

November
2021

The Eagle

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT...

Let your light so shine. That's what we say at baptisms and funerals.

In the case of the newly baptized, we are talking to them. *You, child of God, let your light shine. Adam, Logan, Charlotte, Eleanor, Jeffrey, Lily, Camden, Ethan, Everett, Abigail, Maverick, Daniel, Riley, Declan, Jack & Theo... let your light shine.*

In the case of the recently departed, we are talking to God. *Heavenly Father, let your light shine on Marilyn, Seth, Chuck, Ann & Harvey.*

In life and death, we pray... *let light shine.*

On All Saints' Sunday we light candles to remember that prayer. In our sanctuary, the flame frequently flickers. Sometimes it's the draft of a window or fan and at other times it's just because someone walked by. On occasion it's just because the oil is low. We've tried to find a way around it, but we can't. Sometimes it flickers.

As we go through life, each of us will find our flame tested from time to time. It will flicker. The drafts and winds of this world can blow harshly. Sometimes people try to put us out. Sometimes we're just running low. We hear the call to shine but we can't find the will or a way. I think this pandemic and the last several, several months of readjusted faith patterns and practices has put a great deal of pressure on Christians trying to shine. It's hard to be light when you're caught quite literally in the shadow of death.

The candle that flickers in our sanctuary – the candle that we light for baptisms and funerals – is called the Christ candle. It flickers, but it does not go out. It reminds us of what John's gospel proclaims: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5)."

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.

As we celebrate All Saints', we remember our prayers for light. We hear the call to be light. We cherish the gift that is Christ's light. As the days grow darker and colder, we are invited to seek out light understanding that though our lights may be tested, the light of Christ cannot be extinguished.

May the light that shines perpetually in heaven, shine also in our homes, in our hospitals, in all those hallways we navigate through this troubled life, and in our hearts.

So, Shine. Shine. Shine where you are.

peace + love,
Scott

ST. JOHN CHURCH SERVANTS

President
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Vice President
Jennifer Goehle

Secretary
Lee Dryden

Treasurer
Ellen Pancoe

Financial Secretary & Report
Ginny Hohl

Building & Grounds
Rick Bosch

Christian Education
Don Reidell & Jason Ekberg

Finance
Ginny Hohl

Mutual Ministry
Lee Dryden

Personnel
C.J. Ullrich

Social Ministry
Judy Nitchke

Stewardship
Rev. Marsha Irmer

Welcoming/Fellowship
Judy Nitchke

Worship & Music
Larry King & Lee Dryden

Permanent Endowment
C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery
Jenn Goehle

Life Passages

Jack Suszynski was baptized on 10/3/2021.

Theodore Slaper was baptized on 10/30/2021.



Fellowship Events:

November 9, 2021

All are welcome to visit the Abbey of Genesee. Located just outside the Geneseo community. We will carpool & caravan from the church.

November 12, 2021, 11AM

Brown Bag Luncheon – The last of the season at Clarence Town Park if weather permits, otherwise, we will meet in the Gathering Place. Bring a sandwich and beverage to join in lively conversation with friends @ St. John.

December 10, 2021, 11AM

The second Friday of each month we invite you to join us for a bowl of soup, bread and a simple dessert. Please consider coming out to have lunch and catch up on what others at St. John are doing. This will be a social time to get to be together during the winter months. More information to follow.

Social Ministry



THANK YOU! A heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the Drive Thru for Hunger campaign on Sunday, October 17th. We were truly blessed with an overwhelming response from the people of St. John.

Monetary donations for ELCA World Hunger and the Chicken Fund for Friends of Night People total over \$900.00. Added to that were bags and bags of food for Tigers Den. Your kindness will certainly feed many needy people.

The Narthex was also filled with warm, welcoming blankets, comforters, and clothing for the homeless people of the community that will be distributed through Friends of Night People. All was delivered the following day and graciously accepted by the staff at FONP.

We thank you for your continued support of these much needed events in the community at this time. God Bless all of you for caring and sharing with others.

The Social Ministry & Fellowship ministry events have been set aside to provide the people of St. John some opportunities to gather for fun, friendship and fellowship. We hope you will consider joining us if you are able.

Please help us to bring comfort and joy to the needy people in our community. Your compassion and willingness to share with others is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Events

November 21st, 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Drive Thru Event for collection of Bags of Cheer, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and distribution of Advent Wreath Kits.

December 15th, 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Drive Thru Event for collection of Angel Tree gifts for the children in the Cleveland Hill School District





for those who from their labors rest...

Marilyn Utz, Seth Hadala, Charles McCarty, Ann & Harvey Menzies

for those who joined the church on earth through the
waters of baptism...

*Adam Lawniczak, Logan Besch, Charlotte Kozlowski, Eleanor Cox;
Jeffrey Pidgeon, Lily Shanley, Camden Styn, Ethan Burd;
Everett Burd, Abigail Manning, Maverick Roll, Daniel Hooper,
Riley Walsh, Declan Kruszynski, Jack Suszynski, & Theodore Slaper;*

Almighty God,
you have knit your people together
in one communion in the mystical
body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints
in lives of faith and commitment,
and to know the inexpressible joys
you have prepared for those who love you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

For all the saints who from
their labors rest, who thee by
their faith before the world
confessed, thy name, O Jesus,
be forever blessed. alleluia!
alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet
more glorious day: the saints
triumphant rise in bright
array; the King of glory
passes on his way.
alleluia! alleluia!

Bags of Cheer

The Fellowship Committee is promoting a “BAGS OF CHEER” Project during Lent. This is an opportunity for all people of St. John to get involved as a way of doing for others during this season of the year. The recipients of this project will be male and female residents of area Senior Care Facilities. This past year has been challenging for all residents in Senior Care Facilities. They have had very little personal contact with their immediate families. It has been tough on all of them. We are hoping that our “BAGS OF CHEER” will brighten their days to come, and let them know how proud we are of them for enduring this difficult time. We want to encourage them to look to the future with hope and reassurance that they will soon get to reunite with their loved ones. We hope all of you will come on board to help with this project. We encourage families to make this a group project. If you want to help, please do the following:

1. Read through the list of items recommended below.
2. Select the items to purchase as well as a paper gift bag to put the items into 3. Buy a card or design a “Thinking of You note. Address it to” Dear Friend”
4. Bring the “Good Cheer” bags to the church parking lot on November 21st, 2021

You are certainly welcome to do more than one bag. The more bags we collect, the more people we will be able to bring joy to. If you are not able to get to the store to purchase items, we will be glad to accept monetary donations so that someone else can shop for you. If you cannot get the bags to the church, please call the church office or Judy Nitchke so arrangements for pickup can be made. Thank you in advance for participating in this much needed and worthy cause. The Fellowship Committee Judy Nitchke 716-683-5793 or judithnitchke@gmail.com

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO FILL THE BAG

Small note pads, a package of blank note cards, notebook or journal, postage stamps, magazines with lots of pictures: animals, flowers, nature, travel, transportation, etc. Word search, sudoku, crossword puzzle, paperback books in large print if possible. Small books of poems, prayers, decks of cards, 300 or less piece jigsaw puzzles, hand sanitizer, hand lotion, small packs of tissues, comb, brush, toothbrush, toothpaste, gripper slipper socks, themed socks, a scarf, brooch or decorative pin. Small stuffed animals, figurines, artificial flowers, framed pictures of birds, flowers, etc. Small bags of individually wrapped hard candy-mints, butterscotch, fruit flavors, small boxes of chocolates (Must be very basic due to dietary and safety concerns). A note from your family introducing who you are. Use first names and tell a little about what you like to do, etc. Add a picture of your family or your pet. Artwork from you or the children that can be displayed on a table male and female or hung on a door



ADVENT WREATH

This year we are once again providing at home Advent wreaths. To sign up for a kit click [here](http://sjlcamherst.com/adventwreath) or go to sjlcamherst.com/adventwreath. (The wreath kits are available free of charge but a \$15 donation is recommended to offset the cost.) This pandemic reminded us that we worship not just in the sanctuary but at home too.

Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:5



COUNCIL UPDATE

The following resolutions were approved by the congregation at a specially called meeting on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

RESOLVED, that, as recommended by the Congregation Council and to further conform with the requirements of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the amended and restated Constitution and Bylaws of The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church of Buffalo, in the form presented to the Congregation, be, and hereby are, adopted and approved in all respects.

