

First Sunday in Advent

November 30 and December 1, 2019

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway and down the hall to the left.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the narthex or room ("Shepherds Nook") located down the hall from the narthex. This room has a television showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Today's focus: *Prepare, for the Lord will come again unexpectedly.* There are no surprises with Christmas. We know exactly when December 25th will arrive. We can calculate the very minute. That is not the case with Christ's second coming. We have no idea when it will take place. It could be ten-thousand years away. It could be in the next ten minutes. But God kept his promise to send Christ the first time; therefore, we have confident faith he will keep the promise to send Christ again. Because we do not know when that will be, we must always be prepared.

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.gsdg.org

The Season of Advent

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time.

Traditionally, in Advent, the Gloria and other songs of praise are not sung during worship. The astute worshiper will notice this mirrors our practice of Lent. The high festival of Easter is preceded by a six-week period of preparation known as Lent. Likewise, the high festival of Christmas is preceded by a four-week period of preparation known as Advent. Both seasons — Lent and Advent — have a solemn and penitential nature. Both seasons — Lent and Advent — serve to refocus our eyes on the amazing grace and boundless love of our Savior.

Our Worship Series

This is a busy time of year. There is much to do to prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. However, more important than celebrating Jesus’ first coming is being prepared for his second coming on the Last Day. Christmas is only important because of what it means for us at the end of time. In this worship series, we make the connection between Christ’s first coming as Savior and his second coming as Judge. Our worship follows this pattern.

November 30, December 1

First Sunday in Advent

Prepare, for the Lord will come again unexpectedly

December 7,8

Second Sunday in Advent

Prepare the way with sincere repentance

December 14,15

Third Sunday in Advent

Prepare the way by proclaiming good news

December 21,22

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prepare the way. Immanuel comes!



An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. This is marked as "The Sacrament" in the worship folder. While some churches invite all who are present to receive the Sacrament ("open communion"), we follow the Biblical and historic Christian practice of "close communion".

What does this mean? We invite all who are members of our congregation (Good Shepherd Lutheran) or visitors who belong to our WELS fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us. If you have no church membership or belong to a different fellowship, faith, or even a different Lutheran church body (e.g. ELCA, LCMS, etc.), we ask that you please refrain from communing with us for now.

In asking this, we in no way mean to judge your faith or imply that you are not a Christian or "not good enough for us"! Rather, it is because God's Word teaches us to regard Communion as an outward expression of unity in *all* areas of the faith (*see 1 Corinthians 10:17*). In other words, when we commune together, we are confessing publicly that we are all one in what we believe and profess (*all* the teachings of God's Word, not just a few basics).

For those who haven't had a chance to check out all that we teach and believe and declare their unity with us by joining our congregation, we look forward to informing you about what we believe and teach before you enjoy the Lord's Supper with us. We want you to feel comfortable with what we confess, and want you to enjoy the beauty of a deep unity in the faith.

There are other reasons for "close communion" as well:

- While God's Word promises that in the Lord's Supper we receive the beautiful gifts of Jesus' body and blood and forgiveness, it also warns that any communicant who does not recognize that the body and blood of Christ really are present in the Sacrament may bring spiritual harm on himself or herself (*see 1 Corinthians 11:27-29*). It wouldn't be loving for us to let that happen — as it might if we offered the Sacrament to all, even to those who may not understand what is involved.
- Scripture also requires that each communicant examine himself or herself spiritually (*1 Corinthians 11:28*) before receiving the Lord's body and blood together with the bread and wine. There are many who are not able to do that due to their youth, lack of instruction, or other reasons.

We believe that it is out of obedience to our Lord and his Word and out of loving concern for everyone present that we practice "close communion." We hope that you understand and we trust that you will respect our practice. We look forward to any opportunity we may have in the future to share with you the Bible's teachings about Communion, our beliefs as a church, and to establish unity together and to commune together. We are grateful to have you worship with us, and long to grow in the Word together!

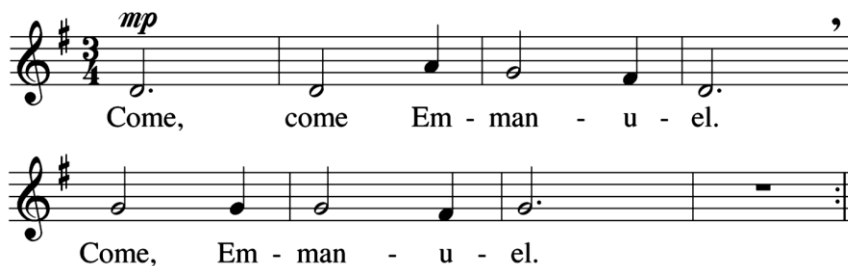
We Come into God's Presence

Pre-service: "Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending" (*by Charles Wesley*)
Oboe: Anne Boron Accompanist: Jan Henriksen

Gathering Song flutes: (8:00 am) Elise Rosenbaum, Amanda Bergemann
(10:30 am) Erin Arndt, Carol Miller

Advent Gathering Song

The congregation repeats the refrain throughout while the Minister sings the verses.



