

Sunday, January 4, 2025  
The Feast of the Epiphany

Trinity Lutheran Church  
10:30am: Downtown  
401 Fifth Street N



 **PRELUDE**

 **WELCOME**

 **CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge our sin  
trusting in the steadfast love of God.

*We take time to reflect on our actions and choices.*

Reconciling God,  
**we confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burdens  
of violence, oppression, and fear.  
Be born in us today and every day  
and teach us to sing of your salvation. Amen.**

The birth of Christ reconciles all of creation.  $\ddagger$   
Your sins are forgiven.  
God's grace flows over you.  
Let us rejoice and be glad!  
**Thanks be to God!**



## GATHERING HYMN *The First Noel*

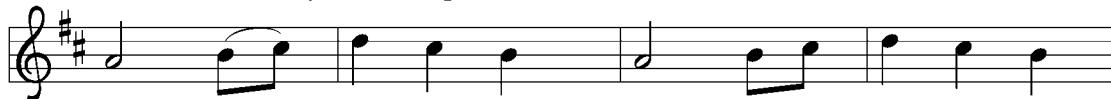
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's -  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional



## 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

Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
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 - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## INTRODUCTION TO READINGS



### FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM: Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

*The choir will sing the refrain once as introduction and the congregation will repeat it, then all will sing it when indicated by "R"*

All kings shall bow down before him.

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup> that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. **R**

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. **R**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup> For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper. **R**

<sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight. **R**



## SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand and sing:*

*Choir: We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him.*

*Congregation repeats "Alleluia"*



## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

The good news of God's love according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**



## SERMON

*A brief period for silent meditation will follow at the conclusion of the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Brightest and Best of the Stars* (verses 1, 3, 4) **ELW 303**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.



## THE 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

Christ the Savior is born! Let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*After each petition:*

**Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

We commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

eGiving



## THE SHARING OF PEACE

*Instead of putting a donation in the offering plate during the next hymn, you can use the QR code to make a contribution on the church website; or you can mail an offering to the church.*

WOV 646

## OFFERTORY HYMN *We Three Kings*

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

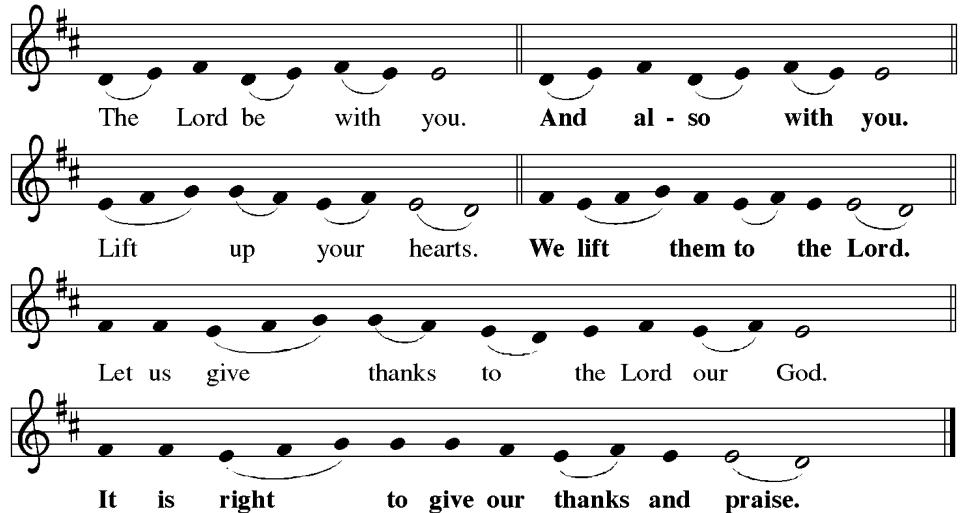
*Refrain*

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;  
 west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,  
**great are your wonders among us**  
**and many the blessings you bestow.**  
**Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,**  
**that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, common time. The lyrics are as follows:

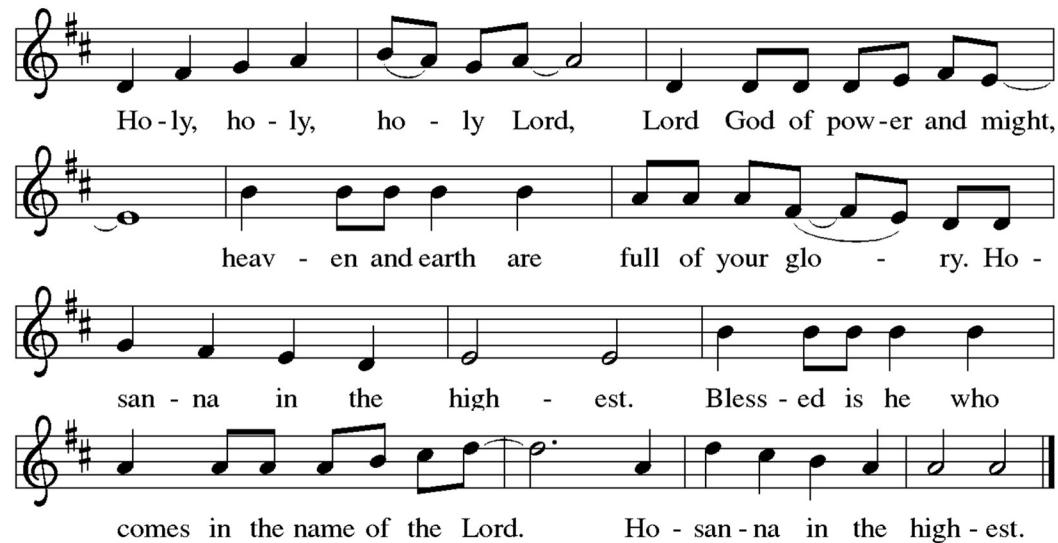
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G major, common time. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.



## 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.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

**Let every heart receive him.**



## 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 HYMN *As With Gladness Men of Old*

ELW 302

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n-ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Incarnate God,  
may we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us. **Amen.**



## BLESSING

May almighty God, glorious Mystery,  
Word made flesh, abiding Comforter,   
bless you with grace, peace, and joy  
today and always. **Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN *Shine, Jesus, Shine!*

ELW 617

*Refrain*

Shine, Je-sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa-ther's glo-ry;  
blaze, Spir-it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv-er, flow, flood the na-tions with grace and mer-cy;

*To stanzas* *End*

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin-ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king-ly bright-ness, so our fac-es dis-

dark-ness, shin-ing; Je-sus, light of the world, shine up-on us,  
play your like-ness, ev-er chang-ing from glo-ry to glo-ry,

set us free, by the truth you now bring us.  
mir-rored here, may our lives tell your sto-ry.

*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the joy!

**Thanks be to God. We will!**



## POSTLUDE

[Livestream ends]



After the service, please stay for a time of refreshments and conversation

**Thank you to those serving this month:** (ML) = Meadowlawn Campus (DT) = Downtown Campus

Service	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Altar Flower Sponsors
01/04	10:30 (DT)	Ruth Kinsey	Gary Bartelt, Violet Prepost
01/11	10:30 (DT)	Lou Carter	Ruth Kinsey, Margarita Rodriguez
01/18	10:30 (ML)	Gary Bartelt	Suzanne Bohning, Linda Gascon
01/25	10:30 (ML)	Suzanne Bohning	Frances Guido, Aimée Fox

#### **Birthdays this week:**

01/04 - Doug Forcino      01/07 - Larry Lutz  
01/05 - Brooklynn Kilburn      01/08 - Joanne Sands  
01/06 - Jill Graetz      01/09 - Cheri Heath

#### **Anniversaries this week:**

None

### **This Week's Calendar of Events:**

#### **Today (01/04)**

*(No scheduled activities)*

#### **Monday (01/05)**

10:00am - Breakfast Club (Kopper Kitchen)  
5:30pm - Jerry Guidice Umpire Trng (CommUNITY Rm)

#### **Tuesday (01/06)**

*(No scheduled activities)*

#### **Wednesday (01/07)**

11:30am - Community Meal (DT 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
6:00pm - Bible Study (CommUNITY Room)

#### **Thursday (01/08)**

6:00pm - Grace Family Bible Study (CommUNITY Room)  
6:30pm - Choir Practice (ML Sanctuary)

#### **Friday (01/09)**

9:30am - TLC Pantry (DT 1st Floor)  
9:30am - Dolores Food Pantry (CommUNITY Room)  
6:00pm - "First" Friday Dinner (CommUNITY Room)

#### **Saturday (01/10)**

9:00am - Hope Chest (Thrift Store)  
2:00pm - George Rahdert funeral (St. Andrews Lutheran)

### **Further Info & Items of Interest:**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study:** Resumes this week

**Choir Practice:** We resume regular Thursday evening choir practice this week (on Jan 8).

**The Quilting Group** is asking for donations of clean flat (not fitted) sheets--all sizes.

**Poinsettias:** Feel free to take home your sponsored poinsettias after the service today! All poinsettias not claimed after today's service will be "retired."

**Sunday Morning Education Hour:** Coming soon! Pastor Paul is looking forward to expanding our Sunday morning activities to include an "All-Ages Education Hour" after worship and fellowship. Stay tuned for more information!

**Grief Support Gatherings:** Another opportunity for sharing and supporting one another, we are planning a series of mid-week Grief Support Gatherings. Copies of a book called "ABCs of Healthy Grieving: A Companion for Everyday Coping" are available for purchase in the church office(s) for \$10. When we gather, we will talk about what we've read and how it impacted us.

**Small Groups:** Another way for us to get to know each other better! If you would like to be a small group host, let Pr. Paul know!

## Prayer List:

### For those ministering in our congregations:

Pastor Paul Gibson  
Deacon Lynne Tallon  
Music Director Ross Kimura  
Music Director Brenden Hall

### For those suffering from cancer:

Jim Tallon  
Whitney & Greg Corrigan  
Rick Jackson  
Frank Durilla  
Rev. Ernest Knoche  
Ron Oughton  
Barbara

### For those homebound:

Lorna Holder  
Shirley Taylor  
Betty Aker  
Marion Cheslock  
Judy Milanese  
Petra Young

Note: These prayer requests are active for 3 months unless a shorter timeframe is requested.

### For those needing strength or healing:

Joan Barnes	Cecil Miles
Bob Stross	Linda Miles
Frances Guido	Bill Quinn
Jill Boos Martin	Doug Pryor
Pr. Felice Johnson	Corinne, Bob, & Irma Kay
Sally Evans	Leonard
Mary Alice Boller	Robert & Brenda Meredith
Paula Smith	Brian Schutzbach
Vickie Clark	Shakira and family
Luke Mendenhall	Nancy Dial
Guy Smith	
Joyce Dare	

### For those grieving the loss of a loved one:

Family & friends of Linda Nelson  
Family & friends of Scheryl Hill  
Family & Friends of Pollyann Knox  
Family & Friends of Terri Jones

Welcome, visitors! Please tell us something about yourself.

*Fill out the form below or scan the provided QR Code to contact us digitally.*



Today's Date:

01/04/26

Name and Address

Email

Phone

Home church, city, and state

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests:

I'm visiting:  First time  Repeat  
 I just moved here  
 Please add me to your email list(s)  
     Pastor's weekly announcements, etc.  
     Office's Monthly Newsletter, etc.

Digital Contact Card:

