



LCA

Epiphany 3
January 23, 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + www.egrace.org

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We follow our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We seek our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

Hearing enhancement devices are available near the welcome table. Ask an usher to assist you.

Restrooms are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

Masks are required for everyone during worship.

INTRODUCTION to worship

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "What a Friend We have in Jesus", *Converse*, Charles Converse, arr. Patricia Sanders Cota

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 886

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,
- 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
- 3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

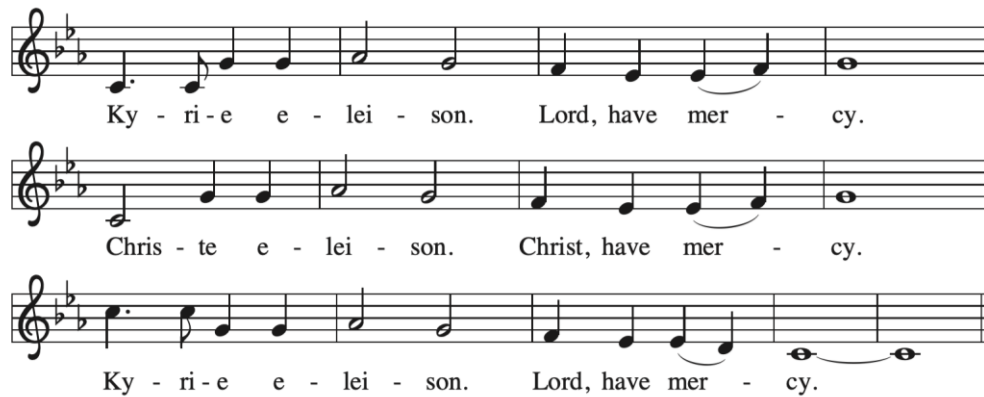
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SIT

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square.

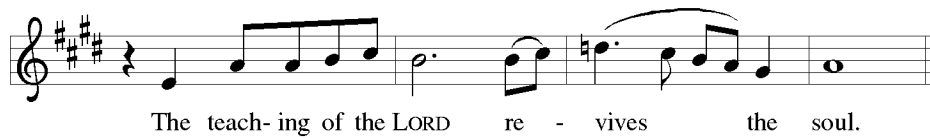
A reading from Nehemiah:

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.

²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 19:7-8,



Psalm 19:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- [|] lives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom [|] to the simple.
- ⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- [|] joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light [|] to the eyes.**
- ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- [|] dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous [|] altogether.
- ¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than [|] much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey [|] in the comb. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

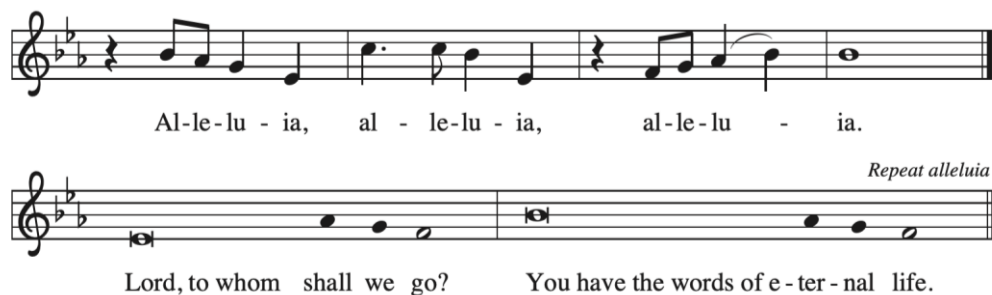
A reading from 1 Corinthians:

- ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

SIT
SERMON

STAND
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 510

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sj, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text © James Quinn, sj, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

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APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to the living,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. *A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to care for the bodies you have given us. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression, especially those we name before you now... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn especially the family of Irene Moore. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

SIT

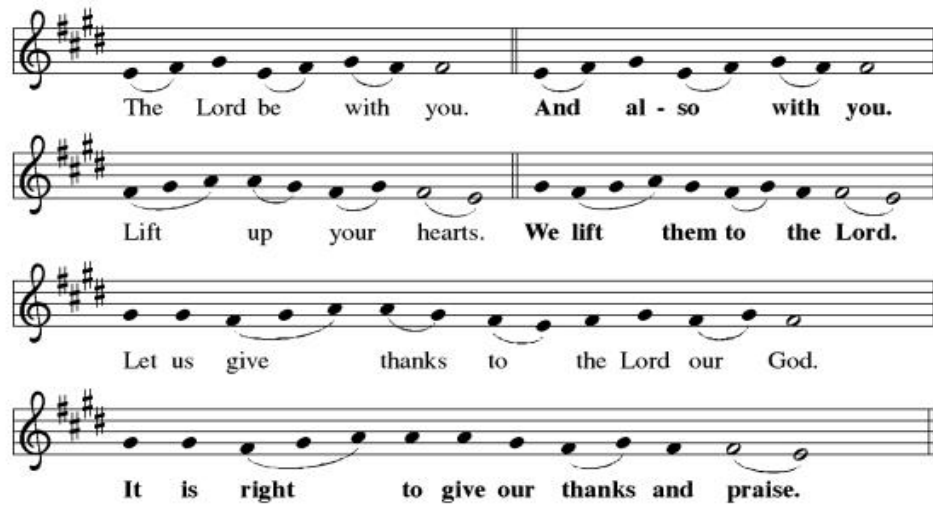
MUSIC OFFERING God of Grace and God of Glory - Setting by Ralph C. Schultz

STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

DIALOG



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

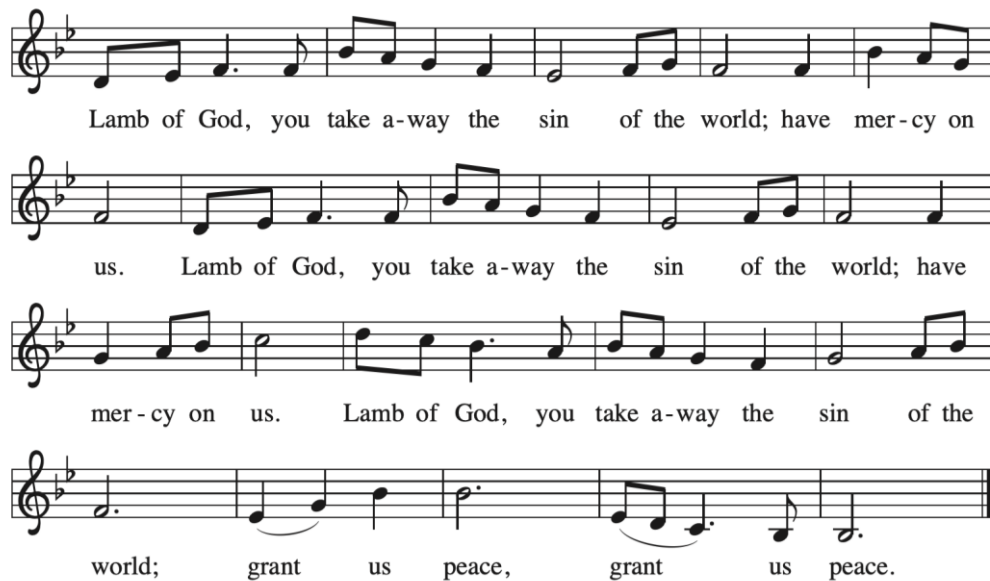
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

SIT

AGNUS DEI



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

All are welcome. Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Grape juice is available upon request. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

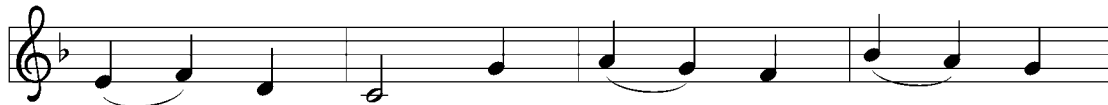
SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ☩ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve”, *Chesterfield*, setting by C. S. Lang

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WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Worship Leader:	Eric Lesh
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Bell Choir:	Jillian Jensen, Dave Rathjen, Peter Schnake, Isabel Kuebler, Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson.
Cantor:	Julene Lesh
Reader:	Beth Dumler
Communion Assistants:	Julene Lesh and Lisa Holmstrom
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Dave and Kathren Miller
Ushers:	Lynette and Mike Lewis, John and Beth Johnson
Wine Donors:	Dean and Beth Dumler, Cara and Dan Spitser, Jane Brown

WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS

The following temporary changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are ill or at risk, please stay at home and watch the service online.
- **Masks are required** for everyone during worship.
- We will enter the building through the **Atrium doors**. These doors will be locked at fifteen minutes past the hour. All other **doors will be locked**.
- There will **hand sanitizers** at the doorways. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- There will be no offering. There will be an **offering basket** located at both entrance doors to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the peace.
- There will be **no acolyte or assisting minister**.
- There will be **no nursery** available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour

Suspended until further notice.

Adult Class

Begins at 10:15 in Lesh Lounge. Masks required.

Green attendance cards can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church after worship or the Welcome Table basket on the top of the atrium stairs.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Meeting of Reports to be held January 30th in the gym after worship. This will be both an online meeting and in-person meeting. Here is the online meeting information for those attending via Zoom:

Web address: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961168229?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961168229?pwd=VE52SXc0bXFOcjd1ZVFwZzh5TXV6dz09)

pwd=VE52SXc0bXFOcjd1ZVFwZzh5TXV6dz09

Meeting ID: 899 6116 8229

Passcode: 065087

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers are given by Ken and Lisa Holmstrom in memory of their fathers, Kenneth A. Holmstrom and Frank James.

Prayers of Comfort

Remember the family of Irene Moore as they mourn the death of Irene on January 16th. A future memorial service is being planned.

The Lutheran magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the atrium during the week.

Flower chart is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

2022 Offering Envelopes

Available in the atrium for you to pick up today or during the week.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

January 24:

Lessons	4:00 pm
Scouts BSA	7:00 pm

January 25:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm

January 26:

Bell Choir A practice	6:00 pm
Bell Choir B practice	7:00 pm

January 29:

Worship	5:30 pm
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January 30:

Worship	9:00 am
Annual Meeting	10:15 am
Chancel Choir	10:15 am
LLC Practice	3:00 pm

THE
BIBLE SAYS
THAT WITH FAITH
THE SIZE OF A
MUSTARD SEED
WE CAN MOVE
MOUNTAINS!

AWWWW...
TAKE IT
WITH A GRAIN
OF SALT.



DONNY
HAWKINS

Spiritual defertilizers