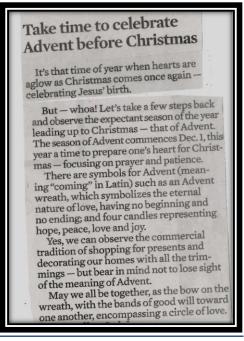
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

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



Newspaper clipping provided by Esther Crouse



JOY

December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Joy is a time traveler: it catches God's future vision for justice, peace, and restoration and superimposes it on the present landscape. Joy celebrates the future as if it's already happening while getting down to work to make it a reality. It can coexist alongside other experiences, even sorrow and pain. Joy ebbs and flows, sometimes flooding our lives with intensity, sometimes much harder to find. Joy comes hand-in-hand with God's liberation as God sets God's people free.

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 we are imperfect. But God did not invite us here today for what we have done or how we have behaved. God loves us. God always cared much more for us than for our shortcomings. God forgives us all our sins.
- C: We accept God's forgiveness and take our place in God's purpose. Amen.



Gathering Hymn: ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

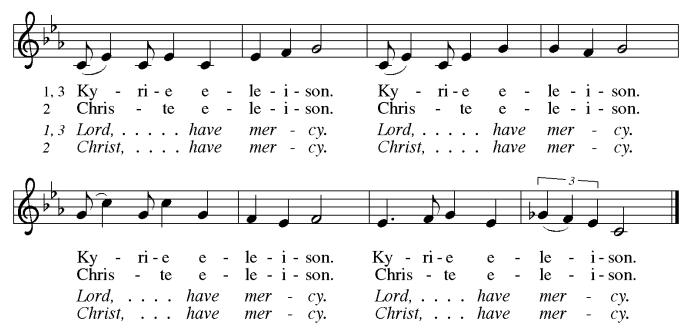


Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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- P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you





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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

L: A reading from the 3rd chapter of Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the

lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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: God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,
- C: for you have made a place where we can safely rest.
- P: Joy ebbs and flows each day, holy God.
- C: so we pray to you in honesty.
- 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. We Pray:

Lighting the Candles of the Advent Wreath

Blessing Prayer

Wagner Family: Spirit, give us a vision of the more joyful world you quietly create. Then help us absorb your holy words; use them to propel us into your intended future.

Place figures in Manger

Candle lighting hymn ELW 240 Verse 3

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. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly He lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for Lift 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 - Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

L: A reading from the 4th chapter of Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

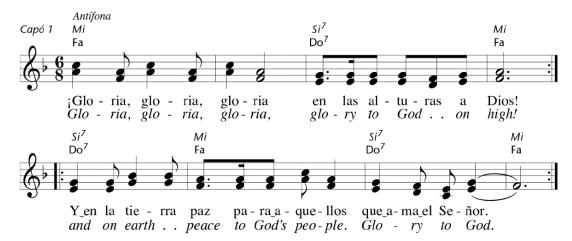
L: The Word of the Lord.

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 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and

fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at-ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (*Especially those we mention now or in the comfort of our hearts.*) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here and within all of the Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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.

Sharing of the Peace

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

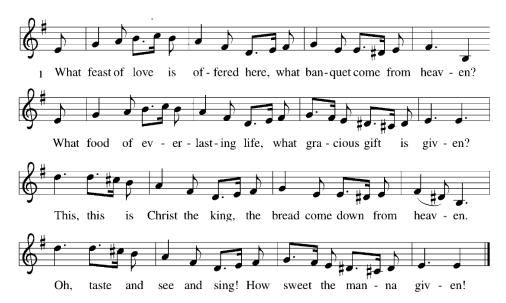
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: Advent Echo Carol – Mary Kay Beall

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, osp. 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.

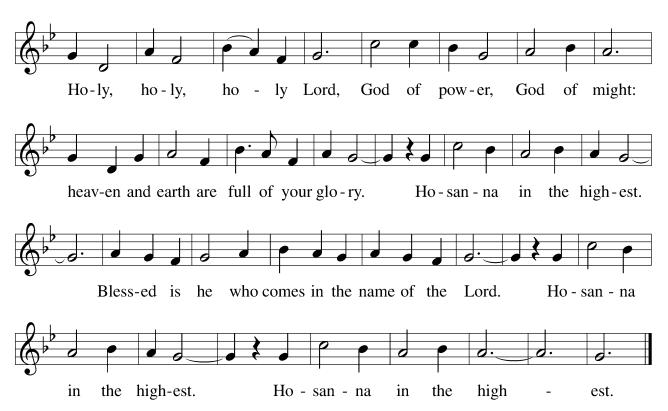
C: Your love blooms in the dark.

