

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to the faith.

Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Jesus, have doubts, or do not believe.

Welcome to new visitors and old friends.

Welcome especially to all who have ever felt unwelcome in the church.

Welcome to believers, questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and grieve, to rejoice and recover.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. This is a place where lives are made new.

HOW WE WORSHIP

When we gather for worship, we rejoice in God’s grace through songs, prayers, scriptures, and the sacraments. The history of Christian worship is rich with traditions and rituals formed by generations which help to connect our lives with Christ.

By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory. The Holy Spirit joins our hearts and voices through songs and prayers that are both ancient and modern, biblical and relevant. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type.**

We are sent from this gathering into the world where we live on mission for Christ in our daily lives, loving and serving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus with a world in need.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Rev. Christopher D. Steubing
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www.standrewofcl.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: Anna Hudson, Children, Youth, & Family Ministry

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

People of God,
when we think that we have nowhere left to turn,
we can always turn to God.
Whether we feel frozen or are rushing with no time to rest,
whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly
or like our lives will never change,
God is with us. For God, there is always time for forgiveness.
We trust God, and we confess our sins together.

Holy One,
We have not stayed awake.
We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors,
in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet.
We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us
and assumed we were powerless to mend
the breaches in our world.
Sometimes, we even gave up
on your mercy, justice, and love.
God, is it too late for us?

Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts.
Tear open the heavens
and heal what we have done.
Amen.

People of God,
God's judgment is certain
and God's forgiveness is lightning fast.
Hear this good news:
in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven.
Forgiveness gives us the courage we need.
Wherever we wait for God's time to come,
we will witness wonders.
Amen.

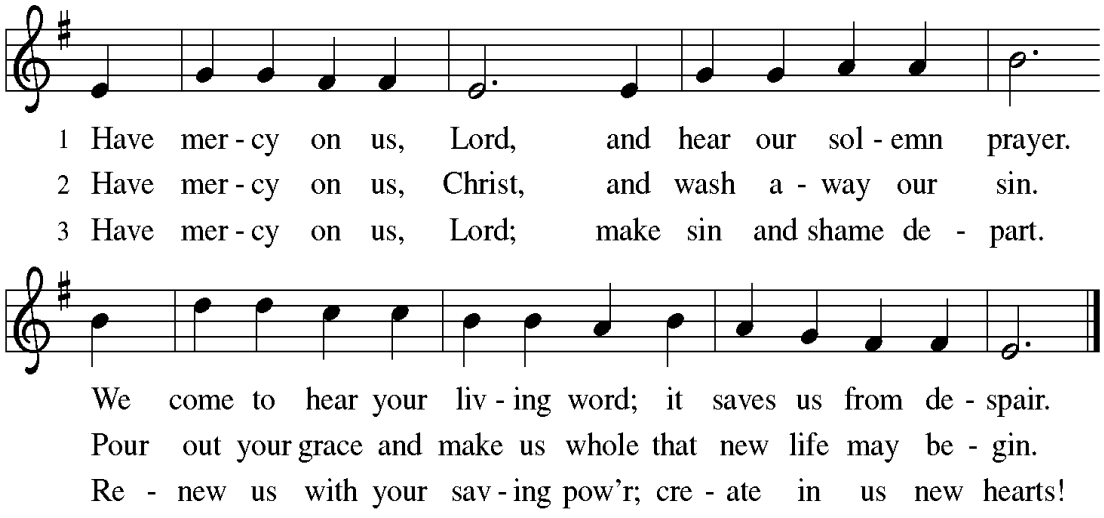
GATHERING HYMN *Hymn #242*
"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray**. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down. . . ." (Isaiah 64:1a)

Let us pray.
We wait for you, O God.
We wait for you to come and save us.
We wait for you to end what hurts us.
As we light another candle on this wreath,
arrive in our hearts, our homes, our world—
even as we still wait.
You promise that all evil will cease one day.
Give us a glimpse of that today.
Amen.

