Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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Rev. James Heckman, Pastor

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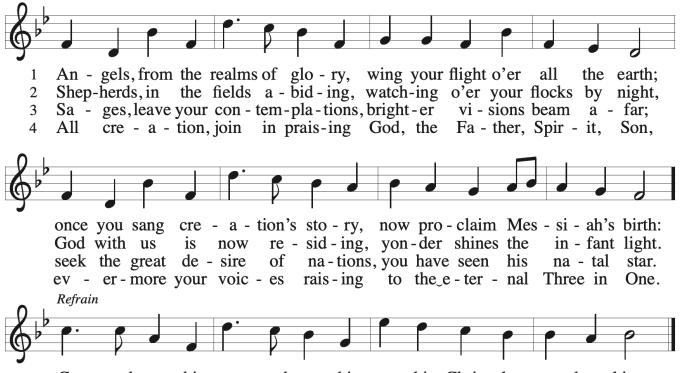


December 29, 2024 Christmas Lessons and Carols With Reflections from Martin Luther

Luther's reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book as translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017. Original edition copyright 1948 W. L. Jenkins. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

> You can find the live stream at the following locations: www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved. 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

Welcome

- P: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.
- C: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.
- P: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.
- C: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!
- P: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.
- C: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

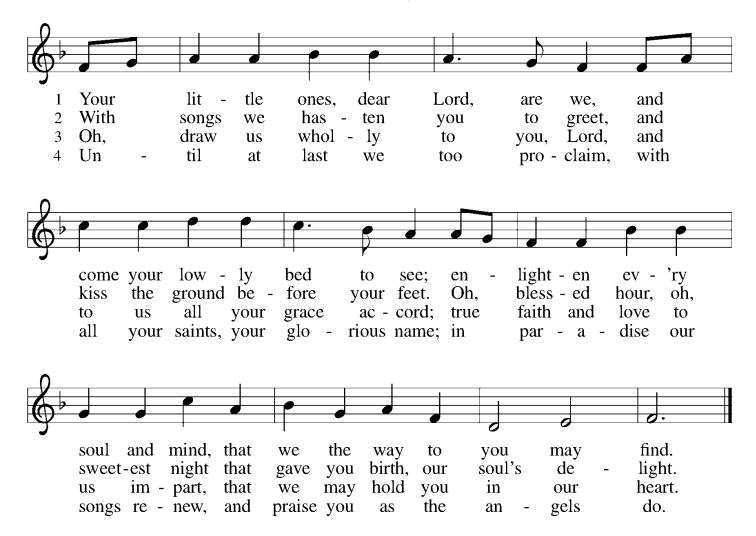
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt. Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

First Reading-Luke 2:1-7

L: A reading from the 2nd chapter of Luke.

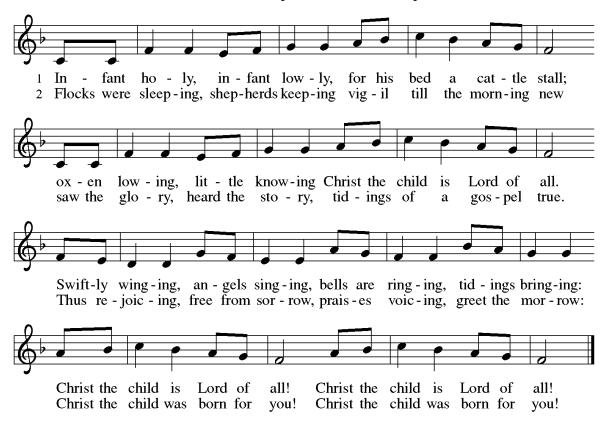
¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Luther's reflections on the birth of Jesus

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Music: WŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Second Reading-Luke 2: 8-16

L: Our second reading will continue the 2nd chapter of Luke.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

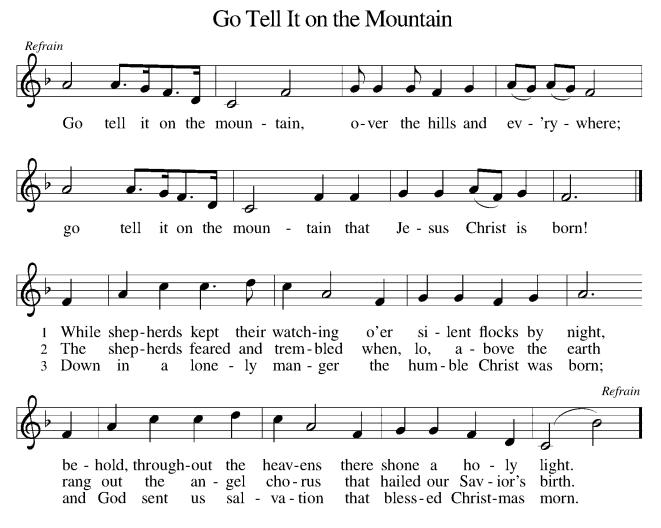
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Luther's reflections on the shepherds and angels