Minister: To the house of the Lord we ...
Let us climb God's mountain and ...
Let us walk in the light and ...
Let us wake from our sleep and ...
For the day draws near, so ...
Be prepared for the day God will ...

Confession and Absolution

M: God is with us today as we worship and look forward to the coming of Emmanuel, our Savior Jesus.

C: **He is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome.**

M: As we come into the presence of God, we ask Him to look away from the darkness of our sins and illumine us with the saving light of His son, Jesus.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I was born in the darkness of sin. I have failed to obey You perfectly and have failed to love others as I should. For this I deserve to be left in darkness. But trusting in Emmanuel, my Savior Jesus, I pray that You forgive my sins and lead me to the light of Your salvation.**

M: Indeed, God has been merciful to us. He sent His Son, as foretold by the prophets of old, to live perfectly for us, to die for our sins, and to rise from the dead to give us life and light. Because of God's perfect Son, we are seen as God's perfect children. Your sins are forgiven, you are a dearly loved child of God through Emmanuel, your Savior Jesus.

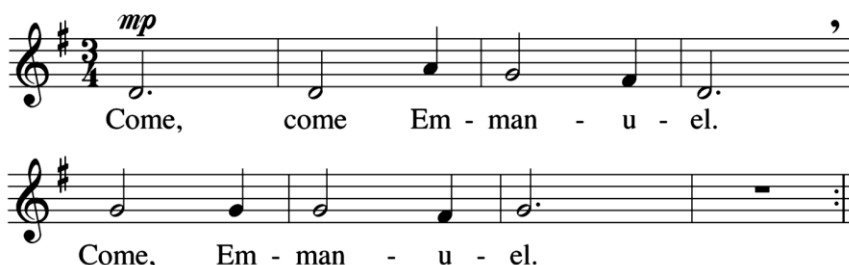
C: **Arise, shine! For our light has come!**

M: This is the light whose coming was prophesied in the Old Testament. As the prophet Isaiah declared:

C: **The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**

M: We now join those prophets of old and, with hearts full of hope, look forward to His coming again. With all believers we say,

C: *Sung twice by congregation*



We Listen

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Dedication of the Advent Wreath

M: At this time we dedicate the Advent Wreath to the glory of God. It will be used in worship throughout the Advent and Christmas Season. It will serve to visually remind us of the blessings given to us by our greatest gift – our Savior Jesus.

At the base is a garland of green, reminding us that Jesus is our Living God, the author and source of life, and the one who will give eternal life to all who believe. As he declares in John 14:6,

C: **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

- M: This garland is in a circle, without distinguished beginning or end. This reminds us that Jesus has no beginning or end, but reigns forever as our Savior and King. As he declares in Revelation 1:8,
- C: **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."**
- M: In the center of the wreath are candles. Their flames will remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As the prophet Isaiah declares,
- C: **"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."**
- M: We will light a new candle each Sunday in Advent, symbolizing our growing anticipation of the celebration of our Savior's birth and his coming again. As the apostle John declares in Revelation 22:20,
- C: **"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."**
- M: We pray: Dear Jesus, bless our worship this Advent season. In the midst of hectic schedules and many pressures, may we find a refuge for our souls in your renewing Word. Fill our hearts with your peace, and increase our joy as we look forward to your coming again. In your name we pray,
- C: **Amen.**

Lighting of Advent Candle¹

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: **We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.**

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

One Advent candle is lit.



¹The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

Choir: “We Wait”

Director: Casey Kippes

*In the flame of the flickering candle, we see a hint of the starry light
That led the shepherds and kings to the Tiny Child. We wait. We wait.*

*In the flame of the flickering candle, we see the promise of hope and joy;
the promise of peace, the promise of love in a Baby Boy. We wait. We wait.*

*Advent candle, burning bright, gently reflecting heaven's light,
lead us to the Prince of Peace; O guide us to the Perfect Light.*

*We long to bow before our Savior; we long to hear His precious voice;
we long to worship the King of kings and at His appearance rejoice!
We wait. We wait.*

*Advent candle, burning bright, gently reflecting heaven's light,
lead us to the Prince of Peace; O guide us to the Perfect Light.*

We wait. We wait. We wait.

