

Silent night, holy night,

SON OF GOD

*love's
pure light...*



Welcome to GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



AS WE GATHER THIS EVENING:

We are grateful that you are able to gather with us for worship this evening. Tonight, our youth will lead us in worshipping Jesus Christ, the Star of Bethlehem. Jesus came to us as the Star of Creation, a Star of Hope, a Star of Unity, and a Star of Joy. Tonight we celebrate his birth and remember that it is his Light alone that enlightens our lives.

IN THE PEW RACK:

You will find Fellowship Cards. Please take the time to fill one out and deposit it in the Offering Plate. You will also find giving envelopes, should you want to make a contribution to the ministry we share here in this place.

RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED:

For those unfamiliar with Grace, bathrooms are located under the balcony on the Courtyard side of the building.



PRELUDE

O Holy Night ~ Arr. Nathan Leonard

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING LITANY

P: On that first Christmas, Jesus came to be our guest.

C: A star is born in Bethlehem.

A: All of creation praised this bright little Son of God.

C: A star is born in Bethlehem.

P: Like the stars in the sky, Jesus shines with light.

C: Together, let us welcome him.

HYMN

Sung to "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

**Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how wonderful you are.**

**All creation came to be
When your light shone brilliantly.**

**Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how wonderful you are.**

P: On Christmas, Jesus came to earth to give us hope.

C: A star is born in Bethlehem.

A: The night of sin and darkness now shines with forgiveness.

C: A star is born in Bethlehem.

P: Where there once was no future, now there is new life.

C: Together, let us welcome him.

HYMN

**Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how glorious you are.
You bring hope from long ago
And you show us where to go.
Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how glorious you are.**

P: On Christmas, Jesus came to earth to unite all people.

C: **A star is born in Bethlehem.**

A: Our separation from God and one another has ended.

C: **A star is born in Bethlehem.**

P: Where there once was division, now there is peace.

C: **Together, let us welcome him.**

HYMN

**Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how beautiful you are.**

You bring unity to all.

Harmony is your great call.

**Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how beautiful you are.**

P: On Christmas, Jesus came to bring joy to the world.

C: **A star is born in Bethlehem.**

A: Our groans are transformed into tears of happiness.

C: **A star is born in Bethlehem.**

P: Our sadness is replaced with gladness.

C: **Together, let us welcome him.**

HYMN

Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how sparkling you are.
You bring joy to everyone
With the news that you're God's Son.
Jesus, Jesus, brightest star,
Oh, how sparkling you are.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Bright Star of Bethlehem, on this night the beam of your light shines forth from the manger for all the world to see. As it reaches our eyes enable us to take in the love and peace it contains. Then, let the warm glow you have placed in our hearts shine forth so that others see the glory of your light and your love. For your light is always new, never ending, ever shining.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

"THE STAGE IS SET!"

HYMN

ELW # 301

"BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS IS THE SKY"

(VERSES 1, 2 & 6)

**Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.**

**On that holy Christmas night
through the darkness beamed a light;
all the stars above were paling.
all their luster slowly failing
as the wondrous star drew nigh,
as the wondrous star drew nigh.**

**And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

"THE STAR OF CREATION"

HYMN

ELW # 824

"THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD"

(VERSES 1 & 2)

**This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise,
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

"THE STAR OF HOPE"

HYMN

ELW # 266

"ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL"

(VERSES 1, 2 & 4)

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage
to children of this earth.**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he his present,
in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

"THE STAR OF UNITY"

HYMN

ELW # 279

"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

(VERSES 1 & 4)

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!**

CHILDREN'S REFLECTION

PART 5

"THE STAR OF JOY"

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

ELW # 267

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

(VERSES 1 & 4)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated for the offering.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 276

“INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of glory, great are your
wonders among us and many are the
blessings you bestow. Your light and life are

all round us. 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, through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE 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.

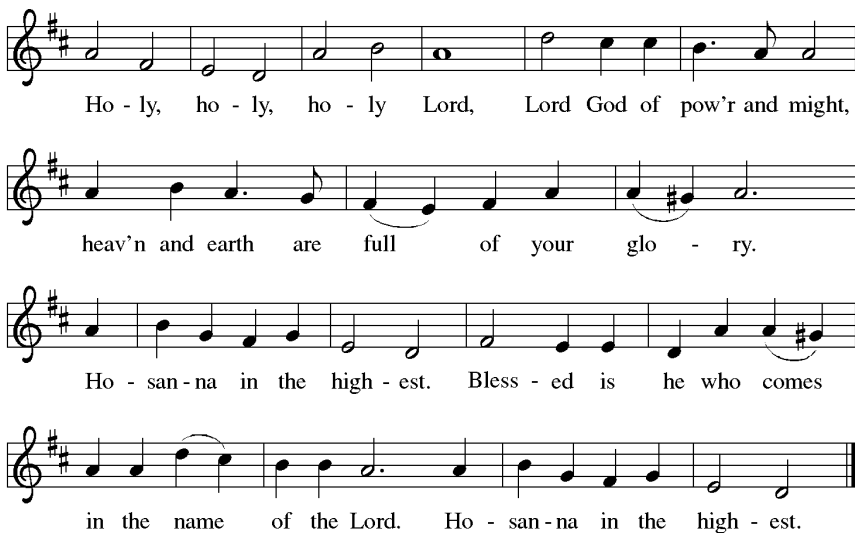
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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, for the glorious resurrection of 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, the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.
- 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.**

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P: God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

"IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

“ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

A LITANY FOR CANDLE LIGHTING

As we share the Litany, the light will dim throughout our Worship Space. During this time the Organ will quietly play while Pastor and the Worship Assistants begin to light your individual candles.

P: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of creation, all that you have made is good. Open our eyes to the wonder and beauty of your creation.

C: **May we shine with the brightness of your light!**

A: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of hope, your light and life scatters the darkness of our doubt and gloom. Fill us with hope and vanquish our despair.

C: **May we shine with the brightness of your light!**

P: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of unity,
with one voice, may all the earth know your
compassion, grace, and love. May your light
bring unity over division to heal our war torn
world.

**C: May we shine with the brightness of your
light!**

A: Bright star of Bethlehem, light of joy, fill our
spirits. Enliven our lives. Fill us with your
light, that we may forever sing the joys of
your eternal praise.

**C: May we shine with the brightness of
your light!**

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

ELW # 281

“SILENT NIGHT”

**Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BENEDICTION

- P:** Go now to shine like stars in the sky, bringing the light of Christ to the world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:** **Amen.**

“GOOD CHRISTIANS FRIENDS, REJOICE”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

DISMISSAL

A: Filled with the joy of Christ’s birth,
P: Go in peace and let our light shine forever!
C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Still, Still, Still ~ Norman Luboff

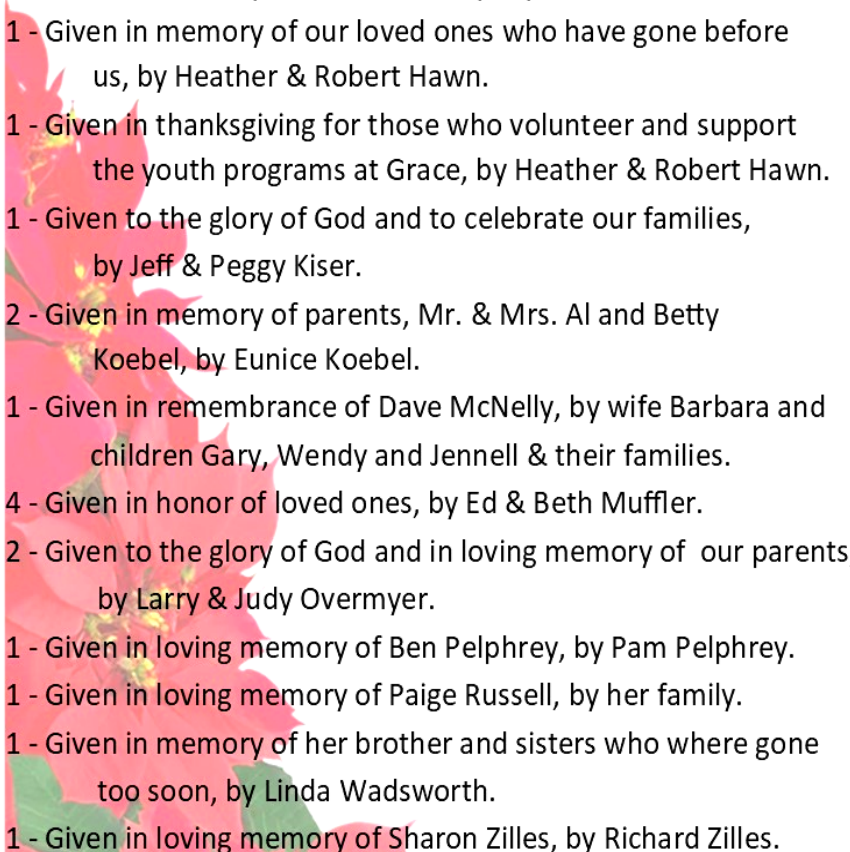
SERVING IN	WORSHIP
ACOLYTE	Carter Wagner
GREETERS: NARTHEX	Henry & Becky Seibert
GREETER: BAKER ST.	Cecilia Boucher
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Heather Hawn
DEACONS	Cecilia Boucher Walker Cooper

*This Is My Father’s World/ O Little Town of Bethlehem/ Joy to the World/What Child Is This/
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear/Angels, from the Realms of Glory/Silent Night/
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Public Domain

Bright and Glorious is the Sky text 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress
All Earth is Hopeful Spanish text & tune 1993, tr. 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
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The Advent Series *Bright Star of Bethlehem* was written by Tim Runtsch.
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*Thank you to the following people
who donated Poinsettias in
celebration of Christmas.*

- 2 - Given as a gift to the congregation.
- 1 - Given in honor Pastor Bailey and his family,
by Michael & Hope Bailey.
- 1 - Given in honor of our family Andrew and John & Haley,
by Rev. & Mrs. Clayton Bailey.
- 1 - Given in honor of the ministry we share as we "Present the
Light of Christ" to the world, by Rev. & Mrs. Clayton Bailey.
- 1 - Given in memory of Jodi (Ball) Gerdeman,
by Toby & Jenne Ball & family.
- 2 - Given in memory of our deceased family members,
by Larry & Linda Beck.
- 2 - Given to the glory of God and in memory of deceased
loved ones, by Ron & Cecilia Boucher.
- 2 - Given in memory of our parents, by Clara & Bill Bowlus.
- 1 - My best wishes for everyone to have a happy and healthy
Christmas and New Year, by Mary Coleman.
- 2 - Given in celebration of our children, Amy Huckaby, Scott
Swope, Emily Riley, Matt Dorr, and in memory of our
beloved son, Steven Swope, by Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Dorr.
- 1 - Given in memory of departed loved ones, by Judy Gangwer.
- 1 - Given in honor of our Lord and our family at Grace Lutheran,
by Gary & Pamela Geasan.
- 1 - Given in memory of Lyla & Arnold Avers, by Bob & Jan Harris.
- 1 - Given in memory of Helen & Donald Harris,
by Bob & Jan Harris.

- 
- A large, vibrant pink poinsettia flower with green leaves is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the list of names. The flower is in full bloom, with many layers of bright pink petals and small yellow centers.
- 1 - Given in memory of our parents Robert & Doris Haubert,
Gustav & Dorothy Krumnow, by Gary & Karen Haubert
and family.
- 1 - Given in honor of our family Dan & Lisa Rutkowski and
Charles, Susan, Anna and Julia Haubert,
by Gary & Karen Haubert.
- 1 - Given in memory of loved ones, by Joyce Havens.
- 1 - Given in memory of our loved ones who have gone before
us, by Heather & Robert Hawn.
- 1 - Given in thanksgiving for those who volunteer and support
the youth programs at Grace, by Heather & Robert Hawn.
- 1 - Given to the glory of God and to celebrate our families,
by Jeff & Peggy Kiser.
- 2 - Given in memory of parents, Mr. & Mrs. Al and Betty
Koebel, by Eunice Koebel.
- 1 - Given in remembrance of Dave McNelly, by wife Barbara and
children Gary, Wendy and Jennell & their families.
- 4 - Given in honor of loved ones, by Ed & Beth Muffler.
- 2 - Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents,
by Larry & Judy Overmyer.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Ben Pelphrey, by Pam Pelphrey.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Paige Russell, by her family.
- 1 - Given in memory of her brother and sisters who where gone
too soon, by Linda Wadsworth.
- 1 - Given in loving memory of Sharon Zilles, by Richard Zilles.

WHITE POINSETTIAS on the Altar are given to the glory of God in memory of their deceased members by the Altar Guild.

CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL OFFERING will be given to **BRIDGE OF HOPE**. Donation buckets will be available at each entrance to the sanctuary. With your gifts we know that we can make a difference.

LESSONS & CAROLS will take place at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 902 E. State Street, Fremont, on **Sunday, December 28 at 10 am**. Please note there will be no services at Grace this weekend.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 and again on Thursday, January 1, 2026. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season.

Grace Lutheran Church



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Minister of Youth & Family:

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Called to Present the Light of Christ!