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

Third Reading-Matthew 2: 1-12

L: A reading from the 2nd chapter of Matthew.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east^[b] and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[C] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

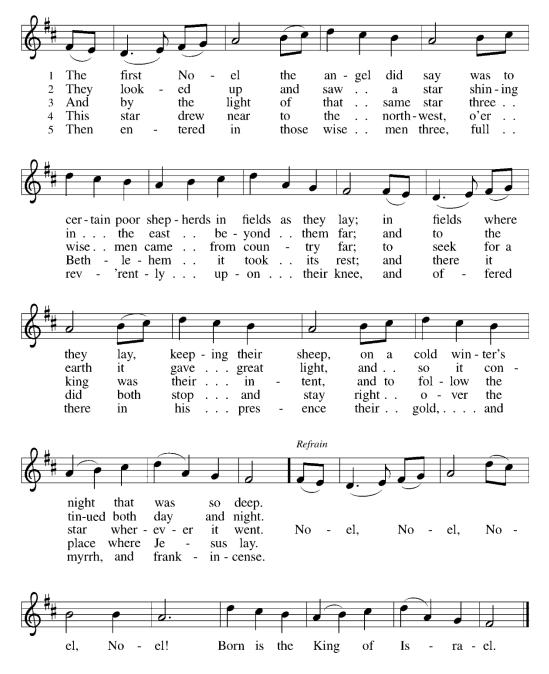
⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, ^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men Carol: ELW 300

The First Noel



Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

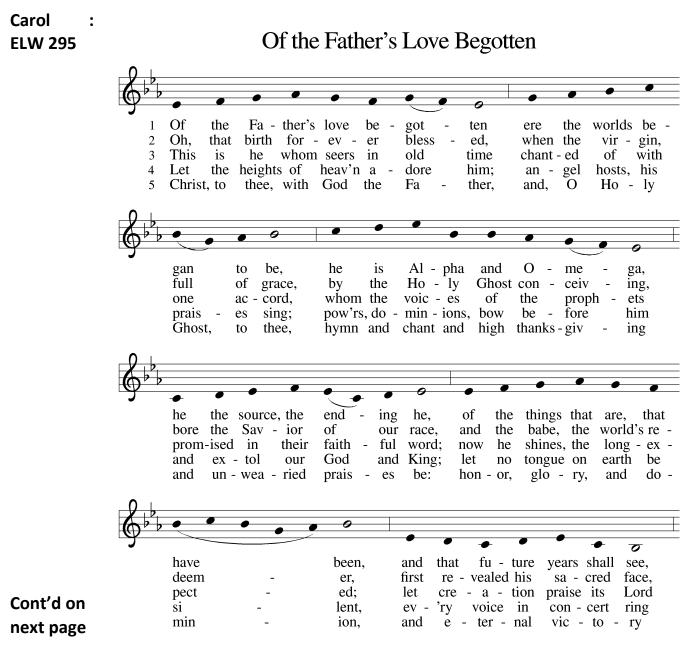
Fourth Reading- John 1:1-5, 14-18

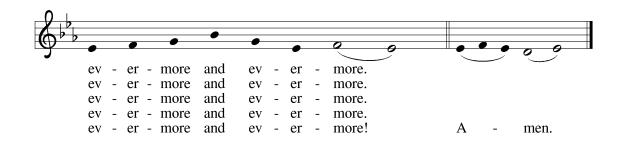
L: A reading from the 1st chapter of John.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[a] full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,^[b] who is close to the Father's heart,^[c] who has made him known.

Reflection: Luther's reflections on the Word made flesh





Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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

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: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of our church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands (*places of war and conflict may be named*). God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill (*especially*). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

For the ministry of our Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

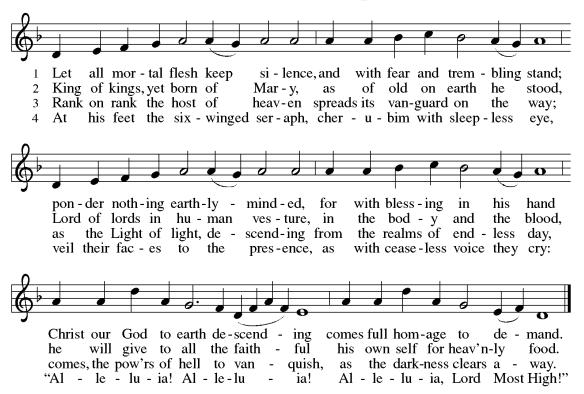
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem: "On Christmas Night" Offering Carol: ELW 490

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Presentation of the Gifts

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.

