Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

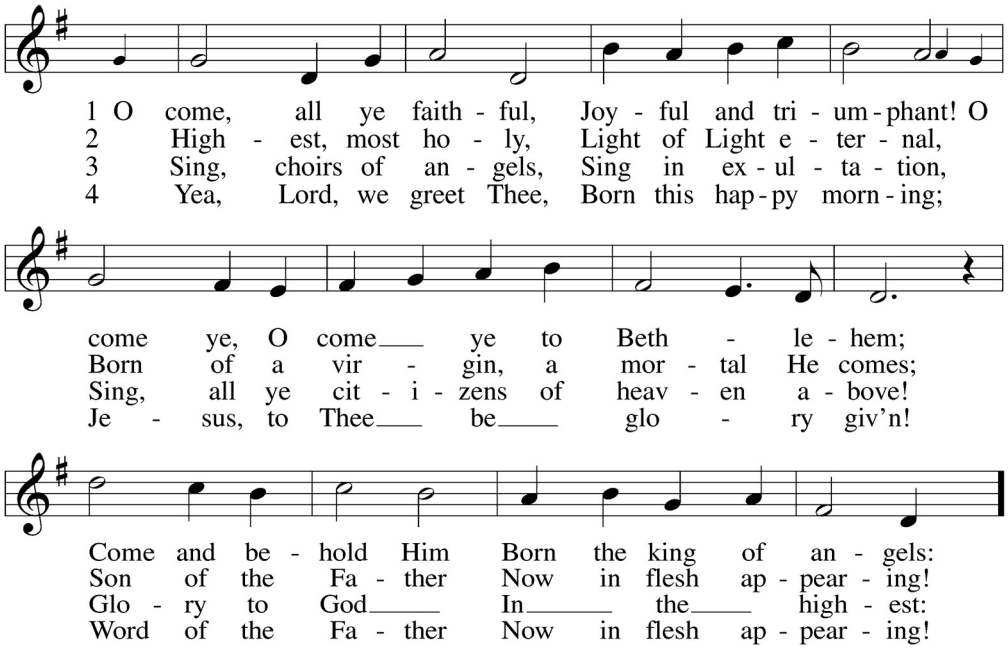
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LIGHT – 10PM

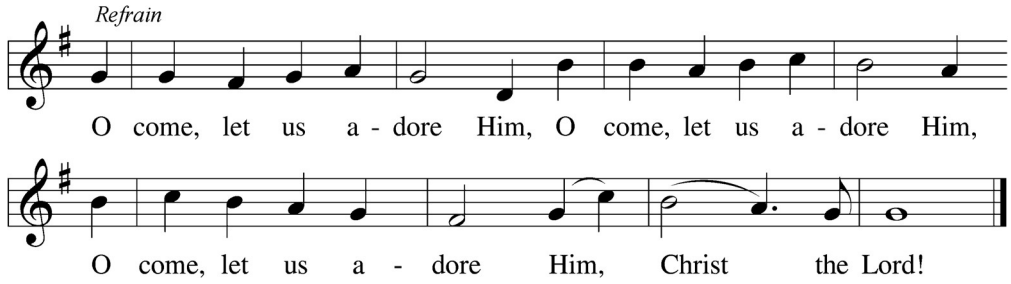
DECEMBER 24, 2020

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

Entrance Hymn Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" *LSB 379 Sts.1-4*





Text and Tune: Public domain

TE DEUM *(We Praise You, O God)* *LSB 223*

P: We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting. To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs therein. To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory. The glorious company of the apostles praise You. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You.

P: The noble army of martyrs praise You. The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge You. The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. You are the king of glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of the Father.

C: When You took upon Yourself to deliver man, You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin. When You had overcome the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that You will come to be our judge.

P: We therefore pray You to help Your servants, whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage. Govern them and lift them up forever. Day by day we magnify You. And we worship Your name forever and ever.

C: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You. O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

P: The Lord be with You.

C: Also with you.

