

THE CROWN



A Publication of Church of the Apostles, A United Church of Christ Congregation

December 2021 Vol. 45 No.12

Pastor's Corner

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father." – John 1:14

The hope we celebrate in this season of Advent and Christmas is the incarnation – the miraculous and grace-filled gift of the divine Creator deliberately taking on the flesh of this world in order that we may know and experience God's love in a physically, tangible manner. In other words, God became like us. God lived among us. Through Jesus, God physically shared in what it means to be human with us. We see this in the range of emotions Jesus expressed. We see it as well in the ways he touched those around him (insiders and outsiders) and the ways in which people embraced and touched him. Ultimately, the fullness of his humanity, and his tangible compassion for us, was found in the blood that flowed from his body on the cross.

Even before Jesus' advent into the world, the scriptures spoke of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob being a God of compassion, mercy, and grace. There are plenty of stories in the Old Testament that speak to this. But to hear a word about God's love is far different than experiencing that love in the flesh. To experience that love is earth-shattering. It changes everything. It gives cause for angels to sing, shepherds to leave their sheep, and light to pierce this world's darkness.

Ironically, as 21st century Christians, we have a tendency to invert the incarnation story - turning the flesh back into the Word. We have a tendency to make our faith, to make Jesus, about what we think or intellectually believe instead of the reality we live in our being. And though there is a need for good theology, theology that is disembodied from our flesh is void of the deep hope of Jesus.

Thankfully all that we need has already been given. In Jesus, the Word has been made flesh, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, it has been poured into our lives as well. In this season, I pray for you more than a merry Christmas. I pray that Christ may be born in you. I pray that your life, your heart, your soul, your being may be the abode through which Christ's love takes on physical form for others. And I pray that within this incarnate reality of God's love you may be filled with joy that exceeds your every expectation. Because there is nothing so powerful as another person looking into your eyes with the belief that they are staring into the face of God through you.

"To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." – John 1:12-13

Rejoicing in Christ,

Pastor Joe



PASTOR

JOSEPH MOTZ

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A Message from the Council President

Here we are...the second Christmas season within the pandemic times. We know much more now than we knew in 2020. There is the hope of more complete vaccinations, both for younger children, and for boosters for adults. There are new treatments coming soon in the form of a pill. Doctors and nurses know much more about how to treat those who become seriously ill from the corona virus and how to improve their outcomes. We have much to be grateful for. Yet, many seem to focus on what we don't have, what the restrictions caused by the virus have taken away. But, for me, I choose to focus on HOPE. Hope that we can soon return to a more normal life and activities. Yes, sad for those we have lost during this terrible time, and sad for those who have lingering physical problems due to the virus. But also, glad that our congregation has chosen to utilize measures that have brought most of us to the other side of this time together and healthy!!!

And we are now coming into another Advent season of hope. Hope for the gift of eternal life brought to us in the form of a little baby. Hope that through this child, we will receive redemption and salvation. Glad that his mother Mary, just a young teen, chose to believe and obey God's message to her that she would be the mother of the Messiah. Glad that she persevered through the difficult task of being an unmarried, pregnant woman in a time that this could have led to stoning and death. Glad that she believed that God would fulfill his promises through her. And for the strength of Joseph, who stood beside Mary during this difficult time to support her to the time of her delivery in Bethlehem (and beyond). Believing the promises of God in difficult times is a hard task. Would you have had the courage and strength?

Here's to HOPE...that we can count on God to be there for us in the difficult times and that He will fulfill the promises he has made to us. Life will not always be easy, just because we say we are Christians does not win us a problem-free life. But what we do have is a promise of the gift of eternal life and His presence in trial and rejoicing. May you find joy in this assurance and joy in this Advent season.

Blessings,
Donna Carr



December Preaching Schedule

- December 5: Reverend Kuhn
- December 12: Reverend Kuhn
- December 19: Reverend Kuhn
- December 26: Reverend Motz



STAY CONNECTED!

