

Baptism of Our Lord ~ January 11, 2026
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator 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.

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

(Please turn off your cell phone)

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.**

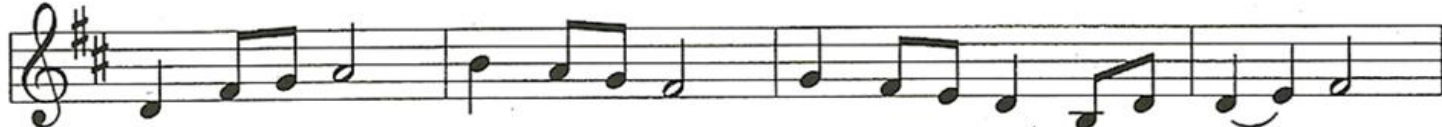
Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and
redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the
salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 454 *Remember and Rejoice*

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;



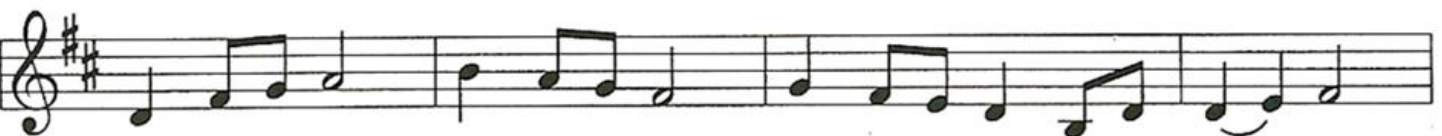
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



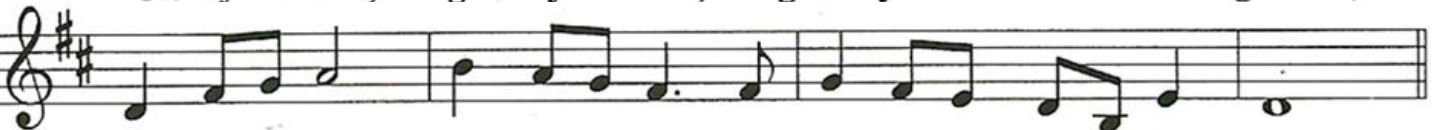
☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



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;



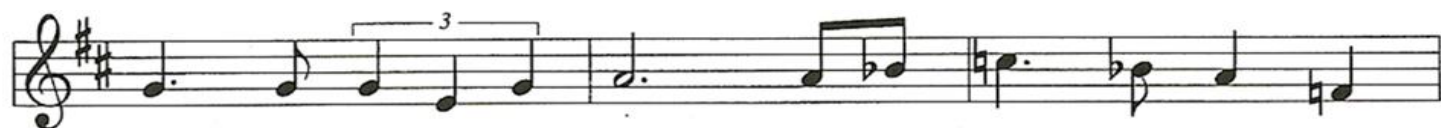
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



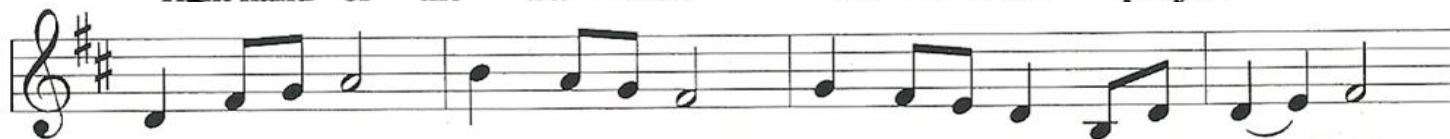
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



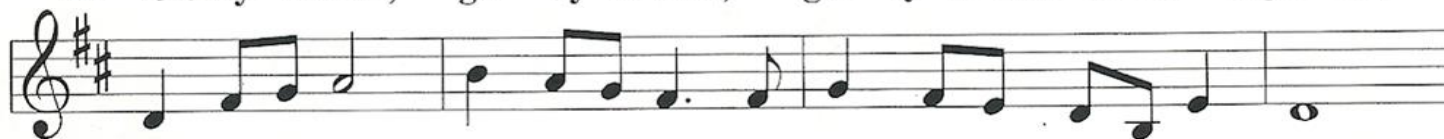
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



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.



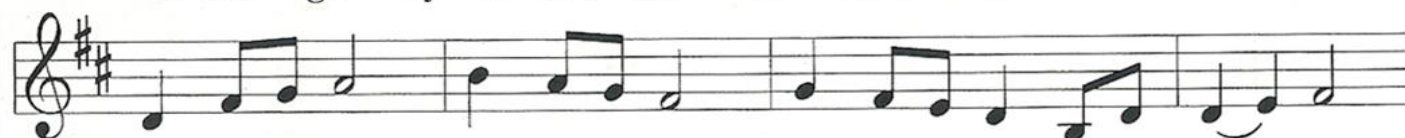
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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



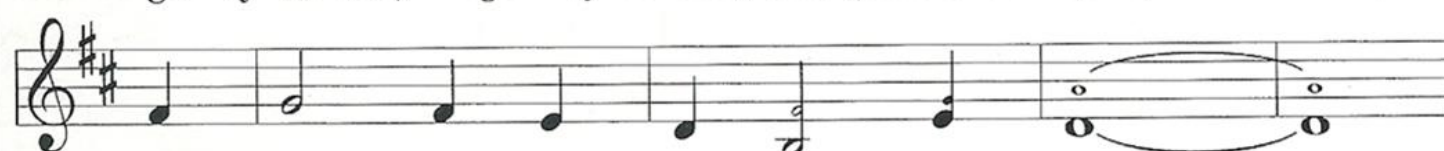
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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.**

⁵ The 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.**

⁷ The 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.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the ¹ 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.**

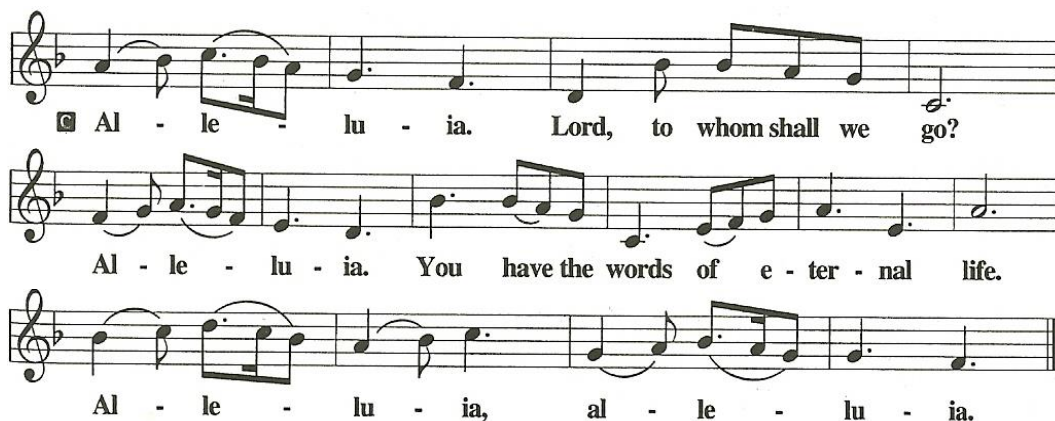
SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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: MATTHEW 3:13-17

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

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please Stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW 304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

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 God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. We Pray especially for: the family and friends of Dan Kaeberlein. Also: Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Callen, Lauren, Christian S., Laura, Mike, Patrick, Carl, Jackie S, Ed W., Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Ed & Jeanne, Candy & Arch, Leslie & Michele & Sue, Gail, Karen, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and request from the Little Library. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Installation of Officers and Council of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership, and the council has elected its officers. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Officers: Andy Saska, President; Penny Gresh, Vice-President.
Analee Cree, Secretary; Cindy Filson, Financial Secretary.

Council Members: Pastor Karen Parsh, Rich Filson, Lois Kuhns,
Paul Mirone, Diane Stoker, Barb Ruhlman and Jo Zeimet.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

- You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.
- You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.
- You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.
- You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*? **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as *officers and council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **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

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 481 *Come to the Table*

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....Amen.