P: *Let us pray:* O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE FIRST OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM DEUTERONOMY 18:15-18

Reader: "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I commend him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM ISAIAH 9: 1-7

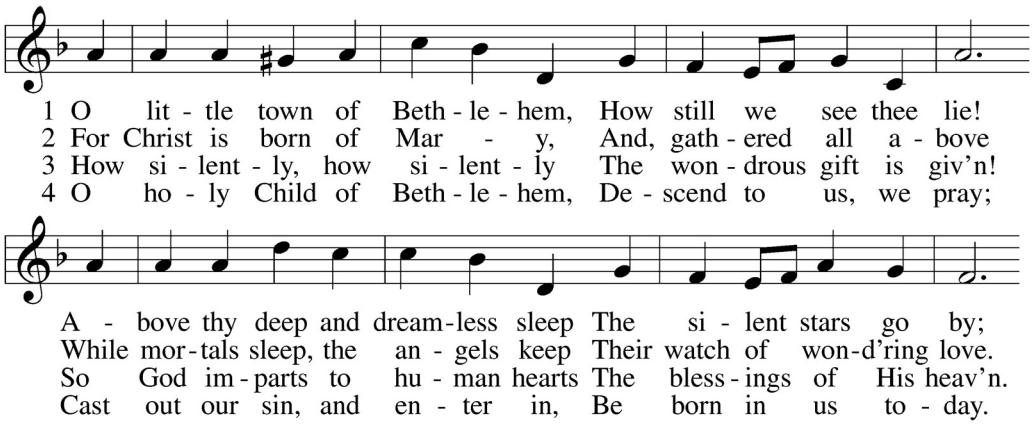
Reader: But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of His burden, and the staff for His shoulder, the rod of His oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

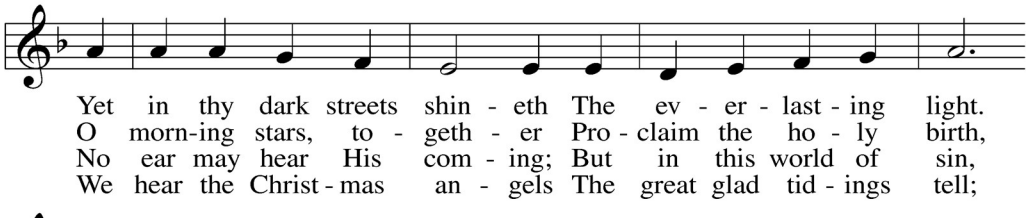
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

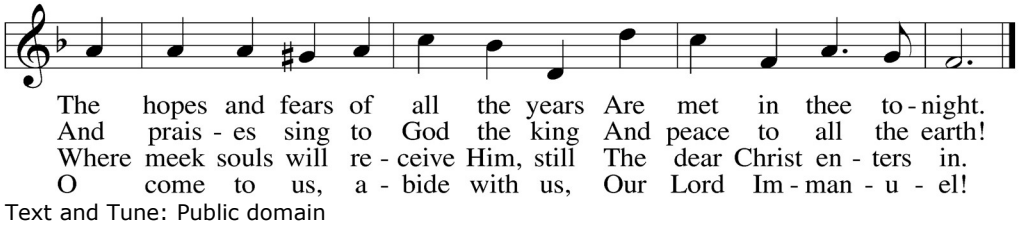
R: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM *LSB 361*







Text and Tune: Public domain

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 2:1-18

C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

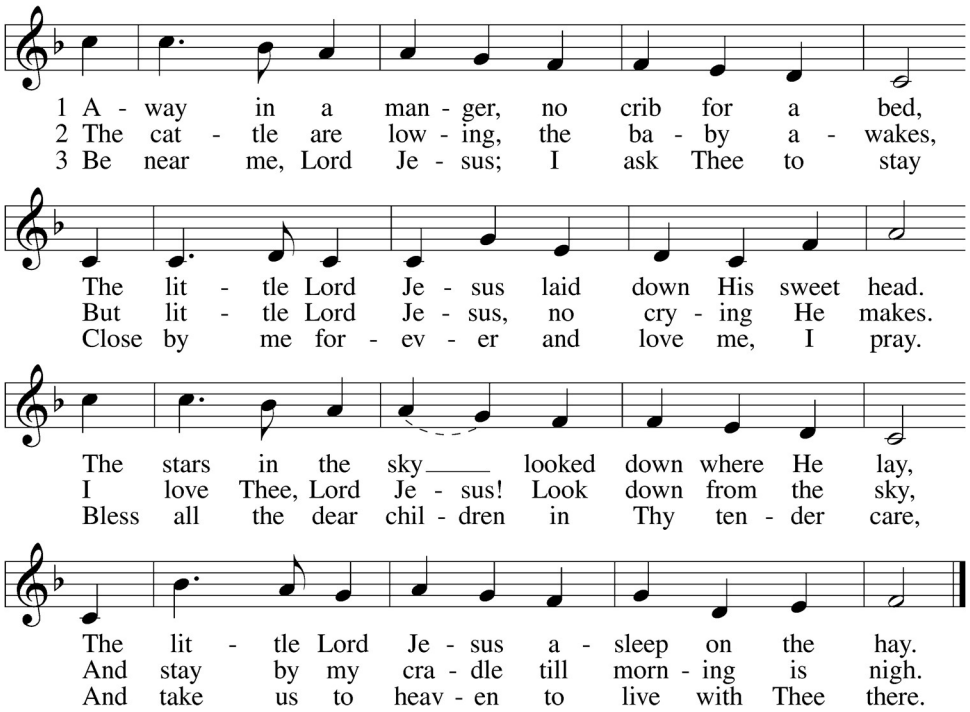
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom His Favor rest!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord**.**

