has been born born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Celebration of Christmas

December 24, 2023 🕆 10:00 p.m.

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Reformation! For 154 years, Reformation has enjoyed a unique location near the nation's Capitol. We celebrate God's presence in everyone, including the great variety of members and friends who call Reformation their church home.

Everyone matters to God. You matter to us. Reformation has long been involved in social justice and helping organizations throughout the D.C. area, including Samaritan Ministry. We have helped Good Neighbors of Capitol Hill to equip 120 apartments for refugees over the past few years.

Reformation runs an "emergency" food pantry, in that we provide a bag of food to DC residents that contains items sufficient to sustain a family of four for two days as they make more permanent connections toward food security. It is open on Mondays and Tuesdays (closed on government holidays) from 9AM-5PM; please bring a government issued ID.

Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church's ministry. Since 1987, we have belonged to ReconcilingWorks, a national Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry. We honor the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples upon whose land we live and worship.

We all may mask or not, according to our preferences. *As of 3/12/23, Reformation will no longer require masks to be worn in Worship.* Let us all be respectful of others' needs, choices, and boundaries. *If you need a mask, just ask an usher!*

Children are most welcome in worship. The Blue Room, to the left as you entered, is equipped with sound for caregivers. **Restrooms with changing tables are** on the lower level of the St. John's building.

An all-gender/handicapped accessible restroom is on the sanctuary level, on the right front of the sanctuary near the elevator.

If you are new to Reformation and would like more information about our church ministry, a baptism, a wedding, or another interest, please fill out an information card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

Reformation is in partnership with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org)**, one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. It has 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region as well as 27 Lutheran Colleges and Universities, 7 Seminaries, 400 worldwide missionaries, hundreds of Lutheran camps and campus ministries, one of the largest non-profit social service networks in the U.S., and Lutheran World Relief.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Choral Prelude

Christmas Oratorio

Camille Saint-Saens

- 1. Prélude
- 2. Recitative: "Et pastores erant", for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone soloists, organ and strings; Chorus: "Gloria in altissimis," for mixed chorus, organ and strings
- 3. Air: "Exspectans expectavi," for Mezzo-soprano soloist, organ and strings
- 4. Air and chorus: "Domine, ego credidi," for Tenor solo, women's chorus, organ and strings
- 5. Duet: "Benedictus," for Soprano and Baritone soloists, organ
- 6. Chorus: "Quare fremuerunt gentes," mixed chorus, organ and strings
- 7. Trio: "Tecum principium," for Soprano, Tenor, and Baritone soloists, organ
- 8. Quartet: "Laudate coeli," for Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Alto, and Baritone soloists, organ and strings
- 9. Quintet and chorus: "Consurge, filia Sion," for all five soloists, chorus, organ, strings

Welcome

Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Christmas Dialogue and Greeting

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise Ang

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

Please be seated. All people sing the Hymn of Praise.

43 43 WORD 50 50 50

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Word of God, Word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Sung by choir

music by Paul Leavitt

Second Reading

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

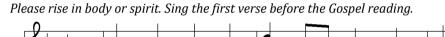
¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Let All Together Praise Our God





6. Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; The angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480- 1561; tr. Hymnal version. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman.

Gospel

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to the 1st chapter of Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sing the sixth verse of the Gospel Acclamation on page 5. Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Kevin

Please rise in body and/or spirit to proclaim the word of God in song. Hymn of the Day Love Has Come

ELW 292

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all creation.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. *Silent prayer....*

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.** *Silent prayer....*

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love. **Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.** *Silent prayer....*

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age. **Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are experiencing hunger, Ioneliness, or homelessness.** *Silent prayer....*

Blessed are you, Child of Mary. You share our humanity. Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day. *Silent prayer....*

Blessed are you, Child of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh. **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.** *Silent prayer....*

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another by saying "Peace be with you." Please be seated during the announcements and musical offering.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

We reflect on the gifts we have, and the gifts we can offer to the Lord: our selves, our time, and our possessions. If you would like to make a monetary offering to the work and ministry of Reformation, please place it in the offering plate as it comes by, or, to do so by phone/online, turn to page 16. All gifts are beautiful to God!

Chorus: "Tollite hostias," for mixed chorus, organ and strings

Saint-Saens

Latin:

Tollite hostias, et adorate Dominum in atrio sancto eius. Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra a facie Domini, quoniam venit.

