SENDING

A: If you are able, we invite you to be seated for the Postlude.

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE: CAROL OF THE BELLS***Sarah Juhasz, handbells**(Mykola Leontovych, arr. Nelson & van der Beek)*Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: (3,5) Pastor Corey Wagonfield  
(10) Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer

Preaching Minister: Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer

Assisting Minister: (3) Mark Chilson, (5) Sandy Houpt, (10) Jane Lane

Organist: John Benjamin

Sound: (3) Ed Wasser, (5) Ben Richter, (10) Melonie Warren

Stream Team: (5) Anthony Brown, Landon Henderson

Ushers: (3) Kevin Carlson, Dean Erskine  
(5) Ron Armstrong, Dean Erskine, Karen & Phil Nardi  
(10) Dean Erskine, Kathy Whited

Communion: (3) Michelle Carlson, John & Lisa Dietrich,  
Andrea Helbach, Jennifer Henderson, Cindy Hess,  
Kim Knechtly  
(5) Noel Greiman, Jennifer Henderson, Kathy Hibbs,  
Charlotte & Sam Richard, Dorothy Sisken,  
Kathleen Wilson  
(10) Mary Downs, Cooper & Jennifer Henderson,  
Pam & Steve Lubbers, Kathleen Wilson

Acolytes: (5) Hannah & Leah Hendrickson

Bible Bearer: (5) Sam Richard