WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Michelle Cleverly, Anne Mitchell

Reader: DiAnn Brown

Communion Assistants: Natalie Meyer, DiAnn Brown,

Shawn Cleverly, Debra Holst, Carole Mason, Beth Nicholas

Usher Coordinator: **Gary Holst**Ushers: **Phil Forbord, Paul Worth**Counters: **Greg & Kathy Katainen**

Altar Guild: Marda Kirkwood, Deb Nowatzki
Collection Specialist: Andrew Swenson
Streaming Technician: Paul Bayless

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FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS:	All the Members of FELC
Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff	e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com
Church Administrator: Liisa Mills	e-mail: office@firstlc.com
Youth & Family Minister: Heather Cata	nesee-mail: youth@firstlc.com
Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz	e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com
Music Director: Michelle Hanson	e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com
Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette	
Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith	
Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome:	Larry Cudmore
Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson	flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Summer Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone # (208) 522-9301

www.firstlc.com

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

On this First Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all. Following worship we invite you to join us for coffee and snacks in our fellowship hall.

WORSHIP NOTES:

- Bold printed words indicate the congregation's responses.
- For families with young children, you're invited to take advantage of our worship activity bags for children located in the lobby. A nursery for children 4 and younger is located in Room #7.
- If you have a moment, please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it to others in your pew.
- For those with hearing loss, we have hearing devices available at the welcome window; ask an usher for assistance.
- For those with eyesight issues, we have large print bulletins; ask an usher for one.

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michelle Hanson

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#240

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v.1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Hope Our thanks to *Jeannie Campbell* for leading us today in the devotions and lighting of the advent candle.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The King's Men

"The Yearning"

By Craig Courtney, Susan Bentall Boersma CCL1 Song #6030382 © 2011, The Lorenz Corp. CCL1 License #699128

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (Pew Bible p. 550)

Isaiah 2:1-5

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH		
Today 11/30/2025		
	NO Sunday School - Education Wing	
9:00 am	NO Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall	
	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary	
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall	
	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary	
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice	
Monday 12/1/2025		
10:00 am Staff Meeting - Library		
Tuesday 12/2/2025		
9:00 am	Preschool	
9:00 am 1:00 pm	Happy Stitchers & Happy Stitchers Christmas Party No Preschool	
6:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop #930 - Fellowship Hall	
6:30 pm		
Wednesday 12/3/2025		
9:00 am	Preschool	
	Preschool	
	Praise Band Rehearsal	
	Advent Soup & Bread	
7:15 pm	Advent Worship	
Thursday 12/4/2025		
	Preschool	
	Men's Bible Study	
	Kaffeeklatsch	
	Preschool	
7:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Team Meeting	
Friday 12/5/2025		
10:00 am Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall		
Saturday 12/6/2025		
9:00am	Lefse Making - Fellowship Hall	
Sunday 12/7/2025		
	Pageant Rehearsal - Education Wing	
	Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall	
	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary	
	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall	
11:30 am	11:30 am King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary 12:00 pm Emergency Response Team (ERT) & Shofar Meeting	
4:00 pm	Round Apout Diass Plactice	

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru October \$268,524; Year to date Expenses thru October \$278,956 Year to date net Cash Flow thru October -\$10,432 Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 132, Live Stream: 90



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Congratulations to Skyler & Kaisa McNamara, whose baby, Teddy Gene, was born on November 12th. Congratulations also to the proud grandparents, Greg & Kathy Katainen.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

Friends and family of Andrew & Martha Wentzel. Martha's mother, Patricia Hill passed away November 18th.

Friends and family of Dean & Carla Benson. Dean's brother passed away November 21st.

<u>PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:</u>

Cathy Abreu; Donna Amundson; Sharon Bauman; Ray Bauer; Tina Bean; Betty Benjamin (Lisa Mullinix's mother); Andrew Bessette; Dean & Carla Benson; Dick Carr; Dale Clements; Tracy Coburn; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Joan Douglas; Bernadette Farrington (Annick Dixon's mother); Josephine Fife (Julie Reinwald's mother) Sharon Gilbert: Scottie Grace: Al Glissendorf: Diane Hackman: Steve Hammon; Bill Hayes; Jack Heier; Mark Holland (Cara Dahlberg's father); Beverly Hudman (Larry Hudman's mother); Larry Hudman; Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mackenzie & Zane Igor; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn (Alecia Coburn's former mother-in-law); Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Andy Kruckeberg; Bud Langerak; Bill Lockman; Allan Magnuson; Geri Magnuson; Mike Martin; Rochelle Mason; Adara McClure (Jeannie Campbell's daughter); Tim Metcalf; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (Larry Hudman's sister); Don Newman (Richard Magnuson's cousin); Heidi Peoples; Carol Miller Pisher (Cal Miller's daughter); Priscilla Rainev: Bob Scarr: Laura Schoonmaker: Julie Sundberg: Scot Swenson (Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son); Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Marie Warwick; Daniel & Sarah Young.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Craig Bukowski; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Eric Gratzke; Alton Helm; Jack Hogan; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter two, beginning with verse one.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is God's word. Thanks be to God.

