

ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org
Worship services - Wednesday 6:30pm, Sunday 8:00 and 10:30am

Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We know that keeping little children occupied for an entire church service can be a challenge. Don't worry; most of those worshipping around you have been in your shoes at one time. If you feel that you need to take your child out of church at any time, we have a Children's Room to the right as you exit the worship area. The first parking space in front of church is designated for **expectant mothers and families with small children**.

Restrooms are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

LARGE PRINT copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Preacher
Organist

Pastor Aaron Winkelman
Pastor Aaron Winkelman
David Porth

The Service, Setting Three

Hymn

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please you best.

See, Zion casts before you
Green boughs and fairest palms,
And I, too, will adore you
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For you with praises new
And from your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

I lay in fetters, groaning,
You come to set me free;
I stood, my shame bemoaning
You come to honor me;
A glory you do give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.

Absolution

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
A heritage in heav'n.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent 4

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit as the following stanza is sung:

You need not toil nor languish
Nor ponder day and night
How in the midst of anguish
You draw him by your might.
He comes, he comes all willing,
Moved by his love alone,
Your woes and troubles stilling;
For all to him are known.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed
And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you,
He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you
And bids you weep no more.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Forever I Will Sing

Psalm 89A

Refrain

For - ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the
LORD, the good - ness of the LORD.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Tone

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The top staff is the treble clef and the bottom staff is the bass clef. The notation consists of chords and single notes, providing a harmonic accompaniment for the text.

I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all gener- / ations.
I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,
that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n itself.
The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy ones. *Refrain*

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?
You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- / rounds you.
Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,
who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.
They rejoice in your name / all day long;
they celebrate your / righteousness.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Marty Haugen Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Tune: © 1988, 1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130028684

Second Reading

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ²the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

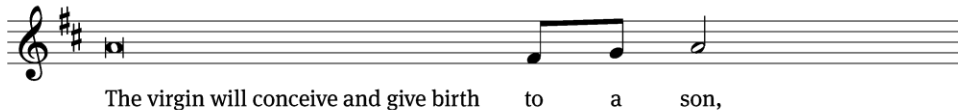
Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2-7



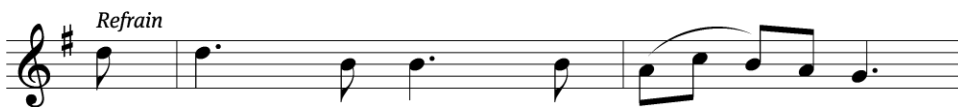
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
- 6 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune:
Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.
Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.
Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.
Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.
Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.
Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

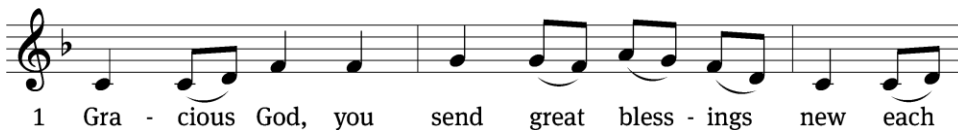
Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

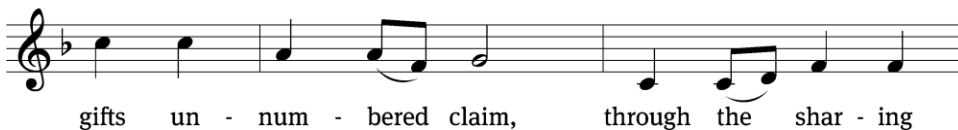
Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code located at the end of the bulletin or you may go to pilgrimcares.org/giving. We present the offerings before the altar as a reminder that our giving overflows out of the Gospel and is itself an act of worship.

Offering Hymn

CW 752 sts. 1, Ref



Refrain



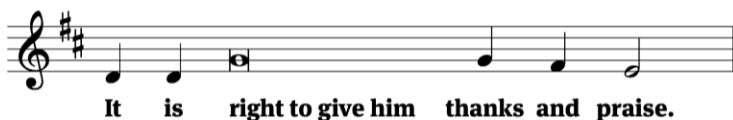
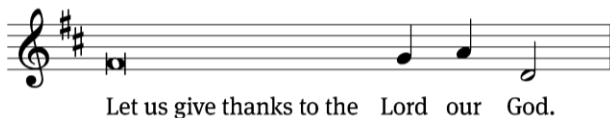
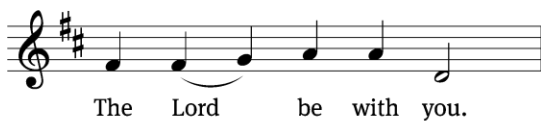
The Sacrament

The Bible teaches that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ, and with one another, as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. With that in mind, we invite all members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to come forward. If you wish to partake of the Supper with us in the future, please speak to one of the Pastors after the service. They would be happy to help you take that step.

Stand

Preface

CW 199



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman Tune: © 2010 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution

God's Own Son Most Holy

CW 321



1 God's own Son most ho - ly came a ser - vant
2 Still he comes in preach - ing, truth e - ter - nal
3 Still he comes pro - vid - ing proof of love a -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re -



low - ly, came to live a - mong us,
teach - ing: "Turn a - way from e - vil;
bid - ing: he whose death has freed us
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing



came to suf - fer for us; bore the cross to
turn to me, my peo - ple. I pro - nounce you
gives him - self to feed us, thus to us ex -
that, your grace re - ceiv - ing, we may here con -



save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
sin - less; trust in my for - give - ness."
tend - ing peace and joy un - end - ing.
fess you till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534 Text (sts. 2–3): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 sts. 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!



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.



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,



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.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333 st. 4

4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '4' indicating the time signature. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Ushers		
12-21	Jim Prekop Tim Pankow	Glen Kuphall Josh Weber
12-24	Bryan Giesenschlag & Andy Steeno (4:30pm)	
12-25	Phill Lepple & Dan Vaghar (9:00am)	
12-28	Matt Lawonn Scott Tyrriver	Dave Chmielewski Collin Mayer
Worship Hosts		
12-21	Bill & LaVonne Kirchner	Joel & Jenny Raasch
12-24	Peggy Haas & Carol Bradtke (4:30pm)	
12-25	Joe & Marlene Bedalov (9:00am)	
12-28	Pete & Amy Kuske	Joel & Jenny Raasch

Attendance

12-10 101 + 48 = 149
 12-14 145 + 153 = 298

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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News & Notes

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and LaVonne Kirchner in celebration of Bill's Eightieth birthday. Happy birthday Bill!

Divine Calls were Extended On Sunday, December 14, the members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church extended divine calls to the following individuals: David Porth – to serve as our Staff Minister and Maddie Maksim – to serve as our full-time 3K Teacher. We ask that you please keep David and Maddie in your prayers as they deliberate these calls to service in God's kingdom. May the Holy Spirit grant them clarity and peace as they discern where they can best serve the Lord and His people.

Sunday Bible Class is on break until January 11. See you then!

Worship note! We have two services on Christmas Eve. 4:30pm and 6:30pm. The lessons will be the same but each will have different music to enrich your holiday.

Evensong: A Discipleship Event Join us on the Third Thursday of January, January 15, in the church for a night of study and fellowship. Our evening will begin with a look at the rich theology and history of a few hymns. We will look at each appointed hymn, their origins, and their messages. Following our study we will break for fellowship and conversation during which charcuterie and wine will be served. We will end the evening with an evening prayer service in which those same hymns will be featured. Evensong begins at 6pm and wraps up around 8pm. We hope to see you there!

After School Care Position Pilgrim Lutheran Preschool and Childcare is hiring for an After-School Care Teacher to work with our school-aged group. This role is approximately 6-10 hours per week, 2-3 days a week. Hours may be flexible, but would be from 2:15 pm to 5:00 pm most days. The position may require some training based on current educational status. CPR/First Aid is required. We are looking for this person to start the week of January 19th, with some training hours before that start date. For more details, please contact: Amanda Berg, ECM Director aberg@pilgrimcares.org 262-781-8305

KML Job Opening: Learning Center The KML Learning Center has an immediate part-time position open for individuals to work with students 5 times per week, Monday - Friday, from 7:30 AM - 2:45 PM. A high school diploma is required. If interested or for more information, contact Learning Center Administrator Sheila Krause (sheila.krause@kmlhs.org).

Pilgrim's Christmas Schedule

December 24 4:30pm Lessons & Carols
6:30pm Candlelight Service

December 258:15am to 8:45am Hymn Sing
9:00am Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

No Wednesday Evening Worship on December 31



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving. Save the check – give online!

Pilgrimcares.org

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Pastor Aaron Winkelman

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Pastor Greg Hermanson

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Principal Kevin Klug

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920.253.7688

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