

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! Today's worship service tells the story of salvation in readings from God's Word and in beloved carols of this Christmas season. As we continue to rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, please join your heart in this service. A special welcome to those who are guests. Information about St. John's and its ministry may be obtained from the Welcome Center in the Narthex, the Ushers, or the Pastor. Hymn references are from Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and With One Voice (WOV).

Prayer Before Worship

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your beloved Son, Jesus, who came to dwell among us, and give to us forgiveness, life and salvation. Bless this time of worship, uniting our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. Draw our hearts and minds to your redeeming love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Welcome

Prelude

String Quartet

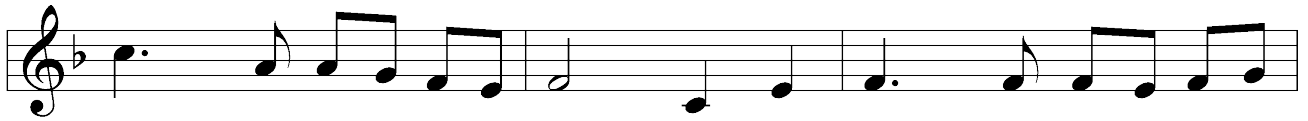
Ringing of the Bells

Gathering Hymn

"Once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376)



Solo	1	Once	in	roy	-	al	Da	-	vid's	cit	-	y	Stood	a
All	2	He	came	down		to	earth	from	heav	-	en,	Who	is	
All	3	For	He	is		our	child	-	hood's	pat	-	tern,	Day	by
All	4	And	our	eyes		at	last	shall	see	Him,		Through	His	
All	5	Not	in	that		poor,	low	-	ly	sta	-	ble	With	the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.
 Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76
 Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Prayer

P Beloved in Christ, in this holy Christmastide, let it be our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who

know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that great multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught 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.

The Blessing

P May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all.

☩ Amen.

Musical Offering

String Quartet

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit

of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." [...]

¹⁷And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

📌 Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem "Jesus Christ The Apple Tree" (Simon Andrews)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
Tis found in Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

📌 Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

"I Wonder as I Wander" (Mark Schweizer)

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it 'cause he was the King.*

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. [...] ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of 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 with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (LSB 359)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright

Choral Anthem

“The Holly and the Ivy” (Richard Shephard)

*The holly and the ivy, now both are full well grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.*

Refrain:

*Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet saviour.*

*The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.*

*The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. [...]

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (LSB 356)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

"Away in a Manger" (LSB 365)



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



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

Text and tune: Public domain

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368)



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.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.
Text and tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

☪ Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn "The Star Proclaims the King is Here" (LSB 399)



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Ninth Lesson *(please stand)*

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (LSB 380)



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 ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer and Blessing

P The Lord be with you

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray,

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C Amen.

P May He who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

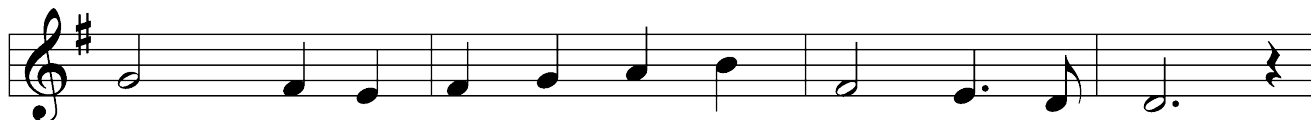
C Amen.

Congregational Hymn

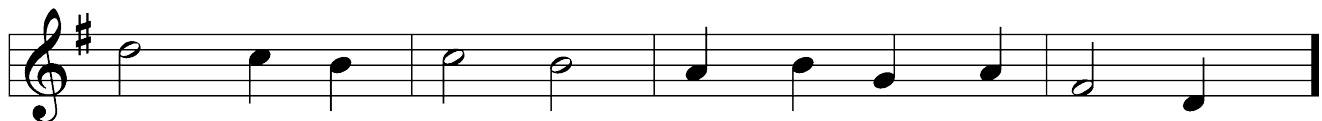
“O Come All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 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!

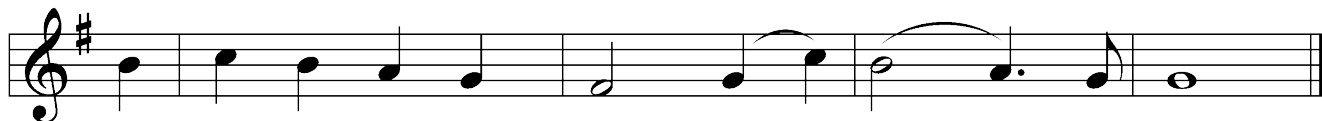


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
 Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

String Quartet



Our wholehearted thanks to our String quartet, and Ian Lane (tenor) for enhancing our special service this morning.

**We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service.
Please join us as we continue to celebrate:**

Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 4 (Epiphany of Our Lord)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 11 (Baptism of Our Lord)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

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Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Barbara Pate
Organist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Breanna Tillman
Readers	Giulianna Vazquez Trevor Hasset Karen Kemmet Larry McCormick Angela Schulze Judson Ray Paul Swicord Barbara Pate
Ushers	Jim Lofgren Joe Godwin
AV Operators	St. John's AV Team
Welcome	Denise Canter
Nursery	Beth Rempe



This weekend's **altar flowers**
are given in donation
of the flower fund.

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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