THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 1133 Reston Avenue Herndon, Virginia

December 24, 2021 7:30 and 10:00 p.m.

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Choir, Brass Quintet, Handbell Choir (7:30 only), Soloist, Piano, Organ (Brenna McFarland, soprano)

(Please stand)

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

- As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Eve the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore him!
- C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn No. 379

Verse 1
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels.
Refrain
O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Verse 2
Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

Verse 3
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest.
Refrain

Verse 4
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Refrain

INVOCATION

- Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

- P Holy God,
- we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.
- C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Hymn No. 368

Verse 1
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply

Echoing their joyous strains.

Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Verse 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

PRAYER

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Mary, Did You Know?"

arr. Jack Schrader

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb. Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great "I AM!"

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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

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

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

(Please remain seated)

- In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.
- ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.
- ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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."

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

HYMN

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn No. 376

Verse 1

Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Verse 2

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Verse 4

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Verse 5

Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

"Heavenly Shalom"

Pastor Johann

CHORAL ANTHEM

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

arr. Albin C. Whitworth

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty Jesus, Jesus Christ. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; What I can I give him, Give him my heart.

(Please stand)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say "Hear us, O God." The congregation responds "Your mercy is great."

(Please sit)

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.
- It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons...
 - ...Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 DISTRIBUTION (Pre-packaged and Continuous)

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My body ... this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26–27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Holy Communion will be distributed in two ways this evening. For those who will commune using the pre-packaged elements, the pastor will instruct communicants on this procedure.

Communion will also be distributed in a continuous walking fashion. At the direction of the ushers, walk toward the front of the church in a single-file line. Please keep your mask on until it is time to consume the communion elements. The pastor will distribute the host (communion wafers). Receive the host in hand, consume it, and then take the wine from the tray (held by the communion assistant/second pastor). After you have drunk the wine, place the empty cup in the bowl, replace your mask, and return to your pew. If you are <u>not</u> receiving communion, please fold your arms across your chest with hands toward the shoulders (St. Andrew's cross) and approach to receive a blessing. There will be a single dismissal blessing after all have communed.

Verse 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Verse 2

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

Verse 3

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby; Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Soloist

"O Holy Night" (Kathy Otterbacher, alto)

Adolphe Adam

O Holy night the stars are brightly shining It is the night of our dear Savior's birth Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His Holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim. His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Choral Anthem

"Still, Still, Still"

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, Close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number Watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

Distribution Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

Hymn No. 364

Verse 1

Away in a manger; no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay

Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care.

And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

(Please stand)

- We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"You are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

The pastor lights the candles of the acolytes and ushers, who in turn share the light with the congregation.

When lighting your candle, tilt your unlit candle toward a lit candle. Keep candles upright after they have been lit. When all the candles are lighted, the following prayer is read:

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

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Hymn No. 363

The choir will begin by singing a verse in German. Then all will join in singing verses 1-3 in English. You are welcome to join in the German verse, if you wish.

Choir
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Verse 1
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2
Silent nigh

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3
Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

BLESSING

- The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- C Amen.

(Extinguish candles)

CLOSING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hymn No. 380

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King: Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Refrain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World!"

Hymn No. 387 (Verses 1 & 2)

(The congregation is invited to join in singing this hymn.)

+

Traditional

BRASS QUINTET

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

+

Special thanks to all musicians and singers who participated in tonight's services.

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Brass Quintet

Trombone Trumpet

Eusung Choe Hart Guonjian-Pettit **Bass Trombone/Tuba** Alexis Kalivretenos

Austin Fairley Horn

Emerson Miller

We especially welcome our guests who are worshiping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome Card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated in all indoor services on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday/PRAISE, an informal worship service featuring contemporary music, is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and communion is celebrated on fourth Sundays. Holy Communion is part of every outdoor worship service, each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

The poinsettias that decorate our sanctuary and the church entry have been given to the glory of God by:

Danielle Davis in honor of Carolee White and Sebastian Davis

Sandra & David Dettner in memory of their parents, Virginia & Delmar Dettner and Wongerie & Robert Kapfhamer

Bob, Regina, & Ethan Dohr in memory of Maureen Dohr, their Mumma and Grama

Arlisa Ferrara in honor of her sisters Rana DaSilva and Devon Roberts

Steven & Elizabeth Huang in honor of Tom & Janice Huang and Joe & Cathy Dettmar

Janet Hulme in honor of Peter K. Hulme

Mike & Willi McCarey in memory of their parents, Ruth & Ferd Kisro and Bernie & Frieda McCarey Donna Shebat in memory of her father, Chet Norstrom

Marilyn Shontz in memory of Rick Shontz

The Tempel family in memory of Amy Tempel Hebert

Roger & Georgia Thorstenson in honor of their children, granddaughter, and Georgia's mother, and in memory of Roger's parents and Georgia's father and brothers

Please join us for worship (indoors) at 9:30 a.m. on December 26 and January 2
The nursery will not be staffed on those Sundays, but the Parents' Room will be open
The "regular" worship schedule resumes on January 9
Sunday School classes take a break on December 26 and January 2
and resume on January 9

Christmas Eve Worship Assistants

	7:30 p.m.	<u>10:00 p.m.</u>
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Organist	Julie Stone	Michele Bair
Pianist	Laura Owens	Michele Bair
Choir Director	Alison Carlson	Alison Carlson
Handbell Choir Director	Laura Owens	
Readers	Melinda DeWan	Georgia Thorstenson
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy	
Audio Engineer	Dan Lamaestra	Dan Lamaestra
Greeter	Heidi Cooper	June McGurn
	June McGurn	Georgia Thorstenson
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
Ushers	Jim Micsan	Goodwyn Morgan
	Jeff Peterson	Roger Thorstenson
	Ron Voigt	*
Acolyte	David Huang	*
Crucifer	Matthew Huang	*
Communion Assistants	Elizabeth Huang	Henry Eickelberg
		Brian Vanderhoof
Building Opener	June McGurn	

^{*} unfilled as of Thursday, December 23

STAFF

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Nemeh Azzam, Music Director (on leave of absence)

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Julie Stone, Interim Organist

703-437-5020

BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS

Vicki Peter, Chair June McGurn, Vice-Chair Kathy Eickelberg, Secretary Allen Hodges Leta Kent Ted Lillestolen John Stoothoff

CORE MINISTRY AREAS

Worship Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide;

Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Alison Carlson), Children's Choir (Laura Owens), Handbell Choir (Laura Owens) traditional, contemporary, physical space, support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes)

Discipleship Team Leader: Pastor James (temporary)

adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, family ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry

Parish Life Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

Life Groups (Brian Cors), member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion (Melinda DeWan), concerts, public events, picnics, intergenerational events

Administration Team Leader: Pastor Johann

property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications, contracts, church office, calendar/program management, technology

Mission Team Leader: John and Debbie Linn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann world missions, synod, outreach, social ministry, community service, evangelism, publicity, media, social media

Congregational Care Team Leader: Marilyn Voigt; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann *member care visits, emergency transportation, maintain roster of the willing, guest follow-up*

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

About Good Shepherd...

Our vision

We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

Worship

During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

Serve

We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. Look at our Community Service Opportunities listing to find a way to serve.

Grow

We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

Connect

As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows. We build strong ties when we gather for worship as well as for events throughout the week. Look inside for many opportunities for connection.



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