Worship services continue to be available online via our [Website](#), [Youtube](#), or [Facebook](#). For bulletins and more information visit www.apostlesucc.com/sermons.

Worship services can also be accessed **toll free** via the Worship by Phone Line at : 888-440-0106. No internet, no problem. You can worship by phone each week during the worship time or choose from the library of recorded worship services. Simply dial the toll-free number and follow the prompts.

Church Happenings and News



Realm – Electronic Giving & Text to Give Now Available on Realm

You can now give to the church's ministries directly through Realm either by logging into your Realm account or through the Realm Connect App. You can also now text to give by texting the keyword "COA" to 73256. Just like our current online give page, these give options allow you to give to the General Fund and Special Offerings. These are just some of the new features now available to you because of our transition to Realm.

Please note: this does not change anything of our existing ways to give electronically. It simply provides one more option. We will continue to receive electronic gifts through VancoMobile, established automated contributions will not change, and our online give page will continue as is. However, with Realm you will no longer need a separate login or app. Check it out today!

Updating Automatic Contributions for 2022

A quick reminder that you have the ability to update your automatic contributions by logging into your E-giving account. Your account can be accessed through the VancoMobile app or the church give page. The office does not make changes to automatic contributions based upon pledge cards. However, if you need assistance making changes to your automatic contributions, you are welcome to stop into the office so that we might assist you or if needed provide you with an authorization of change form.

Giving Numbers Updated & Giving Envelopes Ready for Pickup

Due to the number of people switching to e-giving and other forms of giving this last year, we have undergone a process of redevelopment for our giving numbers starting January of 2022. The new numbering system takes into account the variety of ways to give: envelopes, online, bank bill pay, and others.

For those using envelopes you will see your new 2022 giving number when you pick up your giving envelopes this December. Envelopes will be available for pick up starting December 12th either at worship services or by stopping by the church office. Everyone else will be able to see their new giving number in early January by logging into your Realm account or by contacting the church office.

With this transition, please make sure the church has received all your 2021 giving (using your 2021 number) by December 31st. Then starting January 1st, begin using your new giving number and envelopes.



Upcoming Youth Confirmation Retreat

When: Friday evening, March 18th to Sunday noontime, March 20th

Where: Camp Nawakwa

Cost: \$100 per person (2 nights lodging, 3 meals Saturday, 1 meal Sunday)

For Whom: Two program tracks: Youth in a current confirmation class, Youth not in a confirmation class or who have been confirmed

Parish Life Book Club

Book Club meets in the Narthex on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm! Please consider joining us whether you have read the book or not. Below are our upcoming books and days. Any Questions? Contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569 - 9960.

- **December 14:** Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters by Jennifer Chiaverini
- **January 11, 2022:** The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah
- **February 8, 2022:** The Shack By William Young
- **March 8, 2022:** Code Talker by Chester Nez
- **April 12, 2022:** Rosie Project by Graeme Simision

Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Looking to grow your spiritual practices with daily prayer, scripture, and reflection? The Upper Room is a great resource provided by the church to aid you in knowing and experiencing God more fully. Pick up a copy any Sunday at the Welcome Center or call the church office if you need a copy mailed to you. The devotionals are free with donations being welcome.

Church Happenings & News

Rooted Kitchen Takeover on 12/19

*Two paths diverged in a wood, and the youth
Have voted to take the less-traveled one.
And that will make all the difference for your family calendars...*

Our new Christian formation program for grades 4-8, ROOTED, has had a fun fall of learning and fellowship. **We meet at 8:55 each Sunday in Room 308 for snacks** before diving into our work of the week. Our youth have begun exploring the far reach of the Roman empire and what that has to do with the faith and traditions we've inherited, as well as what makes the four Gospels distinct from each other. We've also started to untangle the puzzle of the mysterious Theophilus, who appears at the start of not one but TWO books of the New Testament, and we have a running game of Jeopardy on the side where we keep track of what we've learned.

