

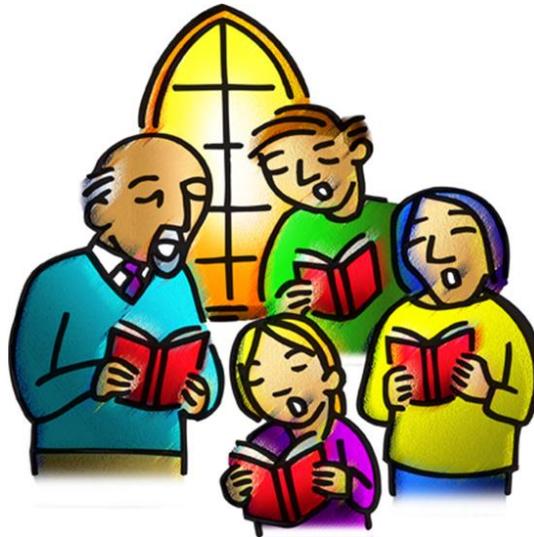
# Mount Cross Lutheran Church

102 Camino Esplendido, Camarillo, CA 93010

805.482.3847 [www.mountcross.com](http://www.mountcross.com)

*For those of you worshipping with us in person,  
thank you for wearing your mask (indoors required; outdoors optional)  
and social distancing outdoors when singing.*

*Let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card:  
<https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.*



## **To the Parents of Our Young Children -**

*We are so glad you are here. We know how challenging it can be to get a family out the door to come to church. We hope you can relax and receive the gifts of God that are here for you today. Please don't worry about squirming children or crying babies. All are welcome here. If you feel you must leave the service with your child, please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."*

*We want them to know they are at home in this house of worship.*

## **To All Worshippers -**

*The presence of those with special needs is a gift to us and the Church. Please welcome all children and give their parents a smile of encouragement. Please greet those with special needs and their families, helping them to know they are valued and accepted in our community.*

**Thank you for being the welcoming Body of Christ!**

**1st Sunday after Christmas - Carol Sing  
December 26, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

## PRELUDE - Christmas Carol Selections

*Kate Fisher, flute; Guy Ervin III, keyboard*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor Julie Morris

### CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*The Christmas proclamation is an ancient text that places the birth of Christ into human history yet avoids a literalistic accounting of time. This is a contemporary version, and the last phrase makes it clear that the nativity of Jesus is not only then but now, today, in our own time.*

P Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and then formed man and woman in the Divine image;

L long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth  
as a sign of the covenant;

P twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to  
Abraham and Sarah;

L thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt  
and Miriam danced in freedom;

P eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

L one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,

P in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned  
by the prophets;

L in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

P the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of  
the city of Rome;

L the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

P while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace,

L Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,

P desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,

L being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth  
in the womb of his mother—

P now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God made flesh.



# GATHERING SONG - "Good King Wenceslas" (Neale/TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM)

As able, the assembly stands.



1. Good King Wen - ces - las look'd out, on the feast of Ste - phen,
2. "Hith - er, page, and stand by me, if thou knows't it tell - ing,
3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine - logs hith - er:
4. "Sire, the night is dark - er now, and the wind grows strong - er;
5. In his mas - ter's steps he trod, where the snow lay dint - ed;



when the snow lay round a - bout, deep and crisp and e - ven.  
yon - der peas - ant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?"  
thou and I shall see him dine, when we bear them thith - er."  
fails my heart I know not how; I can go no long - er."  
heat was in the ver - y sod which the Saint had print - ed.



Bright - ly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cru - el,  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, un - der - neath the moun - tain,  
Page and mon - arch, forth they went, forth they went to - geth - er;  
"Mark my foot - steps, my good page, tread thou in them bold - ly;  
There - fore, Christ - ians, all be sure, wealth or rank pos - sess - ing,



when a poor man came in sight, gath - 'ring win - ter fu - el.  
right a - gainst the for - est fence, by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain."  
through the rude wind's wild la - ment and the bit - ter weath - er.  
thou shalt find the win - ter's rage freeze thy blood less cold - ly."  
you who now will bless the poor, shall your - selves find bless - ing.

Words: J.M. Neale, 1853; adapt.

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM, 1582; harm. by Edward L. Stauff.

