

Baptism of Our Lord ~ January 12, 2025

Aiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Co-Ordinator of Music



Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

PRELUDE ~ *Wade in the Water* Spiritual arr. by Stephen DeCesare.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ *Thank you to Howard Lyon and Paul Sontheimer for providing special music this morning!*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 445 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN of PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



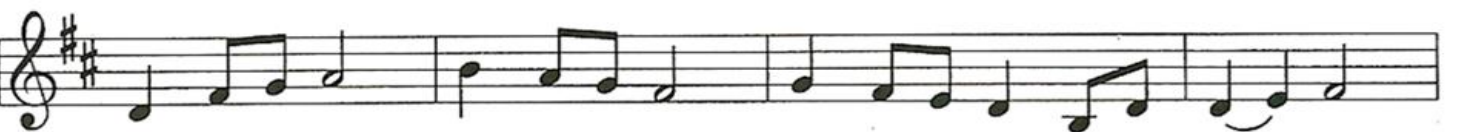
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



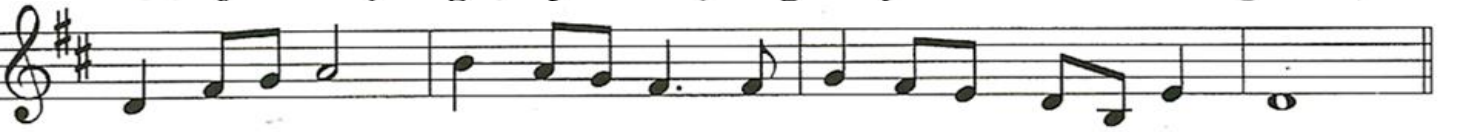
☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



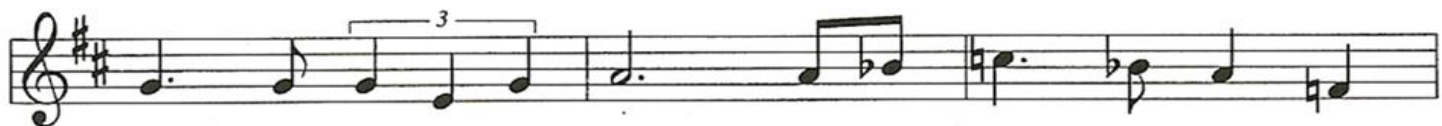
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



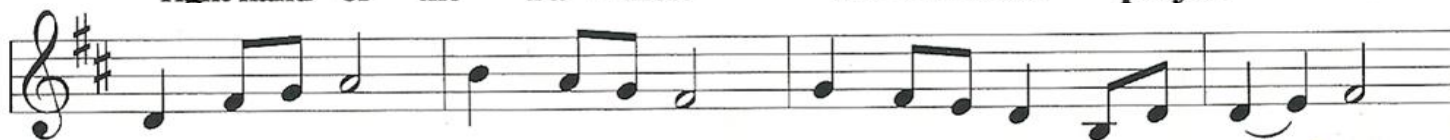
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



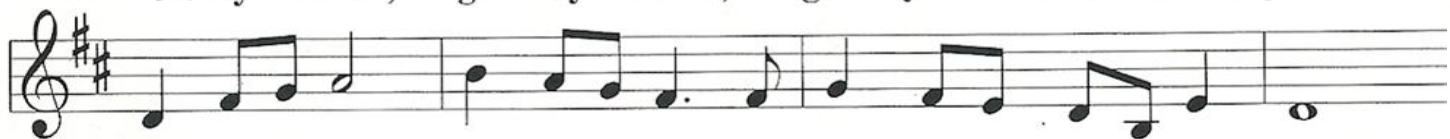
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



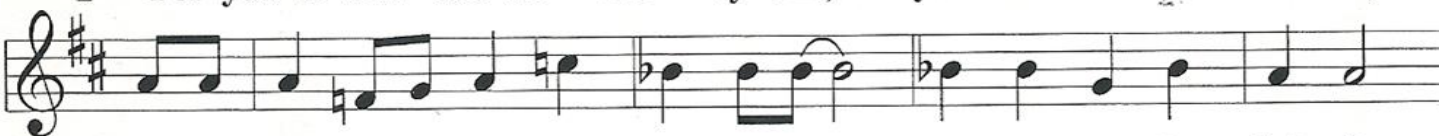
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



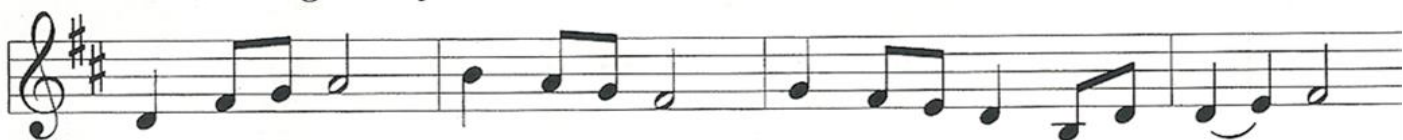
☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



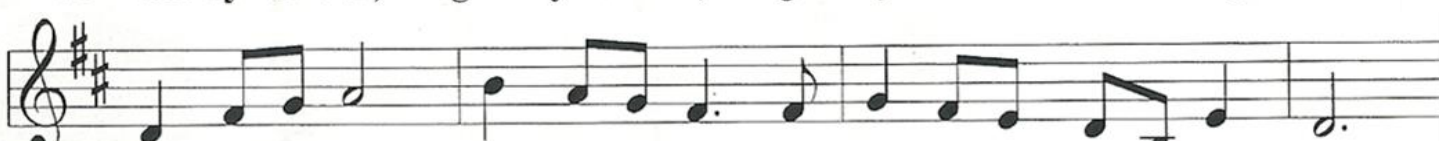
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 29 Response Spoken

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the ^l forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹**O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17,21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 3. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

HYMN of the DAY ~ *Song Over the Waters*

Refrain

God, you have moved up-on the wa - ters, you have sung in the
rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and
daugh - ters, make us peo - ple of the wa - ter and your name.

1. Come fill our wait - ing hearts { with the
2. Give us a thirst for love, give us a
3. You are the breath of life, you are the
4. Come, o - pen ev - 'ry heart, come now and

spir - it of Je - sus, let us shine with your
hun - ger for jus - tice, make us one with the
hope of the hope - less, come and fill us with
wake us to won - der. make us ves - sels of

D.C.

light and peace.
mind of Christ.
light and peace.
light and peace.

NICENE CREED

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 INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, recovering from surgery, or waiting for diagnoses. We pray especially for: Lois, Damian, Suzanne, Mary, Jonathan & Analee, Pat K., Marjorie, Jackie, Ed, Judi, Ron F., Sam & Dorothy Elder, Judy, Carolyn M., Larry & Barb, Tom, Esther, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Dave P., Don & Donna, and Evelyn and the prayer requests from our Little Library friends. Accompany individuals, and their families, affected by addiction or mental challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

Please stand

OFFERING HYMN ~

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion
we may know the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.

Please be seated

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

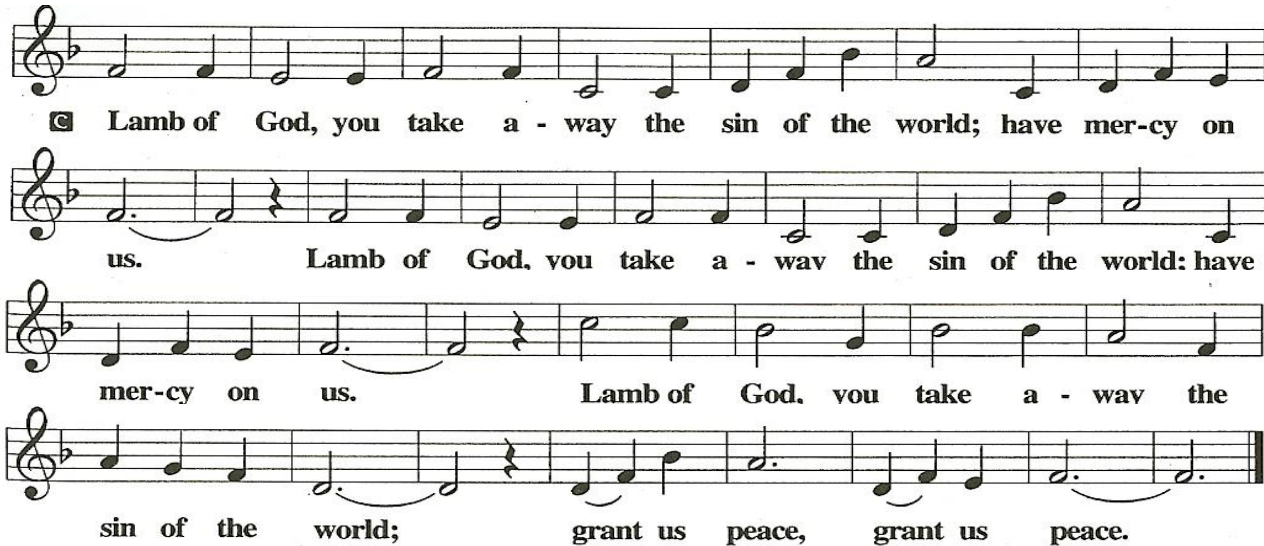
At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB of GOD



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ *I've Got Peace Like a River*

ELW 453 *Baptized and Set Free*

I've Got Peace Like a River



1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
2 I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain,
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,
I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;
I've got joy like a foun - tain in my soul;
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;
I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain,
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,
I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.
I've got joy like a foun - tain in my soul.
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER after COMMUNION

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 456 *Baptized in Water*

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ January 12, 2025

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com
ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -
FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: Lois Kuhns, Damian Santabene, Mary Randall, Suzanne Clark, Jonathan & Analee Cree, Pat Kerr, Marjorie Wonner, Jackie Seib, Ed Whitbred, Judi Pacileo, Ron Froess, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Judy Nordin, Carolyn Mariotti, Larry & Barb Ruhlman, Esther Klakamp, Tom Cirillo, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Dave Parsh, Don & Donna Holder, Evelyn Senger, and prayer requests from our Little Library friends.

Receiving Communion: If it is a challenge for you to come forward to receive communion, please alert the usher and you will be served communion at your seat.

Sunday, January 12, 19: Worship, 9:30a. Movie ~ *Chosen* @ 10:45a.

**Choir will remain on hiatus for the remainder of January.
February 2, 2025 @ 9:00a rehearsal will resume**

Wednesday, January 15: Prayer Warriors from 1-3p. You may come in at any time to pray, in either the "Quiet Room" or Sanctuary.

Thursday, January 16: **Lutheranism for All Believers.** Learning about what Lutherans believe with Pastor Karen. **Classes @ 1:00p.** See **graphic, pg. 12** or **flyer** with **sign-up form in narthex** for additional information.

Thursday, January 16: To start out the new year, **Ladies Night Out-530p,** will meet at **The CAB,** 5442 W Ridge Rd. Join in for a fun night of good food, conversation and some LAUGHS. Sign up sheet in the narthex, please **RSVP** by **Monday, Jan 13.** Drivers/riders meet @ AHLC, 5:00p. All ladies are welcome.

Monday, January 20: **Prayer Shawl cancelled.** Next gathering Monday, February 3, **10a-12n** for prayer, good conversation, knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, lap robes for the homebound. Experience not necessary, showing "how to" will gladly be offered. **All Ladies are welcome, bring a friend!**

Tuesday, January 21: **Care Team meeting 12:30p**

Wednesday, January 22: **Men's Night Out, 6:30p @ The Bullfrog,** Peach St. Stop in for conversation & good food. RSVP not necessary.

Sunday, January 26 – Following Worship



To review and approve the 2024 Bulletin of Reports;
and to discuss both the Old and New Business.

The Bulletin of Reports will be available to members one week prior to the meeting.

Child Abuse Clearances: Members of the congregation **holding a PA Dept of Justice certificate** should check the expiration. If a renewal is required, once completed, please return an updated copy of the certificate to the office.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral assistance, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266.

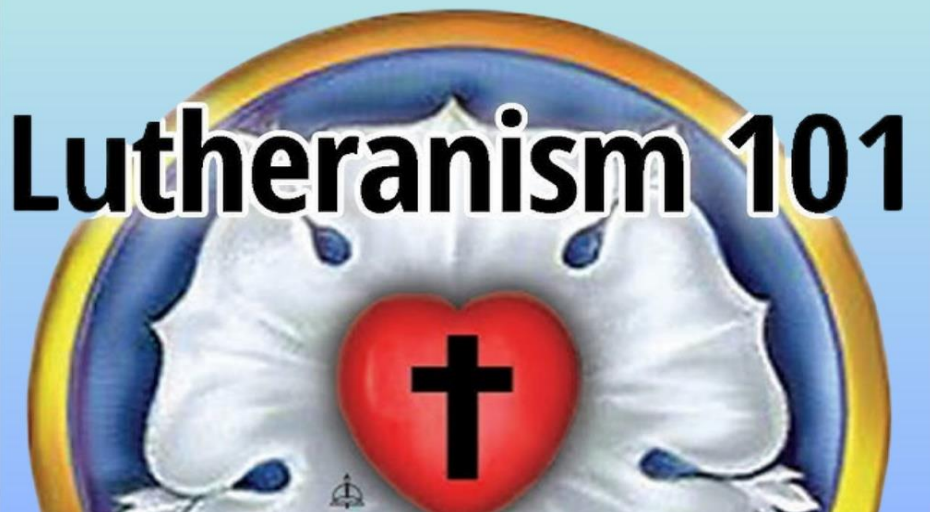
WORSHIP LEADERS ~ JANUARY 12, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cunning
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Lector/Prayers	Penny Gresh
Communion Cups	Mary Randall
Communion Tray	Michele Rion
Presenter	Lois Kuhns
Presenter	Nancy Cunning
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Rick Penn
Counters	Analee & Rich

Have you ever wondered what makes Abiding Hope different from other churches? What do Lutherans believe and why? Are you interested in brushing up on your LUTHERAN KNOWLEDGE? Would you enjoy studying the great stories of how we became a church and what we believe? Well, sign up for the 6-week class on Lutheranism and find out!

Lutheranism For All Believers

Lutheranism 101



WHEN: First Class is Thursday, January 16th at 1PM and continues every Thursday for 6 weeks

WHERE: 3649 Gerry Ave. (Pastor Karen's new house)

WHO: Anyone with an interest in learning, especially new members

TEACHER: Pastor Karen

INTERESTED? Sign-up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office at 814-868-8685 to RSVP.