RESOLVED, that the Officers of the Congregation be authorized to apply for a mortgage loan of up to \$250,000 from the Mission Investment Fund Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be used for the costs of the construction of the Outdoor Ministry Center and to execute and deliver such documents as they may deem necessary or appropriate to close such mortgage loan on such terms and conditions as they may deem in the best interest of the church.

OCTOBER MEETING: The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:00PM. The agenda and previous month's minutes were both approved. Pastor led us in prayer.

The pastor's report noted 1 baptism and 2 weddings. He also highlighted youth events, pastoral care, and community outreach. Pastor has been working with our attorney to prepare for the upcoming congregational meeting and is looking forward to the LCLC retreat in November.

The committees offered the following reports:

Social Ministry – We had a very generous collection of food, money, and items to assist the impoverished. Creative Ministries will begin making backpacks and clothing protectors. In November, we will once again collect Bags of Cheer. The Angel Tree project is also in the works.

Welcoming/Fellowship – Many events are planned for the next few weeks and months including luncheons at church, a visit to the Genesee Abbey and Botanical Gardens. The men's and women's group are still meeting.

Worship & Music – Our worship is still developing and slowly returning to "normal." Patience is requested as we continue to make our way forward.

Christian Education – 12 – 13 children are attending Sunday School. Volunteers stepped up to teach. The Adult Bible Zoom is held each Wednesday at 7PM.

Youth – Youth Nights are taking place every other week for grades 5-9. First Communion will be held on November 14th.

Personnel – Elena is through her probationary period and will be reviewed in November.

Building and Grounds – A new dishwasher was installed in the kitchen. Those who are interested will have the opportunity to be "officially" trained.

Finance – Church investments are doing well. We are currently running with an excess of revenue over expenses. The Outdoor Ministry Center fund has received \$6,650.

Stewardship – A letter and pledge card will be distributed in November.

Cemetery – The investments are doing well. The Scattering Garden is still being sorted.

In the business portion of the meeting the upcoming congregational meeting was discussed. The constitution will be distributed electronically. A vote was held to allow participants to attend the meeting via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

ELCA World Hunger

This is a new video about Manna From Heaven, so you can put faces to the folks named in the letter and hear from the self-proclaimed “chicken women” themselves. My favorite part is hearing Lois’ joy as she pulls newly hatched chickens from the group’s incubator, which it purchased with an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant funded by your gifts.

Manna From Heaven partners with Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) in Cincinnati to provide food and other essentials to 1,500 to 2,000 people every month



ANGEL TREE



Hello Everyone

Yes it is that time of the year when we start to think of Christmas, the Birth of Christ and the true meaning of GRATEFULNESS and GIVING.

The St. John family is always so generous in giving of their time, talents and support for those less fortunate than ourselves as demonstrated in the success of prior ANGEL TREE projects. Again this year we hope to help children celebrate this joyous time of the year. We will be working with a local school to see how our congregation can support our community. Please look for more information in early November as to the particulars of this project.

Thank you
Suzanne Aquilina
716-868-1225
Social Ministry

RECREATION RENEWAL REST

ADULT RETREAT

REGISTER NOW

WWW.SJLCAMHERST.COM/RETREAT

[CLICK HERE.](#)

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021

Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

COST

SINGLE - \$200
DOUBLE - \$140/PERSON

The cost includes all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast as well as a modest program fee. Each participant is invited to bring snacks and preferred beverages for evening fellowship.

BREATHE. BE AT PEACE.

Rarely do church groups get together without an agenda. However, this retreat aims to provide just that. The plan for the weekend is to create sacred space for refreshment and recreation. Each retreat-goer will have the ability to take time in creation and rest amongst brothers and sisters from our church community. We will laugh, eat, share stories, take hikes, drink coffee (& more), listen, and find time to just be.

LCLC SITS ON 160 ACRES ON THE EAST SHORE OF CHAUTAUQUA LAKE. THE RETREAT CENTER BOASTS COMFORTABLE ROOMS, HALF OF WHICH HAVE THEIR OWN PRIVATE BATH. THE GATHERING AREAS AND DINING ROOM PROVIDE THE PERFECT SPACE TO SHARE IN FELLOWSHIP AND REST.

