

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9, 2025



The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates you may rise or stand*

Welcome

African American History Information

*Gathering Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

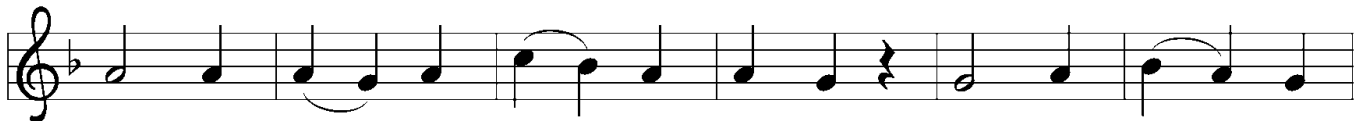
ELW #414



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
 and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

*Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. (*Silence is kept for reflection*).

Merciful God,

All: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

Pastor: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

All: Amen.



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. Most holy God,

All: the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

First Reading – Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” [⁹And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’

¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.”

¹¹Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; ¹²until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.]

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the

scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 5:1-11

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 5th chapter,

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am

a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Clarence Pettit

*Hymn of the Day

In Christ Called to Baptize

ELW #575



1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,



and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.



In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.



then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

*Apostles' Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. 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.

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. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

Leader: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(brief silence)*

Leader: God of surprising abundance... *(After each prayer petition...)* God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain home that your promise is revealed among the people.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Gathering of Offerings

Thank you for giving today! Whether you put offering in the plate this morning, have already given online, or give your time to the church, we are incredibly grateful. Your generosity helps us continue God's mission in the world!

*Offertory

When a Star is Shining

ACS #915

*Offertory Response

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring (vs3)

ELW #691



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. God of grace,

All: your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

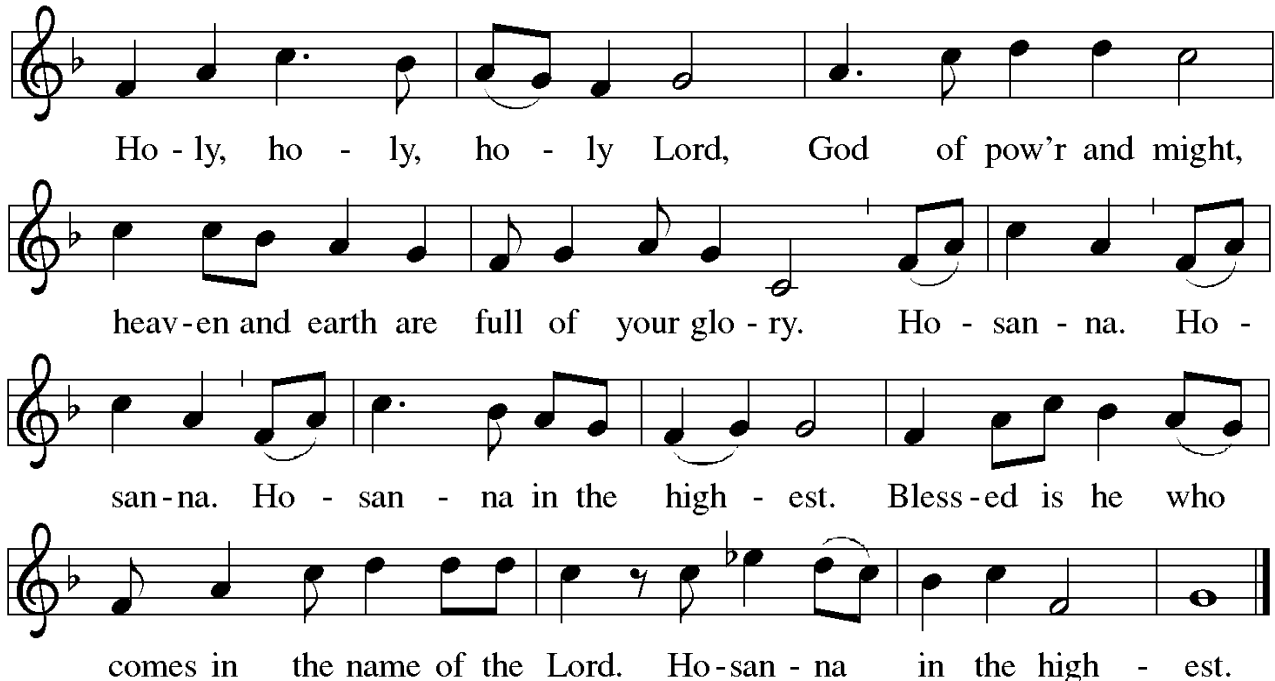
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Preface