For those of you whose grade 4-8 youth have yet to join us, in the words of two unnamed youth recently overheard discussing ROOTED with one of their not-yet-attending peers from our COA family:

"Yeah, you should join us – it's fun!"
"Yeah, it's fun!"

December is an especially good time to pop into ROOTED if you haven't joined us yet. Our December detour from the tale of Theophilus's friend, and into The Missing Books Of The Bible, will make more sense if you come BEFORE the 19th. But **on December 19, you'll need to eat something at home before joining us IN THE KITCHEN at 8:55, because our learning that day will shift to some hands-on cooking of Traditional Holiday Foods You've Probably Never Made Before.** (Meaning our snack time will be at the END that day, not the beginning.)

Trust us, you don't want to miss it. Haven't yet registered your youth for ROOTED? Then please fill out the 20-second survey at bit.ly/COA-ROOTED (case-sensitive)

Financial News

Many thanks to members who have mailed their financial commitment card for 2022 to the church. The Stewardship Commission urges every member who has not yet mailed their card to do so as soon as possible!

Interested in Vaccinations?

We are continuing to encourage vaccinations for both Covid and flu. We have started an interest list If we reach 25 names, we will pursue setting up a date for another vaccination clinic at COA. Call the church office and put your name on this list if you are interested. Any questions, feel free to call Donna Carr at 717-475-5285.

Transportation to Services

Are you a member who needs a ride to church? Do you need assistance with meals? Parish Life would like to help. Please call the Church office at (717) 654-4296 and give your name, phone number, and mention you would like to receive transportation!



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Church of the Apostles will again be beautifully decorated for the 2021 Advent and Christmas season.

The wonderful decorations in the sanctuary, narthex and other areas are funded by the congregation as memorials or in honor of family members and friends.

You are invited to make a memorial offering in any amount to help with the cost of these decorations. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office on or before December 20, 2021

A memorial insert will be included in all the bulletins for the services on December 24, listing the donors and the persons honored or memorialized.

You may then take a poinsettia plant with you, if you wish, from the *narthex* after the 3:00 PM service and from the narthex or sanctuary after the 7PM service, or anytime during the next week. Thank you so much.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Presented by _____

In memory of:

In honor of: (Please circle one)

PLEASE BRING OR MAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 20, 2021



Preschool News



Apostles Community Preschool

717-392-5598

1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603

During the month of November, for our Sharing and Caring Outreach, we collected nonperishable food items for the Food Bank. We also collected toys for *Toys for Tots*. Donations will be collected until December 3rd. Collection bins are located in the West Lobby for anyone who wishes to make a donation. Preschool children participated in our annual Thanksgiving Celebration, and we spent the month thanking God for all of our many blessings.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Program. Due to capacity restrictions in the Sanctuary, each Pre-K class will be paired with a 3/4s class, and we will offer four performances. "Joy to the World" will be performed at 10:45 AM from Tuesday, December 14th - Friday, December 17th. Our preschool staff wishes everyone at Church of the Apostles a very blessed Christmas Season.

Apostles Community Preschool is currently holding pre-registration for current students and church members' children. We offer classes for children from the ages of two years through five years (as of Sept. 1, 2022), for one through five mornings per week. For more information or to register, please call Linda Lewis, Registrar, at 392-5598, option #2.

A MUSICAL NOTE

WITH LARS POTTEIGER

Music has always filled my heart with joy during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Bell choirs, choral works, and Christmas carols help to create a soundtrack for the season. I have always found the music this time of year to be centering, especially during the hustle and bustle of the holidays. The Apostles Academy of Arts and Sciences has some musical offerings to help you celebrate this season, and I hope that they help add richly to the soundtrack of your season:

- December 4th at 9:45 am: Stoltzfus String Studio Recital (Sanctuary)
- December 5th at 3 pm: Fayette Avenue Brass Christmas Concert and Hymn Sing-Along. The Academy will accept a free-will offering at this performance, and online, in lieu of tickets.
- December 11th at 2 pm: Nina Missildine String Studio Recital (Fellowship Hall)
- December 11th at 3 pm: Eldonna Filardi Piano and Voice Studio Recital (Sanctuary)

Thank you for your support of our talented students and performers. I pray that their musical offerings may bless you this Christmas season and fill your heart with peace and expectant joy!