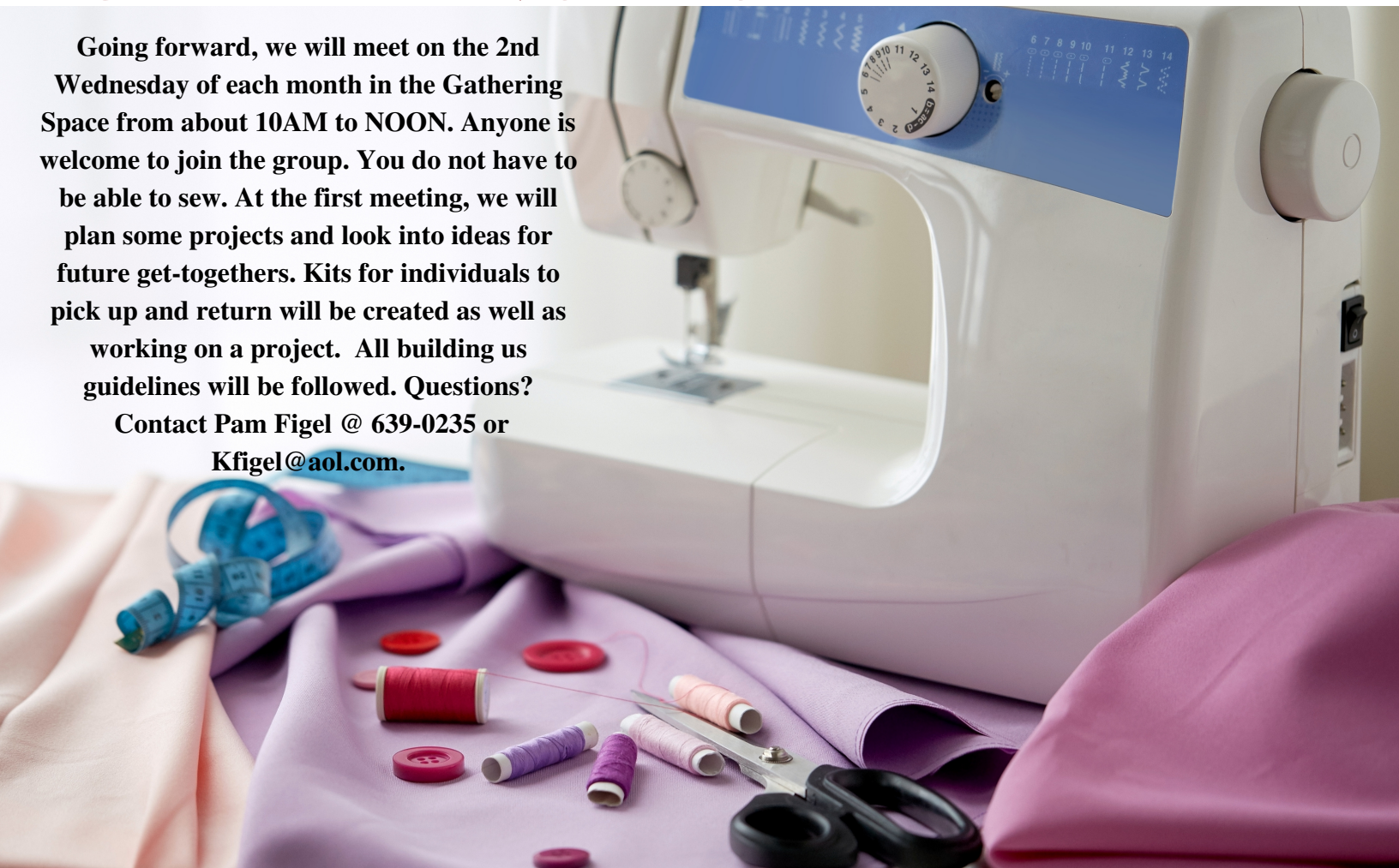
LAST CALL

SJLC @ LCLC

CREATIVE MINISTRIES

Going forward, we will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Gathering Space from about 10AM to NOON. Anyone is welcome to join the group. You do not have to be able to sew. At the first meeting, we will plan some projects and look into ideas for future get-togethers. Kits for individuals to pick up and return will be created as well as working on a project. All building us guidelines will be followed. Questions?

Contact Pam Figel @ 639-0235 or
Kfigel@aol.com.



OLV Foster Service



OLV Human Services is actively recruiting foster families for children ages birth to 21. The primary goal of foster care is to provide a safe, temporary place for children until they can be reunited with their birth family. For children who are unable to be reunified, many of our foster parents choose to become adoptive families. For more information on the OLV Foster Care Program or to inquire about becoming a foster parent, please contact Leann Lapis at (716) 828-9411 or llapis@olvhumanservices.org

Christmas Pageant

Our pageant will be held on Sunday, December 19th at 9:30AM
Children grades pre-k through 6 are encouraged to participate.

Rehearsals will be held on

Sundays- November 21 & December 5 at 9:30 and

Saturdays- December 11 & 18 at 9AM.

If you are interested in playing musical instruments on that day
please contact Cindy and Elena through the main office.

office@sjlcamherst.com

"and a little child
shall lead them."

is. 11:6



Psalm 118:29

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his
steadfast love endures forever."



Christmas Eve Worship

Mark your calendars. In-person Christmas Eve worship will
be held at 1PM, 3PM, & 5PM on Friday, December 24, 2021

Masks will be required for all individuals on Christmas Eve.

O Come All Ye Faithful.



Everyone at St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for helping us make this day so
special for Jake + our family. We are so grateful for
everything you do!

The Suszynski's

Church Family,
Thank you so much for the flower arrangement
delivered to me. It was very thoughtful and much
appreciated!

Ethel Sermrau

St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response.
As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to
us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in
out lives. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster
Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others.
You are helping people near and far feel the
transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit- filled generosity is helping families and
communities reeling from disasters here in the United
States and around the world. No matter the variety of
disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to
Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their
lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is
shining through you.

In Christ,
The Rev. Robin Brown



Happenings at St. John



ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement
Family and Friends of Harvey Menzies, father of Dale Menzies

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns
Bob Tiffany, Theo Slaper, Wayne Yendall, Helen Smith, Gayle Bosch, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey, Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ruth Bertini, Ethel Semrau,
Nancy Borouki, friend of Ellen Lohead
Diane Martin, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Kurt Yeager, son in-law of Marie Palermo
Amy Deboth, friend of Iris Reece
Cherie Anterline, friend of Pam Figel
David .McCarty, son of Pat McCarty
Kathy Borcik, friend of Ellen Lohead
Sue Miller and family, friends of Marie Palermo
Billy Byers, cousin of Anne and Ken Dehn
Marcia Zavacki, Cousin of Ray and Ginny Hohl
Ron Granitz and family, friends of Pastor Marsha Irmer
Ann Harden, friend of Pastor Marsha Irmer
Sandy Williams, sister of Bobby Traina
Jeff, Sarah and Joanne, friends of Laura Kachelmeyer
Dick Mallison. friend of Ray and Ginny Hohl
Ann Giuseppetti, sister in-law of Brenda and Dave Burow
Sharon Donahue, daughter of Pat McCarty
Sandie Dunham, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Carol Traina, Rich and Bobbie Traina's Daughter-in Law
Christie Guadagno, Sister of Bobbie Traina
Vicki Altenoeder, Sister of Bobbie Traina
Karen Sunick, Sister Bobbie Traina
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté

For unity, peace, and the healing of our nation.

Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from world events and natural disasters.

Parents, children and educators as schools reopen.

The homeless, hungry, cold and lonely.

Those victimized by any form of violence, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Military: Jed Breitsch, Tim Bryk, Jeremy Burgett, Mike Ferguson, Trevor Louth, Hunter Misner, Michael Mommertz, Kurt Mommertz, Brandon Nadasio, Matt Newman, **Drew Steinhilber**, Kurt Wasilewski, **John Wendelin**, Jacob Roy, James Gregory, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt, Zachary Beers

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carlton Ullrich,II	11/8		
Wendy Barth	11/8		
Matthew Martin	11/10		
Sandra Parker	11/12		
Kathleen Nagel	11/14		
Michael Goehle	11/15	Gordon Steinhilber	11/20
Robert Kohout	11/16	Lee Dryden	11/20
Asa Pawlowski	11/18	Brian Smith	11/22
Peter Schmude	11/18	David McMullen	11/22
Sarah Merlihan	11/18	Leah Martin	11/23
		Victoria Allen	11/25
		David Burrow	11/26
		Lillian Scorsone	11/27
		Emily Reid	11/27
		Marsha Lewis	11/30



STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*
Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*
Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant* | Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*



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