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy Holy Holy

ELW setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. 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 in the high - est.

*The Words of Institution

Pastor: 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."

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

*Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

All: Amen

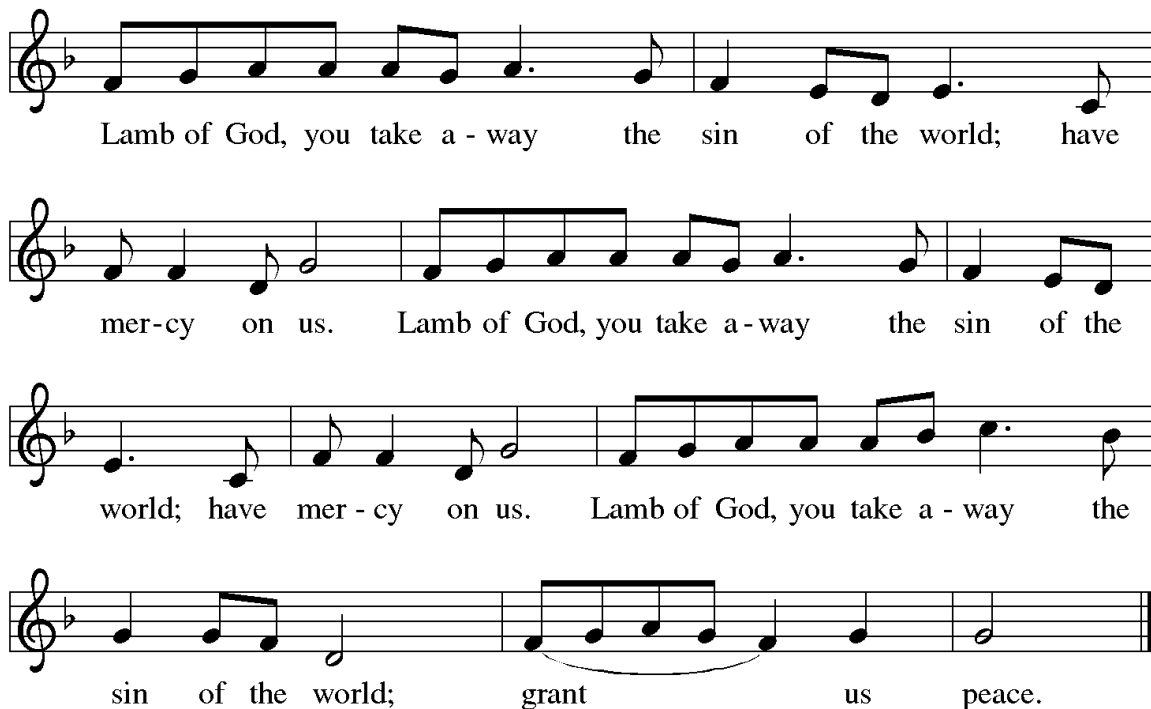
Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion of bread and wine. Please let a worship leader know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail.

For those worshiping virtually, now is the time to receive your previously blessed elements.

Lamb of God

ELW (Setting 3)



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 peace.

*Communion Music

Here I Am, Lord

ELW #574

*Prayer After Communion

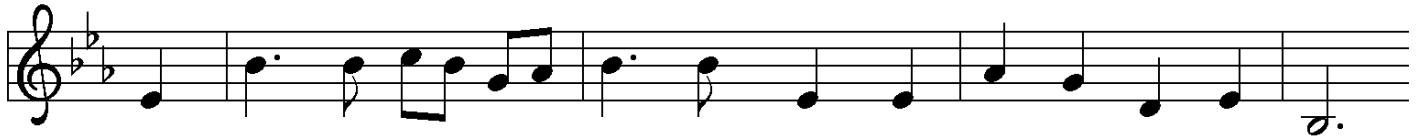
Leader: Let us pray. Nourishing God,

All: at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

*Blessing

Pastor: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

All: Amen.



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

*Sending

Leader: Go in peace. Live in hope.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

YOUTH GROUP will meet following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Council will meet in the Conference Room following worship. All are welcome to attend.

We can't wait to see everyone **Thursday February 12th at 12:30pm** to continue our faith development series, focusing on the different elements of our Lutheran faith.

Join us in person in the conference room or via Zoom. The link is in the weekly emails. Contact admin@amflc.org for more information.

Do you like Italian food and good fellowship? If so, mark your calendar for the AMF Social Dinner as all are invited. Come solo, bring a friend, bring your spouse, or bring many friends. The more the merrier!

RSVP by contacting Dwayne Graham @ 704.726.8215.

AMF Social Dinner details:

Where: Open Kitchen located on W Morehead St in Charlotte

When: **THIS Saturday February 15th at 5pm**

Please Note: If you would like to go and are unable to drive or do not feel comfortable driving, the LMM can certainly assist with that. Please let Dwayne know when you RSVP.

Women of AMF February is a busy Month!

- February 15, 2025 at 10:30: Women of Paw Creek Presbyterian have invited us to the 32nd Ecumenical Luncheon. We are to register by February 10 (let Sharon know if you will be attending). We are to bring salads, a \$1 donation and canned good for the food pantry. Guest speaker is Rhonda McClain.

ZOOM BAG EVENT!

It is time to fill more ZOOM Bags for our unhoused neighbors. Join us

Saturday, February 22 at 10 am in the narthex. Please contact

Jim McGee (704-641-1759) if you will be able to help.

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday March 4, 5:30-7pm join us for a Mardi Gras pancake supper in the Fellowship Hall! Join the celebration as we prepare for our Lenten journey.



Ash Wednesday service will be at 12 noon on Wednesday March 5th.

The service will be Livestreamed for those who are unable to join in person.

*You may send prayer requests or changes for the prayer list to
admin@amflc.org.*

Prayer List

Members: David Bass, Lynda Booth, Jr. Bryant and family, Charles Burton, Penny Damron, Chris Dukes, Pastor Mary Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Linda Meyer, Pastor John and Nancy Merck, Harry Sheldon, and Carol Stroup.

Loved Ones: Students and staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Russell and Tammy Bridges, Jonathan Davis (family of Mia Strong), friends of Grant and Esther Fulghum, Carol Howell (friend of the church), Josiah (Great-nephew of Jan Huskey) Anthony Long and his sister's family (friends of the church), Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop), Isabel and Elmer Sundlie, and Ronnie Thomas (Father-in-law to Alyssa McGee Thomas).

Worship Leadership

Pastor - Clarence Pettit

Worship Assistant - Kathy Dukes

Organist/Music Director - Penny Damron

Pianist- Patti Skinner

Guitarist - Timothy Gentsch

Acolyte- Auggie Crucifer- Jason

Livestream Operator- Chris Dukes

Ushers- Ron Cartier and Amy Johnson

Soundboard Operator- Doug Wells

Wondering what's going on at AMF?

Have you checked your mailbox? Did you know we have a weekly email and monthly newsletter? Are you on the One Call Now phone list?

Email admin@amflc.org to be added to these lists.

Have a question about what's going on in Council? You are welcome to attend any and all meetings- they happen the 2nd Sunday of every month following worship. The minutes are also available for your review. We have updated the Administrative Bulletin board which can be found by the mailboxes.

Check it out!