#### WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad you could be with us today, especially if you are visiting with us for the first time. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. You can greet our pastor as you leave the sanctuary after services. Please stop by our Guest Welcome Center near the Fellowship Hall for more information. We pray that you will consider becoming a part of our Holy Cross family. **Both members & visitors please complete the connection card in the pew pockets** (or scan the QR code below to complete online). Place the card in the offering plate on your way out. NOTE: You can give online at our website or place in offering plates at back of sanctuary (we don't pass plates).

#### A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Saturday and Sunday (except on FRIEND all festival DAYS), and services. Lutherans believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present "in, with and under" the bread and wine in the Supper and is given to us for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. All communicants should have been baptized in the name of the Triune God and have faith in these words of Jesus: "This IS my Body given for you...This IS my Blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Instruction on this Lutheran and the Church takes place through First Communion, Confirmation, and membership classes or meeting with the pastor. To inquire, church office at your contact the convenience. If you will not be receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, you may remain in your pew or come forward for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as a sign that you will not be receiving. Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of the individual cups tray. Gluten-free wafers are packaged and placed in wafer bowl, indicate to server.



#### SURVEY QUESTION

No survey question during the Christmas season.

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP** You may light a candle and enter the sanctuary in reverence, find a seat and take a moment to pray and be still. Please keep all social dialogue in the Narthex.

**FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** We are equipped with a personal hearing assistance system. If you would like a receiver for the service, please see an usher.

<u>WE CAN PRAY WITH YOU</u> If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, the pastor, deacons or one of the Elders will join you at the Chancel rail following the worship service.

# The Epiphany of Our Lord January 7, 2024 Lutheran Service Book, Divine 4, page 203

Prelude

"A Carol Festival"

Holy Cross Handbells

#### Welcome and Announcements

Please stand if you are able.

#### **Processional Hymn**

"As with Gladness Men of Old" LSB 397

- As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- As with joyful steps they sped,
   Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
   There to bend the knee before
   Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
   So may we with willing feet
   Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
   Keep us in the narrow way;
   And when earthly things are past,
   Bring our ransomed souls at last

Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light; Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down; There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel if you are able.

Take a moment to confess in your heart what is on your mind.

# C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

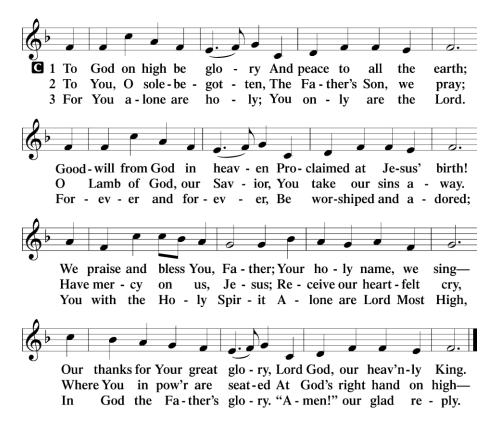
#### Introit

Psalm 72:1-2, 10-11

- P Behold the Lord, the ruler, has come, and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in his hand.
- C Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!
- P May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!
- C May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- P May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
- ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



**Gloria in Excelsis** 



#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 60:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

- R This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Carol of the Wisemen"

Holy Cross Choir

# Epistle

Ephesians 3:1–12

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

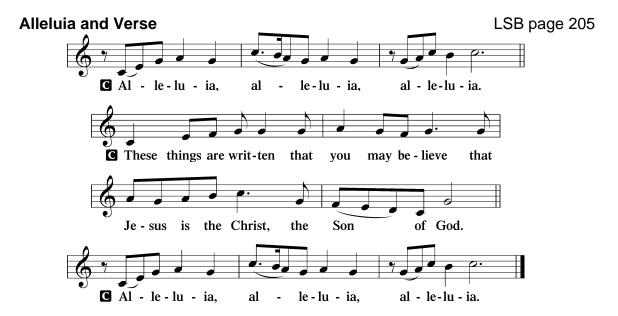
<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery

hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

# C Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you are able.



# Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

D The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

# C Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all

Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- D This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

#### **Nicene Creed**

LSB page 206

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

- 1 We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar field and fountain moor and mountain, following yonder star.
- Chorus O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.
- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign. **Chorus**
- Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
   Prayer and praising all men raising, Worship Him, God on high. Chorus
- 4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom: Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. **Chorus**

Glorious now behold Him arise,
 King and God and sacrifice;
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Peals through the earth and skies. Chorus

John Henry Hopkins Jr. CCLI Song #38002 Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u> CCLI License #475397

#### Sermon

### **Offertory Prayer**

Please stand if you are able.

## **Prayer of the Church**

- P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the Church of God, upon whom Christ has poured His grace and salvation, that she may continue holy in His sight, anointed with the oil of gladness and the hope of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all pastors, that God would embolden them like His servant Paul to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ; and that He would open the ears and hearts of their listeners to believe the message that the King of kings has given His life for all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all Christian homes, that the Word of God would dwell richly therein, just as Christ Himself once dwelt in the home of Mary and Joseph, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

- P For an end to all threats of violence, that the Lord would raise up leaders who act with integrity, pursue justice and follow the Lord's commands, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the security of our people, that God would grant them the blessings of food, shelter, medical care and safety, sustaining those whose duty it is to protect and defend, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the afflicted, [<u>especially</u>,] that God would give them the comfort of His presence, relief in their suffering and healing according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For all who, like the Magi of old, have come to worship Christ and offer Him gifts, that receiving His body and blood, we may return home according to His holy way, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Heavenly Father, You have anointed Your Son to be our Savior and have established His throne forever and ever. Grant that we who are called by His name would see His reign spread among all nations; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

#### Preface

LSB page 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

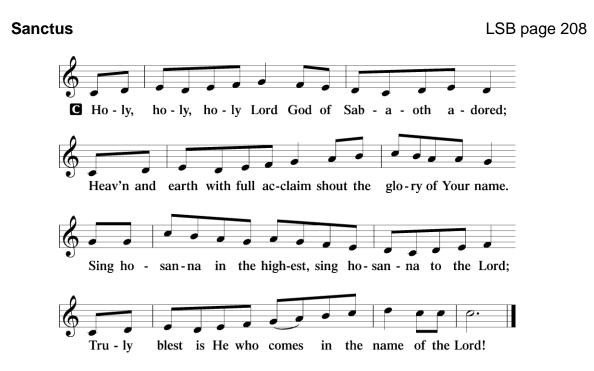
P Lift up your hearts.

## C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

#### C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

(from Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

#### The Words of Our Lord

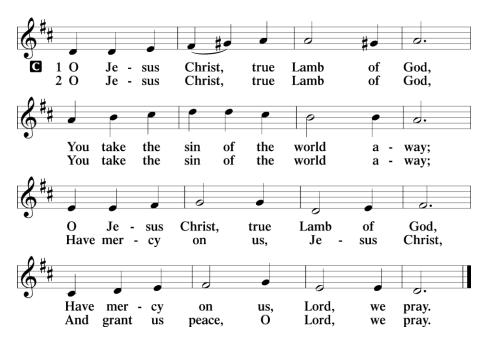
(From Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

#### Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God John 1:29



Please be seated.

**Distribution Hymn** "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" LSB 395

14

 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son, Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only! Lowly, holy! LSB page 210

Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!

 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine; There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us, Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood Refresh our souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.

 Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation. Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
  Our joy be all with music crowned, Our voices gladly blending!
  For Christ goes with us all the way— Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
  His love is never ending!
  Sing out! Ring out!
  Jubilation!
  Exultation!
  Tell the story!
  Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002771

#### **Distribution Hymn**

"What Is This Bread"

LSB 629

 What is this bread?
 Christ's body risen from the dead: This bread we break, This life we take,
 Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see—the Lord is peace. What is this wine?
 The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
 Of life and love until I sing!
 O taste and see—the Lord is King.

 So who am I,
 That I should live and He should die Under the rod? My God, my God,
 Why have You not forsaken me? O taste and see—the Lord is free.

4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear, In mouth and soul He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

Text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002771

Please stand if you are able.

**Nunc Dimittis** 

(from Luke 2:29-32)



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

LSB page 212

- P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Benedicamus

(from Psalm 103:1)

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## Benediction (from Numbers 6:24-26)

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

C Amen.

#### Closing Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

- I want to walk as a child of the light.
   I want to follow Jesus.
   God set the stars to give light to the world.
   The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain
- RefrainIn Him there is no darkness at all.The night and the day are both alike.The Lamb is the light of the city of God.Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
- I want to see the brightness of God.
   I want to look at Jesus.
   Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. Refrain
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
   I want to be with Jesus.
   When we have run with patience the race,
   We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

Text: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002771

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

# THE SUNDAY HERALD January 8 -14, 2024

MONDAY		SATURDAY	
TUESDAY		Men's Breakfast &	
Ladies Guild Meeting	1:00pm	Bible Study	8:00am
Church Council Meeting	7:00pm	Women's Bible Study	9:30am
WEDNESDAY	•	Praise Band rehearsal	4:30pm
THURSDAY		Communion Worship	5:30pm
Prayer Group	3:00pm	Bible Study	6:30pm
Bells	6:30pm	SUNDAY	
Choir	7:30pm	Bible Classes for all ages	9:00am
FRIDAY Bulletin Assembly	10:00am	Communion Worship Jr. Confirmation	10:00am 6:00pm

# **BIBLE READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17 Epistle: 1 Corinthians1:26-31 Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

# **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2024 offering envelopes are available for pick-up by the church mailboxes. Please do not use the Lutheran Witness envelope found in your offering envelope box. In order to conserve money, we did not issue envelopes to members that have not contributed the last 2 years. If you did not receive envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office.

# **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

I will be updating the church directory this month. Please be sure that I have your correct information. If you need to change or want to make sure that I have your correct information, just give me a call. Look for your new church directory in February. Thank you, Becky

# **2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

We are completing our annual process for closing out the 2023 offering contributions. Your 2023 Contribution Statement will be available by January 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Vandenberghe. Thank you.

# DIRECTORY UPDATE

I will be updating the church directory this month. Please be sure that I have your correct information. If you need to change or want to make sure that I have your correct information, just give me a call. Look for your new church directory in February. Thank you, Becky

# TELLERS NEEDED

We need additional tellers to count offerings on Sundays. The commitment is about 32 - 40 hours for the year. No teller experience needed. If you would like to be part of the Sunday fun, please reach out to Denise Vandenberghe. Thank you.

# SOME CHANGES IN 2024

1. We will offer Holy Communion every weekend except on Friend Days.

2. Pastor revamped the format for our Saturday Worship Service, it will be more contemporary, with a praise band. Come check it out, the first service will be Saturday, 1/13/2024.

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28