December 26 is Saint Stephen's Saint Day, as referred to in "Good King Wenceslas" ("...on the feast of Stephen"). The Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips.

**Saint Stephen is the patron saint of Deacons, and we give thanks for our newly ordained Mount Cross Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson, who is sharing her ministry of Word and Service today as guest preacher at New Hope Lutheran Church in Agoura Hills.**

Though the tune for this song is taken from a much older madrigal, John Mason Neale's "Good King Wenceslas" (1853) is about a man who braves winter storms during Saint Stephen's Day to help his poorer neighbors. The story it tells is based on a real person—Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia—who was assassinated by his own brother and had been adored by his subjects. His charity and popularity eventually led to his being named the patron saint of the Czech Republic.



This carol is beloved by many, in large part because of the evocative story images and the possibility for performance. Traditionally, the part of the Page (the king's assistant) is sung by a treble voice, while the King is sung by a bass voice. In a congregational setting, the same may be achieved by assigning parts to higher and lower voices, or children and adults, or one half of the church and the other, with everyone joining together for the non-dialogue parts. The whole thing is quite a bit of fun, especially since the opportunities to sing this simple Christmas story are so few.

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God of heaven and earth,  
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—  
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.  
Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.  
Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.  
Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence  
in the world and in our hearts.  
We ask this through your Holy Name.

**C** **Amen.**

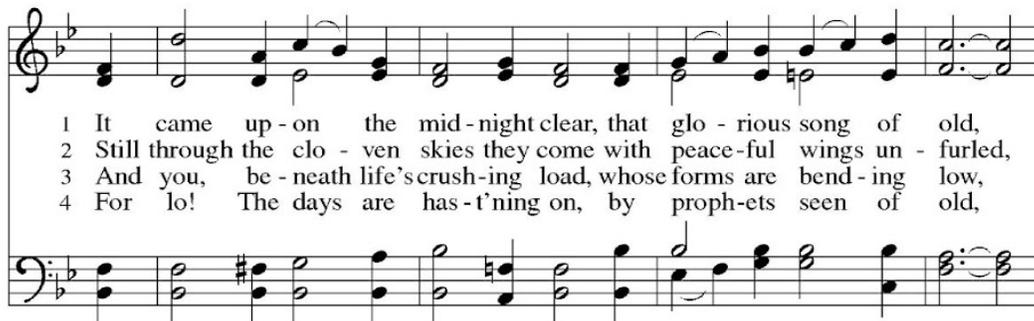
*The assembly is seated.*

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

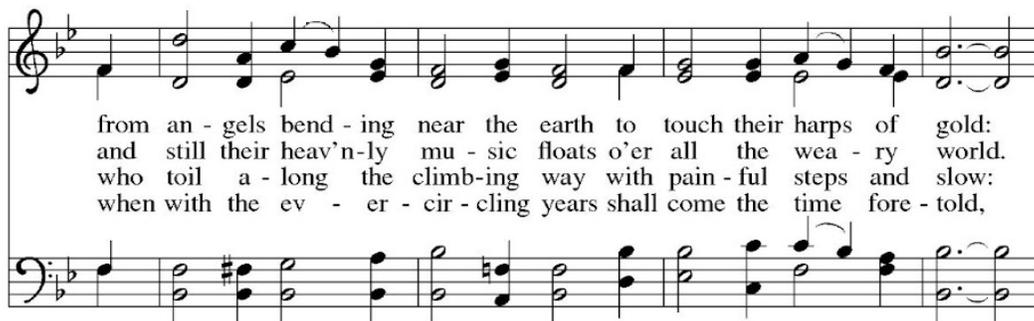
### SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:1-3

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.<sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered.

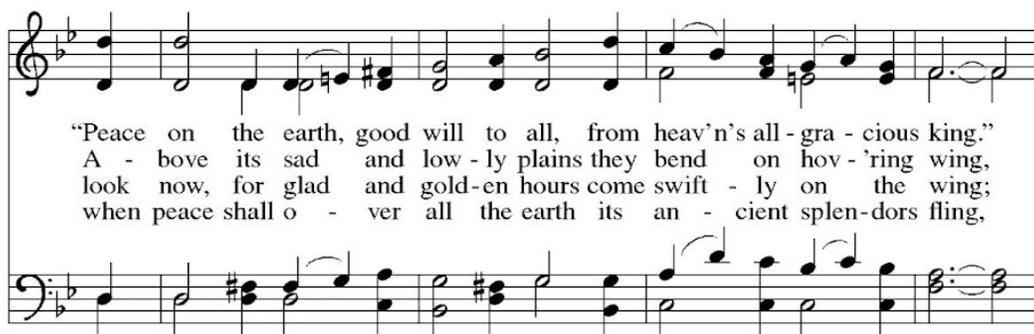
### CAROL - "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear - ELW 282 - Verses 1 & 4



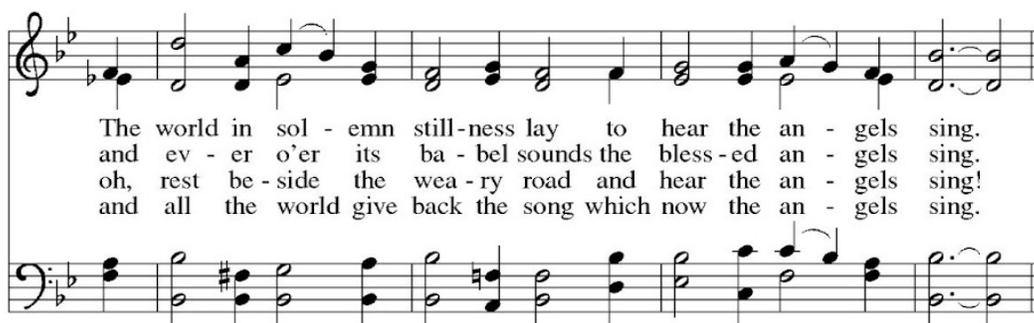
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## CAROL - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" - ELW 279 - Verses 1 & 3

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:8-12

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

## CAROL - "Away in a Manger" - ELW 278 - Verses 1 & 3

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

## SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:13-15

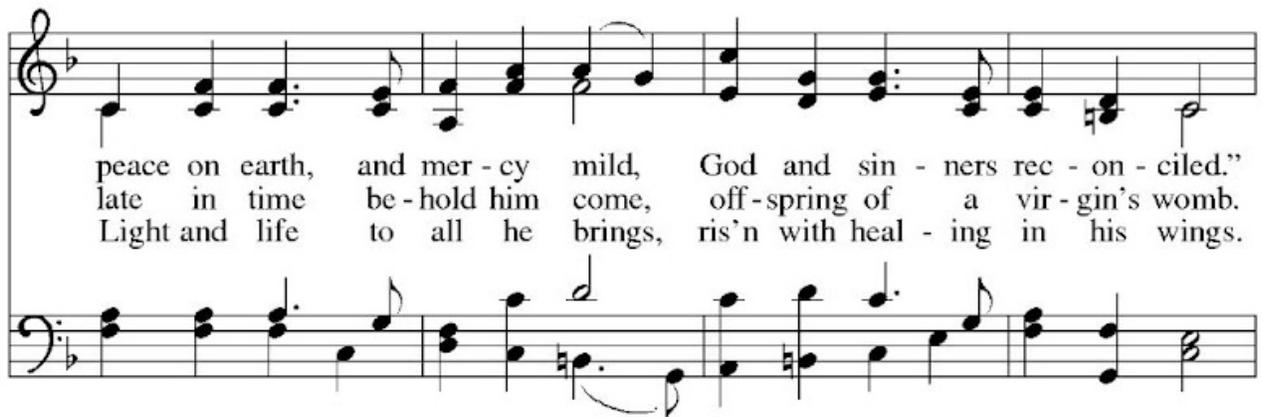
<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