C: Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN **AWAY IN A MANGER** ***LSB 364 STS.1-3***



Tune and text: Public domain

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ***"Rejoice! It's Better Than You Expect!"***

THE NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord God Almighty, we come before You on this most holy night in awe at the wonder and majesty of the incarnation. The Savior of the nations has come, and with joy we greet our newborn King. Let the proclamation of His birth sound forth throughout the world. Give to Your Church faithful pastors to proclaim the good tidings of His birth and give to Your people willing ears to hear and believe.

In the birth of Your Son, You have signaled the beginning of a new creation; while we still live in a world wracked by the ravages of sin, we know that the final victory is Yours. Watch over and keep safe emergency workers and all whose vocations keep them from their families this evening for the well-being of our families.

In the birth of Your Son, You have visited and redeemed Your people. Continue to visit those who are lonely, sick, recovering or near death. Let Your presence be a comfort to them and give them perseverance until that time You grant healing, relief, deliverance and peace.

In the birth of Your Son, and by His death and resurrection, You have reconciled the world to Yourself. Keep us ever mindful that Jesus is for all people and give us opportunity to tell others the good news of His coming so that they can join in the praise of Your holy name.

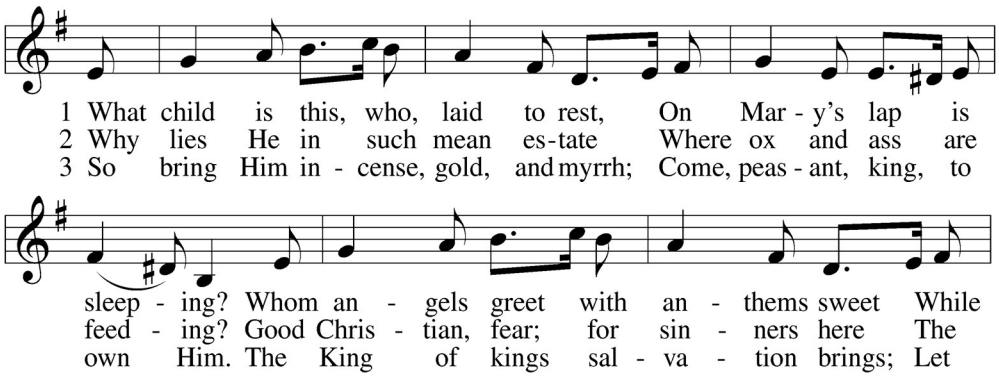
In the birth of Your eternal Son, who is of one substance with You, You visited mankind, and so Your eternal Godhead is bound to the body and blood He gives us in the Sacrament of the Altar. Grant faith to all who receive this gift, that with sins forgiven and love strengthened they can serve their neighbor in joy.

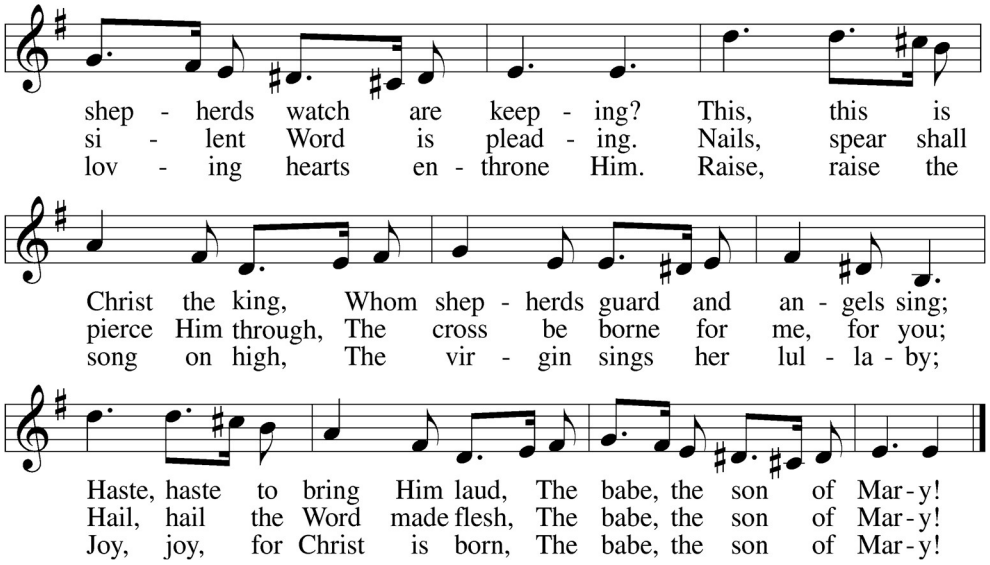
In the birth of Your Son, You have called people of all times and places into the Body of Christ that is the Church. We give You thanks for all the believers who have gone before us, especially those who have been with us during Christmases past and are now with You. Give us a sure confidence in Your promise of resurrection and eternal life, and bring us at last together with them into Your presence at the full coming of Your kingdom.

Into Your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN — WHAT CHILD IS THIS? — *LSB 370 STS.1-3*





Text and tune: Public domain

COLLECT FOR PEACE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, we ask you to hear our prayer as we pray the prayer Your beloved Son taught us:

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.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

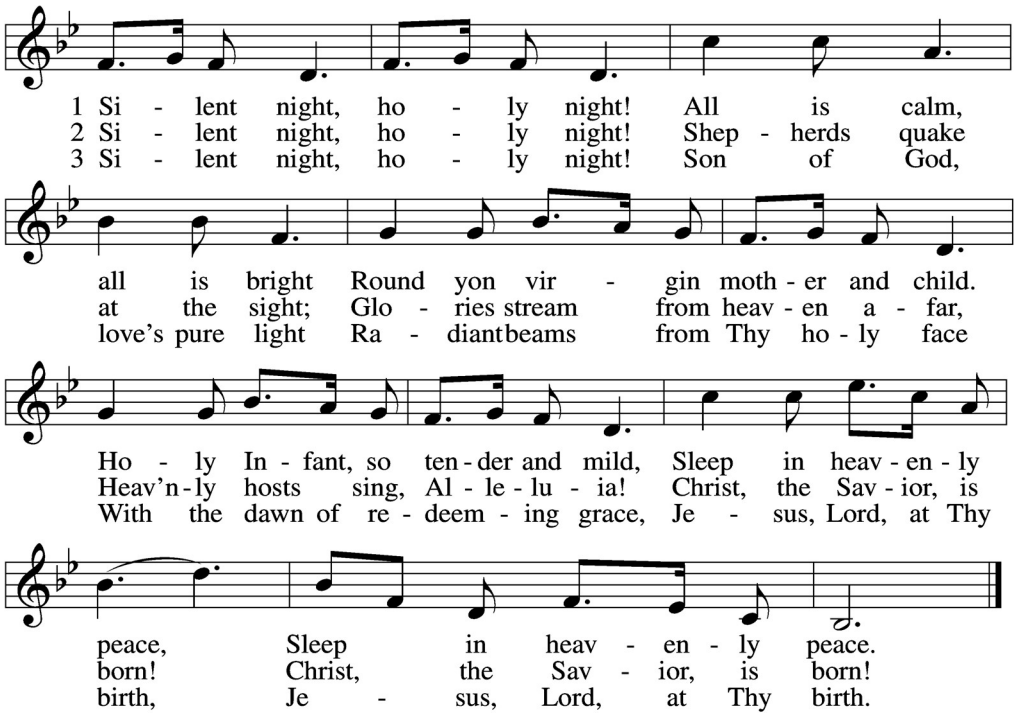
P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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 peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN **SILENT NIGHT** ***LSB 363 STS.1-4***

Tune and text: Public domain

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

3501 E Chandler Blvd; Phoenix, AZ 85048

480-759-4047

www.FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Office Administrator

Betty Knight

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/24– 12/31

Thursday, December 24th

5:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00PM Christmas Eve Service of the Light

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

No Bible Study this Sunday

Thursday

No Confirmation Class

PLEASE NOTE*: Due to current area circumstances, we are offering services only via Zoom. In-person meetings will resume when safe and will follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer