



**February 4, 2024**  
***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany***



*Micah declares God's condemnation of those who abhor justice. Jesus warns against hypocrisy. Paul urges the Thessalonians to lead a life worthy of God. Called to be humble servants, we gather for worship, seeking justice and welcoming all people to share the banquet of life.*

[Online Worshiper Form \(Guests & Members\)](#)

***Good Morning and Welcome!***

Guests, we are so glad you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering basket or give to the usher or the pastor as you leave. *Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.*

**SERVICE of WORSHIP**  
*Now the Feast and Celebration*  
*\* Please stand as you are able*

PRELUDE: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”(G. Sikes)

Melanie Payne, Organist

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE

\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always  
loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not  
always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your  
covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good  
news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In  
Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are  
forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

**Amen.**



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

\*THE 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.**

\*THE KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

**Refrain**

Assistant: *Assistant:* Congregation: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: *Assistant:*

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation: *Congregation:*

God. A - men.

\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE: "Now the Feast and Celebration"

ELW 167

Refrain *Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

*Refrain*  
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

TEMPLE TALK -Thrivent

LeeLinda Baggett

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy

One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## THE PSALM

*Psalm 147:1-11, 20c*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup>Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I

might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

### \*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### \*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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**

**\*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**God of grace, receive our prayer.**

**\*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**And also with you.**



## THE OFFERING

Choir Anthem (8:30): "Ain'-a That Good News" (W. Dawson)

Organ Solo (11:00) "Come, Thou Fount" (John Wyeth / YoungMin You)

### \*THE OFFERTORY: "As the Grains of Wheat"

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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### \*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

Amen

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING and THE PREFACE

*Presider:* *Congregation:*  
The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

*The preface appropriate to the day or season is sung or said.*

*Presider:* It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*THE SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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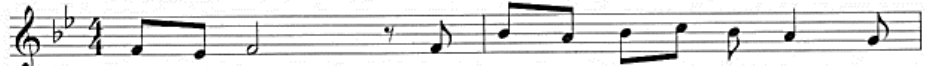
## \*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## \*THE 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

## THE AGNUS DEI: "Lamb of God"

*Congregation:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
\* you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*



world:  
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
peace:  
love:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



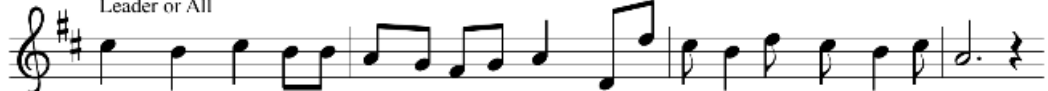
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## THE DISTRIBUTION


### HYMN: "On Eagle's Wings"

ELW 787

*Leader or All*



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Song Continues on Reverse →

*Refrain*  
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

*Final refrain*  
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957  
 Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas  
 Text and music © 1979 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

HYMN: "God, Whose Almighty Word"

ELW 673

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.  
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini. 1716–1796

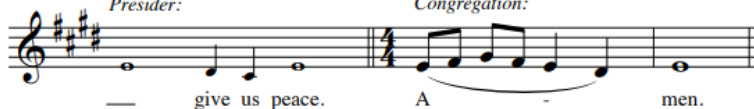
HYMN: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (not printed)

(blue, WOV Pew Hymnal) 731

\*THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

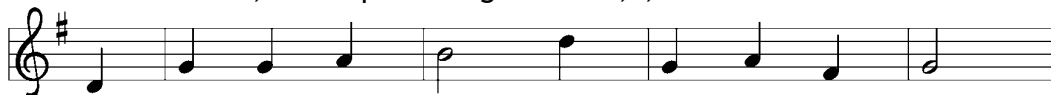
\*THE BLESSING

*Presider:* May God bless and keep us.  
May God's face shine on us and be gracious.  
May God look on us with favor and ✠ give us peace.  
*Presider:* *Congregation:*



\*THE SENDING HYMN "Oh, Worship the King" Vs. 1,3,5

ELW 842



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,  
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;  
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,  
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.  
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.  
Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

\*THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: "Little Prelude in G" (JS Bach)

# WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Spoken during Prayers of the Church

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by Bill & Marcie Emerson in recognition of their son, Phillip, and his wedding on June 15th to Ronni Gallo.

A NURSERY, staffed by Sarah Walker, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

ALL ARE INVITED to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

CONGREGATION WEEKEND FOOD PACKING IS TODAY after the late service. Come! Lend a hand!

THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER continues in the Fellowship Hall through February. Choose an envelope(s) and give the amount shown on it. Include the envelope with your donation. If all envelopes are taken, the youth will raise \$5,050 to help with hotel and travel expenses for the 7 youth and 3 adults who are attending.

FEBRUARY 11 IS SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY Bring cans of soup or make a cash donation in the soup kettles. The soup and donations will go to *The House of the Harvest* food pantry. This event is organized by MLC's Jr. & Sr. Youth.

HOMEMADE CARD WORKSHOP ON SAT. FEBRUARY 10 from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Come and make cards for outreach to use in sending to MLC shut-ins, and those who are "stuck-ins" following a surgery, illness, etc. All supplies are provided with Peggy Mabry providing the instruction.

CHANCEL FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS for Sundays in 2024 are available. The cost to sponsor Sunday Flowers is \$30 per household. Up to two households may sponsor a single household. Please see the sign up board in the Narthex. A new, improved sign up board is coming soon.

A THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP IS UNDERWAY! The group will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1 p.m. in Room 11/12 and via Zoom. *Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies* by Stephen Kendrick is the text for the study. See *E-Messengers* for details.

KIT MINISTRY ITEM - Dark Towels (52 x 27) FOOD PANTRY - Canned Soup

<u>Pastor</u>	Kristine Schroeder	<u>Acolytes</u>	Greyson Pitchko (8:30)
<u>Director of Music</u>	Randall Fields		Blakely Williams (11:00)
<u>Organist/Accompanist</u>	Melanie Payne	<u>Greeters</u>	(8:30) Beth Thompson (11:00)
<u>Director of Outreach Ministries</u>	Claire Strand	<u>Lectors</u>	Tim Pitchko (8:30)
<u>Communication &amp; Tech Director</u>	Meredith Kilby		Jutta DeMarsh (11:00)
<u>Office Managers</u>	Bobbey Huwaldt	<u>Ushers</u>	Virgil Burrer, Glen Long (8:30)
	Meredith Kilby		Tom McNamara, Mark Thompson (11:00)
<u>Nursery Attendant</u>	Sarah Walker	<u>Cantor</u>	Andrew King
		<u>Altar Guild</u>	Janet Smith (8:30)
			Debbie Neely (11:00)
		<u>Sound/Stream Team</u>	Claire Strand (8:30)
			Meredith Kilby, Stephen Strand (11:00)
		<u>Flower Guild</u>	Jutta DeMarsh

## Pastor Kris Schroeder

Email: [pastor.kris@mlutheran.org](mailto:pastor.kris@mlutheran.org)

Pastor Cell Phone: 480-338-6519

Pastor's Office Hours are M-TH

MLC staff will never directly solicit you to purchase gift-cards or withdraw money for

"sensitive matters," If in doubt call the church office.

Don't get scammed. If it feels fishy - it probably is!

## **\*\*CHURCH CALENDAR\*\***

### **Sunday, February 4**

- 8:00 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
- 12:00 p.m. - Weekend Food Packing
- 5:00 p.m. - Jr/Sr Youth

### **Tuesday, February 6**

- 9:00 a.m. - Comforters
- 6:00 p.m. - Reflective Listening HAPC Seminar - (First Baptist-HSV)

### **Wednesday, February 7**

- 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation
- 5:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner - Mardi Gras Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. - Cherub Choir
- 6:00 p.m. - Seraph Choir
- 6:30 p.m. - Notabella
- 7:30 p.m. - Messiah Choir

### **Thursday, February 8**

- 6:30 p.m. - Kit Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting

### **Saturday, February 10**

- 10:00 a.m. - Card Making Workshop

### **Sunday, February 11 Scout Sunday / Souper Bowl of Caring**

- 8:30 a.m. - Service of Worship: *Now the Feast* w/the Lord's Supper
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:45 a.m. - Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship: *Now the Feast* w/the Lord's Supper

*\*These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**February 14** - Ash Wednesday / Lent Begins (Services at Noon & 7:00 p.m.)

**March 24** - Passion/Palm Sunday

**March 31** - Resurrection/Easter Sunday

### **Attendance:**

January 21 - Online - 116 January 28 - 8:30 a.m. - 101, 11:00 a.m. - 80

### **Offerings Counted January 28, 2024**

**GIVE ONLINE**