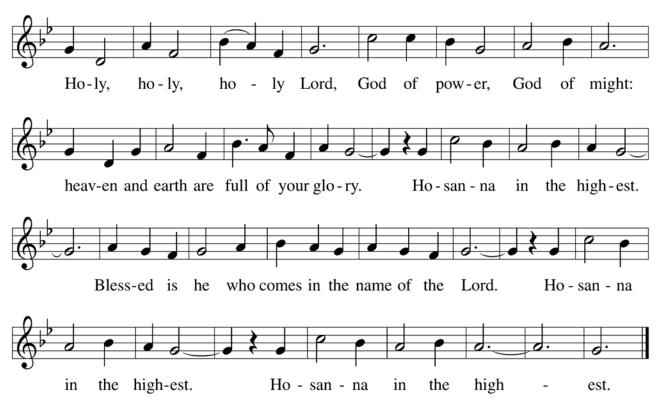
C: Your love blooms in the dark.

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.

Once in Royal David's City

Communion Carol – ELW 269

Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood а low - ly cat - tle shed. 1 He came down to earth from heav-en who God and Lord of is all. 2 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love; 3 that poor low - ly sta-ble, with the ox - en stand-ing 4 Not in by, where a moth-er laid her his bed: ba - by in man - ger for а sta - ble, and his and his shel - ter was a cra - dle was а stall; that child so gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a for dear and bove: shall see him; but heav - en, set at God's right hand in high: we on child. Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle and meek and low-ly, lived on with the earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. poor and he his chil - dren on the place where he leads to is gone. chil - dren gath - er round, bright like there his stars, with glo-ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the \pm Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Carol - ELW 299

Cold December Flies Away Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way splen - dor. the rose - red 1 af In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en. 2 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens. A pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders world lay All the un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing. lil - y's pur - est flow'r In the dwells a won - drous fra - grance. the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the at But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it birth; and its beau-ty lives. In rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo ry. hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en. spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

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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DISMISSAL

- P: Glory to God in the highest!
- C: And peace to God's people on earth!
- P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS							
	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS		
29	Leo Grzelkowski		Jayne & Jim Miller (55)		Matthew Mueller		
30	George Kreitz		Laura & Dave Helfrich (17)				
THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES							
Sunday, December 29 Lessons and Carols		9:15 AM 10:00 AM		Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship			
Monday, December 30		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours			
Wednesday, January 1		Happy New Year!		No Office Hours			
Thursday, January 2		10:00 12:00	AM - 1:00 PM PM	Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES							
Sunday, January 5 Epiphany		9:15 AM 10:00 AM		Adult Sunday school in the library. Communion Worship Undecorating Church			
Monday, January 6		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours			
Tuesday, January 7		7:00 PM		Council Meeting			
Wednesday, January 8		10:00 AM - 2:00 PM		Office Hours			
Thursday, January 9		10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 7:00 PM		Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's PALM Program Planning meeting at Durham			
Friday, January 10 10		10:00	AM	WELCA Meeting			
Sunday, January 12 Baptism of Our Lord				Adult Sunday school in the library Communion Worship Christian Education Meeting Confirmation Class @ St. Peter's Riegelsville			
Monday, January 13 1:0		1:00 F	PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
12:30		12:30		Office Hours Care-A-Lot Board Meeting			
12:00		- 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's Upper Bucks Conference Executive Committee				





For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Bethany Michl;; 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; Carol and 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; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Mary Lily; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Ruth 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; Silas Rodenbach

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: <u>joanmammana@icloud.com</u>

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman			
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams			
Altar Guild	Barb Naska, Mark Harwick,			
	Suzanne Mauer			
Greeter(s)	Miriam Anderson			
Acolyte				
Lector	Linda Sauter			
Head / Communion Usher	Miriam Anderson			
Council Counting Team	Jack Pyne & Ken Anderson			
Technology	Ken Anderson			
Custodian	Dianna Streletz			
Admin Assistant	Kathryn Wagner			
	<u>&</u>			

Helping in Worship

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR