

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2023

Divine Service, Setting One – LSB 151

10:30*am

*Livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

AS WE GATHER

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David “lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “Son of the Most High,” receives “the throne of his father David” and begins to reign “over the house of Jacob forever” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “the mystery that was kept secret for long ages” but is now “made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Christopher Beck](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#)

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✠ ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠ ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC – *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (arr. Paul Manz)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN OF INVOCATION – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 7)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.
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.

(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.**

† † † **WORD** † † †

INTROIT – Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8

Choir: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

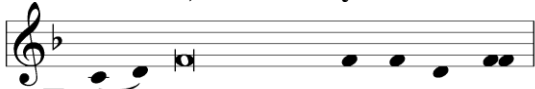
- C** **The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,**



Choir: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

- C** **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.**

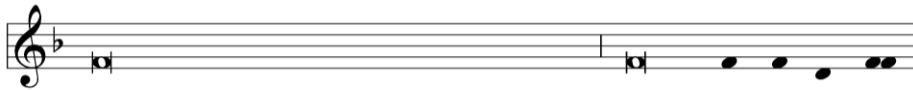
KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy – Mark 10:47



- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



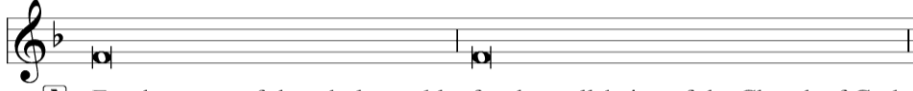
- C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



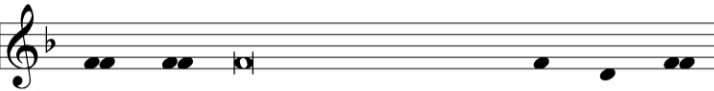
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



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... one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

FIRST LESSON – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 – “Your throne shall be established forever.”

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL – Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

The congregation sings all.



Re - jice great-ly, O daught-er of Zi - on!



Shout, shout, daugh-ter of Je - ru - sa - lem. See, your



King comes to you, right-eous and hav-ing sal - va - tion.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



From the house of the Lord we bless you.

SECOND LESSON – Romans 16:25-27 – “To the only wise God be glory forevermore.”

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

ALLELUIA and VERSE – Matthew 1:23a

The cantor sings the Alleluias and the congregation repeats them.
The congregation then repeats the Alleluias after the verse.

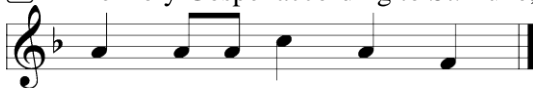


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel.*

HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 1:26-38 – God reveals His eternal plan of salvation to the virgin Mary.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be

called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY – LSB 338 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine 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 Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON – *Immaculate* – Luke 1:26-38

10:30 am – NICENE CREED

G I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (based on Romans 5:1–2; Philippians 4:7; John 14:27; Luke 2:14)

- A** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.**
- A** For God’s amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord’s instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
- C** **will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**
- A** For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace upon the Church of Christ Jesus, that all who wait for His appearing would be strengthened in their faith and renewed in their boldness to confess His saving name before all the world; for all those who doubt God’s plan for their lives, that like the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit would make His Word come alive in them, transforming them from the inside out; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
- C** **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**
- A** For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, [*including . . .*]; for Christ’s peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** With hearts of gratitude and praise, we join with the hosts of heaven and say:
- C** **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

A Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OFFERING – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (arr. Flor Peeters)

OFFERTORY – *Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-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.

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✠ ✠ ✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠ ✠ ✠
beginning at LSB 160

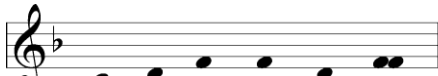
For Guests and Visitors Desiring the Sacrament

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we confess, in accord with the Scriptures, that **in this sacred meal Jesus Himself is truly present to forgive our sin and strengthen our faith.**

Participation in this meal indicates that you **believe, have been baptized, and have been taught** according to our Lord's command **and are in doctrinal agreement** with this confession.

- **If you are visiting from outside the Lutheran Church or are new to the faith**, we welcome you to come to the altar with arms crossed to receive a blessing.
- **If you desire to receive instruction for the Lord's Supper**, please speak with one of our pastors.

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



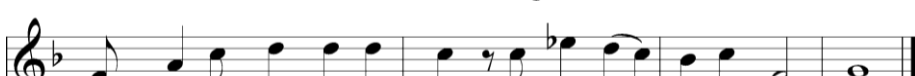
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI – The Peace of the Lord – *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI – Lamb of God – *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.

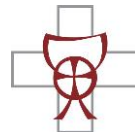
Distribution Notes:

If you need **gluten-free wafers**, please let one of the pastors know.

Non-alcoholic grape juice, containing a *trace amount of wine*, is available in the center of the tray.

DISTRIBUTION

Anthem – *The Advent of Our King* (arr. Richard Shephard)



1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

4 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Public domain

LSB 356 – *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 370 – What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest



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!

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 383 – A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joi - ce, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - joi - ce 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 We give thanks to You, almighty God ... 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 upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace. **C** Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 336 – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
Choir: 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain



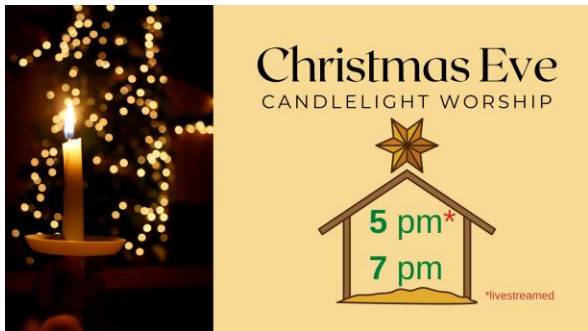
Today's altar flowers are given by **Richard A'Hern** in memory of **Seamus Finnegan A'Hern** (12/24/1988 - 7/6/1989, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and **Ethan Scott Bell** (06/06/2003 - 12/24/20).

SILENT PRAYER / ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* (arr. Timothy Shaw)



3pm TODAY – **Lighting of the Luminaries** (dress warmly and bring a long lighter or two)



Sunday, December 31 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

8:00am + 10:30am* + 5pm

+++ All three services are Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion AND Year-end prayers and praises. +++

9:15am Multi-age activity

Wednesday, January 3 Preschool resumes

Sunday, January 7 (Epiphany, observed)

8:00am + 10:30am Commissioning of PPC/Ministry Team members/Congregational officers

11:30am Voters' Meeting

Voters' Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

in the sanctuary, following the 10:30 service

- Revisit the Playground resolution

All communicant members age 18+ are
automatically voting members.

