# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP **First Sunday After Christmas**

December 31. 2023

## **AS WE GATHER**

How long is a generation? Keepers of statistics suggest that a generation is between twenty and thirty years and note that at the present time there are six distinct generations living in the United States. The current generations range from our oldest citizens, known as the Greatest Generation through our youngest, given the group name of Generation Z. In the account of the presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem, we see Jesus as a baby from the youngest generation and we meet Anna the prophetess, well advanced into the most elderly generation, and Simeon, who is often portrayed as an older man. The temple is the place for all generations to experience the presence and blessing of God! The psalmist exults in praise to God: "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). As we worship, we continue that praise in this generation.

## HYMN "Let All Together Praise Our God" (LSB 389 - 7 verses)

Let all together praise our God Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son.	Before His glorious throne; To give us His own Son,
He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall.	Is born an infant small, Lies in a humble stall,
Within an earthborn form He hides To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might.	His all-creating light; The splendor of His might,
He undertakes a great exchange, And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name.	Puts on our human frame, His glory, and His name,

He is a servant, I a lord: How strong the tender Christ Child's love! No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise.

(Please stand)

Your grace in lowliness revealed, And praise to God the Father yield We praise You evermore. How great a mystery! No truer friend than He,

To blessèd paradise; To God our praises rise,

Lord Jesus, we adore And Spirit evermore;

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor:	In the name of the Father and the ₱ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:	Amen.
Pastor:	I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
People:	with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
Pastor:	Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
People:	You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?
Pastor:	My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;
People:	my soul also, which You have redeemed.
Pastor:	Blessed be the LORD forever!
People:	Amen and Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- Pastor: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- People: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned in thought, in word, and in deed. So often we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask for the grace and forgiveness that we know to be ours in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of

the Holy Spirit, lead us, heavenly Father, to change what is sinful in our lives so that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation through of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the 
Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

#### 🕸 WORD 🕸

#### INTROIT

Psalm 98:1-4; Isaiah 52:10

- People: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- Men: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- Women: The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- Men: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- Women: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- 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 LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

## KYRIE

Pastor:Lord, have mercy,People:Lord, have mercy.Pastor:Christ, have mercy,People:Christ, have mercy.Pastor:Lord, have mercy,People:Lord, have mercy.

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

(Nations will acknowledge His righteousness.)

10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. 2 The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. 3 You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader:This is the Word of the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

#### **EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

(At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.)

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Reader:	This is the Word of the	Lord.
People:	Thanks be to God.	
		(please stand)
HOLY GOS	PEL Luke 2:22-40	(Jesus is presented in the temple by Joseph and Mary.)
Pastor:	The Holy Gospel accor	ding to St. Luke, the second chapter.
People:	Glory to You, O Lord	•

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." 36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the

child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Pastor:	This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People:	Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE NICENE CREED

- 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: "In the Temple Now Behold Him" (LSB – 513 3 verses)

In His temple now behold Him, Ancient prophets had foretold Him, Now to praise Him, His redeemed

In the arms of her who bore Him, While His aged saints adore Him Alleluia, alleluia! See the long-expected Lord; God has now fulfilled His word. Shall break forth with one accord.

Virgin pure, behold Him lie Ere in perfect faith they die. Lo, the\_incarnate God Most High! Jesus, by Your presentation, Make us see Your great salvation, And present us in Your glory When they blessed You, weak and poor, Seal us with Your promise sure; To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

#### MESSAGE: "Faithful God, Faithful People"

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,
- People: hear our prayer
- Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

#### OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this evening, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. <u>Please record your presence with us today</u>.

## **OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)** (Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

#### 🕸 SACRAMENT 🕸

(please stand)

Pastor:The Lord be with you.People:And also with you.

#### PREFACE

## (please be stand)

(please be seated)

## Luke 2:22-40

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

- **People:** We lift them to the Lord.
- Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because You have called us through the waters of Holy Baptism and welcomed us to Your Table of grace. As we rejoice in the salvation won for us by our Savior, strengthen us to heed always the call to share the Gospel message in our times and days with the generations yet to come that Your praise may echo until the end of time and the start of eternity. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising you and saying:

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### People: Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 INSTITUTION

#### **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor:The peace of the Lord be with you always.People:Amen

## AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

#### HYMN: "In Christ Alone" CCLI # 1280892

In Christ alone my hope is found This Cornerstone this solid Ground What heights of love what depths of peace My Comforter my All in All

In Christ alone who took on flesh This gift of love and righteousness Till on that cross as Jesus died For every sin on Him was laid

There in the ground His body lay Then bursting forth in glorious Day You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray. You take the sin of the world away; And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray. (please be seated)

He is my light my strength my song Firm through the fiercest drought and storm When fears are stilled when strivings cease Here in the love of Christ I stand

Fullness of God in helpless babe Scorned by the ones He came to save The wrath of God was satisfied Here in the death of Christ I live

Light of the world by darkness slain Up from the grave He rose again And as He stands in victory For I am His and He is mine

No guilt in life no fear in death From life's first cry to final breath No power of hell no scheme of man Till He returns or calls me home Sin's curse has lost its grip on me Bought with the precious blood of Christ

This is the power of Christ in me Jesus commands my destiny Can ever pluck me from His hand Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

#### **HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"** (LSB – 367)

Angels from the realms of glory,	Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,	Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

#### refrain: Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,	Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,	Yonder shines the Infant Light. Refrain
Sages, leave your contemplations,	Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,	Ye have seen His natal star. <i>Refrain</i>
Saints before the altar bending,	Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,	In His temple shall appear. <i>Refrain</i>
(please stand)	
All creation, join in praising	God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising	To the_eternal Three in One. <i>Refrain</i>

## **HYMN:** "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" (LSB – 680)

Thine the amen Thine the praise	Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head	Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story	Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.	

