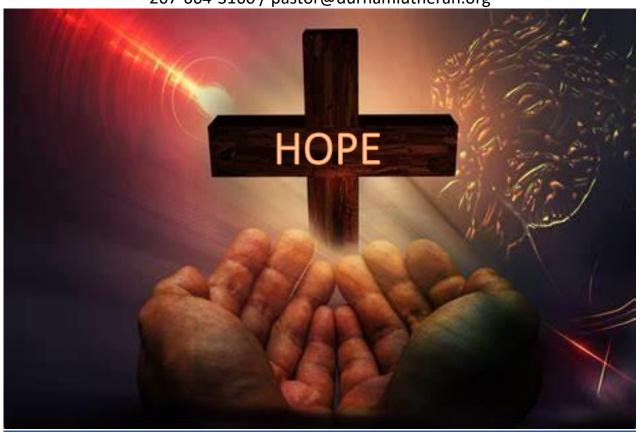
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500 durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent Blessing of the Altar Guild

Our culture often speaks of hope as either a Pollyannaish positivism or a measured optimism.

Viewed through the lens of the cross, hope becomes an agent of empowering transformation instead.

It does not deny suffering. Hope acknowledges that the present conditions are desperate,
and it depends on God, with whom nothing is impossible. Hope is honest about suffering and
urgent about God's future.

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude:

GATHERING

P: Greeting to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes: the Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

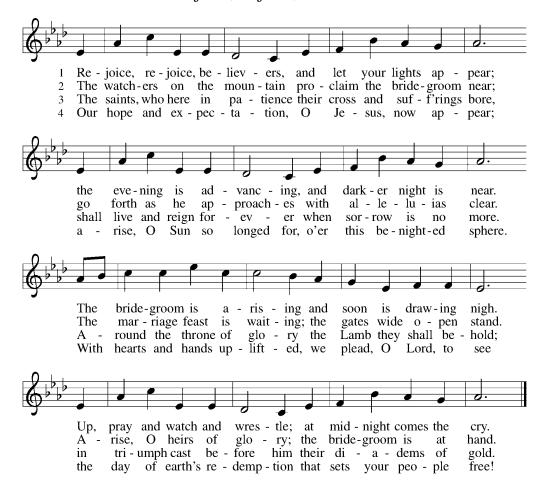
(Stand if you are able)

P: Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

- P: Let us pray,
- C: God, we want a faith that feels like more than words, but we lack your power to embody goodness. We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food. We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal. We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger. We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers, but we fail to match our intentions to our actions. Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence. Amen.
- P: My friends, God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings. God forgives you all your sins.
- C: We accept God's forgiveness and take our place in God's purpose. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

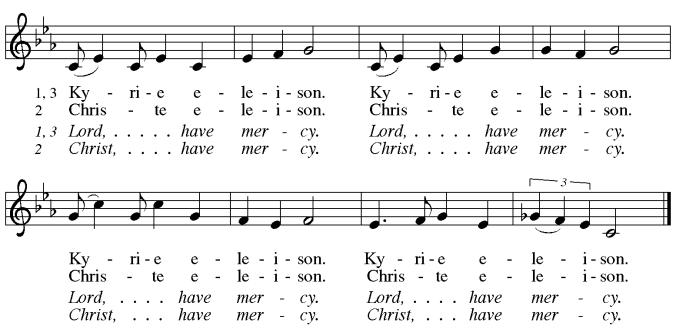


P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie-WOV 601





Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927

Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading- Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

L: A reading from the 33rd chapter of Jeremiah.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the

land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



- P: Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week. Together, we pray:
- P: God, you shield us like tender flames;
- C: your care enables us to burn brighter.
- P: God, we pool our faith like candlelight;
- C: through you we reveal hidden goodness.
- P: God, your justice upends this broken world.
- C: Use your mercy to transform everything that harms.
- P: God, we reach for unreasonable hope;
- C: and you prepare an incomparable future.
- P: Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts.

Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath Lighting of 1st Candle

Blessing Prayer

The Williams family: Spirit, you know how shallow hope feels when our faith hides from what is real. Use your holy story to show us the human moments when you worked wonders for your people, so we can find hope in our lives, too.

Place figures in Manger

Candle lighting hymn ELW 240 Verse 1

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. shep-herd, gent - ly He shall feed the flock like a lead them home-ward. Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights shin - ing! He be

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Second Reading -1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

L: A reading from the 3rd chapter of first Thessalonians.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

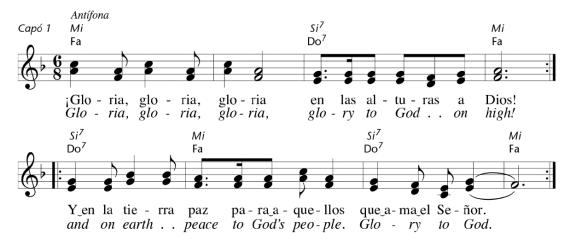
¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Gloria



Texto: Gloria in excelsis Deo; texto in inglés English Language Liturgical Consultation Música: Pablo Sosa, antifona; Libro de Liturgia y Cántico, entonaciones Música de la antifona © 1990 Pablo Sosa; música de las entonaciones © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