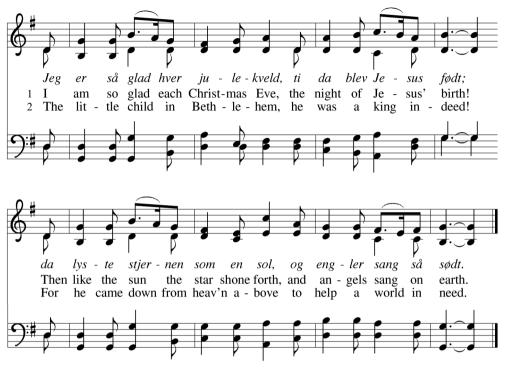
Translation:

Bring forth your offerings, and adore the Lord, your God, and worship Him in His Holy place.

Rejoice in heaven, exult all ye peoples, for the Lord now comes in glory. Alleluia.

Presentation of Gifts and Offering Song

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve Please rise in body or spirit and sing as the gifts are brought forward.



Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God, **your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross.** As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you. And also with you.

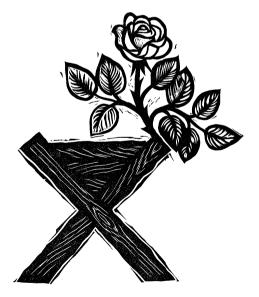
> **Lift up your hearts.** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, from east to west, from north to south, in all seasons of our life, to give thanks to you, O God, O Living One. Dwelling beyond time and space, you abide among us, embracing the world with your justice and love. And so, with the church in all times and places, with the multitudes in heaven and the countless choirs of angels, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Please see the next page.



Holy, Holy, Holy

All people join the angels' song.



Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper to forgive sins and renew our lives. All people of any age are welcome to come and dine. Anyone who does not want to eat and drink is welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please let our communion servers know if your child would like to receive communion or a blessing.

Pick up a candle in the baskets on the front pew.

Communion Hymns

Away in a MangerELW 277O Little Town of BethlehemELW 279It Came Upon the Midnight ClearELW 282

Candle Lighting

Reading

The ministers light a candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the ministers candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. Please dip your unlit candle to receive the flame from your neighbor's lit candle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. Candles will remain lit until after the blessing.

The lights are dimmed. Please rise in body and/or spirit.

John 1:1-5,14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

Join in singing the first verse in German, then all the English verses.



es es es SENDING se se se

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

| The lights are brightened. | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Sending Hymn | Joy to the World | |

ELW 267

Sending Forth

Glory to God in the highest. **Peace to God's people on earth.** Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccata

C.M. Widor

Members and guests are encouraged to be seated and enjoy the postlude.

Your Offering Empowers Our Ministry

Thank you! Supported by your time, your talents, and your financial support, Lutheran Church of the Reformation continues its mission to gather, welcome and nurture a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

Regular donations can be set up at reformationdc.org/give, or by reaching out Jarrod Jabre, our Director of Operations, at 202-543-4200 Ext. 100 | jabre@ReformationDC.org.

Give today, simply and quickly:

Credit/Debit/Digital Wallet





ACH/Recurring



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PRAYER LIST

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:

None this week.

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Timothy Allmond, Jr. (12/26); Larson Grant, Karin Haxton, Deborah Mennuti, & Frederic Robb (12/28); Axel Euken (12/30).

WE PRAY FOR ...

For the people of Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Ethiopia.
For the families, friends, and communities affected by gun violence.
For elder and homebound congregation members.
For the families, friends, and communities affected by natural disasters.
For Al Swingle, as he continues to navigate health challenges.
For Shay McNeil and Jeff Poulin, in the loss of Jeff's father.
For the family and friends of Dina Finkel's godfather, as they mourn his passing.
For Nancy Doellgast and Matt & Jocelyn Donahue, as they mourn the passing of Nancy's sister, Jeannette Doellgast.
For those experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and distance from family and friends.
For the migrants who are bused throughout the country.
Roger Dahlin, as his health recovers.
Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.
For the Anacostia River.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service:

Deborah, Jonathan, and Sophia Mennuti, Matt Oskam, Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson, Kim Loewecke, and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for:

Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Margot Lyddane, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and Gloria Wolf.

Please email your prayer requests to office@ReformationDC.org.