Thine the life eternally	Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree	All the earth on bended knee

Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes	Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee	Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing	Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.	

Thine the kingdom Thine the prizeThine the wonder full surpriseThine the banquet then the praiseThen the justice of Thy waysThine the glory Thine the storyThen the welcome to the leastThen the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night	No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree	Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy	Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.	

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

## HYMN "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" (LSB 937 3 verses)

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,	Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,	This child so long foretold.
This is the Savior of the world,	The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,	The joy of Israel.
(please stand)	
With saints of old, with saints to come,	To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest	Be honor, love, and praise.

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly

members of His Body, the Church. And we ask that You would help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit, be praise in all generations, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

## HYMN "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" (LSB 390 4 verses)

Let us all with gladsome voice	Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,	His own Son hath given.
To this vale of tears He comes,	Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes	We may reign in gladness.
We are rich, for He was poor;	Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore	Here on earth and yonder.
Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,	Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.	Amen, Jesus, hear us.

## DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

## People: Thanks be to God.

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#### MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS ...

For continued healing – Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

## For Family and Friends

Anthony Sansone asks for prayers for his Sister, Diane Hendrix as she is in the hospital with sepsis as she stands at Heaven's Doorstep. Prayers for healing for Ardyne Knappick as she recovers from a fall Prayers for Carol Mencke's family – Ron & Emily Pitchford as they mourn the loss in their family Pravers for healing for **Gloria Bloecher** who is recovering from a fall and heart attack *Leitko Family* ask for prayers for *Katie Finny* recovering from complications in birthing a baby Jim & Becky Behrens ask for prayers for Lane Behrens, old son of Logan and Ashley Behrens, grandson of Jim & Becky Behrens, as he is home recovering from RSV infection Prayers for **Gus Addington** has he awaits reconstructive surgery of ACL injury on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> Pravers for our Mission Aviation Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law Heather Mulledy battling breast cancer Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for Reese Richeson, undergoing treatment for cancer Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – Margaret Chamness For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us **Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East** *For family discord, reconciliation, and healing Pravers for rescue for those in abusive relationships Pravers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done* Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

## **DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS**

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Linda Dicke – honoring Linda's Birthday
Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – Kathleen Blakely – in memory of mom Polly Mohnke on her100th Birthday {Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>} Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – Dennis & Sue Parker – in memory of Doug's Birthday
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in memory of those who have gone before us.
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Terry Chhabra – in loving memory of her parents Randall & Carlotta Burns, Amanda Addington's Grandparents, Gus & Luke's Great Grandparents
Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Bill & Sharon Loren - in thanksgiving for another year of God's blessings.

# <u>ANNOUNCEMENTS!</u>

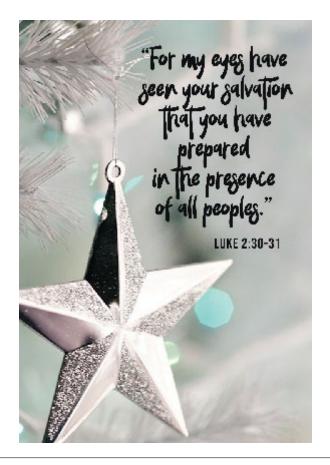
<u>WELCOME</u> ... Whoever you are .... Wherever you have come from .... we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

# Joseph and Mary "The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him." Luke 2:33

What are the amazing words that were said? Who said them about Jesus? Of course the amazing words were Simeon's. He took the baby Jesus in his arms and said, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Mary and Joseph were amazed that the baby was going to be a light to the whole world, a Savior to all people, and the glory of Israel. They also were amazed that Simeon himself thought so much of the child that he would gladly die after seeing him.

Now, it was remarkable for such a great man to praise this child in a public and holy place, for Jesus was only a poor, unimportant baby. His mother was poor and humble, and his father Joseph wasn't wealthy. How could such a child be looked upon as the Savior of all people, the Light to the nations, and the glory of Israel? Today, now that we know the entire story, it doesn't seem so amazing. But back then, no one new anything about it, and it sounded very strange. The poor child was so very different from the great and mighty person whom Simeon spoke about. But Joseph and Mary believed him anyway, and that is why they were amazed. If they hadn't believed, they would have disregarded Simeon's words. What he said would have seemed false and useless rather than amazing. So the simple fact that Joseph and Mary were amazed shows us their great faith.

## {from Faith Alone ~ a Daily Devotional by Martin Luther}



# **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9401 Dietz Elkhorn Boerne, Texas 78015 (830) 755-4300 www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool David Rhoads, Facilities Manager Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



# Serving us today – December 31, 2023

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann		
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone		
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy		
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren		
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren		
Musician:	Bob Shoaf		
AV:	Rutledge Family		
Reader:	Sharon Loren		
Ushers:	David Theis – Dennis Parker – Maurice Doublett		
Greeters:	Sue Theis & Lindy Eschenko		

# Serving us next Sunday – January 7, 2024

Elders:	Hal Eschenko & Maurice Doublett			
Coffee:	Sue Parker			
Breakfast:	to be determined			
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone			
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy			
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren			
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren			
Musician:	Bob Shoaf			
AV:	David & Lorrie Wendeborn			
Reader:	Hal Eschenko			
Ushers:	Snookie & Shirley Moore – Joe Sorensen – Tom Bibb			
Greeters:	Sue Theis & Lindy Eschenko			
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# **Our Response to God Last Week**

November 2023 Contributions				
General Fund	\$45,920.91	<b>Building Fund</b>	\$15,008.61	
<b>Renovation Fund</b>	\$55,150.00	Family Life Center	\$5,812.50	