

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany ~ January 28, 2024

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 – 814.868.8685

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com

Coordinator of Music – Sheryl Williams



In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ This morning, we welcome **Rabbi Robert Morais** from Temple Anshe Hessed as our guest speaker.

PRELUDE

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:

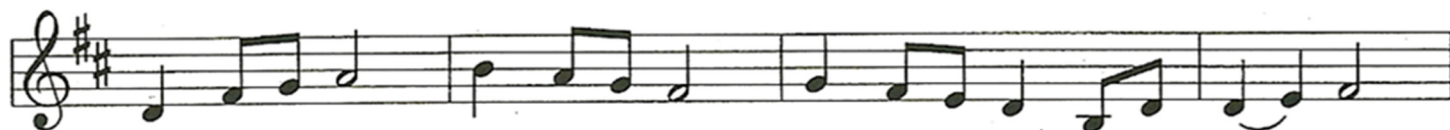
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 532 *Gather Us In* v.1,2

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;



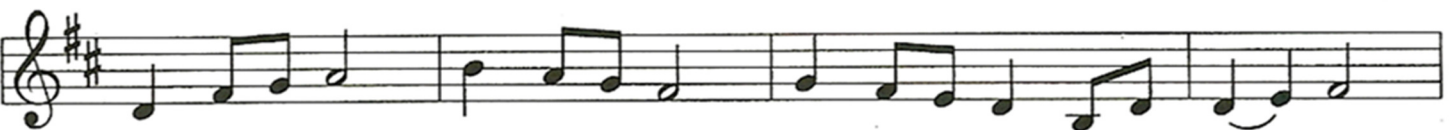
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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;



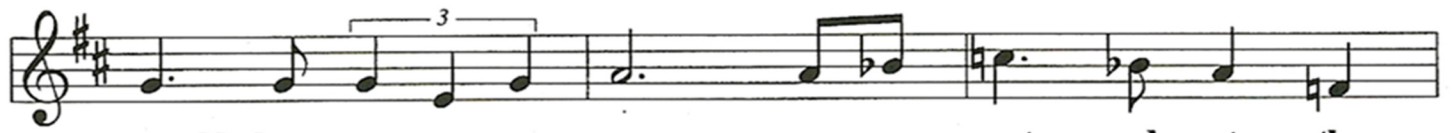
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



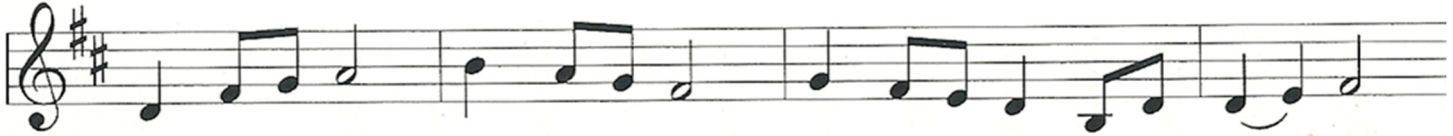
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



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. **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

PSALM: 111 Responsively Sung Tone 11



¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD, pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds, and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered; you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you, remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful-ness and justice;
all of your pre-cepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise
endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation ~ ELW 519 *Open Your Ears You Faithful People*



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;

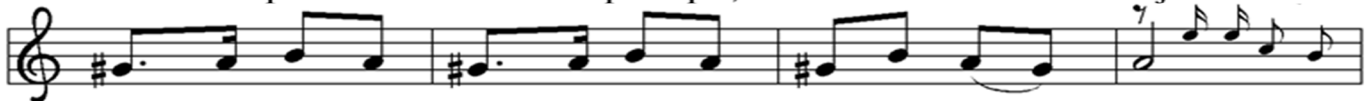


O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom. let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to, St. Mark, Chapter 1. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Rabbi Robert Morais

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ Great is the Lord

VERSE



Great is the Lord, He is ho - ly and just, by His pow - er we trust in His



love.

Great is the Lord, He is faith - ful and true by His mer - cy He proves He is

CHORUS



love.

Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great is the Lord, and

Great are You, Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great are You, Lord, and



wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great

wor - thy of praise. Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:



is the Lord!

Great

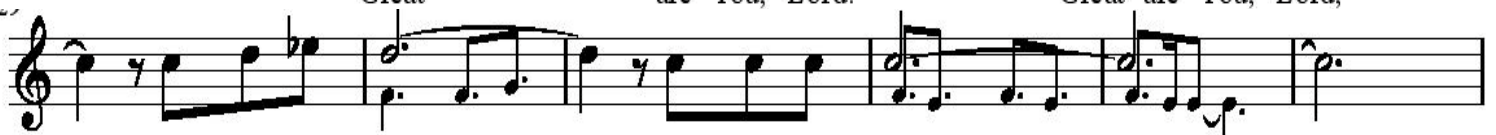
are You, Lord!



Great

are You, Lord!

Great are You, Lord,



Great are You, Lord!

Great are You, Lord!

ENDING

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer especially: Family and Friends of Norma. Damian & Marcia, Skip, Dave, Pat, Diane, Bill & Carol, Ginny, Anamaria, Tammy, Evelyn. God of Grace,

receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING ~ Choir: In Communion With Me

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ Give Thanks

♩ = 80 **CHORUS**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, _ give thanks to the
Ho - ly One; _ Give thanks ___ be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, ___ His

VERSE

Son. ___ Give Son. ___ And now let the weak say, "I am
strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has
done for ___ us; ___ And us. ___ Give

ENDING

us. Give thanks. ___

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

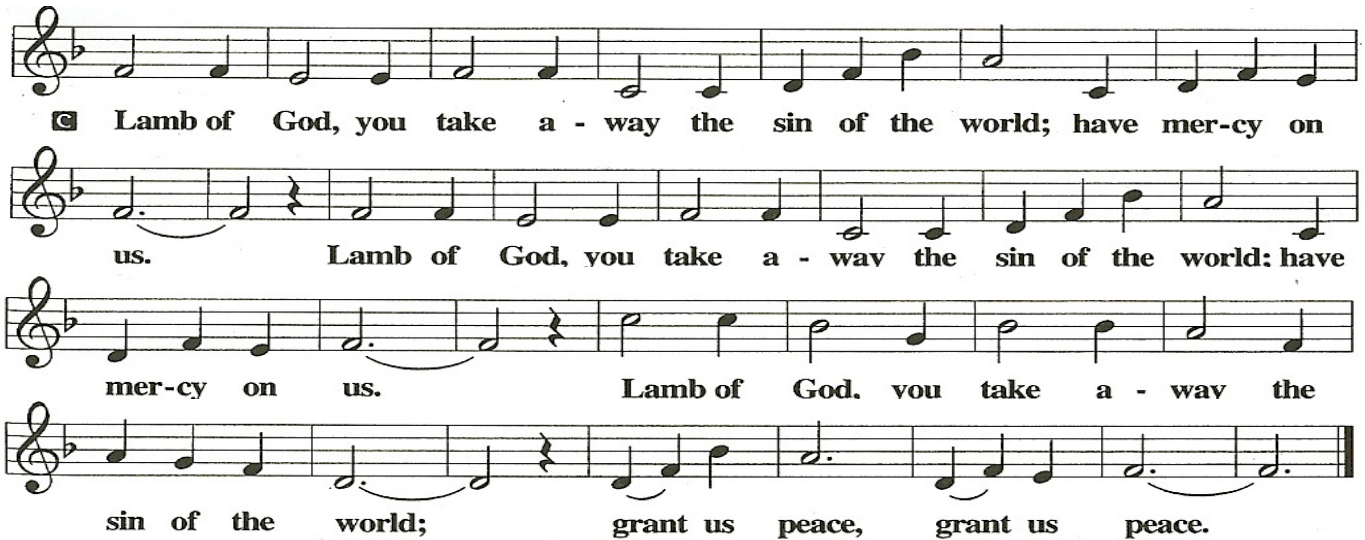
Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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 ~ ELW 496 *One Bread, One Body*
ELW 612 *Healer of Our Every Ill*

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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 710 *Let Streams of Living Justice*

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 28, 2024

ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

*This week, the altar flowers are giving to the Glory of God,
in Honor of Rabbi Robert Morais
from Lon Jenkins*

Following service, all are invited to a luncheon with Rabbi Morais.

Please pray for: Family and Friends of Norma Squire - Diana Stoker's Mother. Damian & Marcia Santabene, Skip Kleckner, Pat Kerr, Ginny Moore, Diane Farnsworth, Bill and Carol Heider, Dave Parsh, Anamaria Holder, Tammy Sharp McIntyre, and Evelyn Senger.

Sunday, February 4: Worship Leaders meeting at 9:00a to clarify the duties of each position, i.e. lectors, presenters, ushers, communion assistants etc. This meeting is for those **who are already** WL volunteers and may have questions or comments and for **anyone** who would like **to become a part** of this important ministry group.

Sunday, February 4: Abiding Hope will be providing a "Night of Food" bags for **"Our Neighbors' Place Seasonal Overflow Shelter"**. **Volunteers are needed** to help assemble 45 brown-bag meals to take to St John's, the shelter for that night. A sign-up sheet is on the middle table in narthex. You may also text Jacque Holmberg 814-490-4470, email: jholmberg@roadrunner.com, or just show up. **Donations** are needed for the food items and may be **placed in the offering plate by Jan. 28**. You may use the envelopes in pews for cash and mark Overflow Shelter food or make checks out to Abiding Hope noting the same.

Visitation Team: Pastor Karen is hoping to **add new volunteers** to this team to make a monthly visit, a phone call, send a greeting card, maybe provide a ride or a helping hand to a member that is ill, alone or homebound. Please contact Pastor Karen or the office if you're able to share some of your time.

Little Free Library: We are pleased there is activity. Currently, books for adults are needed—fiction or nonfiction, as well as lots of bookmarks! Individual cereal cups or packets of oatmeal, dried fruits and granola bars would be welcomed. There is a box in the Heritage Room for donations. Thank you for supporting this new initiative serving our community!

Capital Funds Campaign: The sound system is installed and working. A contribution (in any amount) will help reach our goal, we are getting close! The chart for the donation progress is in the narthex. Please note on your checks that your gift is for the "Sound System". Thanks to everyone who has contributed.

KAFP: Project Dignity January item - Deodorant. White basket is in Quiet Room.

Narthex TV monitor: Watch for announcements of upcoming events/items of Interest @ AHLC. If have any current photos of AHLC events or older photos of AHLC, Zion, or Our Savior, please email Ed Whitbred @ ejwhitbred@verizon.net.

Bethany Outreach: Please remember the **collection of used clothing and household items** is ongoing as well as pairs of shoes in good condition for **Chosen**. Drop off in the Heritage Room. Thank you! Analee Cree.

Are you on Facebook? Be sure to “friend” Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, and LIKE and SHARE the post to help promote events at AHLC.

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

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Larese Florals has kept the price at **\$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.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

December Income	\$ 8,966.27	Year to Date Income	\$134,898.96
December Expenses	\$12,118.81	Year to Date Expenses	\$137,877.33
December Difference	\$-3,152.54	Year to Date Difference	\$ -2,978.37
2023 Budget \$129,399.00			

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ JANUARY 28, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Penny Gresh
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Comm. Assist/cups	Carol Korn
Communion tray	Mary Randall
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Connie Kerr-Vogt
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Andy Saska & Analee Cree