



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



But when the set time
had fully come,
God sent his Son

Galatians 4:4a NIV

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 28, 2025

WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S HOLY COMMUNION



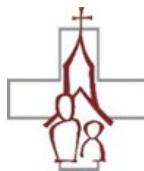
For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

AS WE GATHER



The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.



THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly

deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the [†] Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

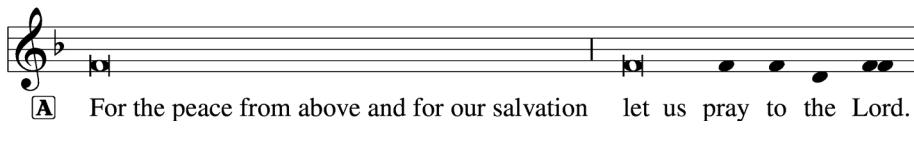
KYRIE

Mark 10:47



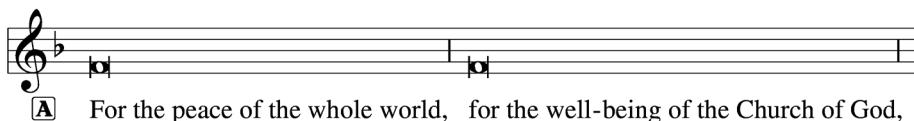
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



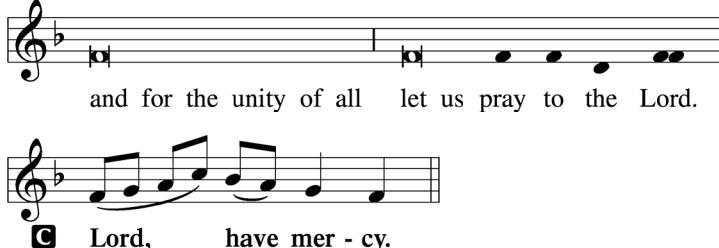
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



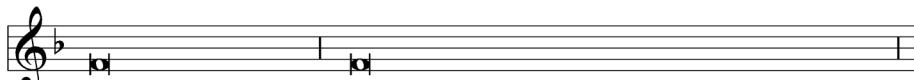
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

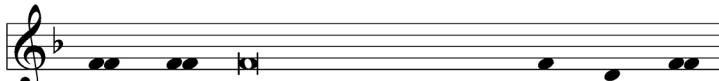


A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7-14

L The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 63.

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.
In all their affliction he was afflicted,
 and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
 he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
 and himself fought against them.
Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
 with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
 his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm
 to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
 to make for himself an everlasting name,
 who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.
Like livestock that go down into the valley,
 the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 111; antiphon: v. 9a, b

- L** Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- C** **Great are the works of the LORD,**
studied by all who delight in them.
- L** Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- C** **He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;**
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

- 〔L〕 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.
- 〔C〕 **He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**
- 〔L〕 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- 〔C〕 **they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- 〔L〕 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
- 〔C〕 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

- 〔L〕 The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter 4.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- 〔L〕 This is the Word of the Lord.
- 〔C〕 **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our

glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His

give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

Text (sts. 1, 3-4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

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SERMON

Let's Talk About Names!

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

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.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.
Wonderful Counselor, we praise and thank You for guiding us with the Word of Christ, which dwells richly in us. Bless all pastors and teachers of Your Word, that they teach and admonish Your people with all of Your wisdom so that whatever we do, in word or deed, we do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. O God of our salvation,

L **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty God, You created this world and everything in it through Your powerful Word and still take care of it. Continue to watch over and work through all who lead and serve our nation, state, and local communities. Lead and guide all first responders and members of the military as they carry out their duties to protect and serve. O God of our salvation,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting Father, You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We ask for Your encouragement, healing, and care for all who are struggling with their health, [*especially . . .*]. Heal the broken hearts of those who grieve the loss of those close to them. O God of our salvation,

C hear our prayer.

P Prince of Peace, we praise and thank You for the peace we have in You. Empower us and all of your missionary people to embrace the opportunities You give us to share the gift of Your redemption. O God of our salvation,

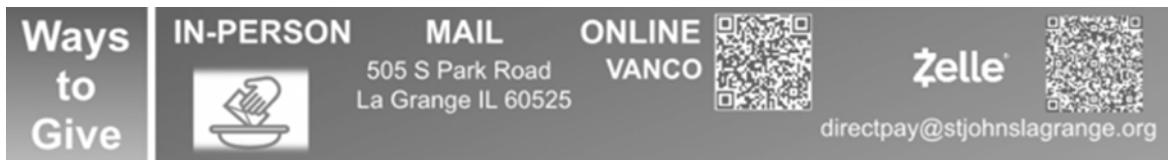
C hear our prayer.

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our newborn King.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING



Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

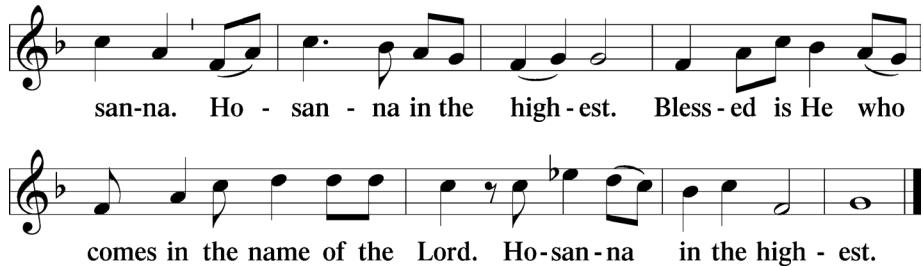
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- P** 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to

sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be

par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!

For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins

flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou

What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Kenneth T. Kosche, 1942

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Stand

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart **†** in peace.

C Amen.

THANK THE LORD

Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43; 1 Chronicles 16:8–10



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

JoAnn Pyritz, Lector | 8:00am

Mary Grether, Lector | 10:45am



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God by Joann Pyritz in memory of my brother, William Pyritz.

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

SALAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Located at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard. St. John's was a founding congregational supporter of this ministry in 2004 and has supported its ministry since then.

Salam reaches out to Muslim asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region living in Northern Illinois. Salam shares the transforming message of Christ, our Savior to our Arabian neighbors.

Led by Missionary Hesham Shebad, Salam is a beacon of hope, providing Bible studies and nurturing spiritual growth, resettlement assistance, helping Muslim families secure safe and affordable housing and guiding them through the process of obtaining driver licenses and accessing healthcare services. It holds ELS classes enabling them to find employment and integrate more fully into American society.

Salam is a Gospel centered ministry caring for our MENA neighbors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Equipping \dagger Engaging \dagger Encouraging

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