Lars

Community Outreach

Market Basket (Grocery Cards)

Are you willing to earn **5% cashback** for our church just by purchasing your usual groceries? At absolutely no cost to you! We hope so! That's why our sale of Grocery Cards here at COA continues undaunted while COVID safety precautions continue.

On the **1st and 2nd Sundays** of each month, you may order (with payment by cash or check) Stauffers (\$50), Giant (\$50), or Weis (\$50) Grocery Cards. Some cards may be available for immediate purchase and use. Purchased cards are useable the same as cash at the appropriate grocery stores. There are a couple ways to purchase grocery cards currently:

1. You may order cards (with payment at time of order) OR (to be paid for upon receipt) to be picked up on the first 2 Sundays of the following month. Cards may be ordered in the vestibule or on the sidewalk outside on the 1st or 2nd Sundays of December as well as succeeding months, following each worship service. Simply complete an available order form and attach your payment (check payable to COA with Market Basket on the memo line) or cash.
2. You may order cards for immediate purchase and pickup (we often, but not always, have some extra cards beyond the number that have been pre-ordered) by phoning Karen Helmeczi (717-299-2972) or emailing to: kjhelmeczi@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made to pick up and pay for these cards (check to COA as above or cash) on Sunday mornings or other convenient times or at the Helmeczi residence in Homestead Village (1832 Westcott Drive) very near the church or other negotiated locations.



Please call if you have questions - Karen Helmeczi

Interested in Donating?

Food Bank Needs:

canned or boxed potatoes, peas, corn, soup, jam or jelly, green beans, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, tea-bags, canned pasta

Apostles

Assistance Needs:

dish liquid, laundry detergent, wash cloths, deodorant, paper towels, toilet paper, hair conditioner or shampoo, all purpose cleaners

Stamps for Veterans!

Remember we are still collecting used (cancelled) stamps off of envelopes to save for Veterans. Stamps can be dropped off in the office in a box labeled stamps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Skip Rhodes at (717) 872-5913.

Apostles Caring Carts

Outreach is very excited to begin our Holiday Gifting Ministry! Our congregation will gift 40 students who attend Martin Elementary School this Christmas. If you would like to gift a child, please take a tag from the poster on the Outreach bulletin board, purchase the suggested gift, wrap the gift, attach the tag to the gift, and place it under or around the tree by the bulletin board by Sunday, December 19th. PLEASE do not forget to sign your name on the poster next to the number of the tag you took. That is very important! Let's help these students have a joyous Christmas this year!

We are also continuing to collect donations for the Afghan refugees who have settled in our community. To participate in this outreach ministry, please take a sticky note from the poster on the LARGE Caring Cart, purchase that item, and place it into the LARGE cart by the end of December. Thank you for all you generously give to others through our Outreach ministries!

WHAT ABOUT THE ORPHANS OF TODAY?

At the season of Advent and Christmas, Church of Apostles joins with other churches of the Penn Central Conference, to honor the ongoing work of two exceptional missions to children with a **Special Offering**.



Through **Bethany** and **Hoffman Homes**, we, **you and me**, provide a reason for living to despondent children. The need is real! Just read this story about Abby.

Abby was hospitalized with suicidal thoughts. She needed a place away from the physical and emotional abuse of her mother. She needed care to work through trauma, anxiety, sadness, self-harm, and aggression. Her therapy sessions at **Hoffman Homes** focused on improving her sense of self-worth, learning self-soothing skills, processing her trauma, and improving family relationships.

An equine-assisted therapy program ignited a passion for animals and helped Abby learn to feel and express empathy and compassion. In the period of a year, her mood improved, she had cheerful interactions with her father on the phone, she was getting good grades at school, and family visits went well.