Please be seated

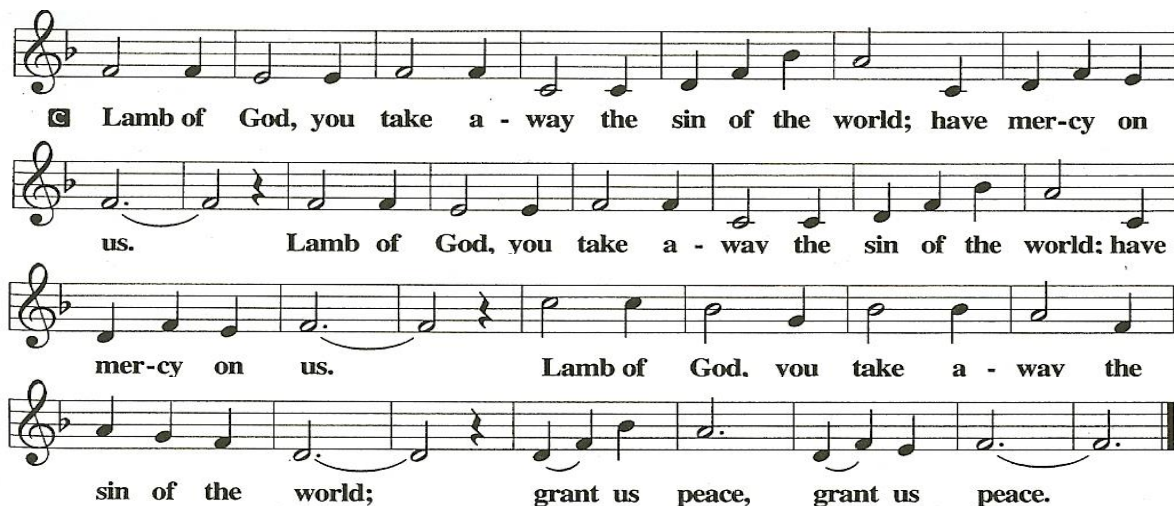
INVITATION to COMMUNION

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

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 396 *Spirit of Gentleness*
Instrumental Meditation

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 551 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

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 11, 2026

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

Please keep in your prayers: The family and friends of Dan Kaeberlein.

Also these members and friends: Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Callen Fish, Lauren Steele, Christina Sonthemier, Laura Vanlandingham, Mike Zlotnicki, Patrick Short, Carl Larese, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Ed W., Harry & Susan Speakman, Gail Boyce, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Karen Shick, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Candy & Arch Watkins, Kathy Sinnott, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library.

Sunday, January 11: Worship 930a ~ Choir 1045a ~ Bible Study 1100a

**Sunday, January 18: Worship 900a ~ Choir: 900a ~ No Bible Study
Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship**

Annual Congregational Meeting: to review & approve the 2025 Bulletin of Reports; to discuss Old and New Business.

Reports are available in the narthex.

Sunday, January 11: First gathering is **tonight** for “**Read Through the Bible Together**” @ **7pm by ZOOM** and will continue on the **2nd & 4th Sundays** of the month. If interested in joining the group, **your name/email address is required to access the Zoom. Form in narthex to sign-up.**

Tuesday, January 13: Ministry Team - **1030a**

Tuesday, January 13: Church Council - **630p**

Wednesday, January 21: Men’s Night @ **Voodoo Brewery, 630p. RSVP by January 19** (form in narthex) or just show up.

Thursday, January 22: Ladies Night @ **Cornerstone, 530p. RSVP needed by January 19** (form in narthex). Please **indicate** if you need a **ride** or can **drive**.

Thursday afternoons: Share & Care @ **1pm**. All are welcome to join this gathering for **meaningful discussions about God, Daily Life & Life Eternal** with Pastor Karen & Damian Santabene.

Holy Trinity Lutheran, an inner-city sanctuary on West 17th, serves 4 meals per week...Tuesday/Wednesday dinner and Thursday/Saturday lunches. **Volunteers are needed**: to set tables; to pick up ready made food & delivery to the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays and/or help serve; to help cook/serve on Wednesdays or Saturdays; to help clean up; to substitute in case anyone from the regular crew is unable. If interested in donating your time, contact Pat Bellingham 814-602-5983 or pat.bellingham@hotmail.com

KAFP: January Food Drive – cereal. Project Dignity – deodorant

Sanctuary Flowers: **PLEASE NOTE:** Arrangements increased (1st time in over 15yrs) to **\$25.00 each**. Sign-up sheet/request forms with additional information on the table in the narthex.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For **immediate pastoral assistance**, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266. On Friday’s please contact Rick Penn, 814-737-9974

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ JANUARY 11, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Donna Holder
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Communion Cups	Penny Gresh
Communion Tray	Michele Rion
Presenter	Cindy Filson
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Rich & Andy