Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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

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



February 23, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Reminder: Please stay after the service to participate in our Annual Congregational Meeting

Prelude:

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ⊕ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

- P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

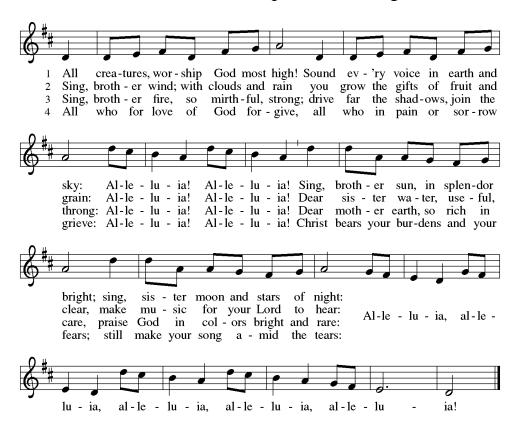
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 835 VS 1-4

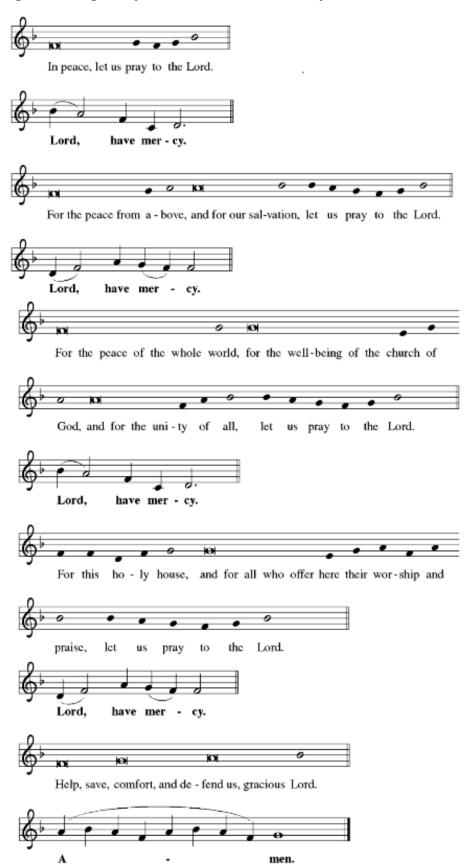
All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



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- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

L: A reading from the forty-fifth chapter of Genesis

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

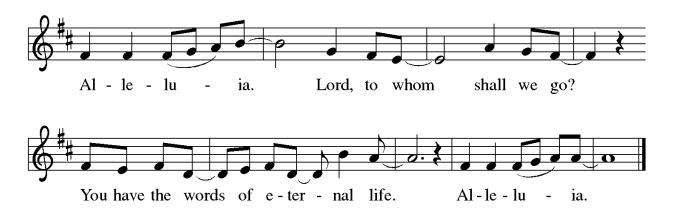
- L: ¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- C: ² For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- L: ³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- C: ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.
- L: ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.
- C: ⁶The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
- L: ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- C: 8 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
- L: ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
- C: ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
- L: ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- C: ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
- L: ⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and ¹ rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

- L: A reading from the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians.
 - ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
 - ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
 - ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



The Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessina.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

- P: [Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)



Hymn of the Day: ELW 588

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty. in Sav-ior; there is heal - ing his blood. there is mer-cy with the in the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind. great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this; we make this love nar - row by false lim - its of our own; too Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n. cre - a - tions in that up - per home of there is room for fresh bliss. and we mag-ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own. our lives will thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of the be Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt. Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (*especially*). God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (*especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna*). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

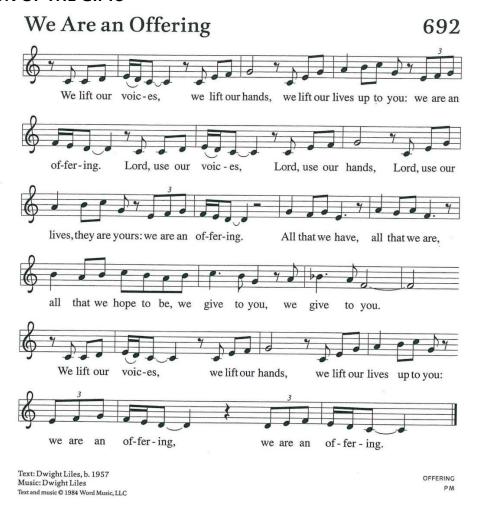
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "The Lord is My Light and My Salvation"

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

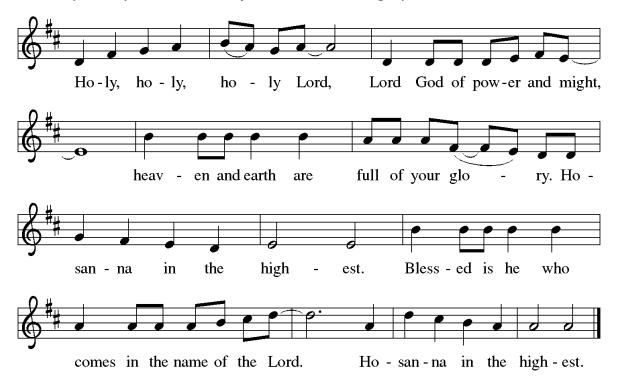
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

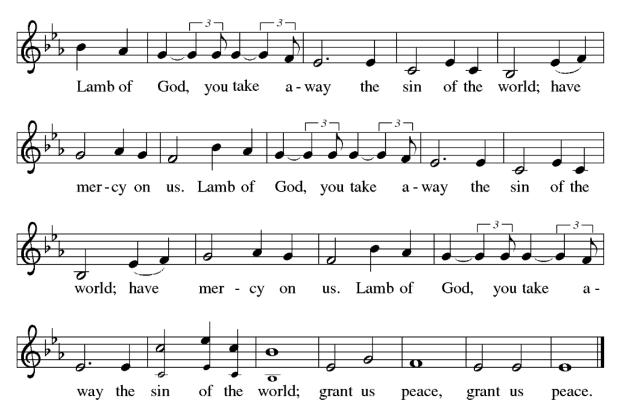
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.



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

Come to the Table



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God \oplus bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen

Sending Song: ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Our Outreach envelopes for February will be given to Allentown Rescue Mission.

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>					
FEBRUARY	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS		
23		Victoria & Adam Phillips (23)			
24	Frank Moskella, Jim Beerer				
26			Tom Gaun, Doug Litzenberger		
27	Tanya Naska				
28	Grace Litzenberger, Rowan Froehlich		Nicole Crouse		
29	Becky Harrison				
MARCH 1			Mike Rhine		

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, February 23	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library			
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
	After Worship	Congregational Meeting			
	5:00 PM	Reverse Advent Covered Dish @ St. Lukes			
Monday, February 24	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
	6:30-7:30PM	Kids Club			
Wednesday, February 26	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	10:00 AM	Mid-week Choir Rehearsal			
Thursday, February 27	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			
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, March 2	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library.			
Transfiguration of Our Lord	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
		Confirmation Class @ St. Lukes Ferndale			
Monday, March 3	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
Tuesday, March 4	5:00 -7:00 PM	Mardi Gras At St Luke Ferndale			
	6:00-7:30 PM	Shrove Tuesday Covered Dish at Durham			
Wednesday, March 5	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	10:00 AM	Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal			
	12:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Spoken Service at Durham			
	3:00 PM	St Lukes Ferndale Ash Wednesday Service			
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Communion Service			
Thursday, March 6	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
Thursday March 6, cont'd	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
	7:00 PM	General PALM meeting@ St.Peter's			
		Riegelsville			
Sunday, March 9	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library			
First Sunday in Lent	10:00 AM	Communion Worship			
	2:00-4:00PM	Upper Bucks Conference Annual Assembly			
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME		at St Peters Hilltown			
Monday, March 10	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours			
Tuesday, March 11	7:00 PM	Council Meeting			
Wednesday, March 12	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours			
	10:00 AM	Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal			
	1:30 PM	Christian Education Meeting			
	6:00-7:30PM	Lenten Soup Supper St. Peters Riegelsville			
Thursday, March 13	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; Esther Crouse; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Joanne 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; 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; Stacy Mechum; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; 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; Jayne Miller.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ;Kenneth Hager; Frank Mammana; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

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

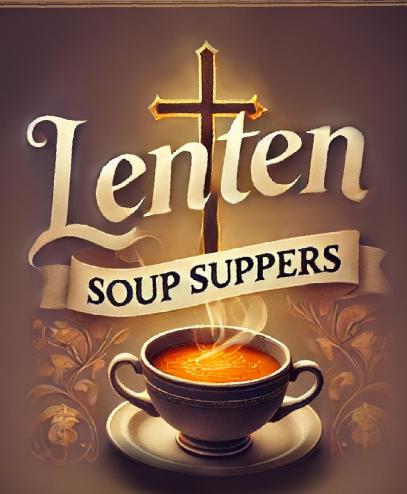
Worship Assistants

Dunnahau	Day Jamas Hashman
Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Becky Praster
Greeter(s)	Ben and Josephine Williams
Acolyte	Lilly O'Brien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Kat Wagner and Cathy Mueller
Counting Team	Mark Harwick, Linda Sauter and
	Leann Kressman
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dianna Streletz



Don't forget, Please stay for the Congregational meeting!

Your participation is important to us!



MARCH 12

St. Peter's Riegelsville

305 Delaware Rd Riegelsville, PA

MARCH 19

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

821 Durham Rd Durham, PA

MARCH 26

Upper Tinicum

Lutheran Church

188 Upper Tinicum Church Rd Upper Black Eddy, PA

APRIL 2

St. Luke Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Rd Ferndale, PA

APRIL 9

Trinity Lutheran Church

2170 Route 212 Coopersburg, PA

All suppers will be from 6 - 7:30 pm