Recently, Abby returned home to live with her father. She is volunteering at a stable. She aspires to be an equine-assisted therapist. Hoffman provides moral support. Right now there are 76 children like Abby in care at Hoffman Homes at a cost of \$410/da/ea. The average gap between what state and county agencies, or insurance contribute to this care is about \$63/da/ea. Bethany's figures are comparable. Last year Church of Apostles sent these homes \$1,100. (that's 17 days for one child) **WE CAN CHANGE** the lives of children! Just one **success story** like this **gives reason to rejoice, open our hearts, and financially support** these two missions envisioned in the 1800's by churches just like ours!

To read other stories like this go to www.hoffmanhomes.com, or www.bethanyhome.org



12/2	Janie Cardellino
12/6	Conner Braun
12/6	Kitty Flynn
12/7	Andrew Laymon
12/9	Stella Newport
12/9	Robert Schulmeister
12/10	Emma Carr
12/13	Beverly Hoffman
12/13	Linda Schock
12/16	Louise Zabel
12/16	Liviah Bracken
12/16	Carol Emig
12/17	Hunter Laymon
12/18	Chad Berger
12/18	Mary Crozier*
12/19	Mike Hess
12/19	Kirsten Kepple
12/19	Stephanie Rampaul
12/20	Connie Souders
12/20	Vicki Berger
12/21	Cathy Kenlin
12/21	Holly Kleimo
12/21	Donna Maxwell
12/21	Marie Wenner*
12/23	Joyce Smedley*
12/23	Laurey Williams
12/24	Rich Braine
12/26	Molly Walters
12/27	Erin Rohrbaugh
12/27	Pat Cover*
12/27	Ed Fuller
12/28	Don Hess
12/29	Stephen Lockey
12/29	Sarah Medved

****90+ Birthdays**



12/16	Kelley & Steve Brown
12/21	Dan & Bernie Fickes *
12/23	Peter & Mischelle VanBuskirk
12/28	Teresa & Dan Clouser
12/31	Rev. Kathryn & David Kuhn

****50+ Anniversaries**

Articles for the Crown

Please send articles for the January edition of the Crown to Schuyler Nissly, the Administrative and Communications Coordinator by Wednesday December 15 at: office@apostlesucc.org. Please be aware that articles **MUST** be submitted by the 15th and be less than 200 words unless it has been previously arranged to have a longer article included or for a date extension. If you have any questions please direct them to Schuyler.

Want to Receive the Crown Digitally?

If you would like to update your preferences on how you are receiving the Crown whether that be digitally, print, or both, please contact us at office@apostlesucc.org or directly update your preferences through your Realm login and by signing up for our emails right on the home page at apostlesucc.org



DECEMBER WORSHIP FLOWER SPONSORS



December 5

In memory of my husband, Charles and Son, Ric by
Louise Arms

December 12

In memory of Charlie Klingler by his wife, Wilma
Klingler

In honor of Emma Rose's 12th Birthday by Donna &
Skeeter Carr

December 19

In memory of Dawn Dougherty by her husband, Jim
Dougherty

In honor of his children, grandchildren and great-
grandchildren by Jim Dougherty

December 26

To the glory of God

Thank You

Thank you to all who made it possible to receive our COVID boosters yesterday! Mom and I received the initial vaccines at Hillcrest Pharmacy back in March/April. This was due to the fact Donna Carr reached out to us back then and had it arranged. Grateful for a caring community!

Sincerely,
Mara & Rasma Pakalnins

Flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, after the service they are given as a symbol of love and caring to a member of our community who is unable to be with us physically. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$140 a week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. A thank-you letter will be sent following your sponsorship with directions for sending in your donation. Thank you for your support in this important ministry.