## CAROL - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - ELW 270 - Verses 1 & 3



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

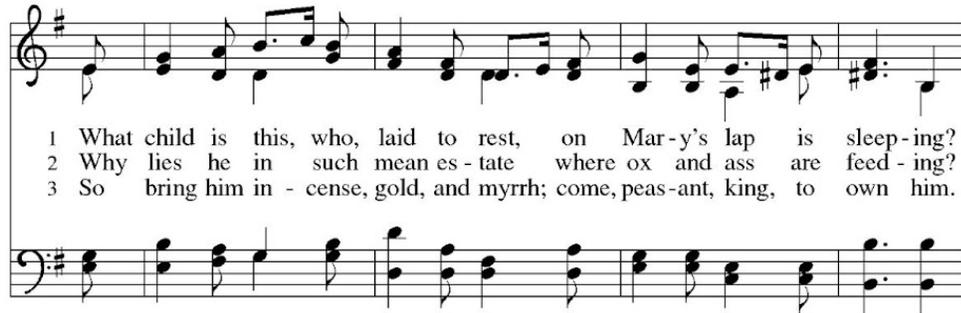
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915



## SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:16-20

<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

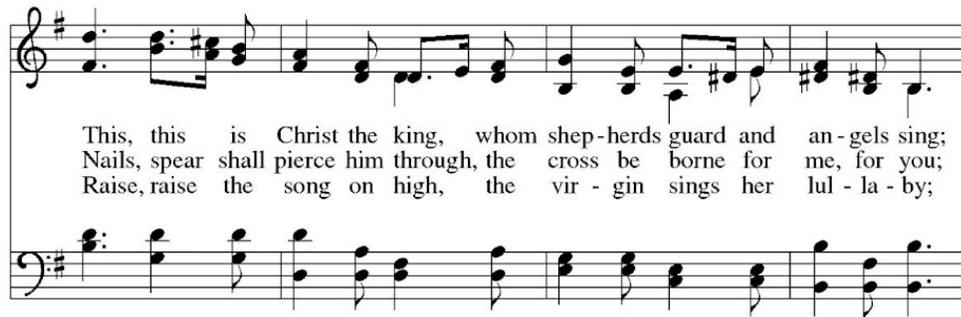
## CAROL - "What Child Is This" - ELW 296 - Verses 1 & 2



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



*The assembly may be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A As you have drawn us to your cradle of wondrous love, O God,  
draw us together in this place, that we might  
pray for your people and your world.

Today, we give you thanks for the gift of your child, Jesus Christ,  
who, in birth, life, death, and resurrection,  
revealed your unending love for all people  
and opened to us the purpose and promise of life together.

We give thanks also for the gifts of this season:  
hope for the vision of justice you promise, even in the midst of despair;  
for peace within and among your people, even in the midst of conflict;  
joy found in reunion and celebration, even amid the challenges of this life;  
and love, with the power to transform and heal all things,  
even in the midst of brokenness.

We pray for those who still long for these gifts, God of Love:  
for those who are anxious or alone...  
for those who grieve ...  
for those in the hospital, in hospice, or long-term care ...  
for those who endure the terror of conflict and oppression ...  
for those who go hungry this day...  
for those who put their own lives in harm's way for the sake of others,  
including law enforcement officers, firefighters,  
border patrol agents, and all members of our military ...  
for your people and your world, O God.

We pray for an end to the COVID pandemic,  
and for all who have lost loved ones or suffered because of this illness,  
for all victims of gun violence and violence of any kind,  
for victims of racial prejudice or abuse of any kind,  
and for those who are dealing with frailties and disabilities in body,  
mind, or spirit, especially [those on our prayer list]

### PRAYER CONCERNS from MOUNT CROSS

**We pray for Bob Anderson, Tom Andino** (friend of Carol Browning), **Alice** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Jenny** (daughter of friend of Barbara Burke), **Linda** (friend of Barbara Burke), **Mike Caceres** (nephew of Becky Gilbertson), **Lorraine & Mike Carpenter, David Diehl** (son of Joe & Karen Diehl), **Steve Doshier** (brother-in-law of Paul Crockett), **Paul Edwards and Nancy Edwards** (friends of Denise Sobolik), **Natalie Faltin, Bill Greason, Charlene** (sister of Glenda Greason), **the family of Betty Hahn** (aunt of Joan Brundage) **and her family, Charles Hilley, Jo Holler, Paul Marigonda** (friend of Becky Riley), **Rick Mahlke** (son of friend of Barbara Burke), **Marie DeVere McClain** (daughter of Jody DeVere), **Lucille Miley, David Nadon** (friend of Miriam Hoffmann), **Karen Nelson, Lynn Nelson** (mother of Julie Fernandez), **Michael and Mercedes Olivera** (brother of Courtney Burke), **Frances Rini** (grandmother of Carina McVeigh), **Samantha Roberts** (friend of Judy and Bob Winters), **Gloria Saldano** (mother of Lisa Saner) **and the Saner family, the family of Bonnie Smith** (sister of Karen Cherry), **Donald Stevenson** (father of Luanne Crockett, Louise Stevenson, and Bruce Stevenson), **Maria Swartz** (sister of Jo Holler), **Chris, Wayne & Maria Truchan** (friends of the Burke family), **the family of Lois Watts, the people of Waukesha Wisconsin, Howard Wullschleger.**

*Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests remain in the bulletin for four weeks.  
If you would like to add or remove someone to or from the prayer list, please  
e-mail the church office at [office@mountcross.com](mailto:office@mountcross.com) or call 805.482.3847.*

A God who listens, we now offer you our own prayers, either silently or aloud  
(pause) ...

Let us listen to the angels' song again, your song of love for this world.  
Move us to return that song in what we say and do, that we may be  
instruments of your hope, peace, joy and love.

C **Amen.**

### PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

# OFFERING SONG - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" - ELW 283 - Verses 1 & 3

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## OFFERING PRAYER

- A Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth  
you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C **Amen.**



*As able, the assembly stands for the Great Thanksgiving.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P 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.

P 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:

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord, God of Hosts, all praise be giv'n!  
2. Bless-ed is the King who came, bring-ing love and light di-vine!

All your glo - ry fills the earth, all your pow - er fills the heav'ns!  
Bless - ed is the King who comes in the bread and in the wine!

**Refrain**

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Text: Linda J. Kraft, Pastor, Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.  
Music: *Gloria* (77.77 with Refrain), French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

P 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.

C Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

P We pray that in your goodness and mercy  
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts,  
sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people,  
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C **Amen!**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.**

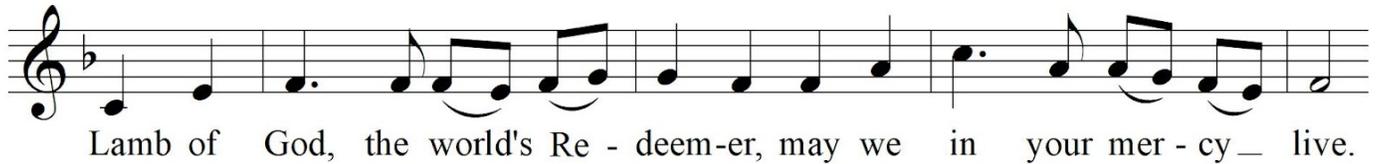
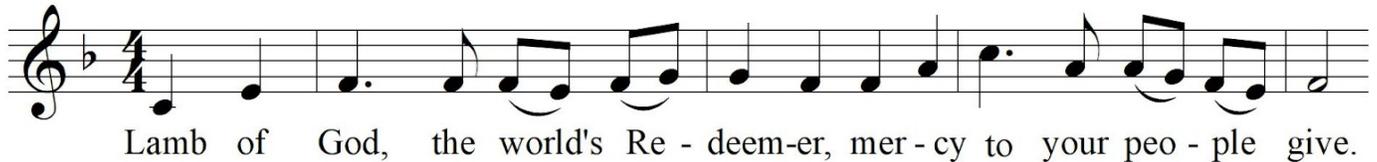
### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

*The assembly may be seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD - "Lamb of God" (Kraft/IRBY)



Text: Linda J. Kraft, Pastor, Holy Trinity ELCA, Trumbull, CT.

Music: IRBY (8 7 8 7 77).

**All are welcome at the Lord's Table.** Holy Communion will be distributed in the center aisle. Ushers will dismiss people by rows, beginning from the back of the church. Please come forward to receive the bread, and then walk to the side to receive wine or grape juice. Place your empty cup in the trays provided. Communion ministers will bring Holy Communion to those with mobility challenges (or those worshipping outside who don't wish to come inside).

### PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for our Livestream viewers)

A spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. As Martin Luther once wrote: "I can enjoy the sacrament ... every day if only I keep my eyes on the promise, that is, on the words and promise of Christ, which feeds and strengthens my faith."