Words and music by Ruth Elaine Schram. Incorporating “We Three Kings of Orient Are”,
Music by John H. Hopkins, Jr. 1857. © 2013 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The
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Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

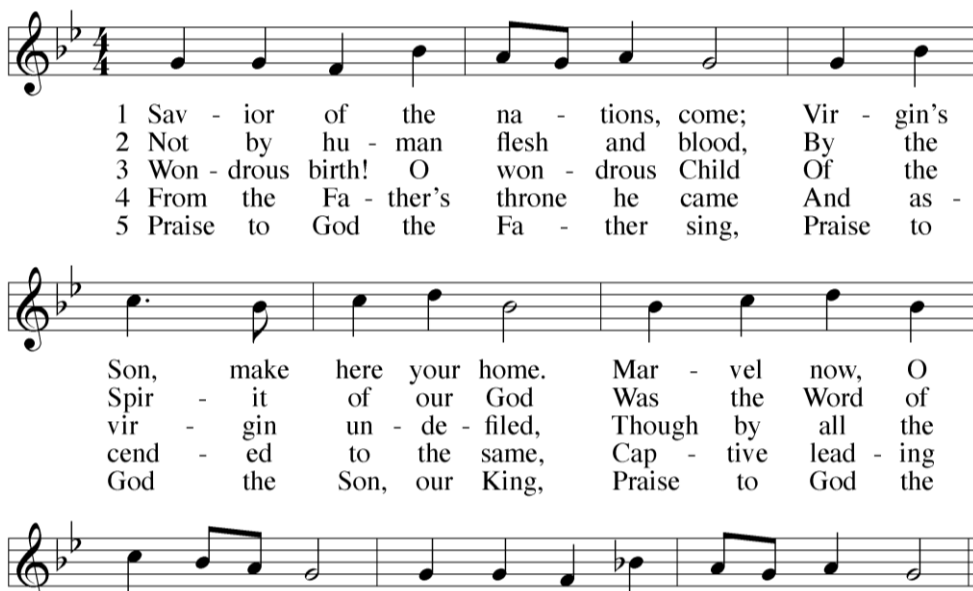
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: #2 “Savior of the Nations, Come”



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, Praise to God the

heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
 Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

Sermon: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

We Respond

Offering *(If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. We do not want you to think that God or our congregation is soliciting funds from you. You enrich us simply by being here.)*

Offertory: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (Arr. by Valerie Floeter)
Piano: Paula Danekas

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Sacrament *(also found on page 33 in the red pew hymnal)*

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



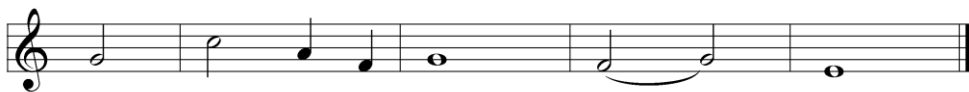
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution Solo: "The Night Will Soon Be Ending" *(by Jochen Klepper)*

Vocalists: 8:00 am - Casey Kippes 10:30 am - Cheryl Krug
Piano: 8:00 am - Jan Henriksen 10:30 am - Paula Danekas

*The night will soon be ending; the dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens with guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens and bids you sing again.*

*The One whom angels tended comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended, bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower, for God has reconciled
Through his redemptive power all those who trust this child.*

*The earth in sure rotation will soon bring morning bright.
So run where God's salvation glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation – this child its seal and sign.*

*Yet nights will bring their sadness and rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming from sin's oppressive might.*

*God dwells with us in darkness and makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness and turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us, however far we run.
God claims us still as children through Mary's infant son.*

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Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #6 “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re - lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: ST. HILARY (87 87 D) Unknown.

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It is the mission of



Good Shepherd

to

Seek the Lost
Feed the Flock and
Serve our Savior



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.

Serving in Worship

Pastor: Jon Bergemann

Organist: Karen D'Aversa

Ushers

11/30	5:30 pm	
12/01	8:00 am	Dan & Erik Schindler
	10:30 am	Todd & Jake Oard
12/04	7:00 pm	Bob Reichert & Jake Oard
12/07	5:30 pm	Ken Hull
11/30	5:30 pm	
12/08	8:00 am	Paul Schoenbeck & Dean Gerdes
	10:30 am	Bob Vicker & John Roland
12/11	7:00 pm	Ed Boron & Chuck Rhodes

Altar Care

12/01	Aggie Rardin & Debbie O'Malley
12/15	Karen Bassler & Inge Wegner

Coffee Schedule

12/01	Roxanne Zikis & Lindsey Daehnke
12/08	Kathy Paradis & Doris Holcomb

Folding Schedule

Thank you for your faithful service – you have been a true blessing.

Hymn Boards

Ryan Paradis

Communion Assistant Schedule

12/01	8:00 am	Rick Brands & Todd Paradis
	10:30 am	Ken Jordan & John Roland
12/15	8:00 am	David Roekle & Dave Rardin
	10:30 am	Doug Semenske & John Roland

Live Stream Team

Sun	8:00 am	Kristen Reynolds & Bob Reichert
	10:30 am	Greg Busse