Hymn #240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vs. 1

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

WORD

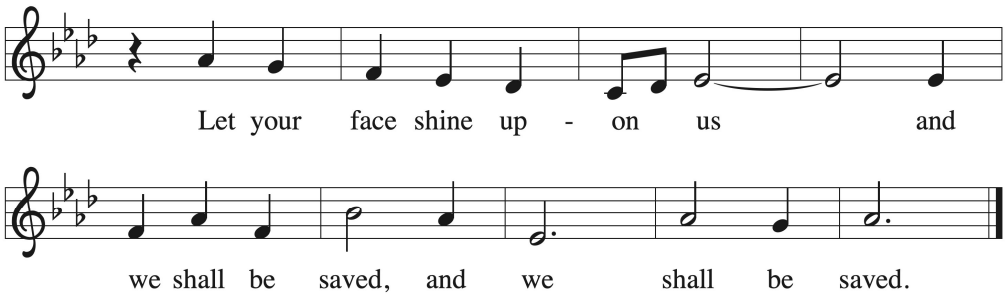
FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

[1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4] From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
[5] You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6] We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7] There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80 80:1-7, 17-19



[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
[2] In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Refrain

[4] O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6] You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Refrain

[17] Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord |God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Refrain

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

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

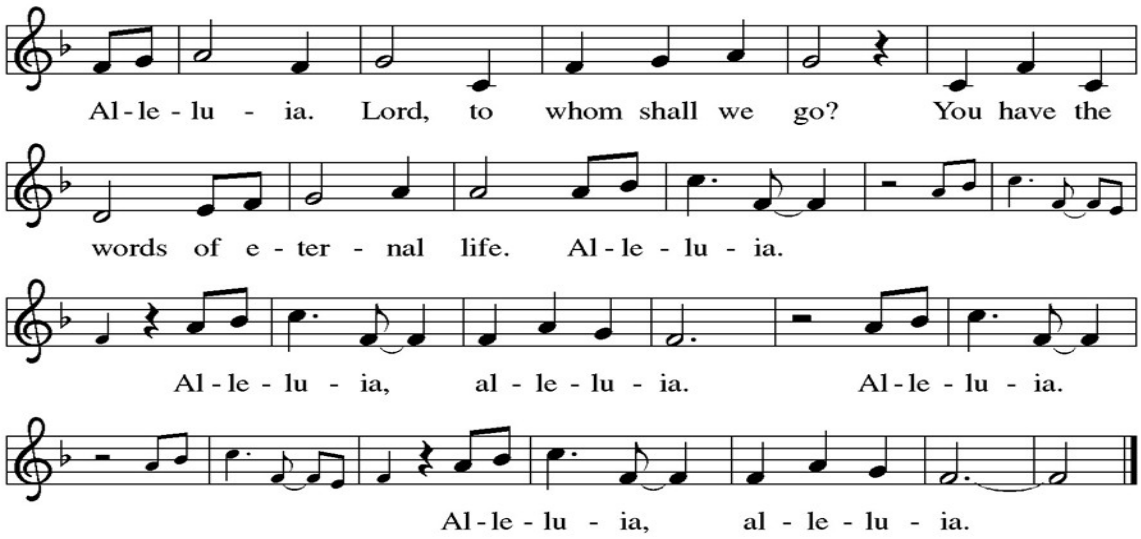
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *Pastor Chris Steubing*

Please stand as you are able for the gospel reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

