

January 12, 2025 **Epiphany of our Lord**



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that is took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!

PRELUDE: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (Philipp Nicolai, arr. JS Bach)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

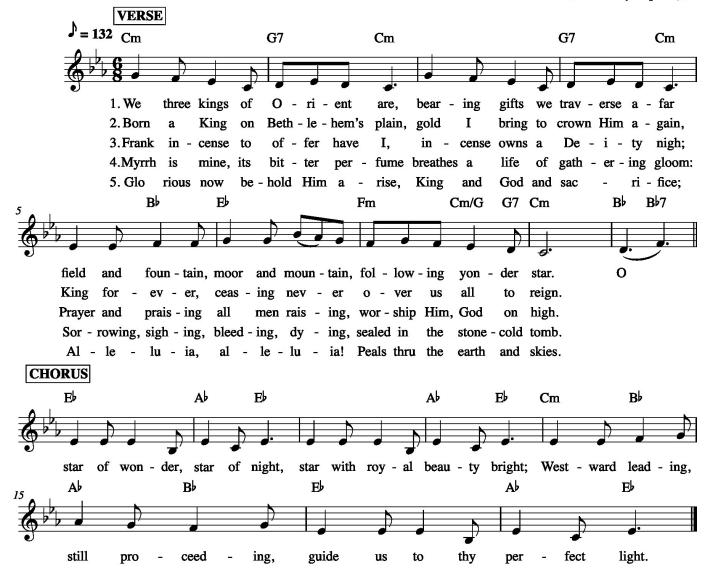
God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**



PROCESSIONAL HYMN: We Three Kings

Words and Music by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.



GREETING

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life **People: Thanks Be to God**

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

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

² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people,

rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

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

⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,

and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,

the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,

and precious is their blood in his sight.



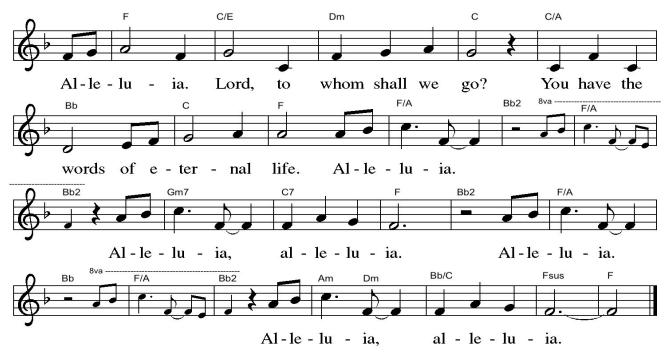
SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life People: Thanks Be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

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

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (Nicolai, arr. J.S. Bach)

Words by Philip Nicolai (1556-1608) Music by Philip Nicolai , Arr. by Johann Sebastian Bach morn - ing star, With mer - cy 1. How bright - ly shines the beam - ing on high, He deigned to 2. Tho' cir - cled by the hosts cast a 3. Re - joice, ye heav'ns; thou earth. re - ply; With praise, ye sin - ners, a - far; The host of heav'n re-joic es; O Right-eous Branch, from -0 eye Up - on His help - less crea -sky, For this His in - car - na pit - ying ture; The whole cre - a - tion's fill the tion. In - car - nate God, put Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of man and Son of God! We, too, will lift our Head and Lord, By high-est ser - a - phim a - dored, As-sumed our ver - y forth Thy pow'r, Ride on, ride on, great Con - quer - or, Till all know Thy sal -A - men, A - men! Ho - ly, ho - ly, Je - sus, grant us, Thru Thy mer - it, most low - ly, voic es: yet in - her - it na ture: to A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! tion. A - men, va 9 Draw Thou near us; Great Em - man - uel, come and hear us. Thy tion; Hear, 0 hear our sup - pli tion. sal - va ca Ev - er more, by earth and Praise be giv en heav en.

HOMILY: Pastor Paul



January 12, 2025



Born:

Mabelle April 13, 2021 Rex February 25, 2023 Nathan Hieb Bonnie Lin

Godparents:

THE BAPTISMS OF MABELLE HUA YEE-SHEARD & REX CHUAN YEE-SHEARD

Pastor: God who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the holy spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present Maybelle and Rex.

I present Maybelle and Rex for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Maybelle and Rex baptized into Christ? Parents and godparents: I do.

Pastor: As you bring **Maybelle and Rex** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with **them** among God's faithful people, bring **them** to the word of God's holy supper, teach **them** the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in **them** hands the holy scriptures, and nurture **them** in faith and prayer, so that **they** may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help **Maybelle and Rex grow** in the Christian faith and life? **Parents and godparents: I do.**

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Maybelle and Rex in the Christ faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? Godparents: I do.

Pastor: People of God, in this assembly, do you promise to support Maybelle and Rex and pray for them in their new life in Christ? People: I do.

The assembly stands.

Pastor: I ask you to profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? People: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

Pastor: Maybelle and Rex, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain **Maybelle and Rex** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

ANOINTING WITH OIL

Pastor: Maybelle and Rex, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

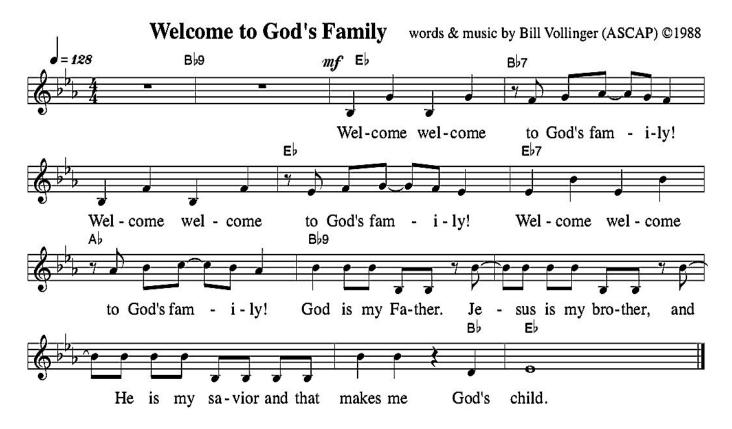
A candle is presented to parents and sponsors.

Pastor: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Pastor: Let us welcome Maybelle and Rex into the family of faith.

People: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share, where you will join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

MUSIC: WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE:

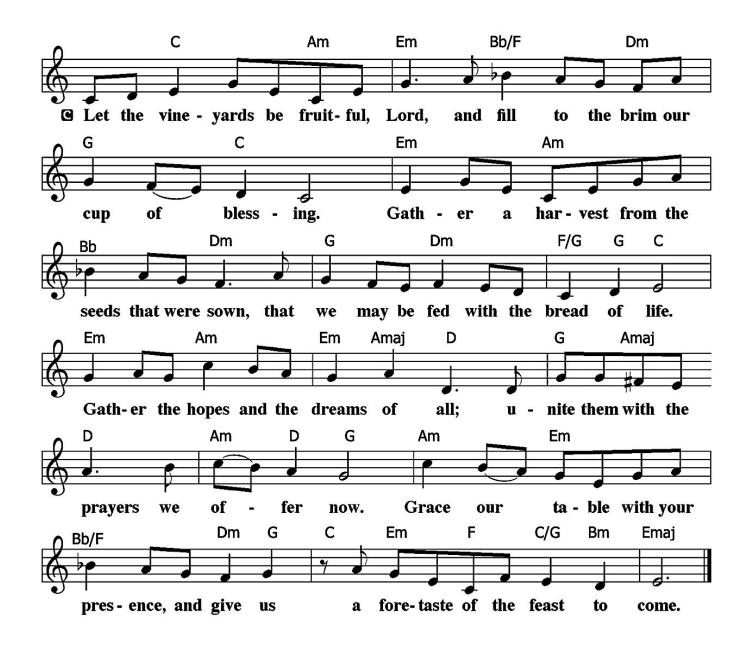
SPECIAL MUSIC: Bill Vollinger: The Three Kings (Nicolai, Cornelius)

OFFERING



Please mail your offering to: Church of the Savior 643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the QR code on right for your offertory giving.







ALL: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

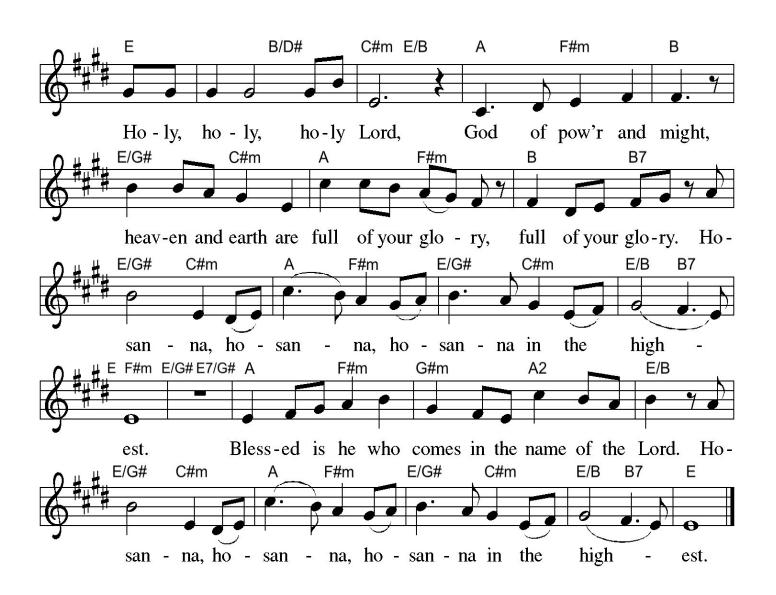
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

....proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

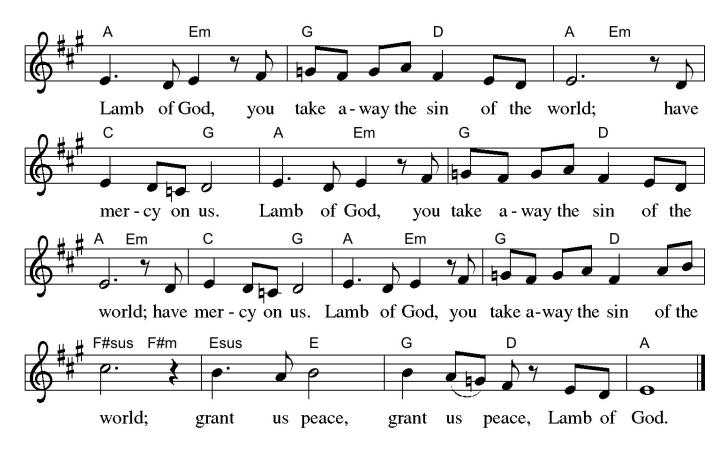
People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: Amen



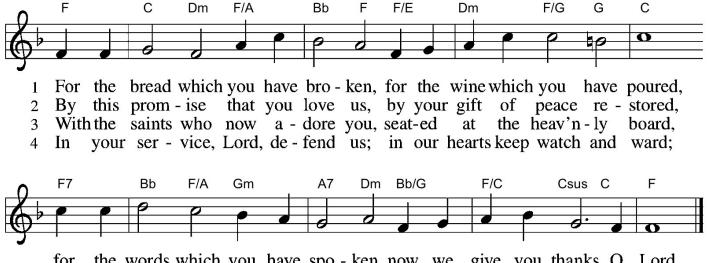
THE LORD'S PRAYER



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION HYMN: For the Bread That You Have Broken



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord. by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord. may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord. in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.



COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Drawn to the Light



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. Thanks be to God.



SERVING TODAY

LECTOR	WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Dave Johnsrud	Laurie Feingold	Rick Henly
Maggie Harrer	Rick Henly	Antoinette Walder
Michael Chomin	Sally Leara	John Leara
	Dave Johnsrud Maggie Harrer	Dave JohnsrudLaurie FeingoldMaggie HarrerRick Henly

FLOWERS

Jan 12		Bea Wing's Birthday Moderacki Family
Jan 19		Love for the Conrad Grandchildren Susan Conrad
Jan 26	For:	

From:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday School Jan 19
- **Congregational Meeting**
- Martin Luther King Day—Church & School Closed Jan 20
- Jan 21 Council Meeting: 6pm
- Jan 27-31 Theme Week and Art Show
- Music at Savior: 7pm Feb 1

MAILING LIST



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