As we distribute Holy Communion to the congregation here, we invite those on the livestream to offer the Prayer of Spiritual Communion displayed on your screen:



**I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart.**

*(We pause for silent prayer).*

**Fill us all with your love and grace, and strengthen us to serve the world in your name. Amen.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Adapted by Pastor Julie from a prayer written by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

# COMMUNION SONGS - "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.

# “Silent Night” - ELW 281

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C **Amen.**

*As able, the assembly stands for the Blessing.*

## BLESSING

P May Christ, who,  
by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with his joy and peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,  
+ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**



# SENDING SONG - "Angels from the Realms of Glory" - ELW 275 - Verses 1, 2 & 4

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE - Christmas Carol Selections

*Kate Fisher, flute; Guy Ervin III, keyboard*

*Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of our father and grandfather, Kenneth Petersen,  
by Gayle & Cy Johnson and family.*

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Christmas Proclamation Text: Traditional, adapt. Brian T. Johnson  
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## **Information about the Christmas Carols in Scripture and Song:**

### **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” - ELW 282**

Written by Massachusetts Unitarian minister Edmund Sears in 1849, the pastoral-sounding carol “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” carries a much deeper meaning than simply retelling the birth of Jesus. Sears hoped to offer an uplifting message amid the great poverty he was witness to and to remind people that God, in the form of a child, had entered a world sorely in need of love and peace. Richard Storrs Willis’ tune, CAROL, paired with the words only a year later, gave the carol its lasting appeal and is one of its two most common tunes, the other being NOËL.

A very fine movie made in 1992, *A Midnight Clear*, tells the story of American and German soldiers laying aside their weapons on Christmas Eve of 1944. The story ends tragically, as miscommunication causes hostilities to resume. Yet, the powerful third verse of this carol, with its invitation to hush the noise of battle in order to hear God’s “love song” to the earth and all people, is a strong one - and still relevant today. This carol speaks gently, yet powerfully, of God’s word of peace amid strife and weariness.

### **“O Little Town of Bethlehem” - ELW 279**

In 1865, the famous preacher and abolitionist Phillip Brooks rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and participated in the Church of the Nativity’s Christmas Eve celebration. In response to his experience there, he wrote the now-famous carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” which was first performed by the children’s choir of his church a few years later. Unlike many Christmas carols, the lyrics of this reflective and hopeful song are set in the present tense rather than the past. The author’s experience of wonder and awe are palpable and cover the seemingly great distance between the birth of Christ then and our experience of it now.

A number of tunes have been composed for these words. The most familiar is ST. LOUIS, though FOREST GREEN is equally beautiful. As we sing this carol today, let us remember the violence and heartbreak in the Middle East and other areas of our present-day world, while also holding on to stories of the mercy of God and the hope and resilience of people everywhere.

### **“Away in a Manger” - ELW 278**

The carol “Away in a Manger” appears to be American in origin, though it first attained popularity mis-attributed to Martin Luther. The text appeared in the March 2, 1882 edition of *The Christian Cynosure*, entitled “Luther’s Cradle Song.” It was accompanied by a wholly inaccurate byline: “The following hymn, composed by Martin Luther for his children, is still sung by many of the German mothers to their little ones.”

Martin Luther (1483–1546) did, in fact, compose Christmas hymns, including “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her” (“From Heaven Above” - ELW 268) which he published in 1535 as “A children’s song on the Nativity of Christ.” However, this Luther hymn bears no textual or musical resemblance to “Away in a Manger.”

“Away in a Manger” is sung to a variety of tunes. In America, it’s best known with the tune MUELLER, composed by songwriter and organist James R. Murray (1841/2–1905). In England, “Away in a Manger” is more frequently sung to CRADLE SONG, composed in 1895 by Philadelphia carpenter-turned-church-music director William J. Kirkpatrick (1838–1921).

### **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” - ELW 270**

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” reached its holiday prominence by a circuitous route. The tune, which originally had nothing to do with Christmas, was composed in 1840 by Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), as the second movement of his *Festgesang* or *Gutenberg Cantata*. Mendelssohn composed this work for the Leipzig Gutenberg Festival, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn’s cantata, for male chorus and brass ensemble, was sung at the unveiling of Leipzig’s new statue of Johannes Gutenberg. The song’s original refrain was: “Gutenberg, du wackrer Mann, du stehst glorreich auf dem Plan!” “Gutenberg, you valiant man, you stand glorious on the square!”