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

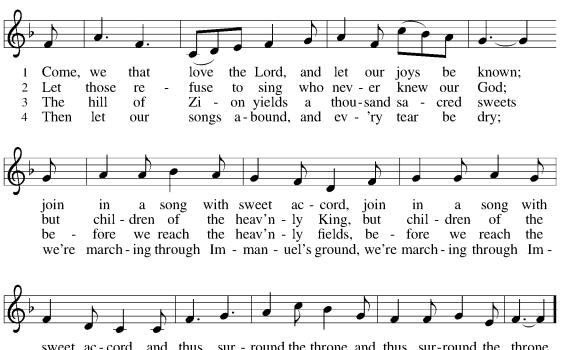
P: Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness; and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace. People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it; God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song. Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice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



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

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 625

Come, We That Love the Lord *We're Marching to Zion*



sweet ac-cord and thus sur-round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne. heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad. heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold-en streets, or walk the gold-en streets. man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.





Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

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.

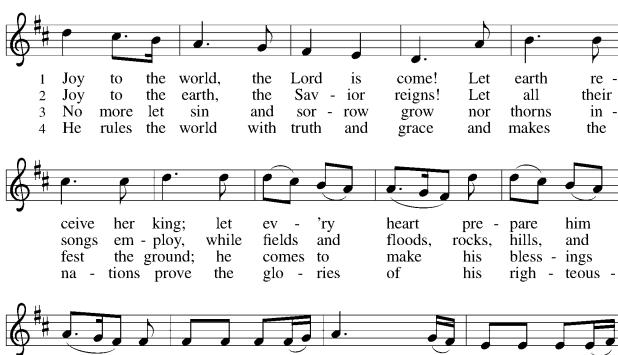
Announcements

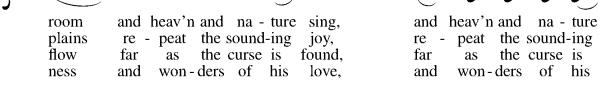
BLESSING

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?

Joy to the World

C: God, this world waits to know that your love is more than words. Sending Song: ELW 267







Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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		
19	Bob Starling		Ken Anderson		
20	Val McGinn	Kathy & Joe Hlavaty (50)			

		IVITIES	
Sunday, December 15	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library	
Third Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	
Tilliu Sulluay of Auvent	10:00 AM		
		Communion Worship	
NA	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	
	UPCOMING ACTI	VITIES	
Sunday, December 22	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday School in Library	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:00 AM	Communion Worship	
		11:30-1:30 Messy Church	
Monday, December 23	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours	
Tuesday, December 24	7:00 PM	Communion Worship	
Nativity of our Lord			
Wednesday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS	No Office Hours	
Thursday, December 26	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Admin Office Hours	
Sunday, December 29	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library	
Lessons and Carols	10:00 AM	Communion Worship	
Monday, December 30 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours	
Wednesday, January 1 Happy New Y		No Office Hours	
Thursday, January 2	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	



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; George Kreitz; Frank Mammana; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl; Silas Rodenbach; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob 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; 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 Ed Xander.

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)	Miriam Anderson	
Acolyte	Leo G	
Lector	Bea von Watzdorf	
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick	
Council Communion / Counting	Jack Pyne & Ken Anderson	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson	
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner	
Custodian	Dianna Streletz	

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM- ORDERS MUST GO IN VICTORIA PHILLIPS' MAILBOX BY TODAY!

Name:			Phone Number:		
Quantity	Plant Description	<u>Price</u>	Total Amount	In Honor/In Memory of	
	Red Poinsettia	\$8.00	-	-	
-	White Poinsettia	\$8.00	-	-	
-	Grand Total	-	-	-	