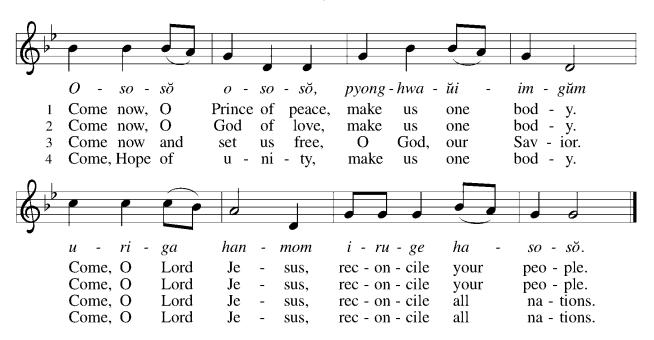
God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

- P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.
- P: Jesus said: ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
 - ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
 - ³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
- P: The gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 247

Come Now, O Prince of Peace Ososŏ, Ososŏ



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

Text and music © Geonyong Lee

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Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (*especially*). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another (especially through our efforts of PALM church unification and outreach supported by this congregation). Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (*especially those we mention now or in the comfort of our hearts*). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Blessing of the Altar Guild

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

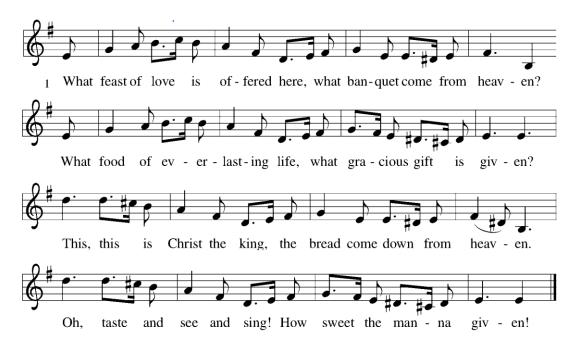
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Keep Your Lamps"

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b, 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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Offering Prayer

- P: Together we pray. Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.
- C: You set the table with plenty of love.
- P: Prepare room in your home
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Prepare a place in your vision
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Prepare a seat at your table
- C: for my neighbor and me.
- P: Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.
- C: You set the table with plenty of love.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

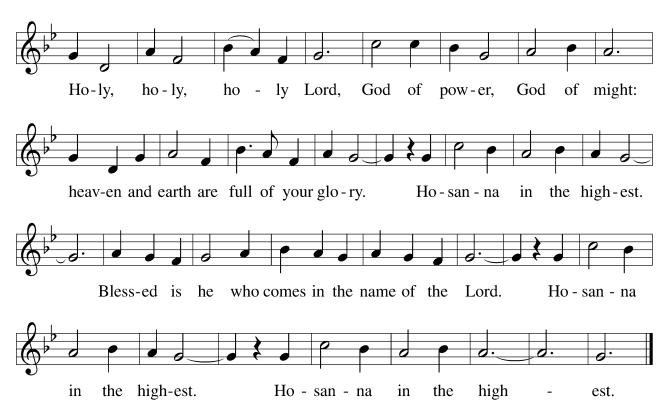
The Great Thanksgiving

- P: God is with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Offer your hearts to God
- C: We do, because we know God cares for us.
- P: We give thanks to God.
- C: God always deserves our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

- P: God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you whispered, and creation built itself around your words. Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and led them to freedom.
- C: Your love grows unseen.
- P: Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.
- C: Your love blooms in the dark.
- P: Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and new life grew in the grave.
- C: Your love echoes in the silence.
- P: Once you made Mary agelessly blessed. Once you turned turncoat disciples into the family of the forgiven. You wrote the words for their hope, and they sang the song of joy. What you have done for them you have also done for us. So we sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music © 1984 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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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

On a night of betrayal, Jesus pulled close friends closer to eat with them one last time.

Jesus taught them, Jesus served them, Jesus took bread and said, This is my body, given for you, so you can eat it whenever you are hungry and every time you are hungry you can know my love.

Then Jesus took a cup filled with wine, and said, My forgiveness is more than words. This is my blood, poured out for you, so you can drink it to know that I forgive every sin.

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus. Jesus, we remember you died.

C: We remember.

P: We remember God's love sparked life in your dead body.

C: We remember.

P: We remember you shall return to empty every grave.

C: We remember.

