# Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500 <u>durhamlutheran.org</u>

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

## December 31, 2023 Lessons and Carols for Christmas: Savior, Christ, Lord



You can find the live stream at the following locations: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran">www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran</a>

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## Prelude: Carillon on "Come, All Ye Shepherds" - Gordon Young

#### Welcome

P: The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

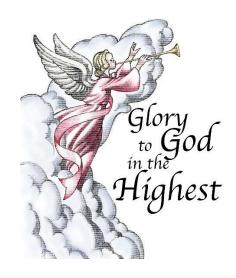
## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

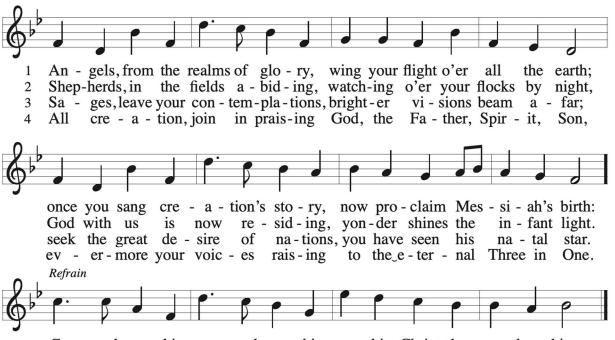
- P: Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
- C: Forgive our lack of faith and trust.
- P: Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.
- C: Forgive our neglect of the poor.
- P: The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.
- C: Forgive our selfishness and complacency.
- P: With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
  - In  $\bot$  Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

#### C: Amen.



**Gathering Carol:** ELW 289

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

#### Greeting

- P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.



## Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

## **Prayer of the Day**

- L: Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

#### Psalm: 8

- P: ¹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
- C: <sup>2</sup>Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.
- P: <sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established:
- C: 4what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

- P: <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
- C: <sup>6</sup>You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,
- P: <sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
- C: 8the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- P: <sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## Response: ELW 283 Refrain

## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

**Lesson:** Matthew 1:18-21

A brief reflection on the lessons may follow.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Carol: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming ELW 272

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

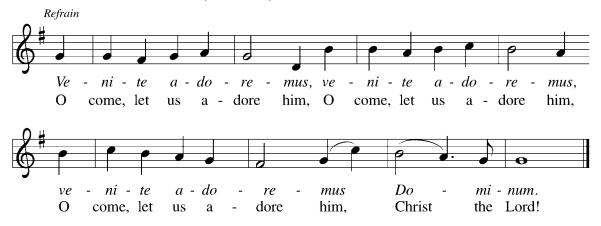
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## "For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

**Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Response:** O come, all ye faithful (refrain only) ELW 283 O, Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Lesson: John 1:19-23, 29-34

A brief reflection on the lessons may follow.

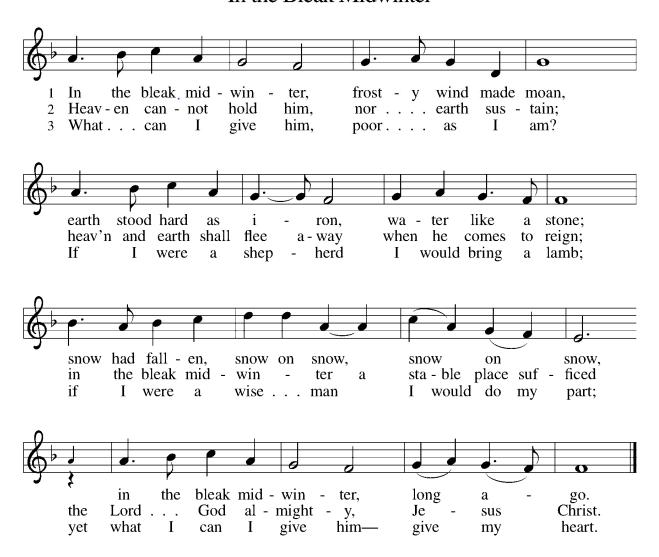
<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>29</sup>The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Carol: In the bleak midwinter ELW 294

## In the Bleak Midwinter



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## "For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Response:** O come, all ye faithful (refrain only) ELW 283 O, Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

**Lesson:** Luke 1:26-35

## A brief reflection on the lessons may follow.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of

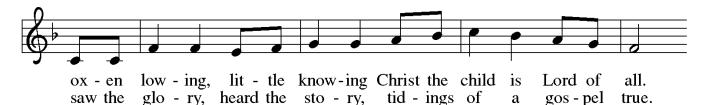
the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

#### Carol: ELW 276

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig il till the morn-ing new





Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

#### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

P: You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

### C: receive our prayer.

P: Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

## C: receive our prayer.

P: Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

#### C: receive our prayer.

P: Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (especially). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

#### C: receive our prayer.

P: Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

## C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace (especially). Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

#### C: receive our prayer.

P: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

#### C: Amen.

Choir Anthem: Cry Out! - David Davenport

Offering Carol: ELW 274 vs. 1,4

# On Christmas Night



Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

#### **Presentation of the Gifts**



## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.

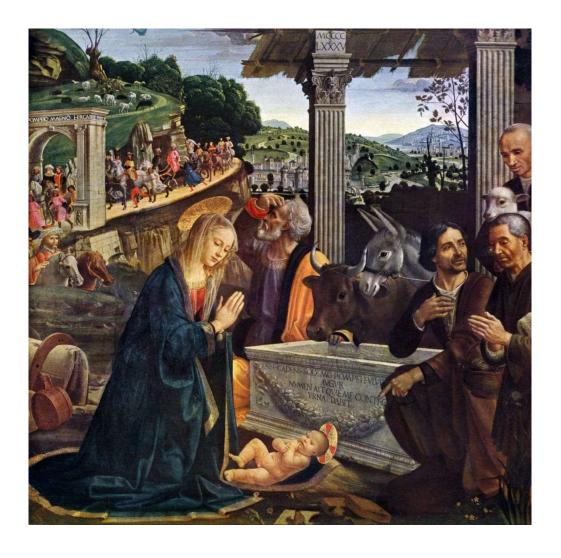
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **Words of Institution**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

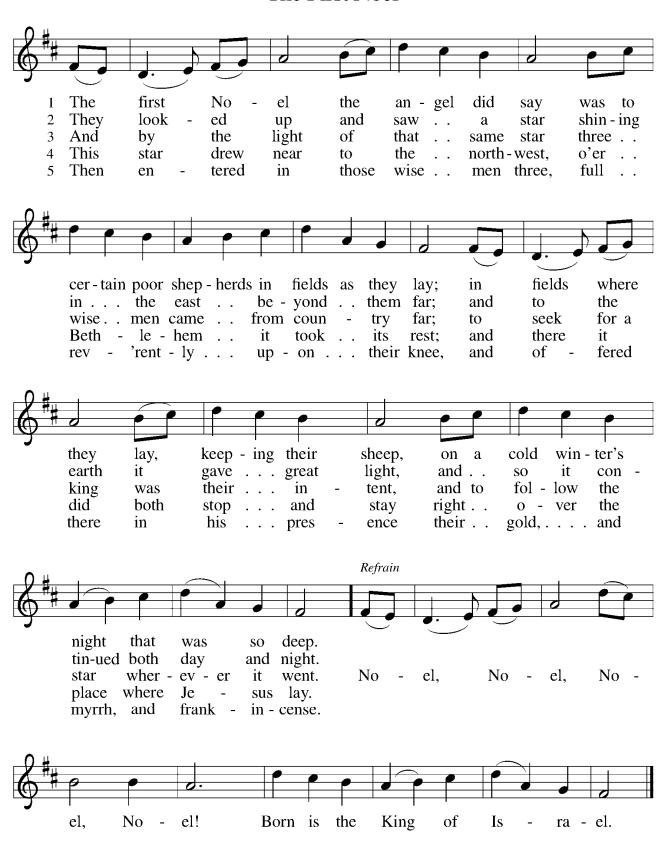
P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

Distribution (Communion will be served in the pew to any who desire it.)



#### Communion Carol – ELW 300

## The First Noel



Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

#### **BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Carol - ELW 290

## Go Tell It on the Mountain



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

#### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

# Cold December Flies Away



be - lov'd of heav - en.

sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Son

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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of our hope's bright dawn - ing,

spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>					
	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS		
5	Joe Hlavaty				

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, December 31	10:00 AM	Service of Lessons & Carols			
First Sunday of Christmas					
Wednesday, January 3	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot Visit			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
Thursday, January 4	9:00 AM	Constitution Committee - Zoom			
	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours			
	7:30 PM	Upper Bucks Conference Executive			
		Committee Meeting			
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, January 7	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
Epiphany					
Monday, January 8	7:00 PM	Council Meeting			
Wednesday, January 10	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot Visit			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
	7:00 PM	Palm Meeting @ St. Luke's			
Thursday, January 11	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours			
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
Friday , January 12	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting and lunch			
Sunday, January 14	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
Baptism of our Lord					
Wednesday, January 17	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot Visit			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
Thursday, January 18	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours			
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
	7:00 PM	Palm Leaders @ St. Luke's			
Friday, January 19		WELCA Soup Supper			
	9:00 AM	Make Soup			
	4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Sell Soup			

# American Red Cross

#### JANUARY OUTREACH

- The January outreach envelope will go to the Red Cross.



## For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

# in **GOUR** For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran;

Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Regina Ward; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

#### For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

## For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Rev. Dennis Durasoff

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

#### **Helping in Worship**

,	
Rev. James Heckman	
Carolyn Williams	
Barb Naska, Mark Harwick,	
Suzanne Mauer	
Linda Sauter	
Linda Sauter	
Mark Harwick	
Bea von Watzdorf & Mark Harwick	
Ken Anderson	
Dianna Streletz	

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR