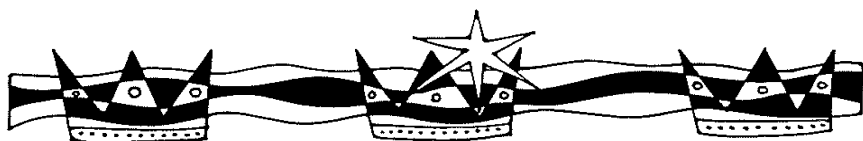


THE  
*Bright Star*  
OF BETHLEHEM

The Star of

*joy*





## The Baptism Of Our Lord

### **WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS 1/7 AM**

ELDERS: Ed Polzin and Dave Brehmer

READER: Sue Polzin

ACOLYTE: Madison Jaeckels

WEDNESDAY ELDER: Ron Rieth

Wednesday Acolyte: Evelyn Lefebvre

### **WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS 1/14 AM**

ELDERS: Bob Olson and Dave Brehmer

READER: Amanda Plackemeier

ACOLYTE: Mayta Lisch

WEDNESDAY ELDER: Ron Rieth

Wednesday Acolyte: Mya McGinnis

**THE LORD'S SUPPER** is the way Jesus Christ, the bread of life, gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. Through this Sacrament, Jesus forgives our sins, gives us victory over death and Satan, and delivers his eternal salvation to us. In accordance with Jesus' teachings, we practice *closed communion*. We therefore ask our guests who wish to commune to speak with the pastor before the service.

**BULLETINS** can be found on our website under the News Tab, Newsletter/bulletins. Select the appropriate service.

**TO THOSE VIEWING ONLINE:** If you are a member of St. Martin, please "Register" by clicking one of the "Like" button on Facebook. We are trying to gauge how many of our members are worshipping virtually.

**LIVE STREAMING**—is now available in the social hall and in room #7.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**—If you are hospitalized, please be sure to update your admittance records indicating your religious preference and if you would like the hospital to call St. Martin.

**IF YOU REQUIRE PASTORAL CARE** or would like to learn more about Jesus Christ and St. Martin Lutheran, please contact the church office at 920/849-4421 or [stmartinlcms@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinlcms@gmail.com) or Pastor Thomas K. Schmitt at 920/418-1559 or [stmartinlsmc.pastor.com](http://stmartinlsmc.pastor.com).

**JAN-MAR** Portals of Prayer are available; donations are appreciated.

**JAN/FEB CALENDARS** are available in the narthex and social hall.

**JAN ALTAR GUILD:** Judy Hacker and Rose Kirchner

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SUN. 1/7	9:00A Worship with Holy Communion 10:10A Fellowship 10:15A Bible Study 10:20A Sunday School
MON. 1/8	9:00A Uptown Commons Communion Call
TUE. 1/9	9AM-1PM Pastor in Manitowoc
Wed. 1/10	5:30P YPS Meeting 6:30P Worship with Holy Communion
THU. 1/11	7:00P Dartball away
SAT. 1/13	8AM-noon CBC Blood Drive here
SUN. 1/14	9:00A Worship with Holy Communion 10:10A Fellowship 10:15A Bible Study 10:20A Sunday School 2:00P Rural Church Meeting-Manitowoc

+ + +

### **MEMBERS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK INCLUDE:**

Daniel and Gay Woelfel

Nathan and Amanda Plackemeier

### **MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK INCLUDE:**

Bryleigh Tasch, Paige Derks, Kelsey Nett, Tyler Piepenburg, Jake Schnuella, Charlie Plackemeier, Patti Sabo, Heather Schroeder, Tammy Woelfel

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

-*THE SICK*-Pat Bailey, Len Sturtz

-*OUR SHUT-INS*: Linda Friederichs, Lucinda Loose, Janet Maile, Simone Pagel, Larelda Siebert, Don Michael, Marvin Schommer, Lou Ridder, Pastor Novotney

<b>ATTENDANCE</b> for December 24, 9:00 AM	81
December 24, 7:00 PM	178
December 25	63
December 31	68

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED** in serving as a substitute elder, please speak with any elder or the church office with your availability.

**TODAY'S BULLETIN COVERS** are given by Larry and Pat Schisel and their family in memory of Joyce and Roger Cummings, Pat's sister, and brother-in-law.

**Installation of Newly elected Officers and Board Members:**

Keith Tasch	President
Craig Piepenburg	Vice President
Michelle Piepenburg	Congregational Secretary
Sue Polzin	Financial Secretary
Tony Krake	Treasurer
Nathan Plackemeier	Elder
Mark Krueger	Elder
Sandy Nuss	Board of Mission & Evangelism
Amber Broome	Board of Education
Amber Krueger	Board of Education

**THE PARKING LOT RUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

**Total Cash Donations Received to date: \$43,335.00**

**Total Pledges: \$3300**

**Total Funds raised through our fund Raisers: \$20949.00.**

**\$43,337.81 was paid in principal only in November.**

**Treasurers Report - St. Martin Lutheran Church**

**2023 - November Totals**

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Monthly Offerings	\$ 15,673.00	\$ 13,957.00	\$ (1,716.00)
Offerings YTD	\$ 172,403.00	\$ 156,062.00	\$ (16,341.00)
Expenses YTD	\$ 156,193.46	\$ 146,964.18	\$ 9,229.28
Missions YTD	\$ 15,673.02	\$ 15,606.01	\$ (67.01)
Total Expenditures YTD	\$ 171,866.48	\$ 162,570.19	\$ 9,162.27
YTD Actual Offerings less Total Expenditures		\$ (6,508.19)	
Parking Lot Loan	\$122,367.00	\$49,951.44	\$72,415.56 Bal
Five payments of \$1146.61 have been made to LCEF. Plus, a principal only payment of \$43,337.81 as of 11/30/23.			

# BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

## WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

Opening Hymn: 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

- 1 Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.
- 2 My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.
- 3 My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.
- 4 All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Public domain

### ↑ Order of Service, Divine Service 4, LSB p. 203

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**

## **Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis** **p. 204)**

**(Music: LSB**

**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**C** **To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.**

**2** **To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high—**

**3** **For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. ... Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 1:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**P** Praise the LORD, all nations!

**C** Extol him, all peoples!

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

**P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**C** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## Epistle

*Romans 6:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **↑ Alleluia and Verse**

(Music: LSB p. 205)

### **C Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

These things are written that you may believe  
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **Holy Gospel**

*Mark 1:4–11*

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

### **C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **C Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### ↓ Little Lamb's Lesson

#### Hymn: 405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

- 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,  
 The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
 The God from God, the Light from Light,  
 The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.
- 2 The Savior came to be baptized—  
 The Son of God in flesh disguised—  
 To stand beneath the Father's will  
 And all His righteousness fulfill.
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood  
 And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
 The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
 Descended on Him from above.
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound  
 Came God's own voice with words profound:  
 "This is My Son," was His decree,  
 "The one I love, who pleases Me."
- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
 Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
 As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
 To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;  
 This man is Christ, our substitute!  
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
 Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

↑ Offertory and Presentation of the Offerings

℣LSB

956

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

**P** Heavenly Father, You revealed Your Son in the wondrous Epiphany in the Jordan. So also You have revealed Your name and blessing to us in Holy Baptism, declaring us Your beloved heirs. Grant that we may daily die to sin and rise to newness of life, living with joy as Your baptized children. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, bless all places where Your people teach and learn. Guide teachers and students, that together we would marvel at Your creation and appreciate the depth of Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord God, grant that all those baptized into Christ would receive the boldness of Your servant John to lead faithful and pure lives in this world, ever mindful of our promised heavenly inheritance. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give comfort and relief to those who are sick, depressed, tired, confused or in any need, *especially* \_\_\_\_\_. Watch over all expectant mothers and their children, that they may have a safe delivery and be brought also to the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Lord, in Holy Baptism You have opened the heavens to Your children. Grant that all those baptized into Your Son would worthily receive the heavenly feast of His body and blood for their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Eternal God, You have made us Your own people by Baptism and granted us Your Holy Spirit to confess Christ in word and deed. We remember with thanksgiving those who went before us, who passed the faith on to us and who now rest in Christ from all their labors. Since we have died with Christ through Baptism, grant that we would be raised with Him also. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty Father, as Your Holy Spirit hovered over the face of the deep, You uttered Your Word and the world was created. In the waters of Holy Baptism, You have spoken our names and declared us righteous. You have drawn us to Jesus, the light of life, and saved us. Let His light now shine through us, that others may see our good works and give glory to You; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

**Communion Liturgy:**

**(Music: LSB pp. 208-212)**

**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, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. 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**

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## The 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Vobiscum

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

## **Agnus Dei**

- 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## **↓ Distribution Hymns:**

### **624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born**

- 1 The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.**
- 2 This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God's righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.**
- 3 The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God's own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.**
- 4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.**
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.**
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
A priestly food and priestly meat;  
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
His quenching blood that life restores.**

- 7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And “Holy, holy, holy” sing  
To Christ, God’s Lamb, our Priest and King.**

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970 © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird.  
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## **595 O Blessed Spring**

- 1 O blessed spring, where Word and sign  
Embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
Here Christ enjoins each one to be  
A branch of this life-giving Tree.**
- 2 Through summer heat of youthful years,  
Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,  
Sustained by Christ’s infusing rain,  
The boughs will shout for joy again.**
- 3 When autumn cools and youth is cold,  
When limbs their heavy harvest hold,  
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move  
With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.**
- 4 As winter comes, as winters must,  
We breathe our last, return to dust;  
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing  
And trust the promise of the spring.**
- 5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
Be praised for this blest mystery:  
That Word and water thus revive  
And join us to Your Tree of Life.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953 © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
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- 1** O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
- 2** All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

### **Collect upon receiving the Sacrament**

- P** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Benedicamus**

- P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **Benediction**

- 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.

## **922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.  
In My love's baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.**
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son's story;  
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.**
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit's power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.**
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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