Have an announcement for the Weekly Word? Please submit to miller@reformationdc.org by Tuesday at midnight.



The poinsettias in the chancel are given to the glory of God!

Names are listed alphabetically by honoree's last name.

In memory of Yat Lai Au by Thomas Au In honor of my parents, Patti and John Aviles, by Matt Aviles In memory of Susan Blackman by Paul Blackman In memory of Ted's brother-in-law John Paul Fackler, Jr., PhD by Ted Steege In memory of Margot Glavis by Margot Lyddane In memory of Carol Grawey by Karen and Rob Cowden In memory of Rev. David and Sarah Fae Heim by Peter and Laurie Heim In memory of Victor Hickman and Betty Walker by Wayne and Grace Krumwiede In memory of Dorothy Hutchinson by George and Sara Hutchinson In memory of their mother – Verna E. (Betty) King by Kay and Larry King In memory of their brother – Corliss F. King II by Kay and Larry King In honor of Emmanuel Kabasaala, his foster Dad, and in memory of Emmanuel's mother by Philip W. Moeller In memory of Mary Lange by Ivy Finkenstadt In memory of James Lyddane, Sr. by Margot Lyddane In memory of Aune and Ed Manty by Liz Tuckermanty and Dale Manty In memory of Rosina Mason by Margot Lyddane In memory of The Rev. George and Evelyn Moeller, his parents, by Philip W. Moeller

In memory of Kittie Murray by Margot Lyddane

In memory of Leah and Frank Papke by Karen and Rob Cowden

In memory of my husband, Robert Christian Pfahl, Jr., and in gratitude for my daughters, Rebecca Christiane Pfahl and Elisabeth Lloyd Pfahl, and for my grandchildren, Jacqueline Newstead and Margaret Carmela Newstead by Nancy Pfahl

In memory of Ted's brother, John Francis Steege, MD., by Ted Steege

In memory of Clarie McKeever Thompson by Mike Thompson and Pete Hillman

In memory of Roger Thompson by Mike Thompson and Pete Hillman

In memory of Bob and Mary Rose Tucker by Liz Tuckermanty and Dale Manty

In memory of Faith Wasicek by Thomas Au

In memory of Frederick, Katerina, and Arlene Williams, his grandparents and aunt, by Philip W. Moeller

In memory of Jule and Peggy Zabawa by Margot Lyddane



In memory of Barney Finkel by Dina Finkel

In memory of Lillian Finkel by Dina Finkel

In memory of our dads David and Albert from Andrew Robb and Sarah Stauderman

In honor of our moms Frances and Helen from Andrew Robb and Sarah Stauderman

In memory of Bitte Sewell by Dina Finkel

In memory of Thomas Sewell by Dina Finkel

May God bless you with the courage of Mary and the graciousness of Joseph this Christmas season.

| Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Presiding Minister | Pastor Kevin Vandiver | | |
| Assisting Minister | Philip Moeller | | |
| Reader | Judith Mangubat | | |
| Greeter/Usher | Evan Schrage, Matt Aviles | | |
| Communion Assistants | Emily Andre, Karl Moeller, Philip Moeller | | |
| Altar Care | Sarah Stauderman, Judith Mangubat | | |
| Livestream Tech | Scott McMahon | | |
| Soloists | Gabrielle Levy, soprano | | |
| | Sanchi Jayaram, mezzo-soprano | | |
| | Alexa Newlin and Hannah Ostroff, alto | | |
| | Ruslan Bondar and Guillaume Cleaud, tenor | | |
| | Jon Korman and JP Barringer, baritone | | |
| Strings | | | |
| Reformation Choir | | | |

If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 202-543-4200, ext. 103. You may also email Pastor Kevin at vandiver@reformationdc.org.

| Senior Pastor Director of Music & Arts | The Rev. Kevin Vandiver, Ph.D. Paul Leavitt | vandiver@ReformationDC.org pdleavitt0918@gmail.com |
|---|--|---|
| Community Host | Emmanuel Kabasaala | space@ReformationDC.org |
| Director of Operations | Jarrod Jabre | jabre@ReformationDC.org |
| Church Administrator | Julie Miller | miller@ReformationDC.org |
| | | |

President: Mike Thompson **Secretary:**

Vice President: Evan Schrage Treasurer: Matt Aviles Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard



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