PSALM (Pew Bible p. 498)

Psalm 122

Our Psalm for today is Psalm one hundred twenty-two. I invite the congregation to read it aloud with me.

¹ I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

² Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD.

the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel.

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers."

⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, "Peace be within you."

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (Pew Bible p. 923) Romans 13:11-14 Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome, chapter thirteen, beginning with verse eleven.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

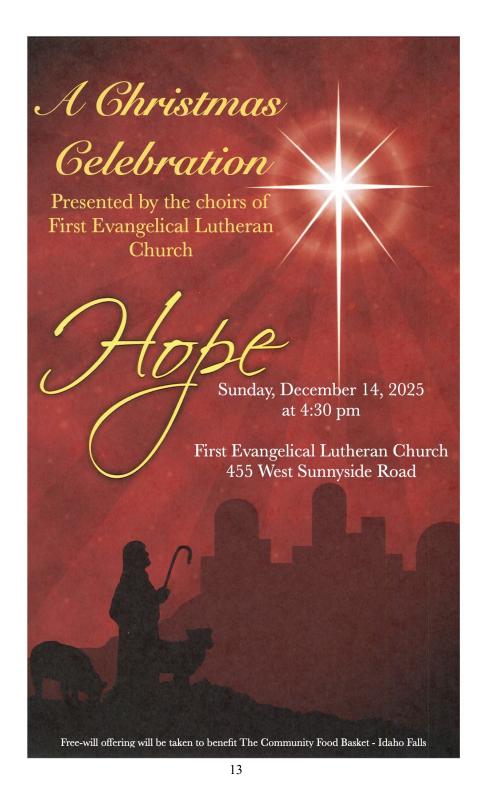
Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 188



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THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

"It's beginning to look a lot like **Advent.**" Perhaps that's not how the world looks at the weeks leading up to Christmas. Yet, for us Lutherans, we view the weeks leading up to Christmas day as a time of preparing our hearts and homes for the promised Messiah of old and the victorious Messiah's return.

Today we enter the season of waiting and watching, preparing and praying that is the Advent season. And while it looks much different from the chaotic way the world leads up to Christmas, in many ways it's better. Instead of a preoccupation with getting, we can focus on giving. Instead of having to do a thousand things, Christians try during this time of year to whittle down to doing the important things. And it's important to remember to "keep Christ in Christmas." FELC hopes to help you "keep Christ in Christmas" by offering meaningful **Sunday Advent services** as well as **midweek Advent worship**.

FELC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Many members have said they've shared this booklet with neighbors and family to help explain Advent as well as share the encouraging advice regarding various ways for families to make meaningful traditions that keep "Christ in Christmas." Additionally, the readings for the lighting of each of the Advent candles can be found in the back of the booklet. These booklets are free and are at the Welcome Window.

FAMILIES NEEDED FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We'll once again be **lighting the Advent Wreath** for each worship service, and this means **we'll need volunteers to help read and light the candles**. If your family is willing to help, the <u>sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Window.</u> We'll be using the readings for the Scandinavian tradition of the Advent Wreath: The Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles.

Our midweek services this year will be held on:

Wednesday, December 3rd
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service
- Rudolph & It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Wednesday, December 10th 6:30 pm Soup & Bread 7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

- Frosty & The First Noel

Wednesday, December 17th
6:30 pm Soup & Bread
7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

- The Grinch Who Stole Christmas & Joy to the World

The Advent Worship service offerings will go to support the Community Food Basket - Idaho Falls.

THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 806*) Matthew 24:36-44 The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter twenty-four, beginning with verse thirty-six.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

THE SERMON

Pastor Mike Knauff

"Advent's Alarm Clock"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Gathered as a Christian family let us together confess our faith using the words of 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

and his kingdom will have no end.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FELC will have two worship services on Christmas Eve. The first service at 5:00 pm will be "family friendly." It includes communion and the traditional candlelight ceremony, but Pastor Mike's message will be "family friendly." The messages will be based on the Christmas Hymn of the "Friendly Beasts." Pastor will have 3 separate, short children's messages based on the friendly beasts that were at the first Christmas: a sheep, camel, and donkey. The length of each message accompanied by quick costume changes, tend to keep wound-up kids and exhausted parents engaged long enough to enjoy some Christmas joy. The service ends with the sharing of communion followed by the traditional candlelight ceremony of singing "Silent Night."

The later Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7:30 pm. It will feature a more "traditional" message, as well as feature one of our musical groups, along with the sharing of communion and traditional candlelight ceremony of singing "Silent Night." Invite a friend, bring your out-of-town family and guests to our "no judgement zone" Christmas celebration. The more celebrating Christ's birth, the merrier.

Speaking of out-of-town families, Christmas Eve worship is one of those times members and friends who haven't seen each other for a while can reconnect. We were hoping to provide a small reception in the narthex with punch and cookies following the late service. If you have a few homemade Christmas goodies you'd like to share *(avoid the extra calories)* for our Christmas eve reception, please let the office know.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS COMING IN JANUARY

Imagine what our church would look like if no one had to face hardship alone. That's what Stephen Ministry is all about - Christ caring for people through people. We're starting a new training session soon, and we need more caregivers to join this mission. If you're ready to grow in your faith and make a real difference in someone's life, please connect with our Stephen leaders, Annick Dixon or Pastor Mike after worship or during the week. God may be calling you to this work. Also let us know who we should be inviting by filling out the card at the welcome window with names of three people in the congregation you'd feel comfortable talking to with a personal concern.

FYI

Woods Funeral Home has generously supplied us with 2026 calendars. There are two versions available. They are located in the Fellowship Hall. Please take what you need!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENNY POWER

This November, Penny Power will be setting up an Angel Tree to benefit the Community Food Basket - Idaho Falls. Each ornament will list items that the food basket is in need of. The tree will be set up in the narthex and food will be collected through December 21st. Please take this chance to help out the Community Food Basket in keeping their shelves stocked this winter!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year thanks to our youth and Happy Stitchers, we were able to fill 126 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Thank you to everyone who took the time to help with this project. These boxes were shipped out earlier this week and will go to help make some children's Christmas merrier!

CARE & CONCERN HELP NEEDED

The Care & Concern team is looking for volunteers to help their Meals In Crisis team. You would be asked to help provide a meal occasionally to help a family when needed. Please contact Geri Magnuson if you would be willing to help with this ministry.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

It's almost time to decorate the church for the Christmas season. We will be decorating the tree and the sanctuary on Thursday, December 4th at 10:00 am. Please join us if you are able!

PAGEANT PROP PREP AND PIZZA PARTY!

The family ministry team would like to invite you to join them in getting props ready for their pageant. This will be Sunday, December 7th at 4pm. Please join if you are able and pizza will be served!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

On **Sunday, December 14th at 4:30 pm**, our music ministry will be presenting "A **Christmas Celebration.**" All offerings collected during the event will be give to the Community Food Basket - Idaho Falls.

LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING MACHINE

A giving machine is a vending machine, but rather than candy or snacks for oneself, it allows people to donate to help out nonprofits in the Idaho Falls area. FISH has been one of the nonprofits that has been chosen! Our Family ministry team and our youth will be volunteering on December 20th from 12–2pm. If you are able, please come and support them! For more information please call the church office or Kären Bateman.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Each petition will conclude with "Lord in your mercy;" the congregation responds with "Hear our prayer.")

OFFERING

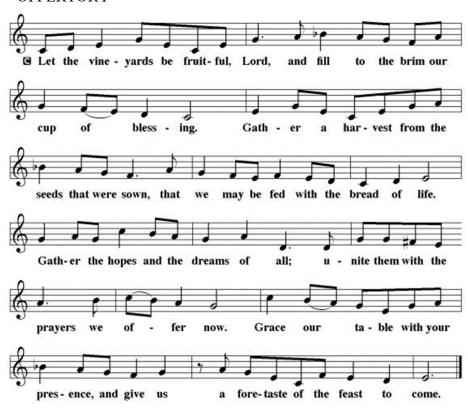
SPECIAL MUSIC

The King's Men

"Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem?"

By Douglas E. Wagner, Lee, Dix CCLI Song # 5011254 © 2007 Lorenz Corp. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 699128

OFFERTORY



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WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to

you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 and 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.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who are baptized in Christ, and believe in receiving the bread and wine they receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins, to join us. Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. The serving station at the center of the altar rail is our hypoallergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#242 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #264 "Prepare the Royal Highway" #250 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SUNG BLESSING

Pastor Mike

"Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace, never be afraid God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day God will be there watching from above Go now in peace in faith and in love Amen, amen, amen.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED LET OUR SERVICE TO GOD BEGIN!