P: And we remember these gifts as we pray the way Jesus taught us.:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness; and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace. People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

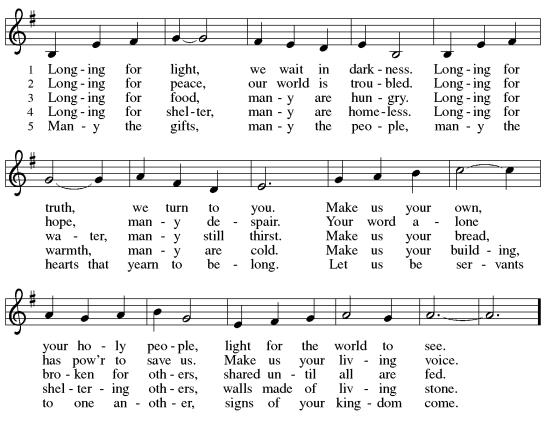




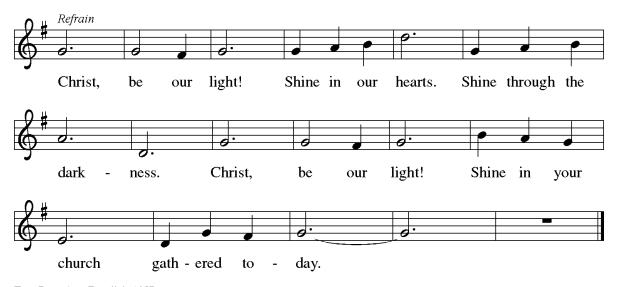
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 715

Christ, Be Our Light



Refrain continued on next page



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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Prayer after Communion

- P: God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.
- C: Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.
- P: But in this place we have noticed what others do not see.
- C: We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now we will magnify your love.

Announcements

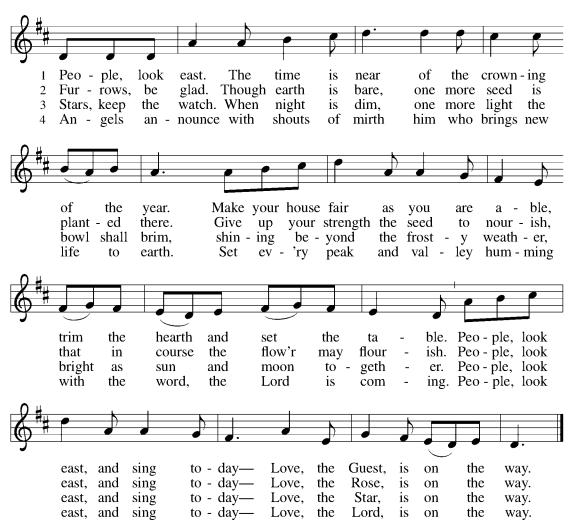
BLESSING

- P: Where is the care in this world? Where is the faith we were promised? Where is the hope we desired, when peace moves into our homes, and joy is a constant presence, and justice is for everyone?
- C: God, this world waits to know that your love is more than words.



Sending Song: ELW 248





Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol Text \odot Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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DISMISSAL

P: People of God, you have already shared the advent of God's goodness. You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts. Now go into this world expecting God's justice and nurturing God's peace.

C: God, we will magnify your love.

Postlude:



Our Outreach envelopes for December will support AHUB (Advocates for the Homeless in Upper Bucks) as they work to provide Code Blue shelter to the homeless during bad weather.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>				
December	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS	
2	Clayton Leichliter			
4			Rowan Froehlich	
6			Brian Ashmore Sr.	

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, December 1	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library.			
First Sunday of Advent	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
Monday, December 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
Wednesday, December 4	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal			
	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
Thursday, December 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
Friday; December 6	5:00PM- 8:00 PM	Parent's Night Out Care-A-Lot Fundraiser			
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, December 8	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library.			
Second Sunday of Advent	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
	After Worship	Congregational meeting followed by covered dish			
	5:00PM-7:00 PM	Confirmation Class @ St. Luke's Ferndale			
Monday, December 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
Tuesday, December 10	7:00PM	Monthly Council Meeting			
Wednesday, December 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
Saturday, December 14	5:00 PM and 7:00PM	Live Nativity at Trinity Pleasant Valley			
Sunday, December 15	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library			
Third Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal			
	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
	After Worship	Caroling and Poinsettia delivery to homebound			
Monday, December 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
Tuesday, December 17	1:00 PM	Christian Education Meeting @ Church Office			
Wednesday, December 18	10:00AM	Choir Rehearsal			
	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
Thursday, December 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
Friday; December 20	9:00 AM	Decorating the Church			



Virginia Hager would like to extend a warm Thank You to the congregation for all of the thoughts and prayers extended to her and her family after the loss of her husband, Kenneth Hager. She greatly appreciates all of the donations made in his name and the support she received from the church family during such a difficult time. Virginia would also like to note that her address will be changing. Please check in with her or Kat for her new address.



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Paula Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Doris Calverley; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Leon Errico; Nora

Fallon; Fred Foerster; Gabriella Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Jason Gourley; Rev. Bradley Gow; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Mary Lily; Rev. David Lisner; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jim Pavlica; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Douglas Schlegel; Bart Shaw; Laurel Sheetz; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound:

James Altemose; Cleo Eck; Frank Mammana; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Norma Fox and Kenneth Hager

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: joanmammana@icloud.com

Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman	
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams	
Altar Guild	Mark Harwick, Linda Sauter, Suzanne Mauer	
Greeter(s)		
Acolyte	Lilly O'Brien	
Lector	Josephine Williams	
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick	
Council Communion / Counting Team	Jack Pyne & Ken Anderson	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson	
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner	
Custodian	Dianna Streletz	