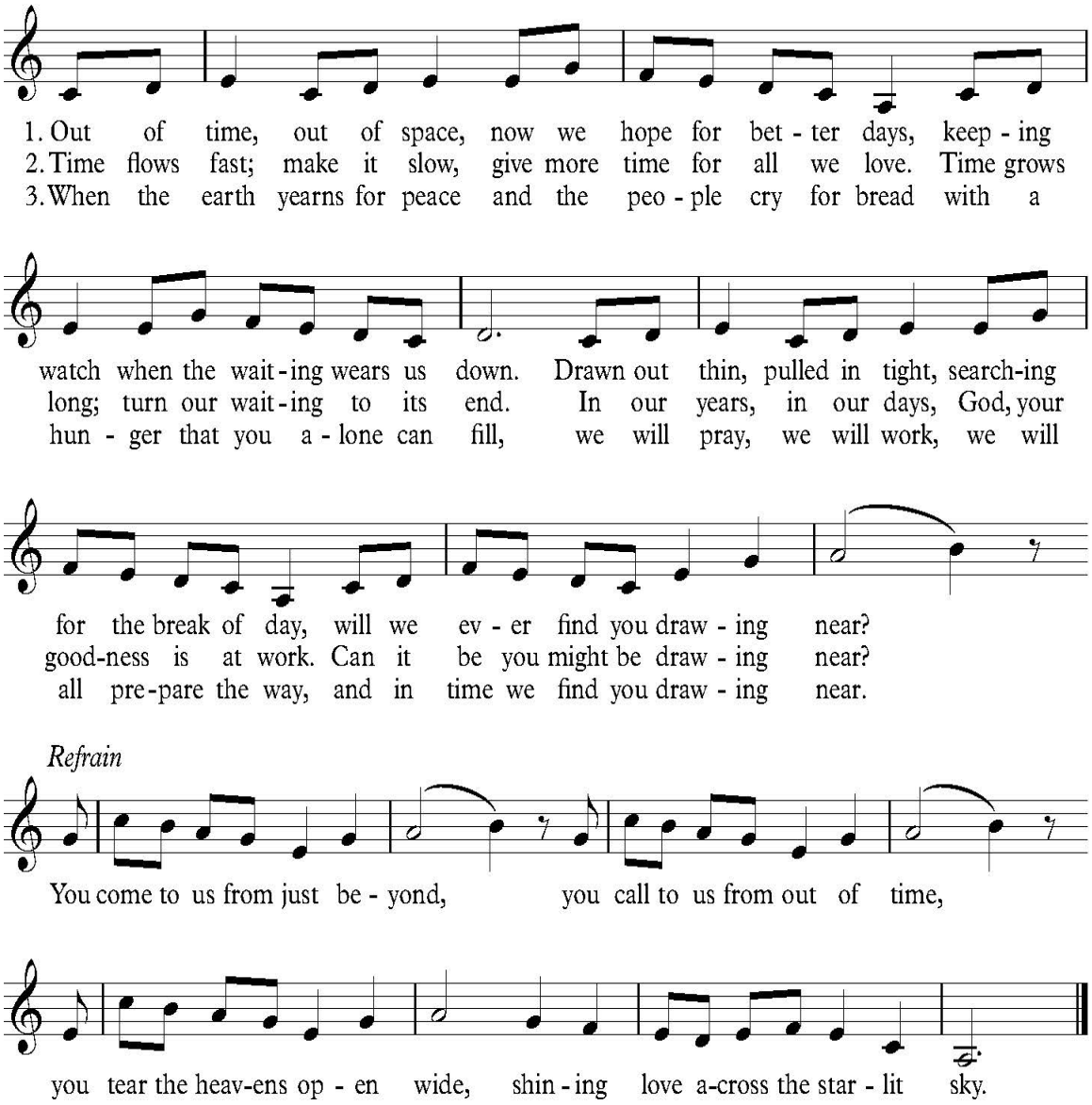
28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch
becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is
near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know
that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven
and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in
heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for
you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on
a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each
with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35
Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the
house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at
dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37
And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Pastor Chris Steubing*

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Out of Time”*


1. Out of time, out of space, now we hope for bet - ter days, keep - ing watch when the wait - ing wears us down. Drawn out thin, pulled in tight, search-ing for the break of day, will we ev - er find you draw - ing near?
2. Time flows fast; make it slow, give more time for all we love. Time grows long; turn our wait - ing to its end. In our years, in our days, God, your good-ness is at work. Can it be you might be draw - ing near?
3. When the earth yearns for peace and the peo - ple cry for bread with a hun - ger that you a - lone can fill, we will pray, we will work, we will all pre-pare the way, and in time we find you draw - ing near.
Refrain
You come to us from just be - yond, you call to us from out of time, you tear the heav-ens op - en wide, shin - ing love a-cross the star - lit sky.

Please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED

Together with the whole church, we confess our faith:

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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

THE PRAYERS

...Hear our prayers, O God. **Tear the heavens and come down.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share the peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC *"Light of Heaven, Come"* *Choir Anthem*

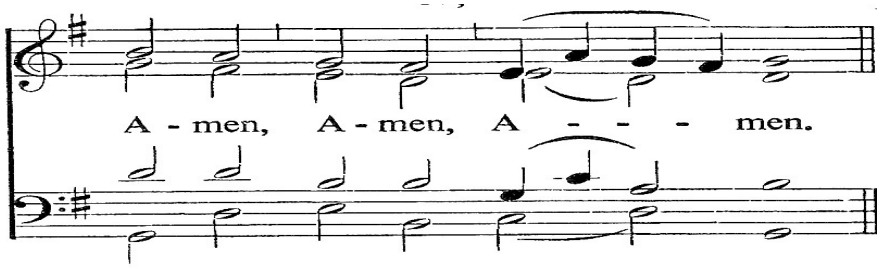
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray**. Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts. Shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion ☩ bless you now and forever.



SENDING HYMN *"Prepare the Royal Highway"* *Hymn #264*

DISMISSAL

As you leave this place, remember: whether you are waiting for a new beginning or just waiting for something to end,
God is sustaining you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



JOIN US TODAY
AFTER WORSHIP IN THE LIBRARY!

Are you interested in learning more about St. Andrew Lutheran Church or are you considering becoming a member of the congregation? You are invited to an informal conversation with Pastor Chris and members of our Welcome and Belonging Team today after worship where you will have the opportunity to ask questions, meet others who are new to St. Andrew, and hear about the vision of this faith community. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, December 13th.

Announcements/Reminders

For children and parents:

After the children's sermon, children are invited to go with Mrs. Sheila to the nursery for Sunday school children's time. Youth are invited to join for a devotion and hang out time after worship in the youth room. Sheila would like to extend a warm invitation to any adults who would like to assist her or simply observe on Sundays. Whether it's during worship or fellowship time, it's a beautiful opportunity to bond with and get to know the vibrant youth and children of our congregation. If interested, email her at sheila.perry@standrewofcl.org.

There are "busy bags" at the sanctuary entrance to help keep children engaged during services.

There is a cry room in the back of the sanctuary with a changing table and a large nursery space down the hallway past the fellow ship hall available for families with young children. Each of the spaces include access to listen to the worship service.

Please join us for fellowship time after worship in our fellowship hall!!!



There are invite cards available for you to pick up in the Narthex. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to join us for worship during Advent and Christmas.



Advent devotions are available to pick up or on our website, www.standrewofcl.org



Be on the look out for a Sign Up Genius! We can pick a family individually or some of us can work together on a family. The presents are due by Dec 10th at the Day Center and should be wrapped and labeled!


SHARE SOME LOVE WITH THE GRIEVING TLU COMMUNITY
The chaplain's office will be handing out cards and goodie bags the week after Thanksgiving on campus, and here's how you can help:
Stay after church on Sunday (Nov 29) and write cards (YAC Building).
Donate goodie bag items-- granola bars, peanut butter or cheese crackers, fun sized candy bars. Collection box in Fellowship Hall.
Help put together goodie bags on Sunday (Nov 29) in the YAC Building.


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
DECORATING THE SANCTUARY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
9:00 AM
ST ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH



On **December 10th**, when Pastor Chris is "locked up" in the Grinch's Jailhouse, you're invited to join fellow St. Andrew volunteers at the CRRC North Pole Village event. We will oversee three areas with two volunteers in each area. Our shifts are 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM, and 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM. Sign up for a shift in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting Paula Lynch at 830.832.1326. Volunteer opportunities include the (1) "Elves House", a temporary tattoo shoppe, (2) the "Toy Shoppe" where you help kids pick out a stuffed animal, and (3) "Grinch's Jailhouse", where Pastor Chris will be held until his bail money is raised!!

This morning

9:00 AM—Bible Study in the library
9:30 AM—Choir Practice in the music room
10:00 AM—Worship in the sanctuary
11:00 AM—Putting together goodie bags for TLU students in the YAC
11:15 AM—Conversation with Newcomers in the library

This week

December 2—1:00 PM Grief Group, Session 4, in the fellowship hall
December 2—3:00 PM Worship & Devotion Team meeting in the library
December 2—6:00 PM Cozy Advent Church Dinner in the fellowship hall
December 5—9:00 AM Sanctuary Decorating

New network wifi available now!

Wifi name: St Andrew Guest
Password: HisIcdno7420

The password is an acronym for Martin Luther's confessional statement, "**H**ere **I** **s**tand. **I** **c**an **d**o **n**o **o**ther."
Plus our church address.

Church Staff and today's worship leaders:

Pastor—Rev. Chris Steubing
Visitation Pastor—Rev. Judi Miller
Our Reader—Kathy Lenhardt
Our Liturgist—Don Gillett
Organist/Pianist—Daniel Vauter
Choir and Hand Bell Director—Wendy Kuenemann
Office Administrator—Trista Stubblefield
Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator—Sheila Perry

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