Worship Commission

I would like to sponsor flowers on the following date:

"In honor of" or "In memory of"

Your name

Phone number

**Please place this form in the church
office or an offering plate.**

**If you have any questions please
contact:**

Jean Heidig 717-394-8733

Wilma Klingler 717-584-6430

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMISSION CHAIRS

President: Donna Carr

Ph: 717-475-5285

Email: skeetcarr@comcast.net

Vice President: Stephanie Moore

Ph: 717-330-8892

Email: smmoore331@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer : Cathy Kenlin

Ph: 717-940-0364

Email: cmkenlin@comcast.net

Education Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall)

Chair: Judy Waltman

Ph: 717-285-7395

Email: jlwaltman@comcast.net

Worship Commission

(Meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Narthex)

Chair: Bernie Fickes

Ph: 717-925-9155

Email: penguindiva@verizon.net

Parish Life Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in Room 308-310)

Chair: Clara Kosmela

Ph: 717-468-3492

Email: joli6291@yahoo.com

Property Commission

(Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in Room 305)

Chair: Herb Forry

Ph: 717-201-7863

Email: heforry@comcast.net

Stewardship Commission

(Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Narthex)

Chair: George Alspach

Ph: 717-201-2526

Email: galspach@aol.com

Outreach Commission

 (Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm every other month in the Parlor)

Chair: Jane McCartney

Ph: 717-392-4844

Email: spmccartney@comcast.net

Giving Report

Now is a great time to check out e-giving! Discover the ease and versatility that has people continuing to give electronically for all their faith-filled gifts to God's ministry. Give at www.apostlesucc.org/give

	October 2021	October 2020
Revenue	469,899.91	375,133.90
Operating Expenses	598,399.49	560,712.44
Net Operating Income	(129,107.86)	(185,578.54)

Church of the Apostles Prayer Chain

If you have a need or concern for yourself or others, please call or email any person on the Prayer Chain and your request will be sent through all the links of the chain and the power of prayer will be a blessing to you and yours.

Steve/Monica Daniels	(717) 299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com
Lynn Steedle	(717) 390-4152 or ccsteedle@gmail.com
Bev Keller	(717) 898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com
Nancy Steger	(717) 617-2635 or nancyasteger@gmail.com
Jean Heidig	(717) 394-8733 or jean.heidig@gmail.com
Donna Carr	(717) 397-6305 or skeetcarr@comcast.net

Mary Ellen Bachman	(717) 393-8922
Susan Shaak	(717) 872-2987
Doug Nutt	(717) 283-2937
Cindy Williams	(717) 572-3808



Upcoming Events and Activities

COA Events

- Sunday, December 5 at 3 pm, The Fayette Avenue Brass Quartet Concert
- Thursday, December 9 at 6 pm, Blue Christmas Service
- Sunday, December 11 at 3 pm, Eldonna Filardi Student Recital
- Friday, December 24 at 3 pm & 7pm, Christmas Eve Services



Community Events

- Saturday December 4 from 4 pm - 7 pm, Mt. Joy Winterfest. Enjoy food, live music, vendors, Santa and more!
- Select Dates through January 1, Christmas Spirit Light Show at Clipper Stadium. For information or tickets, visit: <https://www.christmasspiritlightshows.com>
- Various show times until January 2, Cinderella at the Fulton Theater. For more information visit <https://thefulton.org/>

Church of the Apostles Staff Directory

Pastors and Leadership

Senior Pastor

The Rev Kathryn L. Kuhn ext. 8201
kathrynk@apostlesucc.org

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Joseph Motz ext. 8202
josephm@apostlesucc.org

Youth Leader

Jonathan Paredes

Music

Director of Music Ministry & Interim Bell

Choir Director

Lars Potteiger ext. 8203
larsp@apostlesucc.org

Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental

Music

Nathan Sheffer

Children's Choir Director

Breanne Zipko

Office

Communications and Administrative

Coordinator

Schuyler Nissly ext. 8200
office@apostlesucc.org

Finance Administrator

April Fisher ext. 8207
finance@apostlesucc.org

Operations

Property Manager

Eric MacLaren ext. 8214
ericm@apostlesucc.org

Sexton

Larry Rongione

Technology Specialist

Jonathan Shaub

Connect With Us!



Need Spiritual Inspiration?

Visit us at
www.apostlesucc.org/faith-and-inspiration
for weekly devotionals, sounds for the soul and more!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation



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