Mendelssohn hoped to publish his Gutenberg tune with English words, but he couldn’t find a text to suit him. In a 1843 letter to Edward Buxton, one of his English music publishers, he explained: “If the right [words] are hit at, I am sure that the piece will be liked very much by singers and hearers, but it will never do to sacred words...”

In 1847, Mendelssohn directed the London premiere of his oratorio *Elijah*, and one of the alto choirboys was one William Cummings. Little did Mendelssohn know that in the 1850s, Cummings would be the one to attach his Gutenberg tune to a decidedly sacred poem entitled “Hymn for Christmas-Day,” from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739) by Methodist writer Charles Wesley, the first line of which is, of course, “Hark! The herald angels sing...”

## **“What Child Is This” – ELW 296**

“What Child Is This?” was born out of a near-death experience. In 1865, William Chatterton Dix, a manager at an insurance company, became bed-ridden and depressed after a severe, life-threatening illness. His experience re-ignited his faith, and he authored several hymns, including this one. When it was finally published in 1871, it was set to the tune of “Greensleeves”, a romantic ballad from the sixteenth century about a man serenading his rather aloof lady love.

Christmas carol material adapted from

<https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/stories-behind-carols>  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-stephen>  
<https://www.allclassical.org/the-stories-of-twelve-famous-carols/>  
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/12/23/the-stories-behind-our-most-beloved-christmas-carols-%EF%BB%BF/>

If you haven't already done so today, let us know you're watching us online - fill out our connection card: <https://bit.ly/MCLCConnect>.

Join us for **Fellowship in the Pavilion** after worship each Sunday!

Come to the Table: Mount Cross is offering **Communion reception in the sanctuary or in your car** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**.

**Beginning in January, the time will be from 11:00-11:30 a.m.**

If you are unable to come inside, we will serve Communion to those who prefer to remain in their cars.

Please consider your vulnerabilities and risk factors before choosing to participate.

## **The Week at a Glance**

### **Monday, December 27, 2021**

The office will be closed tomorrow, December 27, for the Christmas holiday.  
Merry Christmas!

Monday Meditation, 3:00 p.m.

The Meditation group meets on Zoom at 3:00 p.m.  
Questions, contact LaJean Wenzel.

### **Tuesday, December 28, 2021**

Property Committee, 7:00 p.m.  
The Property Committee meets at 7:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, January 1, 2022**

Happy New Year!

**The Child Development Center  
is closed until January 3.**

**(Our regular Bible studies and CYFM programs  
are on break until January.)**

### **End-of-Year Gifts**

If you are able to do so, please help Mount Cross finish the year in good financial shape by making an end-of-year gift. Gifts can be made through our website by clicking the green tab that says "Give" or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

# Announcements

## Sunday Worship

The Re-Opening Committee meets monthly to review our COVID precautions. We continue to require masks for indoor worship. Masks are optional for outdoor worship in the pavilion, but please maintain social distancing. We also need worship assistants:

<https://signup.com/Group/7769976983269200115/>.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep Mount Cross safe!

## Help with Drive-through and Sanctuary Communion Reception

We are looking for help to make Sunday Sanctuary and Drive-through Communion possible. If you would like to help set up or as a parking lot usher, greeter, or communion assistant, please sign up at

<http://bit.ly/WorshipandCommunionAssistants>

or call the office at (805) 482-3847.

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Our programs are on a break for Christmas for the next two weeks. Check the newsletter or email Joe ([joe@mountcross.com](mailto:joe@mountcross.com)) for any questions.

## Anti-Racism Work of the Week:

*These links are offered by the Peace & Justice Team in a spirit of goodwill to those who are seeking to learn from diverse voices and take action towards reconciliation and healing. We invite everyone to be a part of these ongoing conversations as we learn together.*

The Peace & Justice Team wishes you and your family the blessings of Christmas. Want to know how to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the stranger and the unwanted child, care for the ill, love your enemies.

## Vaccine Sign-up Site

COVID-19 vaccines are available by appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](http://MyTurn.CA.gov) or for walk-ins.

## Altar Flowers

To request flowers for our worship:

<http://bit.ly/AltarFlowers2021>. The cost is \$35.00; you can take the arrangement home with you after worship, or pick it up at Communion following worship. If you aren't here but would still like flowers, please let us know; we'll deliver the arrangement to another member to enjoy.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl ministry could use additional helpers to knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to those in need of comfort. To give a shawl or for instructions to knit or crochet one, contact Diana Hagen (805-482-6411).

## More Ways to Give

Thank you, Mount Cross congregation, for all the generosity you have shown in these times of trial!

To give to Mount Cross on your cell phone or tablet, download Vanco's free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play, enter zip code 93010, and choose Mount Cross.

Please email any questions about giving and/or statements to Financial Secretary Joan Brundage at [jbrundage@mountcross.com](mailto:jbrundage@mountcross.com).

## Amazon Smile

If you haven't already done so, choose Mount Cross Lutheran Church as your non-profit to support on [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so 0.5% of purchases will go to Mount Cross. Thank you!

## St. Columba's Food Pantry

Each Sunday, we have a bin where you can bring non-perishable food for St. Columba's Project Hope food pantry. Canned vegetables or proteins are always a good choice. They could also use boxes of breakfast cereal. **Please do not**

**donate food that is expired.**

Thanks for your support.

## Worship Guidelines

The Re-opening Committee met and has decided to stay the course for our worship.

**Masks are still required for indoor worship.** Although some places have chosen to make masks optional for those who are vaccinated, we, as Lutherans, love to sing and there are concerns about singing indoors and keeping people safe, which is our first priority. Because we love to sing and out of respect to those in our congregation who cannot yet be vaccinated (including children under 12), masks are required indoors for worship. Masks are optional **outside** and we offer seating in the pavilion outdoors, but we ask you to keep socially distanced from those not in your household.

Thanks for your continued cooperation in following these guidelines to help keep Mount Cross safe.

## 2022 Generosity Campaign



Thank you to everyone who has already submitted your pledge cards and time & talent surveys. Our church budget depends on the treasure you have committed to Mount Cross. In pledging, you are generously supporting our staff and various ministries. If you haven't had a chance to complete your pledge or survey, pledges and time & talent surveys are always accepted.

Thank you for your generosity!

## **Lutheran Disaster Response - U.S. Tornadoes**

On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

Your gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete. [Please give to Lutheran Disaster Response.](#)

## **Gifts of Hope**

Christmas lasts 12 days - The **Mount Cross Alternative Christmas Program** is still here. This is a way to give a gift to someone this holiday season while supporting a good organization and their work. You get a lovely card and explanation of the donation to give your friend. This year, our focus is on Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and their work with Afghan allies.

Afghan refugees and allies need our help. For two decades, the U.S. Government worked with hundreds of thousands of Afghan allies to serve the U.S. mission as interpreters, translators, cultural advisors, drivers, NGO employees, human rights activists, and more. Because of their service to the U.S. mission, our allies and their families soon became the targets of anti-American violence.

There are four options for giving. Match them to the people you usually shop for - and be creative! **Look for the table on the patio on Sundays or stop by the office on weekday afternoons.** Thanks for spreading love and HOPE to Afghan Allies and Refugees across the US.

## **Winter Camps**

Are you interested in attending Winter Camp at El Camino Pines this year?

Here are the dates you can join us for some fun in the mountains:

Family Winterfest / January 15-17

High School Winter Camp / January 28-30

Middle School Winter Camp / February 25-27

\*Elementary School Camp / March 11-13 @ Luther Glen Farm

If you are interested in attending, please contact Joe in order to get registered. We can't wait for you to join us and hopefully there will be some snow this year!

## **Hospitality Sign-ups Now Online!**

Who doesn't enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a light snack after church on Sunday mornings? Sign-ups for hosting a Sunday morning Hospitality on the patio has gone online. The new link is:

[https://bit.ly/MtCross\\_Hospitality](https://bit.ly/MtCross_Hospitality). Thank you for your service to the Mount Cross community!

## **Thank-You from Karen Cherry**

Dear friends at Mount Cross and all who prayed for my sister Bonnie and her daughter Crista, while they needed your prayers. Your prayers gave them comfort and peace. Crista knows that her mother is now resting in the arms of Jesus. Blessings to you.

With deep gratitude, Karen Cherry